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Justine Allan *(Panel 5, Day 1)*

Addressing Non-State Actor Proliferation of Chemical Weapons in a Rapidly Changing Global Security Context: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Independent Measures within a Rules-Based International Order

The international community has recently borne witness to an unprecedented nexus, of overwhelming support and innumerable contraventions, of the international norm against the use of chemical weapons. A stark observation has been the reported use and manufacture of traditional chemical weapons by non-state actors, once considered highly improbable. As concluded earlier this year by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, that ISIL, with the exclusive means, motives, and capabilities to deploy sulphur mustard gas, had been responsible for the chemical attack in Marea, Syria in 2015. The defined scope of actors and contextual security risks of those involved in the use and proliferation of chemical weapons has expanded beyond what was envisioned when the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted. Notwithstanding state efforts to implement both legal and enforcement measures, identifiable gaps persist within the legal framework, paralleled also by the political reality of the OPCW, prompts the question of how the international community can act effectively to address the proliferation of chemical weapons by non-state actors. Thus, upholding the rules-based international order for the norm against the use and proliferation of chemical weapons is increasingly unclear. Of significance, the challenge posed by the pace of emerging technological and scientific advancements, and the potential risks for easing non-state actor accessibility to proliferate chemical weapons are of increasing concern.

It is essential to view and coalesce my doctrinal analysis, with two theoretical lenses drawn from International Relations, of the English School and International Regime Complexity. Pursuant to this interdisciplinary approach, a contextual examination questioning how in practice and policy can a multi-stakeholder forum contribute, cooperate and function effectively to support the non-proliferation regime is central to this thesis. This will be supported by my primary qualitative data set, of elite interviews of key actors, ranging from those within the top-line core organisations and policy making, to private industry bodies and sectors at the forefront of scientific and technological advancements. Primary and secondary empirical data will be used further to support an exposition of best practices that can adapt to the rapidly changing global security context that subsumes non-state actors. I will seek to substantiate the proposition that a greater focus on informal instruments has the potential to become best practice and policy when tackling, with pace, emerging proliferation risks.

Khlood Almanjoomi *(Panel 8, Day 2)*

Reconciliation and restorative justice: concepts, processes, and values

This study was exploratory and interpretative in nature. One of its objectives was to explore the application of restorative justice (RJ) in the *Reconciliation Centre* of the Saudi Ministry of Justice. However, it emerged during the interviews that RJ is not restricted to the Reconciliation Centre. Therefore, it was necessary to explore these other institutions that operated a system of reconciliation: (1) the Reconciliation Centre of the Saudi Ministry of Justice; (2) the *Almawaddah* Charity; (3) the Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration1; (4) the Public Prosecution.

These findings raise the question: What is the framework of these institutions? Additionally, what is the legal framework of these institutions? Hence, this chapter aims to outline the frameworks of these four institutions along with their legal framework.

The Reconciliation Centre was founded as an initiative of the Saudi Ministry of Justice. However, the idea of out-of-court reconciliation sessions in the Saudi legal system was not invented with the establishment of this centre; the foundation of reconciliation offices inside courts but outside the courtrooms is the linked stage that influenced the founding of the Centre. In this sense, this chapter explains the story of the establishment of the Reconciliation Centre and the aims underlying it. It will offer more detail on the founding of reconciliation offices outside the courtrooms, their aims, and their mechanisms. Additionally, it will explain the mechanism of the Reconciliation Centre and its '*Taradhi*' platform. It, therefore, points out the type of disputes accepted by the Reconciliation Centre and explains how it receives these disputes, describing also the legal framework of the Reconciliation Centre.

Nouf Alluhidan *(Panel 7, Day 2)*

Exploring the Applications of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Saudi Arabia

The research investigates the legal framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a sustainable transition on three levels: social, economic, and environmental. The private sector can play a significant role in the prosperity of society through the direct and indirect effects of its investments, making PPP a crucial component of building sustainable infrastructures in countries. This resulted in the United Nations recognising the need for all parties, including governments and the private sector, to cooperate and commit to the international partnership of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, PPPs cannot effectively contribute to the SDGs unless governments implement internal legal adjustments and enhance the legal environment. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to investigate the current framework for PPP under Saudi law and how it may be further improved to achieve the Kingdom Vision 2030 and SDGs.

Many PPPs have recently been implemented, and many more are in the tendering process at various stages. In this regard, due of the recent adoption, there was a great need to conduct interviews to investigate the applications of PPPs in different sectors in the country.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with government procurement officials, policymakers, and other experts in the field to determine to what extent PPPs can be effective instruments for achieving sustainability. PPP clearly has various advantages, including encouraging private investment, enhancing efficiency and innovation, creating jobs, and enabling risk sharing.

However, challenges remain, such as unstable regulations, long procurement processes, and a lack of environmental requirements in contracts.

In conclusion, PPPs are a pivotal mechanism in Saudi Arabia's efforts to achieve its Vision 2030 objectives. By leveraging private sector expertise and funding, these partnerships are enabling the Kingdom to build a modern, diversified, and sustainable economy that aligns with the SDGs.

Muath Alzahim *(Panel 2, Day 1)*

Framework Agreements in the Saudi Legal System

The research focuses on the mechanism of Framework Agreements in the area of public procurements. Although framework agreements can offer several benefits, such as administrative efficiency and security of supply, they also pose significant risks and challenges, including concerns about transparency and their potential negative impact on SMEs.

While various systems have been using framework agreements for more than two decades, Saudi law did not adopt the mechanism until recent years. Framework agreements were introduced in the Saudi legal system in 2019. Therefore, the researcher aims to comprehensively analyse and evaluate both the regulatory framework and the practical implementation of framework agreements within the Saudi legal system.

Kwame Ampomah *(Panel 12, Day 2)*

Assessment of the UNGP Framework on business and human rights and a way forward for Africa

Upon the endorsement of the United Nation Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the United Nations General Assembly encouraged states to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) to commence the implementation of the UNGPs. Thirteen years thereafter, many countries have been unable to do so. This notwithstanding, some scholars have called for a global legally binding treaty to regulate business corporations and human rights. In Africa, only three countries have developed NAPs. Uganda, Kenya, and recently Nigeria. Most African countries have not been able to develop and implement NAPs. This brings to the fore how Africa is implementing the UNGPs in the light of their inability to develop NAPs. Some scholars have argued for an Afrocentric approach to corporate human rights responsibility and accountability. The call for an Afrocentric approach to corporate human rights violations and how Africa is implementing the UNGPs have not been extensively studied. This research therefore seeks to answer the unanswered question of how Africa is implementing the UNGPs. It

will equally consider whether there is a need for a regional mechanism to fill in the regulatory gap especially so when corporate human rights violations continue to escalate in the region.

Kathryn Baguley *(Panel 4, Day 1)*

Design and construction of the ADMIA (Automated Decision-making Impact Assessment)

The submitted chapter reflects on previous literature reviews and my professional experiences in practice. Using the combination of learnings, I created the ADMIA, a Proof of Concept (POC), for organisations looking to implement ADM technologies.

I designed and constructed the POC over the summer of 2023 through several iterations in flowcharts and questionnaires, including two pilots. Being conscious of timescales, I completed the POC by the end of August 2023 to allow time for a feedback study. Owing to the design and construction period, the POC encapsulates the EU GDPR as of 1 August 2023.

In the submitted chapter, I start with my motivation for the ADMIA before setting out the literature relating to existing publicly available tools to assist organisations with implementing ADM. I explain my approach to the POC design and construction, with layering, and how it helps support users. This follows to provide a full version of the implementation questionnaire layer before I discuss the findings. I close the chapter with limitations, areas for future work and a conclusion.

The chapter offers a practical response to the research question ‘how can we support organisations to navigate, understand the process and be accountable when implementing ADM technologies?’

Jan Bernhardt *(Panel 1, Day 1)*

The (Potential) Reform of the Antitrust Damages Directive (Directive 2014/104/EU) - An Inevitable Step for the Protection of Leniency (Information’s)? - A Study on the Example of Germany

The practical starting point of this research constitutes the competition policy agenda of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (“BMWK”), published on 21 February 2022. In this, the BMWK stated as first of its kind that the protection of leniencies, i.e. undertakings or individuals, who have admitted to their wrongdoing in cartels for the purpose of avoiding relating heavy fine(s) of the competent competition authority, must be improved throughout Europe. By doing so, it reacted as first of its kind to the ongoing decline of leniencies to effectively uncover cartels and eventually guarantee the functioning and development of the internal (economic) market. At the same time, it was however perceived among its audience that the BMWK requests impliedly a reform of the latest relating policy act – the Directive 2014/104/EU (“Antitrust Damages Directive”) -, an EU directive dealing in a nutshell with the asymmetric protection of leniencies and rights of consumers in damage claims.

This research takes up on this implied request and examines on the example of Germany whether the Antitrust Damages Directive should be reformed for the purpose of protecting leniencies and their provided data, creating on the flip side an incentive for cartel members to participate as leniencies again. So far, this research exemplifies that such a reform of the Antitrust Damage Directive can only partly be supported for this purpose. The use of doctrinal and inter-disciplinary legal methods indicates that civil law jurisdictions on the example of Germany do not favour such a reform in Europe. While it still unclear whether cartels even now exist, triggering vice versa a remaining need for leniencies, the Antitrust Damage Directive did also not weaken substantially the protection of leniencies. Altogether, it even made the access to their data partly more difficult, providing namely less substance to raise a successful claim for damages against the cartel members, including leniencies. Before continuing the path of improving the protection of leniencies in Europe, further investigations have to be made. It has to be asked if such an improvement of protection can be justified on different emerging economic or legal trends and why the amount leniencies have declined over the last years. Overall, it may even have to be excepted that competition law has currently reached its aim – the creation of a free and undistorted competition for the national economy and its players.

Fawziyah Bindrees *(Panel 3, Day 1)*

Navigating Copyright Law in the Digital Age- A Focus on Saudi Arabia

There are numerous related areas of copyright law and digital rights addressed in the thesis, such as ensuring that the use or sharing of online content is not censored or subject to excessive copyright enforcement. Several limitations to copyright liability in the digital realm are discussed, including the complexities associated with automated copyright recognition (such as artificial intelligence) and cross-border enforcement. It is demonstrated that existing legal frameworks can provide users and creators with the ability to contest the legality of takedowns while maintaining a balance between copyright protections and freedom of expression. As a result of the shift to digital spaces, a creator's ability to earn income from their copyright works has been disrupted, making it necessary to intervene, such as revenue-sharing schemes, in order to ensure that the creator receives payment. The importance of international copyright laws is also emphasized as an essential component of maintaining territorial protection for copyright. A balance must be maintained between the exclusive rights of owners and the public interest in using the works under the world's copyright regimes.

Favour Bọ̀rọ̀kìní *(Panel 11, Day 2)*

Afrofeminist Ethics Concerns in the Design and Use of Avatars

This research investigates afrofeminist ethical concerns in the design and use of digital avatars, visual representations used in digital spaces. Construing avatars as technological artefacts with designer and user-embedded values, it aims to explore how users, especially African women in the UK, perceive and utilise them with a view towards developing a socio-legal theory informed theory of avatar(s as) law.

As the prominence of avatars across various digital platforms continues to grow, this research situates avatars as part of a visual prolific turn in human identity presentation potentially challenging the idea(l) of authenticity. Instrumentalising an interdisciplinary approach, this research aims to explore the question of the nature of law as it relates to avatar design and use, from an afrofeminist perspective. Defined by Sylvia Tamale as a version of feminism that "distinctly seeks to create its own theories and discourses that are linked to the diversity of African realities... to reclaim the rich histories of Black women", afrofeminism is crucial to uncovering perceived understandings and impacts of avatars and to create liberatory artefacts.

This research aims to develop a framework or tool to aid the ethical design and use of avatars. Using participatory mixed methods, including speculative design, the research aims at engaging multiple stakeholders, drawing from the relevant literature to design avatars for better responsible and inclusive futures.

Rebecca Bruekers *(Panel 6, Day 1)*

From Corfu Channel to North Sea Continental Shelf: gap-filling through "principles" by the International Court of Justice

'Humanity' and 'equity' are both concepts that have been used by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its case law, but their scope and exact meaning have not been fully explained and are open to interpretation. This presentation will compare the way in which these principles have been used by the ICJ and more specifically, the legal basis on which they were invoked. The Court's reasoning in cases where humanity and equity are used indicates a blurring of the line between customary international law and general principles of law. As different as the fields of law are in which each of these principles have been applied, the ICJ's treatment of them as well as the criticism that this has attracted in literature shows many similarities.

Sara Ciucci *(Panel 9, Day 2)*

Addressing the nexus between conflict-related sexual violence and terrorism

Over the last few decades, there has been a significant increase in the incidence of terrorist groups in armed conflicts. Terrorists have become more capable of committing widespread and devastating acts of violence. This rise has led to the development of new facets of terrorism, including the growing use of sexual violence. Indeed, the last UN Secretary-General's annual report on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) – published in April 2024 – lists 58 parties credibly suspected or responsible for such acts. Among these, at least one out of four is a terrorist group. These groups employ various forms of sexual violence, including rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, and forced prostitution, to achieve both instrumental and ideological objectives.

In the presentation, I will first outline the definition employed behind the concept of "terrorist group". I will then provide a background overview of how the nexus between CRSV and terrorist groups operates in practice. Specifically, the analysis of patterns of sexual violence perpetrated by terrorist groups shows that sexual violence serves as a

deliberate and organised strategy of the group, rather than being conceived as a random or opportunist act of violence.

However, despite growing recognition of this interconnected phenomenon, prosecuting perpetrators at both the national and international level remains significantly challenging due to a lack of comprehensive legislative frameworks and the tendency to treat CRSV and terrorism as separate issues. The failure to prosecute CRSV as a tactic of terrorism not only perpetuates impunity but also exacerbates the deliberate use of sexual violence by terrorist entities. Therefore, the main aim of the research will be to explore the best option to prosecute the nexus between CRSV and terrorism, with the aim of promoting national and international prosecutorial reforms in this regard, improving the possibility of adjudication and fostering accountability.

Ellie Colegate *(Panel 10, Day 2)*

Determining An "Appreciable Number" - Challenges Associated with User Thresholds and Characteristics Expressed in Section 60 of the UK's Online Safety Act

When user-generated content is removed from social media platforms, it can be done because it poses a risk of harm to users if they interact with or consume it during their browsing. Such a justification assists in the proportionate and fair removal of problematic content in the face of criticisms and debates concerning free speech and the importance of preserving individual rights and freedoms. Content is determined as harmful by platforms identifying both the level of risk it exhibits and the user group to whom it is likely to impact; both work in tandem to justify content removal and indicate the potential for harm presented by alike content more widely.

Introduced in October 2023, the Online Safety Act is the United Kingdom's effort to curb harmful content and reduce the likelihood of users coming to harm due to online content. Mandating the actions platforms must take to reduce the presence of harmful content. The OSA provides descriptors of both the level of harm a piece of content needs to exhibit and a description of the user group it must impact to be removed. However, despite being critical elements in the content moderation process, the descriptors provided are unclear. This paper focuses on 'an appreciable number of children' as a threshold of users outlined in Section 60 of the Act and explores how unclear descriptions present issues for the everyday reduction of harm online.

Interrogating the specific wording contained within the Act and the associated explanatory notes, this paper will present how this threshold could be understood by platforms actively regulating spaces online, the likelihood of this being different across the sector and the significance of such being transparent. Exploring how such could be conceptualised and quantified, this paper will showcase not only the challenges a lack of clarity presents, but the ways forward for effective regulation.

Rebecca Hall *(Panel 4, Day 1)*

Death Via Algorithm and Why It Matters: The Case of Fully Autonomous Weapon Systems

The matter of artificial intelligence (AI) has become ubiquitous in the public conscience in recent years. Its uses are widely known, from smart voice assistants in mobile devices, to using AI algorithms in medical diagnoses. What is less widely appreciated in public discourse is its uses in the military domain. Conversations regarding the development and use of autonomous weapon systems (AWS) have gained traction in international and domestic politics but these conversations have largely been restricted to the matter of legal regulation and lawfulness of AWS under international humanitarian law (IHL). This paper argues that, though clearly important, moving beyond the black letter of IHL to analyse the use of AWS is vital and allows us to properly engage with the morality of AI in war. It is in assessing the use of AWS through a moral lens and via the concept of moral cost-sharing, that we can give voice to some of the most fundamental challenges of AWS that a doctrinal reading of IHL might fail to deal with.

Jiachuan Hou *(Panel 1, Day 1)*

The Impact of Board Gender Diversity on Corporate Governance of Listed Companies in China

Gender diversity on boards, an important topic in the field of corporate governance, has attracted widespread attention. Globally, women's participation on boards is underrepresented, and MSCI (Ming Sung), a global provider of investment decision support tools and services, has released its annual research report for 2023, "Progress Report on the Proportion of Female Directors", which shows that the proportion of female directors in 2023 will be 25.8 per cent, a slight increase of one percentage point from 2022. The proportion of constituents with 30 per cent or more female directors rises from 38 per cent in 2022 to 41 per cent in 2023, with men still occupying the majority of top positions. To increase gender diversity on boards, governments have adopted different strategies. Some countries have taken legislative action, such as Norway, Spain, the Netherlands, and Germany, to mandate the proportion of women on corporate boards, while others have taken voluntary measures that, while not mandatory, are positive towards increasing the proportion of women on boards.

Evaluating the relationship between board gender diversity and firm performance from the perspectives of agency, stakeholder and resource dependence theories, it was concluded that board gender diversity contributes to increased firm performance, a conclusion confirmed by Catalyst's (2004) study. However, in countries with quota laws, an increase in female board members did not have a positive impact on firm performance. The reason for this is that in order to increase the proportion of female members on the board of directors to the requirement specified by the law, companies focus on the quantity of female members on the board of directors and neglect the quality of female members, resulting in a negative impact on company performance.

Therefore, exploring how to balance the quantity and quality of female members on boards and the real impact of board gender diversity on corporate performance has become a research of great significance.

Zinhle Koza *(Panel 9, Day 2)*

Exploring the Rights and Realities of Children Born of War: Insights from Interviews and Focus Group Discussions Conducted in Uganda

This research project explores the status of children born of war (CBOW) within the international children's rights law framework. Using Northern Uganda as a case study, it specifically examines whether the CRC rights of CBOW are effectively implemented at the domestic level through an exploration of CBOW's lived experiences. The fieldwork adds an additional layer of analysis- a crucial layer: the perspectives of those who are most affected. Alongside the voices of CBOW, including the views of those involved in the children's rights system, either as part of formal or informal structures, ensures a holistic understanding of the socio-cultural context surrounding their experiences. In this presentation, I will share my fieldwork experiences in Uganda. This will include an exploration of the essential role of the gatekeeper organisation in facilitating discreet recruitment, identifying fieldwork sites, and addressing language barriers. I will also provide an overview of the research setting and data collection process, including the geographical scope, study population, sampling techniques, and data collection tools. To conclude, I will provide a brief overview of the next steps in the research relating to the data analysis process.

Dan Lucas *(Panel 11, Day 2)*

Local Governmentality and the New Poor Laws

This research examines the Poor Laws of England and Wales with reference to the 18th century. It focuses particularly on the port town of Southampton and the emergence of the public administration of the problem of poverty immediately prior to the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. Employing archival research methods, the investigation seeks to investigate how those responsible for responding and reacting to the growing welfare concerns of the poor of the town managed to deal with the problem during the period of 1701-1799.

At its core, the research moves beyond the mere documentation of historical events and historicism and engages instead with investigating underlying power dynamics and structures that governed societal welfare during this period. The investigation draws from Michel Foucault's oeuvre and the development of his lesser-known idea of 'pastoral power' and how this concept acts as a precursor towards his more well-known concept of 'governmentality'. Through this conceptual framework the study reveals how public administration got to grips with poverty relief within the apparent paradoxical context of both care and control considerations.

In engaging with Foucauldian Discourse Analysis as its method, the research shall provide insights into answering how power was exercised by those charged with caring for the poor. Through the analysis of the administrative apparatus at work here as expressed in written administrative minutes and decisions, the assessment of individual pauper cases, admissions to and from the workhouse and so on, the logic of local customs and practices shall be revealed. Through this approach the research offers a unique and telling way of explaining how the complexities of population expansion and

the rise of poverty was managed and governed within this challenging public administrative context of apparent tensions between charity and coercion.

Tobias Lunn *(Panel 10, Day 2)*

Digitally distorted, socially fragmented: understanding the loss of human connection in the modern world

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have radically transformed. The technological revolution in communication systems brings many benefits, but it also comes with various costs. Whilst a technology gives, it also takes away. For instance, hyper-connected digitalised networks of communication are practically and economically efficient. The seamless, frictionless, instantaneous accessibility of information drastically amplifies communicative efficiency through virtual messaging. Yet, it also changes perceptions of human connection; for instance, how we relate to one another, what friendship means and the value of community. The technological reorientation of interhuman communication through hyper-connected digitalised networks has significant experiential influence on perceptions of reality. In other words, the perception of human connection in the modern world is digitally distorted and socially fragmented by radically transformed ICTs. Exploring the loss of human connection in the modern world serves as a paradigmatic example of the contextual implications arising from the modern, technologically mediated, world. Recognising the phenomenologically significant impact of ICTs supports the normative reconceptualization of traditional legal theories and rebuts the shortsighted assumption of normative equivalency between the offline and online worlds.

Giserd Marqeshi *(Panel 6, Day 1)*

Hegemony as Articulation? From Schachter to Koskenniemi and back

This contribution will explore how peacekeeping, which has been developed operationally without a clear constitutional basis in the UN Charter, nevertheless operates within a legal framework, albeit an evolving, contested and functionally driven one. In particular, an emphasis on the latter category might suggest that the legal theory and practice of peacekeeping is indicative of the ‘enduring theory of functionalism’ which has ‘shaped’ the ‘body of international organizational law’. After all, as Blokker has written, international organizations have to ‘deal with real problems that have to be solved’. However, as this chapter will suggest, the ‘legal’ power to create and to regulate peacekeeping has also been quite contingent on the historical context. On the one hand, the material manifestation of UN peacekeeping hinged quite conspicuously on its Cold War historical genesis. Peacekeeping was conditioned by fractious Cold War international relations, which when contextualised against peacekeeping’s indeterminate Charter location, produced fierce contestation on the precise contours of its legality. As a result, the legal basis for peacekeeping was thus also simultaneously predicated, to an arguably significant extent, on the arguments put forth by specific individuals involved in its institutionalization: namely the then UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold but also international lawyers such as Oscar Schachter, both of whom not only had to articulate, and indeed justify, a Charter basis for UN peacekeeping powers, but also

suggest normative legal restraints on this power in line with the rules and principles of international law. This contribution will thus revisit the seminal article written by Oscar Schachter in 1964, which articulated a legal framework for UN peacekeeping in the midst of these circumstances, after the first two peacekeeping operations showed both the benign and coercive potential of peacekeeping, and it asks whether Schachter's conception of peacekeeping law continues to have relevance today.

Tayamika Masamba *(Panel 12, Day 2)*

To what extent can an Environmental Rule of Law Model be used to promote business and human rights? A comparative study of the clothing and textile industry in Bangladesh and Germany

The clothing and textile industry has been riddled with various controversies, particularly about human rights violations and the negative environmental impact associated with their production practices. The current framework that governs the functioning of the clothing and textile industry follows the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights model. Under this model, states have a duty to protect human rights, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights and both actors are required to provide access to remedies where violations occur. However, there are power asymmetries between states and businesses which contribute to inadequate protection of human rights and the environment in favour of economic growth. In response to the failures of the current framework, an environmental rule of law model will be adapted to include human rights and centre these two elements of clothing and textile production. The model centres on environmental protection (and will be adapted to include human rights considerations) by focusing on eliminating vagueness and instead favours clarity and a detailed approach to structuring laws, upholding accountability and calls for engaging a third group of actors; people. This ranges and a key component of this model is the sensitisation, participation and engagement of people affected by the industry; workers, their families, home states where production occurs and consumers. Germany and Bangladesh are the two countries that this project is based on to examine how far-reaching the problems of the clothing and textile industry are when comparing the industries in the developed and developing world and countries that share similarities to the industries of these two countries.

Brian Mondoh *(Panel 2, Day 1)*

Achieving Trust and Transparency: Leveraging Technological Solutions in Public Procurement

The main question this paper explores is: ‘How do different expressions of integrity contribute to a more trustworthy and transparent public procurement process?’ This paper investigates the multiple dimensions of integrity, emphasizing the role of ethical behaviour and the significance of accurate and reliable data in enhancing procurement practices.

Integrity, defined as the adherence to moral and ethical principles with honesty and consistency, is arguably indispensable in governance and effective public administration. This way, the integration of integrity at the core of a public institution could lead to

sustainable relationships and a culture of accountability that resonates throughout all workforce levels, contributing to the institution's transparency and public trust. Given the important role integrity plays, this paper explores its multifaceted significance and application in the public procurement process.

By examining integrity from various philosophical perspectives, the paper sheds light on integrity not solely as moral uprightness but as a commitment to maintaining consistency and sincerity in one's beliefs, even when morally challenging. This nuanced understanding of integrity is particularly crucial in public procurement, where practitioners must navigate complex ethical landscapes while balancing personal, professional, and intellectual integrity to align decisions with legal frameworks and moral convictions.

The paper further explores the multidimensional facets5 of integrity in the context of public procurement, highlighting the necessity of a comprehensive approach that integrates personalized, systemic, informational, procedural, relational, and technological aspects of integrity. This holistic perspective acknowledges the challenges in upholding integrity within a field characterized by diverse stakeholders and potentially conflicting interests.

Charlotte Newbold *(Panel 8, Day 2)*

A Case Against Legitimacy: Shaping Suspicion in Counter-Terrorism

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (“TA 2000”) is a relatively obscure, and infrequently used provision. It confers police-like powers to stop, examine and subsequently detain an individual at any port or border for the purpose of determining whether they are a terrorist. A fraction of the population is subjected to stops under this provision (around 0.004%), though the ethnic makeup of this population is disproportionately non-white. What makes these powers interesting is the accompanying offence under paragraph 18, which proscribes wilful obstruction of an authorised examination, under the threat of short-term imprisonment. The concern of this paper is first to provide an analysis of the most recent appeal case of this offence, *Cifci v Crown Prosecution Service* [2022], which raised whether the decision to stop a person could amount to unlawful discrimination under section 13 of the Equality Act 2010. Analysis of this case provides scope to consider the compatibility of anti-discrimination law in light of the operation of criminal justice, and how the relationship between their underlying principles might reveal tensions between equality commitments, drafting of substantive offences, and their actual operation. It is argued that the justifying rationale of national security in counter-terrorism neutralises any infringement on individual rights to the extent that any treatment is a justly proportional means to the ends of identifying terrorists. This is partially because of the nebulous definition of ‘terrorist’, and its inextricable link with political ideology and extremism, both of which lack substantive definitions upon which examining officers can rely as a cogent foundation for their suspicion when performing these stops. This paper ends with a recommendation for theorists to consider how legislative drafting might inform disparate outcomes, and to go beyond simply invoking non-discrimination obligations to ensure legality of enforcement.

Emilia Oris-Onyiri *(Panel 1, Day 1)*

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Navigating the Barriers to Trade Liberalization and Integration

This research analyses the efforts and limitations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to deepen its trade integration. ECOWAS is a 15 Member State Regional Economic Community in West Africa, founded to advance trade integration and economic development in the region. Despite being one of Africa's oldest regional communities, ECOWAS has recorded very minimal strides in its trade integration and developmental efforts. This is owing to the prevalence of some barriers which impede the advancement of trade within the Community. Therefore, this research seeks to identify these trade barriers, categorising them into tariff and non-tariff barriers. The research further seeks to examine how these barriers can be addressed or eliminated through the amendment or enactment of trade provisions within the Community. The research conducts a comparative analysis between ECOWAS trade provisions to that of the most advanced regional communities in Africa; the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to assess the viability of adopting a similar framework for ECOWAS.

The research further examines the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on ECOWAS, assessing whether the AfCTA is an intended Federalism or Con federalism for African trade. This study has been informed by some research gaps in analysing the legal approach to addressing the trade barriers in ECOWAS as the current scholarship focuses on the economic, fiscal and political perspectives to addressing these trade barriers; thereby ousting the inclusion of a legal approach to addressing integration in ECOWAS. Another research gap identified is the comparison of ECOWAS' integration pace to that of the European Union, without having recourse to their colonial history and compositional intricacies. This justifies the comparative analysis of ECOWAS' trade integration pace to that of other regional communities in Africa with similar colonial history and compositional intricacies.

Rebecca Rees *(Panel 7, Day 2)*

The philosopher's stone of Public Procurement: obtaining the right price for contract performance in the UK Housing Sector

Despite the importance of the price tendered for a public goods, work or service contracts to the contracting authority and its determinative impact on the ultimate outcome of a procurement process, how price is evaluated and, in particular, the problems caused by the use of relative price evaluation formulae has not received comprehensive scrutiny in the field of public procurement law thus far.

My thesis therefore aims to the use of relative price evaluation formulae, focussing on price evaluation practice in the UK housing sector, and whether such formulae enable the identification of the "Most Advantageous Tender" (MAT), as required by section 19(1) of Procurement Act 20233. My thesis aims to contribute to the analysis of this important element of a procurement process, that has not yet been subject to focussed legal academic research (as at the commencement date of my research project - January 2019).

This paper and accompanying presentation explains a section of my research and draws some tentative conclusions in relation to one of the misconceptions identified within price evaluation practice within the UK housing sector, mainly the procurement professionals' misunderstanding of relative price evaluation formulae and their impact on tender pricing.

To that end, this paper explains what a “relative price evaluation formula”; how it is used in combination with a quality evaluation method when the contracting authority adopts a Most Advantageous Tender approach and makes some observations as to how this combination satisfies procurement professional's concern that they are not awarding on a lowest price basis but nevertheless still creates a sub-optimal decision-making matrix whereby bidders are encouraged to "race to the bottom" on price and submit bid prices that do not reflect the actual cost of the contract requirements.

This misconception arguably leads to a perpetuation of the use and the subsequent (albeit reluctant) acceptance of the mischief they cause in procurement practice.

John Riddell *(Panel 8, Day 2)*

The Contribution of Andreas Von Hirsch - Sentencing Theory in Practice in England, Minnesota and Sweden

My research explores the contribution of penal theorist Andreas Von Hirsch to sentencing reform. It traces his influence in England, the United States (Minnesota in particular) and Sweden.

The chapter which I submitted and I will present engages with the impacts of Von Hirsch work on English sentencing policy since the 1980s.

Rachel Saunders *(Panel 11, Day 2)*

No true Scotswoman - breaking down the understanding of womanhood at law

At law ordinary meaning of words should have clarity to avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity before the law. This paper examines how ordinary meaning is shaped by our societies, using the lens of gender and sex. It takes a philosophical and doctrinal approach, engaging case law, primary legislation, and civil service guidance to examine how sex and gender have been semantically constructed in English law. In doing so, this paper interrogates the assumptions of ordinary meaning, whether a textualist approach to meaning binds the present to the past, and if ordinary meaning actually serves its intended purpose. Or, as this paper posits, does ordinary meaning run the risk of creating caveats and fallacies that actively exclude those who should be protected by the law.

Ezgi Turan *(Panel 3, Day 1)*

Copyright subsistence in Non-fungible Tokens (NFTs) as Complex Subject Matter

From the initial popularity of NFTs to their current status where the excitement has dramatically diminished, legal literature has diligently focused on intellectual property aspects related to NFTs. Much of the attention has been on whether creating and disseminating NFTs infringe any rights of copyright owners on the underlying assets. Despite these efforts, a notable gap persists in determining whether copyright protection may subsist in NFTs themselves as composite works. My objective is to address this gap, and to determine if English law confers copyright protection on NFTs.

Kees van Haperen *(Panel 5, Day 1)*

'On Civil War and Other Disasters' - Analysis of Public International Law pertaining to Disasters and Concomitant Conditions of Violence and Conflict

This thesis is concerned with the management of crises and catastrophic events which simultaneously endure a level of violence. International law, is considered to provide means and ways to assure individuals' safeguarding. Yet in recent times the UN reported the recording of at least 106,806 civilian deaths in 12 of the deadliest armed conflicts between 2015 and 2017, 20,000 civilians were reportedly killed or injured in 10 conflicts in 2019, more than 79.5 million people fled war, persecution and conflict1. It has also been reported that between 2000-2019 4 billion people were affected by 'disasters' and more than 1.23 million deaths could be attributed to disasters2. It does not seem unjustified to question the efficacy and effectiveness of international law in dealing with crises and conflicts.

The thesis explores whether alignment of existing International Legal Frameworks could offer amelioration of the endeavour of States3 to look after individuals. Furthermore, it is assumed that clarification of normative duplications and development of norms where gaps exist should be possible. This thesis is based on the argument that as public international law (PIL) further referred to as 'International Law' – in situations involving Incidents and Catastrophic Events and Civil Wars (or Non-International Armed Conflicts - NIAC) is fragmented and incoherent, it inadequately protects the safety and security of affected persons and responders.

Primarily, using a doctrinal legal methodology the research will question what the role of international law is and ought to be, and whether this could be improved through better alignment of existing international legal frameworks to articulate the principle that civilians shall enjoy general protection against overwhelming dangers. The research considers general and particular international conventions that establish rules expressly recognised by States, and encompasses IDRL, IHL, IHRL, ICCL, Refugee Law, General PIL and ICL. Moreover, in situations involving incidents and catastrophic events and civil war, or non-international armed conflict, these frameworks appear to be fragmented and incoherent and will be place in an historical and sociological context.

Empirical information will be obtained from free-format documents, transcripts from UN proceedings (UN GA and SC sessions, e.a.), resolutions, Secretary General biographies, newspaper content, and press briefings. A coding mechanism will be developed to match specific criteria of international legal frameworks utilising conceptual

purpose-based systems thinking. Additional qualitative data will be compiled regarding Disasters from the UK Emergency Planning College (EPC) Disaster Database and IFRC Disaster Law Database, CRED Inventory Hazards and Disasters Worldwide Since 1988 (EM-DAT) and the Conflict data program (UCDP).