

THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS LAW: DIVERSIFYING VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES

Call for Papers and Expressions of Interest

Please find below a call for papers and expressions of interest for a one-day, in-person event titled ‘**The Future of Business Law: Diversifying Voices and Perspectives**’, which will take place on **1 May 2024 at Durham University Law School (DH1 3LE, UK)**.

This will be an in-person, one-day workshop featuring two discussion panels, a roundtable, and a group work session dedicated to examining new and emerging topics in business law. It is directed at the community of academics researching and/or teaching emerging topics in business law, and attendance from post-graduate research students and other early-career researchers is particularly encouraged.

Briefly, our workshop aims to attract, inspire, and showcase voices and perspectives that are currently underrepresented in business law. Specifically, we want to **showcase research and teaching in emerging areas of business law** that challenge traditional assumptions about the role that companies, businesses and the financial system can play in shaping the future of our global society and local communities.

I. Call for papers:

The organisers would like to invite **papers to be presented** at the conference on **emerging topics in business law**:

- Topics falling under the remit of this workshop may include corporate social responsibility, supply chain sustainability, the technological transformation of companies, businesses and markets, sustainable finance, financial inclusion, and developments in emerging geographies, at both international and national levels – in particular the North England region.
- It is also hoped that the workshop will provide a stage for new and developing foundational and philosophical approaches to business law, including those that incorporate re-examinations of shareholder-centric and agency-centric approaches to corporate law, discussions of new goals and objectives for financial regulation (like fairness, financial inclusion, and sustainability), and new tools for critically appraising business law (such as feminist and queer legal theories).

Those interested in presenting their work should submit either a working draft, a recently published paper, or an extended abstract by email (clara.martins-pereira@durham.ac.uk) by **Friday, 15th March**.

The organisers will select papers that will form part of a more general discussion within two panels. Authors of accepted submissions will receive a notification by **Friday, 29th March**.

II. Call for expressions of interest:

The organisers would also like to invite **expressions of interest from those willing to participate in a round-table discussion and a group work session on new research and teaching methods in business law:**

- Our workshop hopes to illustrate the variety of new approaches and methods that are increasingly being employed by academics researching, teaching, and creating impact in this area: **new research methods** could include survey research, interview research and data analysis; **new teaching methods** might involve efforts to decolonize the curriculum or cover underrepresented geographies and regions in business law subjects; and **new avenues to impact** might include novel methods for engaging with policymakers, industry members and the wider community (e.g., policy and tech sprints, podcasts, etc).

Those interested in discussing these topics should write a proposal (1,000 words max), describing how they have implemented or are in the process of pursuing new methods for researching, teaching, or creating impact in business law, and submit it by email (clara.martins-pereira@durham.ac.uk) by **Friday, 15th March**,

The organisers will select speakers who will be invited to participate in a round-table discussion about new teaching methods in business law, and speakers who will be invited to participate in a group-work session aimed at discussing and fostering new approaches to researching and creating impact in business law. All participants will receive a notification by **Friday, 29th March**.

Attendance will be free for selected participants and participation includes materials, lunch, tea and refreshments.

The conference organisers are Clara Martins Pereira (Durham University Law School), and Virág Blazsek (University of Leeds School of Law). Any questions should be directed to clara.martins-pereira@durham.ac.uk.