



## Reforming Corporate Insolvency Law for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### CALL FOR PAPERS

**Date:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Location:** Lancaster Castle, Lancaster.

**Organiser:** Dr John Wood (Lecturer in company and insolvency law, Lancaster University)

#### OVERVIEW

This conference is generously supported through the subject sections fund at the Society of Legal Scholars and Lancaster University. The aim of this conference is to provide a platform for academics and practitioners to examine current issues and practices that concern insolvency law. The broader aims of the conference look to facilitate on-going interest in insolvency by:

- Bringing academics, practitioners and policy makers together to examine insolvency law from a holistic perspective
- To create on-going networking opportunities to broaden collaborative opportunities
- To promote the significance of insolvency law

The conference is to be held at Lancaster Castle (conference room) in Lancaster on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The castle is conveniently a five minute walk from Lancaster railway station. The conference will be in-person. There are no fees for registration and refreshments will be provided.

#### CONFERENCE THEMES AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

In recent years, much of the policy developments in this area have focused on helping companies in financial distress. In this respect, changes to the law as a result of the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 has shifted the law to focus on the debtors' interests. Recent case law on the moratorium and Part 26A restructuring plans have had the

combined effect of promoting measures that are designed to enhance the debtors' interests at the potential expense of creditors. Issues that concern creditor impairment have grown in recent years as the parameters of the law are still being decided by the courts. There are concerns as to the implications that this may have on issues such as priority and security. There are also concerns about what these changes mean for the UK's corporate insolvency framework as it becomes more debtor friendly. It is not just the legislation that is responsible for this change. The Supreme Court decision in *Sequana* continues to raise questions. The creditor duty has been the subject of much academic and judicial attention, but there remain many unanswered questions as to when directors owe a duty towards creditors.

The extent, impact and conceptual nature of these issues require further thought; the scrutiny of which is designed to examine, test and consider instances where legislative reform is required.

Keynote speeches will be delivered by Professor David Milman (Emeritus, Lancaster University), Paul Bannister (Head of Policy, the Insolvency Service), Justin Dionne (Chief technical officer, the Insolvency Service), and Lisa Linklater KC (Barrister, Exchange Chambers, Leeds).

In light of these themes, we are seeking abstracts from academics, policy makers and practitioners on the following areas:

- Sustainability and corporate restructuring
- Public and social policy issues within insolvency
- Environmental and climate change issues
- Pre-packs
- Directors' duties and insolvency
- Insolvency regulation
- Insolvency related issues that concern creditors and other stakeholders

The above is not an exhaustive list, and we welcome abstracts that align with the general themes of the conference. We encourage submissions from early career researchers (including postgraduate researchers) and those from underrepresented groups.

For any questions or clarifications on relevant topics, please email Dr John Wood: [j.m.wood@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.wood@lancaster.ac.uk)

## **SUBMISSIONS**

The abstract should have a clear research question, methodology and have identifiable key findings. Please provide a 400 word abstract outlining your paper by no later than **13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 17:00** (UK Time). Expressions of interest in delivering a paper should be sent to Dr John Wood: [j.m.wood@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.wood@lancaster.ac.uk)

The academic panel reviewing the submitted abstracts consists of Dr John Wood, Dr Sofia Ellina (Lancaster University) and Dr John Tribe (University of Liverpool).

Applicants will be notified of success by 6th January 2025, and a full list of speakers will be published by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Registration will open shortly afterwards. Please note that spaces available to attend this conference will be limited.

Please note there are no registration fees for this event. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

## **RESEARCH OUTPUT**

A range of papers will be presented at this conference and we will explore the possibility of publishing works with the speakers in either an edited book or a special issue in a journal (publisher to be confirmed). We will discuss with the speakers after the conference to ascertain their interest.