

# *Freedom of Expression - Contemporary Challenges in the UK*

*HRLC (Civil and Political Rights Unit) Seminar*

Wednesday 7 December 2022, 14.00-16.00

## **Chair:**

**Dominic McGoldrick** is Professor of International Human Rights Law and former Co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC), University of Nottingham. He is currently the Head of the HRLC's Civil and Political Rights Unit. He has published on hate speech laws and on freedom of expression on Facebook and Social Networking sites. He contributes the chapter on 'Thought, Expression, Association, and Assembly', in Moeckli, Shah and Sivakumaran, eds., *International Human Rights Law* (4<sup>th</sup> edn, 2022).

## **Speakers:**

### **Part I: Bill of Rights Bill**

**Professor Paul Wragg** is a professor of media law at the University of Leeds. His research explores the contemporary legal problems of protecting freedom of speech as it relates to privacy, press regulation, and in the workplace. He has been published widely in leading law journals in the UK and abroad. He is the author of *A Free and Regulated Press: Defending Coercive Independent Press Regulation* (Hart, 2020). He is an original member of IMPRESS's code committee, established after the Leveson Inquiry into press malpractice; an Associate Fellow of the Inner Temple; and a board member of the campaign group, Hacked Off. He co-hosts the Media Law Podcast with Dr Tom Bennett, City, Univ of London. His next monograph, *Free Speech Theory: A Radical Restatement*, will be published by Hart in 2024.

**Judith Skillen** is an Assistant Professor in Law at University of Nottingham, having joined the School in September 2019. Prior to this, Judith was a Teaching Fellow at King's College London (2016-2019). Judith read Law at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge (MA (Hons)) and Queen's University Belfast (LLM). She is currently completing a PhD entitled 'Damages for Misuse of Private Information' at the University of Bristol.

**Sejal Parmar** is Senior Lecturer in Law at Cardiff University. She is international human rights law scholar and practitioner with a particular

interest in freedom of expression. Throughout her career, she has integrated working as an academic lawyer with legal and policy positions and consultancies for a range of organisations. She is currently on leave whilst working as the ESRC/AHRC Policy Fellow in Disinformation and International Relations at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She previously held full-time academic positions at the Central European University and the University of Sheffield, institutions where she taught, amongst other subjects, *Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age* and *Media Freedom*. She also previously served as Senior Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and Senior Legal Officer at ARTICLE 19, the leading human rights NGO on freedom of expression. In 2020, she wrote the *Detailed Guidance on the implementation of the UN Strategy and Action Plan on Hate Speech* and the *Guidance Note on Addressing and Countering COVID-19 Related Hate Speech* as consultant to UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect. She has also held other major consultancies with the Oversight Board of Meta, OLX, and Behavioural Insights Team, amongst others, in recent years. She served as Co-Rapporteur of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech, which drafted Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech. She is a member of the academic constituency of the Global Network Initiative and an expert at Global Freedom of Expression at Columbia University. Her publications to date mainly address international law on freedom of expression. Her monograph, *Freedom of Expression at a Time of Reckoning*, is under contract with Cambridge University Press. She is also currently developing an edited volume on hate speech with other scholars.

## **Part II: Online Safety Bill**

**Lorna Woods** is Professor of Internet Law at the University of Essex. She started her career as a practising solicitor in a technology, media and telecommunications practice in the City of London. She has extensive experience in the field of media policy and communications regulation, including data protection, social media and the Internet, and she has published widely in this area (see list of publications below). She has also contributed to a range of commissioned studies, ranging from, for example, the RAND Study on Options for and Effectiveness of Internet Self- and Co-Regulation' (2007)) and the Hans Bredow Study on Co-regulation and the Media (2006) to the European Audiovisual Observatory study into Media Pluralism and Competition Issues (2020) and her expertise in these fields is demonstrated by the fact that she has been asked on many occasions to give oral evidence to Parliamentary inquiries across the technology, media and telecommunications sectors both in the UK and abroad. She also has a long-standing interest in privacy, especially privacy in public places and the law relating to surveillance, and is well known as a European lawyer for the

*Textbook on EU Law* (Steiner and Woods). Her current research project with Carnegie UK Trust, which was shortlisted in 2019 for Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, is on reducing harm arising on social media. The Carnegie project has argued for a systems-based approach to social media regulation, rather than a focus on direct content regulation, and proposed that platform operators be subject to a statutory duty of care. The proposal was adopted in the 2019 Online Harms White Paper. The impact of her work has been recognised in both Houses of Parliament. In recognition of her work, she was awarded an OBE in 2020 for her services to internet safety policy. She is an expert speaker on law and regulation of the internet, especially child safety, online harms and safety tech. She is serving a senior associate research fellow at the Information Law and Policy Centre, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London and a member of the policy network at the Centre for Science and Policy, University of Cambridge. Professor Woods is a member of the Digital Freedom Fund's Panel of Experts, a member of the AI Group of the Society for Computers and Law and a fellow of the Royal Society for Arts. She was also a member of a group of advisors who supported the Surveillance Camera Commissioner in his role (a group established by virtue of paragraph 5.7 of the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice) and has sat on the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) National User Group, advising the Surveillance Camera Commissioner and the police since 2015. She was also a member of the IMPRESS Code Committee (2015-2020).

**Peter Coe** is an Associate Professor in Law at Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham, a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Law, University of Reading, and an Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Information Law and Policy Centre, University of London. His research interests fall within the broad field of Media Law. He is particularly interested in how the development of the internet, and the ascendancy of social media platforms, have altered the press industry and our media and communication ecology more broadly, how this has led to significant transformative effects on the public sphere by changing the way we generate, publish, and consume information, and how we engage in public discourse generally. His work has been published in leading journals such as *Legal Studies*, the University of Melbourne's *Media & Arts Law Review*, the *Journal of Media Law*, the *Journal of Business Law* and *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly*, amongst others, and his monograph, *Media Freedom in the Age of Citizen Journalism*, was published by Edward Elgar Publishing in 2021. He is the co-editor, with Professor Paul Wragg, of *Landmark Cases in Privacy Law*, which will be published by Hart in 2023.

**Nicholas Hatzis** is Associate Professor in law at the University of Nottingham. His main research interest is in freedom of thought, speech, and conscience. He also works in EU law, public law, torts, and media law. He is the author of *Offensive Speech, Religion, and the Limits of the Law* (Oxford University Press, 2021) and co-editor of the *Research Handbook on EU Law and Human Rights* (Edward Elgar, 2017). He was *référéndaire* at the Court of Justice of the European Union and has held visiting posts at the Radzyner Law School, Reichman University, Israel, and the University of Milan-Bicocca School of Law.

**Dr Oliver Butler** is an Assistant Professor in Law at the University of Nottingham. His research interests include freedom of expression, privacy and data protection, with a particular focus on data processing by public authorities.

### **Part III: Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill**

**Dominic McGoldrick** is Professor of International Human Rights Law at the University of Nottingham.

**Professor Stephen Bailey** joined the (then) Department of Law at the University of Nottingham in 1972. He became Professor of Public Law in 1989. He was successively, Head of the Department of Law (1992-94), Dean of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences (1994-98) and a Pro Vice-Chancellor (1998-2004). From 1 December 2007 to 31 July 2014, he was Head of the School of Law. He was President of the Society of Legal Scholars in 2013-14. He has taught and published over a wide range of subjects, including administrative law, civil liberties law, local government law, the English legal system and tort. He is the General Editor of *Cross on Local Government Law* and the *Encyclopaedia of Local Government Law*, which are widely used in legal practice.