Law and Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Leicester

Law is a discipline which has a broad spectrum of academics ranging from those who work exclusively producing single authored monographs and articles through to those who are engaged in empirical work with a collaborative inter-disciplinary nature. Currently the Law Faculty has a number of scholars who are/have been engaged in research which has involved collaboration with academics across other disciplines (e.g. David Bonner- public lawyer- has undertaken a major empirical research project including collaboration with social policy scholars; Jean McHale- health care law- interests including nanomedicine, mental health law, health and EU, regulation of human material, clinical research- has collaborated with several medical sociologists, nurses and clinicians).

Other research undertaken within the Law Faculty while it may not involve direct collaboration provides a socio-legal approach to research (e.g. Mandy Burton- domestic violence and extensive empirical research into vulnerable and intimidated witnesses: Stephen Camiss undertakes empirical research in the area of criminal justice: Sally Cunningham who is researching into law policy and practice relating to driving offences: Charlotte Walsh- researching into drug culture and drug policy).

Other colleagues through their engagement with ethics or critical theory engage across disciplines outside the traditional fora of many legal scholars (e.g. Kola Abimbola religion and culture, history and philosophy of science : Jose Miola- medical ethics and medical law; Panu Minkkinen- critical criminal law, critical and cultural criminology and continental philosophy; Veronique Vorus- psychoanalysis and critical criminology). Some colleagues directly deal with issues of interest to colleagues within the Faculty of Arts so for example, Dawn Watkins research also includes Art law and literature.

Some colleagues are currently members of the Forensic Research Centre. (These include Cunningham noted above and Hartshorne whose research interests include the Law of Evidence).

Colleagues also contribute to public bodies where their work crosses disciplines. So for example, Mark Bell is a member of the European Commission Network of Experts in the Discrimination Field; Cosmo Graham is a member of the Competition Commission, Jean McHale is a member of the UK Advisory Panel on Blood Borne Viruses, WHO Panel of Experts on Mental Health and the Home Office/Imperial College Airwave Ethics and Governance Committee.

Prof Jean McHale,
Faculty of Law,