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Essex CAJI Review

Volume 2

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Essex CAJI Review – Welcome to Volume 2

We are delighted to share our Essex CAJI Update Volume 2! Our [previous Review](#) was an effort to reach out and introduce Essex CAJI, its team, members, partners and fellows. It also provided an overview of its mission and activities as well as media engagement and publications. Essex CAJI has been an active hub for public law within the Essex Law School and engages with other research communities within and outside the School, research clusters, PhD students, and has been proud to host external visitors and distinguished research fellows.

We at Essex CAJI employ a critical methodology informed by constitutional theory that distinguishes our work from traditional public law scholarship. Our research is unique in that it bridges the gap between public law's outer boundaries encompassing foreign affairs, international and European law and its internal core where we question the mechanics of local governance, the granular details of local finances, housing policy, and everyday administrative justice.

This Volume will provide a snapshot of what happened during the past academic year or so, and what a year it has been!

The Essex CAJI community has grown bigger. We are always happy to welcome new research fellows in the Essex Law School working in the field of constitutional and administrative law. This year we had the pleasure of welcoming back our alumnus **Mr Lee Marsons** as a Senior Research Fellow. Lee is joining a lively community of research fellows: please take a look at the conversation with **Ms Margaret Doyle** in our [blog](#), talking about her experience of being a fellow and also giving a little more detail into her research and work at the Essex Law School.

During the past academic year, we welcomed a number of visiting fellows, some of whom have only recently left Essex. First, we hosted **Dr Marie DeCock** who is an Assistant Professor in Public Law at the Centre for Government and Law of Hasselt University (Belgium). Marie works on a number of Essex CAJI research priority areas including the public-private law divide and comparative administrative law. We also hosted **Ms Füsun Ceren Küçük Osmanoğlu**, a final year doctoral student from Istanbul University working on Amicus Curiae from an administrative justice perspective. Earlier in the year we also had the pleasure of hosting **Professor Kensuke Ueda** from the Faculty of Law, Sophia University in Tokyo who specialises in constitutional law. Professor Ueda visited the School in March 2025 and discussed current issues related to the concept of justiciability in the UK and Japan and the potential expansion of its scope by courts. Last, but not least, Essex CAJI members interacted with a visiting fellow of the Essex Human Rights Centre, **Dr Camila Almeida Porfiro** who completed her PhD in Public Law at the University of Rome Tor Vergata in 2024, focusing on the impact of executive dominance on democracy and human rights, particularly in times of crisis.



1. Professor Alison Young delivering the Annual Public Law Lecture

Essex CAJI promotes new methodologies in the study of constitutional and administrative law. It also champions equality, diversity, and inclusion in public law research, creating a safe space where a range of voices can be heard. To broaden visibility, we organised a workshop on *Diverse Voices in Public Law* and supported the new *Women in Public Law* initiative, in which our Research Officer, Ms Rebecca Amor, is a member. We also participated in discussions with the Jagoron Shikkha Foundation, a non-profit, youth-led organization committed to empowering underprivileged communities in Bangladesh through education, social awareness, and community development.

While we welcomed several new colleagues to the School this year, we also bid farewell to our Essex CAJI co-director, **Maurice Sunkin**, who retired at the end of the last academic year. A pillar of the Essex Law School, Maurice put UKAJI, and later Essex CAJI, on the map as a leading centre of excellence in constitutional and administrative justice, helping establish the School as one of the UK's foremost institutions for studying and researching public law. His scholarship and generosity have attracted numerous academics and students to Essex. We are delighted that Maurice will remain part of our community as an Emeritus Professor.

The Essex CAJI Team

Our team has evolved, (for a full list of members, you can read Volume 1 [here](#)) with new roles created within the Essex Law School (ELS) dedicated to public law, and several colleagues taking on new positions. Our core team includes:

- Theodore Konstadinides - Essex CAJI Director
- Rebecca Amor - Essex CAJI Research Officer
- Yseult Marique - ELS Senior Academic Mentor in Public Law and Socio-Legal Studies
- Dimitrios Kyritsis - ELS Law & Theory research cluster coordinator, Constitutional Theory Network lead
- Joel Colón Ríos - Essex CAJI Core Team member
- Harry Nikolaidis - ELS Public law cluster coordinator

Essex CAJI hosted a range of online and in-person events throughout the year. A particular highlight was our selection to host the Annual Public Law Lecture, delivered by **Professor Alison Young** (Cambridge and currently Public Law Commissioner, Law Commission) on the topic of parliamentary sovereignty. The event drew over 150 participants, both online and in person.

Our Postgraduate Community

Essex Law School is home to a number of PhD students researching diverse areas of public law, supervised and supported by members of Essex CAJI. The Eastern Arc Postgraduate Research Colloquium organised jointly between UEA, Essex and Kent Law Schools was held at our campus on 24 June 2025, and public law was very well represented in the presentations given by students.

On 12 December 2024, Essex CAJI and the Essex Law School hosted *Let's Talk Everything PhD*, an informal webinar designed to give prospective applicants insight into applying for and pursuing a PhD. Chaired by **Ms Rebecca Amor** (Essex), the event covered the proposal and application process, as well as the opportunities available to PhD students at Essex. Speakers included former PGR Rep **Ms Tatjana Grote**, who shared her experience as a doctoral student and explained the role of PGR representatives, alongside **Dr Anastasia Karatzia** and **Dr Katya Al Khateeb** (Essex), who highlighted opportunities in teaching, research, and engagement with hubs and centres. Several Essex CAJI academic members also joined to introduce their research and discuss potential areas for collaboration. The event concluded with a lively Q&A, offering attendees the chance to raise questions directly with staff and students. Feedback from participants was very positive, with many thanking Essex CAJI and Essex Law School for providing such a helpful and informative session.

You can find more details about our postgraduate research students below:

Rebecca Amor, who also serves as Essex CAJI's Research Officer, is exploring the intersection between private and public law. Her research also examines constitutional issues related to improving parliamentary scrutiny of international treaties. For example, Rebecca co-authored (with Theodore Konstadinides) a detailed 22-page written submission to the House of Lords International Agreements Committee, addressing key issues surrounding the government's Rwanda immigration policy and offering recommendations. The Committee's final report cited their evidence. Rebecca is supervised by Theodore Konstadinides and Jessica Lawrence.

Furkan Cirkin is working on the tension between the State, sovereignty and international human rights law. Furkan is supervised by Tom Flynn and Jessica Lawrence.

Abdulrahman Alhejaili's research focuses on equality in Saudi Arabia. It examines how the recent implementation of positive action measures raises questions about the extent to which substantive equality and affirmative action can be constitutionally justified under the Saudi Basic Law of Governance, given its explicit reference to equality "in accordance with Islamic Sharia." More specifically, his work explores how Islamic jurisprudential concepts, particularly *maslahah*, can provide a legitimate basis for substantive equality and affirmative action within Saudi Arabia's legal system. He is supervised by Theodore Konstadinides and Dimitrios Kyritsis.

Jahanzaib Nasir started his PhD journey in October 2025. His research will analyse how military influence, through constitutional suspensions, judicial appointment pressures, or direct interventions, affects judicial independence and the rule of law. By focusing on the doctrine of necessity in Pakistan, his thesis explores how institutional designs and socio-political dynamics, particularly military involvement, shape judicial autonomy. He is supervised by Theodore Konstadinides and Joel Colón Ríos.

Oguzcan Kutkan is working on the concept of government stability in the UK constitutional system. He is supervised by Dimitrios Kyritsis and Tom Flynn.

Amelie Godfrey's research focuses on the constitutional strength of EU citizenship and how it can be assessed through an examination of the level of protection for derived rights of residence for third-country national (TCN) family members of EU citizens, and other individuals operating at the 'periphery' of EU citizenship's constitutionalisation. She is supervised by Theodore Konstadinides and Niall O'Connor.

Our Research & Visiting Fellows

As Essex CAJI's reputation is expanding, we have welcomed a number of visiting PhD students and fellows. Here is a little more about the brilliant minds we have welcomed this year.

Mr Lee Marsons

In addition to our existing research fellows (Ms Arabella Lang and Ms Margaret Doyle), we are particularly happy to have welcomed back Mr Lee Marsons, an Essex Law School alumni. Lee joined us as a Senior Research fellow and started his tenure in January 2025. He is currently a Senior Researcher at the Public Law Project (PLP), a national legal charity focused on advancing access to public law remedies, the accountability of the executive, and the legal protection of human rights. PLP's work includes pursuing constitutional litigation at UK Supreme Court level. PLP intervened, for example, in the judicial review of Boris Johnson's prorogation of Parliament (*R (Miller) v Prime Minister* [2019] UKSC 41) and pursued litigation in its own name regarding the extent to which delegated powers could be used to undermine access to justice (*R (Public Law Project) v Lord Chancellor* [2016] UKSC 39).

Lee has been with the Public Law Project (PLP) since February 2021. His primary role involves publishing research outputs and conducting policy advocacy with the Government, Parliament, and public bodies in PLP's Priority Area 1: Constitutional Reform. His Essex CAJI Visiting Fellowship is designed to provide a formal vehicle through which to consolidate the University's existing association with Lee and to develop it further over the next few years, particularly in the areas of teaching, research impact, and the strategic development of Essex CAJI.

Dr Marie DeCock

Marie is another visiting fellow to the Law School. Marie's work examining the public-private overlap, accountability, integrity presents some really interesting ideas and ones which we hope to engage with further here at Essex CAJI.



2. Dr Marie DeCock, Visiting Fellow at the University of Essex

Marie says about her fellowship experience:

"In the fall of 2024, I spent a research stay as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Essex, School of Law. Under the sponsorship of Dr. Yseult Marique, who was also on my PhD jury back in 2022, I worked on a legal comparison as part of my FWO Research Foundation Flanders project on interlocal cooperation. Looking back, I am happy to say that my stay tied in beautifully with the work of colleagues at Essex and the UK Administrative Justice Institute on democratic accountability, transparency, and public finance, and that I returned to Belgium with lots of inspiration. We held a roundtable with scholars from inside and outside Essex, I got the opportunity to discuss my findings during a cross-cluster meeting, and had one-on-one conversations with multiple researchers from Essex and other UK institutions. Beyond the academic exchange, I fully embraced living in Wivenhoe Park, complete with Christmas shopping in Colchester and the occasional train to London (purely for research purposes, of course!). A big thank you to everyone at Essex Law School for the warm welcome and the inspiring encounters. I hope we meet again."

Ms Füsun Ceren Küçük Osmanoğlu

Ceren spent a year at the University of Essex as a visiting PhD student from Istanbul Yeni Yüzyıl University (Faculty of Law, Turkey), working on her doctoral thesis titled *The Amicus Curiae Concept from an Administrative Justice Law Perspective*. Ceren argues that the concept of *amicus curiae* serves a guiding function for the court and enhances the quality of the decision-making process by offering opinions, contributing insights, intervening when appropriate, and proposing alternative solutions during trials (without being a party to the case). Although Turkish administrative procedural law does not currently regulate the *amicus curiae* concept, Ceren argues that, in light of its potential to improve access to justice and promote the public interest, it is important to assess both the advantages and potential drawbacks of incorporating the *amicus curiae* mechanism into the Turkish administrative judicial process.

Ceren explains why she chose to spend a year at Essex:

Although the concept of amicus curiae, which has no legal regulation in Turkey, first emerged from the Anglo-Saxon legal system, in Turkey, the first Amicus Curiae brief was submitted to the Constitutional Court in 2015. Moreover, most studies on amicus curiae are related to civil procedure law and international law. In Turkey, there is no original study analyzing the concept of amicus curiae within the scope of law perspective. Likewise, there are not many sources in Turkey that I can use in this study, which I continue at İstanbul University. However, England is one of the countries where the amicus curiae practice exists. For this reason, my purpose of coming to the University of Essex was to examine the appearance of the concept of amicus curiae in England and to conduct my doctoral study in a comparative manner.

During my time in Essex, I set out to study all relevant sources related to the concept of amicus curiae, its definition, origin and history. In addition, I tried to explain the unique aspects of amicus curiae by comparing it with similar institutions such as intervention and expert. I also investigated how effective amicus curiae briefs are in the court's decision-making in the context of administrative disputes. I also aimed to examine the impact of amicus curiae in the protection of fundamental rights and guarantees on the basis of international human rights. Since the concept of amicus curiae has not found an important place in Turkish Law, my research also included the amicus curiae in England and the procedure to be followed in the application as amicus curiae. The Essex Law School and Essex CAJI provided a great home for undertaking this research.

Selected Essex CAJI Event and Activities Highlights

Essex CAJI has had a dynamic and productive academic year, hosting distinguished speakers, promoting major new works in public law, and organising book launches that have drawn attention to cutting-edge research in constitutional and administrative justice. We have also been active in engaging with public policy, submitting evidence to the government, and supporting our members as they present their work at leading institutions across the UK and abroad. You will find below some highlights:

Guest Speakers We Hosted

- On 26 February 2024, **Shun Kaku** (Waseda University, Japan) gave an online seminar on the relationship between political legitimacy at the state level, the legitimacy of international law, and individual autonomy in political processes. Drawing on the works of Besson, Dworkin, Ratner, Onuma, Buchanan, and Keohane, Shun examined the difficulties in existing theories of international law's legitimacy. To address these, he turned to Lon Fuller's concept of the internal morality of law and his eight principles of legality: generality, publicity, prospectiveness, clarity, non-contradiction, practicability, stability, and congruence between law and administration. Shun argued that Fuller's account of law as an objective standard of conduct (rather than an expression of subjective will) offers a useful framework for assessing the legitimacy of international law. His analysis centred on the autonomy of states, the autonomy of individuals, and their interrelationship. He also acknowledged challenges to his framework, particularly in contexts where individuals are excluded from political processes, such as stateless persons or refugees residing outside their nation-state.
- On 2 May 2025, the **Essex Human Rights Centre** and Essex CAJI, in association with the International Commission of Jurists were honored to host A Special Talk, entitled 'Opportunities to Implement Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Global South: A Judicial Perspective from Nepal', with **The Honourable Mr Hari Prasad Phuyal, Justice of the Supreme Court of Nepal**. Introduced by **Professor Carla Ferstman** (Director of the Human Rights Centre, Essex) with a Q&A session hosted by **Professor Joel Colón-Ríos** (Essex CAJI). The Special Talk opened the door to interesting discussions around the justiciability of socio-economic rights under the Nepalese constitution, and was followed by an informal discussion and Q&A.



3. Professors Joel Colón-Ríos, Geoff Gilbert and Carla Ferstman with The Honourable Mr Hari Prasad Phuyal and other attendees and members of Essex Law School

- On 4 June 2025, Essex CAJI was honoured to welcome **Vanessa McDonnell** to present her ongoing research for discussion. Vanessa MacDonnell is an Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law (Common Law Section) and Co-Director of the Ottawa Public Law Centre. She researches in the areas of Canadian constitutional law, constitutional theory, comparative constitutional law and criminal law. Between 2019 and 2024, she was an elected member of the Global Young Academy. She is currently the Canadian Principal Investigator on a \$1.7 million interdisciplinary, international research project on unwritten constitutional norms and principles, funded in Round 7 of the Open Research Area Competition. This seminar sought to

explore the ways in which Constitution Act 1982's amending formula is sometimes used by Canadian courts as an interpretative aid that sheds light on the meaning of other parts of the constitution. With time for a Q&A at the end, there was an interesting discussion between participants.



4 - Theodore Konstadinides, Vanessa McDonnell and Joel Colón-Ríos at the UK Supreme Court

Book Launches

- On 28 May 2024, Essex CAJI hosted a webinar on **Nick O'Brien**'s recent book, *Politics and Administrative Justice: Postliberalism, Street-level Bureaucracy and the Reawakening of Democratic Citizenship*. Nick was the Legal Director at the Disability Rights Commission from 2000 to 2007 and he was a Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool from 2007 to 2022. The event followed a blog post by Nick on the Essex CAJI website, which sparked interest in holding a broader discussion. Chaired by **Theodore Konstadinides**, the session began with Nick introducing his text. Discussants included **Naomi Creutzfeldt** (University of Kent), **Andrew Le Sueur** (University of Essex), and **Margaret Doyle** (Essex CAJI Visiting Fellow). Together, they offered rich readings of Nick's work, exploring its themes of postliberalism, administrative justice, and democratic citizenship. The event concluded with a lively Q&A, which underscored the book's importance and the provocative questions it raises. See [here](#) for more details about the event and [Nick O'Brien's related blog post](#).
- On 17 June 2024, Essex CAJI hosted a webinar with the editors of two recent volumes on methodology in public law: *Researching Public Law in Common Law Systems* (**Paul Daly**, University of Ottawa, and **Joe Tomlinson**, King's College London) and *The Methodology of Constitutional Theory* (**Dimitrios Kyritsis**, University of Essex, and **Stuart Lakin**, University of Reading). Both texts make important contributions to an area often overlooked in public, constitutional, and administrative law: the role of methodology. They examine how research in these fields is carried out, what disciplines and approaches should inform it, and how to situate

doctrinal, empirical, socio-legal, and critical perspectives. Together, they fill a significant gap in the literature and highlight the growing importance of methodological self-consciousness in legal scholarship. The event featured reflections from the editors alongside commentary from **Joel Colón-Ríos**, **Yseult Marique**, and **Theodore Konstadinides** (Essex), **Ana Cannilla** (Glasgow), and **Rebecca Amor** (Essex). Discussion focused on the value of methodological reflection in legal research and how these volumes help shape future work in constitutional and administrative justice.

- On 17 September 2024, Essex CAJI hosted a webinar discussing *Diverse Voices in Public Law*, edited by **Professor Se-shauna Wheatle** and **Dr Elizabeth O'Loughlin** (Durham). The book responds to the lack of representation of diverse perspectives in traditional approaches to teaching law, where the choice of materials has historically excluded many voices. By re-examining core topics such as citizenship, constitutional law, the judiciary, human rights, and administrative law through critical and diverse perspectives, the text shows how law is shaped by wider social structures and how these can perpetuate disadvantage and inequality. This innovative book highlights the importance of including historically marginalised voices in legal education and scholarship, making it a vital contribution to the field of public law. Essex CAJI was honoured to welcome the editors, together with contributors **Dr Donal Coffey** (Maynooth) and **Dr Coree Brown Swan** (Sterling). The discussion, chaired by **Theodore Konstadinides**, also featured reflections from **Alis E. Neligan** (Durham University), and Essex colleagues **Yseult Marique** and **Joel Colón-Ríos**.

Our Participation in External Events

- Several Essex CAJI members presented their research at the 2024 Annual Conference of the International Society of Public Law (ICON•S), held at IE Law School in Madrid, Spain, from 8–10 July. The conference theme was *“The Future of Public Law: Resilience, Sustainability and Artificial Intelligence.”* A blog post on the Essex Research Blog, also [shared on Essex CAJI](#), highlights the members who took part and the contributions they made.
- On 30 September 2024, Essex CAJI and its members were part of a roundtable organised by the Jagoron Foundation in collaboration with Gray's Inn. The roundtable brought together esteemed academics as an opportunity to discuss the history and future of the Constitution in Bangladesh. Focussing on conversations around accountability, governance, representation and transparency, the roundtable addressed the opportunities of reforming the Constitution in Bangladesh, as well as potential obstacles to taking such action. Further details of the roundtable can be seen in the [blog post](#) submitted by **Shaheen Mamum** as Executive Director of the Jagoron Foundation to Essex CAJI's blog.
- On 30 April 2025 **Dr Dimitrios Kyritsis** presented a paper at the Maastricht Foundations of Law Colloquium entitled 'Law in the Service of Legitimacy'. Also, on 2-3 May 2025 Dimitrios Kyritsis participated in a Work-in-Progress Workshop organised by the Institute for International and Comparative Public Law at the University of Munster and gave a paper entitled 'Normative Approaches to the Separation of Powers'.

- On 2 June 2025 the House of Commons in collaboration with legal academics from University College London, Durham University, and the University of Ottawa hosted a closed workshop exploring the role that politicians and key parliamentary personnel play in sustaining the unwritten dimension of constitutionalism. The event brought together a distinguished group of experts from the UK, USA, Canada, and Ireland to examine the content, functions, and interactions of unwritten constitutional rules, and the ways in which parliamentarians draw on these informal principles in their everyday work. **Professors Theodore Konstadinides and Joel Colón-Ríos** were among the invited attendees. The workshop provided an opportunity to reflect on the *practical development and application* of informal constitutional rules within Parliament and highlighted their importance in maintaining democratic stability.
- On 4 June 2025, **Professor Theodore Konstadinides** participated in an academic workshop hosted by the Law School at the University of Maynooth and organised by Professor Tobias Lock. The event brought together some leading European constitutional law scholars to present and discuss their ongoing research projects Professor Konstadinides shared insights from his current research on judicial independence in the European Union. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for exchanging ideas, receiving constructive feedback, and strengthening academic collaboration between the Essex and Maynooth law schools.
- In February 2025, **Professor Colón-Ríos** gave talks about deliberative democracy and constitutional change at events organised at the Universidad Autónoma de México and at Universidad Pompeu Fabra. In November 2024, he gave an online lecture on the historical evolution of the concept of constituent power at the II Congreso Regional de la Jurisdicción de lo Contencioso Administrativo del Caribe Colombiano and, in March 2024, an online talk on democratic constitution-making to faculty and students of Mae Fah Luang University in Thailand.

Evidence to Government & Other Institutions

- On 30 December 2024, **Dr Elizabeth O'Loughlin** (Durham University) and **Professor Maurice Sunkin** submitted evidence to the Ministry of Justice on Judicial Review and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Professor Maurice Sunkin also chaired the Civil Justice Council's working group on the Judicial Review Pre-Trial Protocol. Following the Ministry of Justice's *call for evidence* on proposed reforms to the judicial review process, Dr O'Loughlin and Professor Sunkin submitted joint evidence addressing the government's proposals. Their submission suggested reforms to judicial review procedures in relation to large, nationally significant infrastructure projects, such as power stations and airport expansions. The government had not yet issued a formal response to the consultation, but early indications suggested that several of the joint submission's key recommendations had been accepted. Professor Sunkin also participated with Professor Yseult Marique on the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) roundtables on Judicial Review in Planning; and prepared a submission of evidence to the MoJ's consultation on reform of the JR procedure in National Strategic Planning.
- On 16 December 2024, Essex CAJI submitted written evidence to the House of Commons Modernisation Committee's call for views on what topics it should prioritise for action as it develops

its work programme. Our submission highlighted the need for scrutiny of treaties as well as arms exports. Parliamentary accountability and enhanced executive due diligence were also noted as being vital to modernise the system.

- On 3 September 2025, **Yseult Marique** (Essex Law School) presented, together with **Emmanuel Slaatsky** (KU Leuven), their work on 'Independent Supervision, ESG and Accountability' in Frankfurt as part of the European Central Bank Legal Research Programme.
- On 11 September 2025 the House of Lords International Agreements Committee published its [10th Report of Session 2024-2026](#) on Treaty Scrutiny in Westminster citing evidence by **Theodore Konstadinides** (Essex Law School) co-authored with **Niall O'Connor** (Essex Law School) and **Eleftheria Asimakopoulou** (Edinburgh).

Insight: The Constitutional Theory Network (CTN)

The Constitutional Theory Network, co-founded by Essex CAJI, has continued to expand its international reach as a hub for research partnerships and scholarly collaboration on the foundations of constitutional legitimacy and interpretation.

Led by **Dr Dimitrios Kyritsis**, the Constitutional Theory Network has quickly become an important international forum for the study of constitutional theory bringing together scholars from across Europe and beyond to examine how constitutional law sustains liberal democratic institutions under conditions of moral and political pluralism. Through its close collaboration with prestigious institutions such as the Universities of Lisbon and Sorbonne, the Constitutional Theory Network reflects Essex CAJI's commitment to bridging together philosophical analysis and constitutional practice, fostering an ongoing dialogue on the justification and interpretation of constitutional norms.

In December 2023, Essex CAJI hosted a virtual symposium on **Frank Michelman's Constitutional Essentials** (Oxford University Press, 2022) under the auspices of the Constitutional Theory Network. The symposium followed an earlier event in Lisbon on David Dyzenhaus's *The Arc of Legality*, continuing a series of conversations that have placed Essex CAJI and the Network at the forefront of contemporary constitutional theory. Michelman's work revisits and refines John Rawls's constitutional thought, probing both its insights and its limitations while offering new interpretive perspectives. Central to the discussion was the enduring question of how constitutional law legitimises democratic authority in pluralistic societies. The event featured two intensive 90-minute sessions with commentary, replies, and open discussion. Distinguished participants included **Professor Tarun Khaitan** (LSE), **Miguel Nogueira de Brito** (University of Lisbon), and **Sabrina Zucca-Soest** (Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg).

The Constitutional Theory Network further consolidated its presence in 2025 with its second annual conference, held at the University of Sorbonne on 14-15 May, focusing on *Constitutional Interpretation*. The theme was constitutional interpretation and Professor Sandrine Baume (Lausanne) delivered the keynote lecture with the title 'The Paradox of Self-Injury in Militant Democracy'.



5. Attendees at the University of Sorbonne annual conference

Through these collaborations, symposia, and exchanges, CTN continues to enrich academic debate on the nature and justification of constitutional governance. Its work highlights the importance of sustained theoretical engagement in understanding how constitutional law both reflects and reinforces the values of liberal democracy in an era of uncertainty and change.

In the Pipeline

Essex CAJI Annual Law Lecture

We are in the process of planning our next Annual Law lecture, so please do e-mail caji@essex.ac.uk to request being added to our mailing list to be kept up to date on this once details are released.

Essex Law School's flagship public law textbook

Le Sueur, Murkens and Sunkin Public Law, text Cases and Materials 6th ed. is in preparation

Public Administration Networks

Yseult Marique is part of the foundation of a new network called the European Network of Public Administration (2025-) with its first conference to be held in Bucharest in April 2026. Yseult is also co-lead for a research group on Legal perspectives on public administration and has been responsible for co-organisation a stream of panels at the European Group of Public Administration which took place in Glasgow in August 2025 (with the Permanent Study Group on Law and Administration) on the topic of bias and impartiality. She is also co-lead of the Yale comparative administrative law listserv. Do [contact Yseult](#) if your research coheres with the work of these networks.

Constitutional Literacy Project

This ongoing project addresses the urgent need to improve public understanding of constitutional principles in the UK. Despite their importance to democracy, the constitution remains widely misunderstood or invisible, in part because it is largely absent from school and university curricula. The lack of knowledge leaves citizens and non-citizens alike vulnerable to misinformation, disengagement, and weakened accountability of public authorities (an issue made more pressing by global disenchantment with constitutional democracy). The project aims to make the constitution “visible” by drawing on insights from law, and other disciplines. It will explore creative methods of communication, including storytelling, poetry, and art, to engage communities and promote constitutional learning.

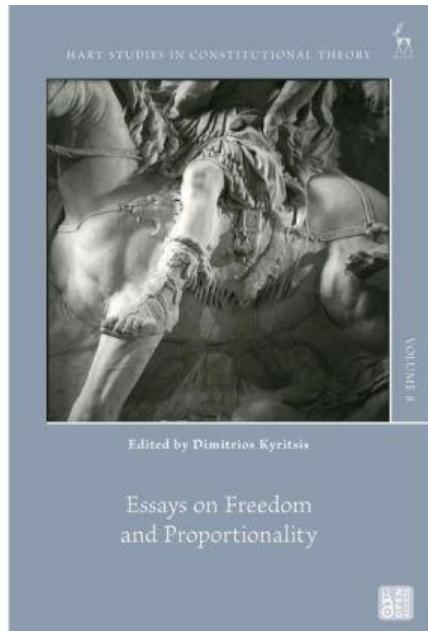
Through performances, public art projects, and collaborative community initiatives, the project seeks to transform shared spaces into sites of constitutional awareness and democratic practice.

Essex CAJI Publications in 2025



On 24 March 2025, the book ***Municipalities in Financial Distress: An Environmental, Social and Governance Critique*** was published by Edward Elgar. **Yseult Marique** (University of Essex) co-authored the volume with a number of distinguished scholars, including Eugenio Vaccari (Royal Holloway, University of London), Laura N. Coordes (Arizona State University), and Geo Quinot (Stellenbosch University). The book explores how local governments in financial crisis can recover in ways that are sustainable, resilient, and socially responsible. It argues that municipal recovery cannot be achieved through financial restructuring alone; rather, it requires a decision-making process that is modular, context-sensitive, and attentive to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. The book challenges traditional approaches to municipal insolvency and sets out a path for strengthening both communities and institutions in the long term. The book is open access, making it freely available to read, download, and share on ElgarOnline. Yseult Marique presented the findings of the book at the Comparative Law Section of the SLS Conference, together with Eugenio Vaccari, Stephen Bailey, John Bell, and Oriana Casasola. She also presented the book at the Lund Law School workshop *Constitutional Protection of Local Self-Governance as a Democratic Response – Insights from Europe and South Korea*.

The book has already been reviewed, including by Charles Ho Wang Mak (Bristol) in *International Insolvency Review* (2025) 34(2), 259–261, and by Bob Wessels (Leiden, NL), who described it as 'a timely and insightful contribution to the (rather only beginning) understanding and discourse on municipal financial distress and insolvency' and noted that 'this study is breaking new ground.'



**Dr Dimitrios Kyritsis
Essex Law School**

On 12 June 2025, Bloomsbury Publishing published *Essays on Freedom and Proportionality* edited by **Dimitrios Kyritsis** (Essex), available also as open access thanks to support from the Open Access Fund here at the University of Essex. Based on a workshop sponsored by Essex Law School and Essex CAJI that took place in August 2022, this book offers the first sustained examination of the relationship between proportionality and the moral concept of freedom from a wide range of philosophical perspectives. Through individual chapters that are in dialogue with each other, the book explores whether proportionality is committed to a conception of freedom that is unduly individualistic, as some of its critics maintain.

See also in 2024-2025 and in press

Rebecca Amor, 'Social Housing' in Yseult Marique and Eugenio Vaccari, *Rethinking the English Territorial Constitution*, Bristol University Press (Cheltenham, Edward Elgar, forthcoming)

Maurice Sunkin (with Pamela Cox MP and Ruth Lamont), 'Constitutionalising Regulatory Governance: the Case of the Victims' Commissioner' (2025) *Public Law* 283.

Esin Küçük, Theodore Konstadinides and Yseult Marique, Special issue 'A Response to External and Internal Threats of Division and Fragmentation? – Revisiting European Solidarity in the Aftermath of Crises' (2024) 31(6) *Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law* (open access) 709–727

Theodore Konstadinides with Niamh Nic Shuibhne, 'A Constitutional reading of EU Citizenship Law' in Leonard Besselink, Nicola Lupo and Mattias Wendel (eds.) *Research Handbook on EU Constitutional Law* (Cheltenham, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025).

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