

Sussex Centre for Human Rights Research Newsletter

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What once we would have considered surreal has become normal during the 2020-2021 academic year. Working from home, blended-teaching and seeing colleagues and loved ones only on screens are all now common features of our everyday lives. We all found ways to rise above the obstacles presented by the pandemic by developing new and exciting methods of teaching, researching and collaborating with colleagues. This has been no different for the members of the Sussex Centre for Human Rights Research (SCHRR) who have continued to publish, attend events and engage with international organisations during the pandemic. Our PhD community has also quickly adjusted to the new reality, with our PhD researchers putting in strong defences of their theses in online vivas. Despite all the restrictions and difficulties that Covid-19 has imposed upon us, just as in previous years the LLM International Human Rights Law students have managed to produce excellent research for the Human Rights Law Clinic for clients including Amnesty International, Minority Rights Group International and Child Rights Connect. Our



LLM alumni have continued to excel, most notably with 2016/17 alumni Chikondi Chimwemwe Chijozi recently being appointed as a Commissioner at the Malawian Human Rights Commission. In line with the University of Sussex's proud tradition of providing sanctuary for academics and students, we at SCHRR are mindful of the recent events in Afghanistan. We are hoping that the situation will soon stabilise, but, in the meantime, are supporting affected students and alumni through our [University of Sanctuary](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sanctuary).

Stephanie Berry, Nuno Ferreira and Charlotte Skeet
SCHRR Co-Directors

To find out more, please visit SCHRR's website: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/schrr/>



NEWS

News from Nowhere Exhibition



The SOGICA project participated in the 'News from Nowhere' exhibition, organised by [Socially Engaged Art Salon](#), Brighton & Hove, and launched its own exhibition at the Jubilee Library Brighton during [Refugee Week 2021](#), showcasing some of the project's materials, findings and recommendations.

The 'After Rights? Politics, Ethics, Aesthetics' Project

Dr Bal Sokhi-Bulley and Professor Louiza Odysseos invited papers (abstract deadline was 30 June 2021) from critical rights scholars in diverse career stages and disciplinary locations, as well as from a range of theoretical and ethico-political sensibilities. This project aims to jointly interrogate both the failings in the promises of liberal conceptions of rights arising from the wide-ranging critiques mentioned above, and also co-produce work with struggles and social formations striving for alternative futures, including radical reimaginations of human rights. This project involves a series of workshops leading to a journal special issue.

The New Project: Queer Judgments

Professor Nuno Ferreira, Dr Maria Moscati, together with Dr Sen Raj have laid the foundations for the new project Queer Judgments, inspired by past projects that have rewritten legal judgments from feminist and children's rights perspectives. The Queer Judgments project held two scoping workshops in July 2021 with about 30 academics and activists from around the world. Based on the lively and stimulating discussions held, the project is slowly moving towards a multi-strand initiative, encompassing both traditional academic outputs such as an edited collection and more creative and far-reaching outputs such as podcasts and online exhibitions. More details will be available in due course on the [project's website](#).

Blog on Minority Rights

Dr Elizabeth Craig has started writing [a blog on minority rights law](#). Drawing on her experience of working in the field for more than two decades, Dr Craig's blog provides an insightful account of the debates surrounding cultural, identity and language rights, and shares her reflections on the future of the field.

Recently, Dr Craig has been appointed as a Trustee of a national charity providing support for persecuted groups.



ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

A number of SCHRR's members have engaged with international bodies on human rights related issues.

UN Human Rights Council's Report on 'Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hatred'

Dr Stephanie E. Berry was consulted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief in relation to his report to the UN Human Rights Council on '[Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hatred](#)'. She also fed into consultations with the UN Office for the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Equal Rights Trust on the draft guide 'Protecting Minority Rights: A Practical Guide on Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation'.

Contribution to the UN Working Group's 2021 report on Business and Human Rights

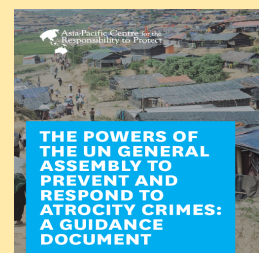
On 10 December 2020, Dr Edward Guntrip participated in the European Regional Consultation on International Investment Agreements and Human Rights. This event was a European expert stakeholder consultation in support of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. The contributions from this event, in addition to other consultations, inform the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights' 2021 report to the General Assembly on negotiating human rights-compatible IIAs.

Training at the European Asylum Support Office

Between November 2020-February 2021, Dr Carmelo Danisi, Dr Moira Dustin and Professor Nuno Ferreira were involved in the European Asylum Support Office's training initiatives on SOGI asylum (Identification, reception and procedures).

Prevention of Mass Atrocity Crimes

Professor Christian Henderson contributed to a [recently published guidance document](#) focusing on the UN General Assembly and the prevention of mass atrocity crimes as one of the expert consultants.



2021 Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for LGBTIQ+

The SOGICA team was invited to participate in the 2021 Global Roundtable on Protection and Solutions for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ+) Persons in Forced Displacement, organised by the UNHCR and the UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The four members of the team contributed to a range of sessions with insights from the project's findings and recommendations.



SCHRR EVENTS

This year's SCHRR events spanned a range of research areas including climate change, the implementation of human rights law, restorative justice, conversion therapy as degrading therapy, legal personhood in the common European Asylum system, the political rights of non-citizens, the Mediterranean migration tragedy, the right to nutrition and European citizenship.

In **October 2020**, SCHRR's Rights Research Series began with a panel on 'Human Rights and Climate Change'. The speakers explored this timely issue from a number of perspectives. Dr Annalisa Savaresi from the University of Stirling introduced us to 'Climate Change and the Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: Lessons from the Carbon Majors Inquiry'. Carl Söderbergh from Minority Rights Group International spoke about 'The Right to Meaningful Participation in Addressing Climate Change Impacts: The Case of Fisher People in Senegal', whereas Dr Simon Behrman from Royal Holloway, University of London, gave an insightful speech on 'On Choice and Responsibility: Why Human Rights May Not Be Enough for Climate Refugees'.

In **October 2020**, Dr Julie Fraser from Utrecht University, gave a talk on her recently published monograph entitled '*Social Institutions and International Human Rights Law Implementation - Every Organ of Society*' (CUP 2020).

In **November 2020**, Julia Winstone, University of Sussex, gave a presentation on, 'Understanding Restorative Justice in Practice from Professional Perspectives: A Socio-Legal Children's Rights - Public Health Approach

to Children Harmed,' drawing on preliminary findings from her ESRC Funded PhD fieldwork.

In **December 2020**, Dr Ilias Trispiotis, from the University of Leeds, presented a draft article that he co-authored with Dr Craig Purshouse, entitled "'Conversion Therapy" as Degrading Treatment'. This paper responds to the widespread uncertainty in UK and international human rights law over the legality of 'conversion therapy', a set of practices that aim to eradicate LGBTIQ+ sexualities and gender identities.

In **March 2021**, Ruvi Ziegler from the University of Reading presented his forthcoming chapter entitled 'Political Rights of "Aliens" under the ECHR' where he considers challenges related to restrictions on the exercise of political rights by non-citizens under the ECHR.

In **April 2021**, Dr Samantha Velluti gave a work in progress presentation on 'Questioning Legal Personhood in the Common European Asylum System'.

In **June 2021**, Professor Vanessa Grotti from University of Bologna shed light on often ignored aspects of the Mediterranean migration tragedy, delivering a fascinating talk

on ‘Ecologies of Remembrance: Situating the Afterlives of Migrant Dead at Sea in Italy (1997-2019)’.

In **June 2021**, SCHRR co-hosted (with the Food Equity Centre and the Sussex Rights & Justice Research Centre) an event on ‘A “Right to Nutrition” in its Social, Legal and Political Context: How International Rights Translate to Zambian Realities’. The speakers, Jody Harris from the Institute of Development Studies and Ruth Stirton from the University of Sussex Law School, presented their research exploring how the utility of a ‘right to nutrition’ is perceived by different actors – across policy, legal and

development sectors; and global, national and local levels, with a focus on Zambia – and how differences in interpretation of rights affect their potential for reducing malnutrition.

In **June 2021**, Dr Julia Bradshaw, a Senior Lecturer in EU and Public Law at Liverpool John Moores University, gave a really interesting presentation on ‘European Citizenship: A History of Roads to Inclusion’, where she explored themes of identity and belonging, examining models of citizenship from across European history and territory to determine how a modern understanding of the scope and nature of citizenship has been arrived at.



EVENTS

The shift from in-person events to virtual events did not hold the members of the SCHRR back from presenting their cutting-edge research. Here are a couple of highlights from the last year:



(Photo Credit: Dr Julie Fraser)

In December 2020, **Dr Stephanie E. Berry** (one up from bottom right) gave invited talks at the conference on ‘Religious Tolerance in an Age of Secularism’ organised by Utrecht University, Netherlands and at the colloquium on

“Migrating Recognition” or “Constitutionalism(s) Reversed” Introducing Andean Pluralisms in European Integrationist Paradigms’ organised by Sciences Po, Paris. At Utrecht, Steph’s paper focused ‘Islam As a Threat to Secularism in the European Court of Human Rights’. At Sciences Po, her paper was entitled ‘Refugees as Minorities: Expanding the Scope of Application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities’.

In January 2021, LPS Visiting Research Fellow, **Dr Carmelo Danisi** was invited to give a talk at the virtual conference on ‘Alone at the Border: Unaccompanied Minors and International Law’ organised by the University of Trieste. In March 2021, he

was also an invited speaker at the conference on ‘I have a Dream: Working Migrants LGBTI’ organised by Arcigay Naples in cooperation with the Italian Government’s Office against Racial Discrimination.

In January 2021, **Dr Bal Sokhi-Bulley** presented her paper, ‘Foucault on Friendship as a Way of Life: Towards an “After Rights”’. Her paper looked at Foucault’s somewhat neglected later work on ‘friendship as a way of life’ to question whether there is value in recovering the Foucauldian concept of friendship.

In February and June 2021, **Dr Matthew Evans** presented his two papers on ‘Beyond Disciplines, Beyond Fields, Beyond Transitional Justice’ and ‘Property, Transitional Justice and Non-reformist Reforms’ at Work in Progress Workshops organised by the International Transformative Justice Network.

In March 2021, **Professor Nuno Ferreira** was an invited speaker at the conference on ‘Social Exclusion, Vulnerable Groups and the New EU Social Rights Pillar’, organised by the Jean Monnet Project EU Vadis Policy, University of Macedonia, Greece. Nuno’s paper focused on ‘Challenges for EU Policy for Roma Integration’. Nuno also presented his paper ‘The EU and Protracted Displacement: Providing Solutions or Creating Obstacles?’ at the 3rd Conference of the German Network of Forced Migration Researchers: Contexts of Displacement, Refugee Protection and Forced Migrants’ Lives.

In July 2021, **Dr Samantha Velluti** was invited to give a talk entitled ‘The Extraterritorial Application of EU Fundamental Human Rights: Myths and

Realities’ at the School of Law – University of Pisa. The talk focused on the extraterritorial effects of EU human rights provisions and the nature of the EU’s human rights obligations beyond its borders, since the entry into force of the 2009 Treaty of Lisbon.

In April 2021, **Dr Isilay Taban** presented a paper that she co-authored with Dr Stephanie E. Berry, ‘The Right of Minority-Refugees to Preserve Their Cultural Identity: An Intersectional Analysis’ at 2021 ESIL Research Forum: Searching Solidarity for Fighting against Cultural Exclusion towards Migrants and Refugees in Europe in Times of Populism. The paper has now been accepted for publication by the Netherlands Quarterly for Human Rights. In June 2021, Isilay also presented her draft article on ‘Integration not Assimilation: Preserving Minority-Refugees’ Cultural Identity through Mother Tongue Education’ at the Approaches to Migration, Language and Identity 2021 conference, University of Sussex.

In November 2020, **Dr Aisling O’Sullivan** co-organised the BIICL/SLS online workshop on ‘Celebrating the Historical Turn: International Law in Global History’ with Dr Richard Collins (University College Dublin). At this event, Prof Aoife O’Donoghue (University of Durham) gave a brilliant keynote on international law histories from a feminist perspective and there was also a contributor on human rights histories.



PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Collections

- Carmelo Danisi and Marco Balboni (eds), [*Human Rights as a Horizontal Issue in EU External Policy*](#) (Editoriale Scientifica 2021)
- Carmelo Danisi, Moira Dustin, Nuno Ferreira and Nina Held (eds), [*Queering Asylum in Europe: Legal and Social Experiences of Seeking International Protection on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*](#) (Springer 2021)

Articles

- Carmelo Danisi, [‘The Concept of “Place of Safety” and the Application of Procedural Guarantees for the Protection of People Rescued at Sea’](#) (2021) 2 *Rivista di Diritto Internazionale* 395
- Elizabeth Craig, [‘The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and Internalisation: Lessons from the Western Balkans’](#) (2021) 46 *Review of Central and East European Law* 1
- Matthew Evans, [‘Interdisciplinarity and Punishment in the Academy: Reflecting upon Researching and Teaching Human Rights in University Settings’](#) (2020) 12 *Journal of Human Rights Practice* 524
- Matthew Evans, [‘You Cannot Eat Critique: On Uncritical Critical \(legal\) Theory and the Poverty of Bullshit’](#) (2020) *European Journal of Legal Studies*
- Stephanie E. Berry and Isilay Taban, [‘The Right of Minority-Refugees to Preserve Their Culture Identity: An Intersectional Analysis’](#) (2021) *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*
- Stephanie E. Berry and Isilay Taban, ‘The EU Migration Pact and Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion: A Progressive Step or Half Measure?’ *European Yearbook of Minority Issues* (forthcoming)

Book Chapters

- Ivanka Antova and Bal Sokhi-Bulley, 'Disability Counter-Communities: Resisting Precarity with Friendship' in Ritu Viji, Tahseen Kazi and Elisa Wynne-Hughes (eds), *[In Precarity and International Relations](#)* (Palgrave Macmillan 2020)
- Matthew Evans, 'Transitional Justice, Transformative Justice, Democracy and Development' in Gordon Crawford and Abdul-Gafaru Abdulai (eds), *[Research Handbook on Democracy and Development](#)* (Edward Elgar 2021)
- Nuno Ferreira and Carmelo Danisi, 'Queering International Refugee Law' in Cathryn Costello, Michelle Foster and Jane McAdam (eds), *[The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law](#)* (OUP 2021)
- Nuno Ferreira, 'An Exercise in Detachment: The Strasbourg Court and Sexual Minority Refugees' in Richard Mole (ed), *[Queer Migration and Asylum in Europe](#)* (UCL Press 2021)

Edited Special Journal Issues

- Carmelo Danisi, Moira Dustin, Nuno Ferreira, Nina Held and Christel Querton (eds), Special Issue on '[Sexuality, Gender and Asylum: Refugees at a Crossroads](#)' in *Frontiers in Human Dynamics*

Blogs

- Matthew Evans, '[The Neoliberal University and Resistance in the Current Crisis](#)' *LaPSe of Reason: Blogging from the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex*, October 2020
- Carmelo Danisi and Nuno Ferreira, '[Queering Asylum...or Human Rights in Europe?](#)' *Editorial for the Academy of Law and Migration (ADIM)*, February 2021
- Verona Ni Drisceoil and Bal Sokhi-Bulley, '[Your Teachers are Researchers: Changing Research Culture](#)' *LaPSe of Reason: Blogging from the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex*, December 2020



VIVA SUCCESSES

A huge congratulations are in order for all of our PhD students that passed their vivas this academic year. Considering that all vivas have been held online in 2020/21, this is no mean feat!

Chosen Udorji (top right corner) passed his viva on 4 June, subject to corrections, for his PhD entitled, ‘The Use of Indirect Force and International Law’. Chosen was examined by Charlie Peevers (University of Glasgow) and Dr Aisling O’Sullivan (University of Sussex). Congratulations Chosen and his supervisors Dr Tarik Kochi and Professor Richard Vogler.



Mitchell Longan completed his thesis, ‘Rethinking Copyright and the Internet: A New Model for Users’ Rights’ after being examined by Professor Eleonora Rosati (Stockholm University) and Dr Maria Mercedes Frabboni (University of Sussex), Mitchell was supervised by Dr Andres Guadamuz, Dr Phoebe Li and Dr Judith Townend.

Aigerim Mussabalinova also successfully completed her PhD on ‘The Right of the Child to be Raised in the Family: Reflections on Decision-Making Processes in Child Placement in Kazakhstan in the Light of English Experience’. She was supervised by Professor Richard Vogler and Craig Lind and examined by Dr Philip Bremner (University of Sussex) and Professor Carolyn Hamilton (University of Essex).

Swastee Ranjan successfully defended her PhD, ‘Law, City and Objects: Mobilising an Affective-Aesthetic Approach to Understanding Law in the Urban Environment’. She was supervised by Dr Lucy Finchett-Maddock, Dr Sabrina Gilani and Professor Donald McGillivray and examined by Professor Margaret Davies (Flinders University, Australia) and Dr Tarik Kochi (University of Sussex).

Heather McKnight passed her viva in March, after being examined by Professor Davina Cooper (King’s College London) and Bal Sokhi-Bulley (University of Sussex). Her thesis ‘Reimagining the University Through Resistance: Trade Union and Students’ Union Joint-Working on the University of Sussex Campus and Beyond’ was supervised by Dr Lucy Finchett-Maddock, Dr Emily Robinson and Dr Ben Fincham.



LLM NEWS



Despite it being an unusual and challenging year, the LLM International Human Rights Law students still had a very positive experience at Sussex. Teaching was restructured in order to create exciting, sociable and supportive virtual learning environments where students have continued to thrive.

(Photo from the coffee session attended by LLM students and Dr Stephanie E. Berry)

UN Human Rights Council Model

In December, students participated in the Annual Model UN Human Rights Council and attempted to agree a draft text for the contentious Resolution on 'the Protection of the Family'.



Human Rights Clinic

It was another successful year for the Human Rights Clinic. This year students worked in groups of 2s and 3s to produce 6,000-7,500-word memoranda for their clients. All memoranda are now available on [SCHRR's website](#).

This year we worked with three clients:

- ◆ **Amnesty International:** Enhancing Social Protection to Guarantee Human Rights and Equality
- ◆ **Minority Rights Groups International:** Financial Complicity Complicity for International Human Rights Violations
- ◆ **Child Rights Connect:** Permissible Restrictions on Children's Civil and Political Rights

Careers Event

The LPS Employability Showcase in March included a session on careers in ‘Human Rights and NGOs’ where former Sussex students shared their experience working for NGOs.

Thomas Ebbs – is a current PhD student here at Sussex and a Research Fellow at Lawyers for Justice in Libya. He has previously worked with NGOs in Cambodia on human rights issues.

Tom Southerden – is working as a Legal and Policy Researcher in Amnesty International UK’s Refugee and Migrants’ Rights team. Tom completed his MA and PhD at Sussex and previously worked as an asylum and immigration lawyer.

Ruby Axelson – is working at Global Rights Compliance, where her role focuses on international litigation and project implementation in the fields of international criminal law, international humanitarian law and gender justice. She completed both her LLB and LLM in International Law here at Sussex.

Elvan Aksoy – is currently working as Economic Recovery Program Manager at Danish Refugee Council for Libya Country Operations. Elvan completed her MA in Development Studies Sussex and previously took several roles in international NGOs.

Abigail Field – is now the coordinator for family reunification cases at ‘Fenix-Humanitarian Legal Aid’. She completed her LLM in International Human Rights Law here at Sussex.



Congratulations

A number of our former LLM International Human Rights Students have had great success over the past year:

- **Chikondi Chimwemwe Chijozi (2016/17)** has recently been appointed as a Commissioner at the Malawian Human Rights Commission.
- **Hope Pycroft (2019/20)** has recently started work as a Funding and Development Officer at Democratic Progress Institute.

- **Nel Hywel (2019/20)** is now a project assistant in the Department for Global Learning at the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.
- **Lewis Sibanda (2019/20)** has been appointed as a Senior Research Associate/Lecturer at O.P Jindal Global University.
- **India Kearsley (2017/18)** has obtained a place on the UK government's Civil Service Fast-Stream after completing internships with Consortium for Street Children and Advocates for International Development
- **Ciaran King (2018/19)** is a Europe Litigation Officer at AIRE Centre, helping to oversee the organisation's strategic litigation plan for Council of Europe and EU migration law.
- **Yasir Abbas (2018/19)** has not only started teaching Human Rights and International Relations at the National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan but is also working as a Research Associate in Pakistan's only think-tank on International Law called the Research Society of International Law (RSIL). He has been recently appointed as Coordinator to the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan. Previously he also worked as a Human Rights Policy Expert at Democracy Reporting International.
- **Donia Elmaghrabi 2018/19)** is a Senior Protection Officer at UNHCR. She works primarily with refugees from Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia who reside in Egypt in order to assess their protection concerns, provide emergency interventions for them and conduct one-on-one interviews with the purpose of resettlement.
- **Katie Pimenta (2018/19)** is working as a Communication Consultant at European Implementation Network after completing her internship with Global Rights Compliance.
- **Alex Smith (2018/19)** has obtained a place on the UK Government's Civil Service Fast-Stream after completing an internship at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- **Ryan Dowding (2016/17)** is working as a Barrister at Three Raymond Buildings. His recent work focuses on obtaining Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders (STROs), which restrict a person's liberty in circumstances where they have engaged in conduct indicating that they present a risk of committing a slavery or human trafficking offence. In October last year, he succeeded in securing [the first successful STROs by the Metropolitan Police Service](#) .



STUDENT ALUMNI

Katie Pimenta (LLM International Human Rights Law 2018-19)



After completing my LLM at the University of Sussex, I now work as a communication consultant for the European Implementation Network (EIN) - a non-governmental organisation based in Strasbourg, France, that focuses on the full and effective implementation of European Court of Human Rights judgments through advocacy, outreach, and training civil society members.

Studying at Sussex gave me a great understanding of the European system of human rights. My work with EIN has allowed me to expand my human rights knowledge, which now focuses on ensuring governments implement ECtHR judgments through civil society members' role in engaging

with the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers by making Rule 9.2 Submissions.

After completing my LLM, I started remote volunteering with EIN as a communication officer, but due to covid, my involvement paused. I began a remote internship with Global Rights Compliance (GRC) soon after. During this internship, I wrote and collaborated on a professional resource guide. I was able to apply my studies to the project by focusing on international human rights law and gained a new understanding of international humanitarian law. After finishing my internship with GRC, I was fortunate to have EIN approach me and offer a remote communication consultant contract in September 2020- I have been consulting with them ever since.

Predominantly, my work with EIN consists of curating and drafting social media posts and blogs for their website, which I also manage. I focus on keeping our audience and members up to date with implementation news, encourage them to engage in the implementation process, and highlight EIN's advocacy work. I also collaborate with the rest of the team and brainstorm new communication strategies and projects- with a new implementation series coming out in September 2021.

Sussex was a diving board for my interest in human rights, and it gave me the confidence to explore different areas and different ways to engage with human rights. I thoroughly cherish my time at Sussex and couldn't recommend it enough. The faculty members were friendly and very supportive during my studies. I was fortunate enough to have an international cohort that offered different insights and discussions on various human rights topics, people that I still consider my friends. In short, I loved my time at Sussex, and it will always hold a special place in my heart.

To find out more, please visit SCHRR's website: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/schrr/>

Chaima Sliti (Sussex Erasmus Student 2014-15)



As an international student, the thought of spending an academic year abroad filled me with enthusiasm and excitement. This particular venture fulfilled my Erasmus exchange year for a degree that I had started in France: Masters in European and International Law.

Studying at Sussex University enriched my understanding of civil liberties and allowed me to explore nuances in mainstream Human Rights around the world. My academic mentor, Stephanie Berry, was a truly inspiring teacher who empowered me to develop my critical thinking.

On the whole, Sussex University was a diverse environment which exposed me to numerous schools of thought and study techniques. More so, were my study-workshops a perfect sounding board for healthy academic debates. The staff at Sussex strongly encourage collaborative working and through this, I met fascinating classmates who each shared the same passion for Human Rights as me. Many of these classmates remain good friends and some are now even colleagues of mine!

Immediately after my year at Sussex University, I joined Leigh Day; a leading UK human rights law-firm, as a paralegal. In this role, I worked on a number of exciting civil litigation cases holding multinationals corporations to account for Human Rights breaches. This role also gave me the chance to travel and meet clients in various countries. A particular highlight of my paralegal time involved representing hundreds of Iraqi Civilians in claims against the British government.

Whilst working as a paralegal I also completed the GDL and LPC with distinction. I am now a first-year trainee completing a seat in clinical negligence. I work on a variety of serious injury cases, including birth injury, brain injury and psychiatric injuries. I also work on cases representing families at inquests where close relatives have died because of negligent medical care. Some of my tasks include drafting witness statements, drafting schedule of losses and preparing court bundles.

When I look back on my journey so far, I am grateful for the foundation I gained from Sussex University. This course was a stepping-stone to a truly fulfilling career and I strongly recommend it to anyone considering working in Human Rights.

Find out more:

SCHRR Website: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/schrr/>

SCHRR Twitter : @sussexhumanrts

