



CRISIS, SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE: THE ROAD TO EQUITY

LLM Student Conference – 6th and 7th July, 2021

“The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience.”

— Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

The Kent Law School Graduate Conference Committee is pleased to announce that its 9th Graduate Conference will take place on 6th and 7th July 2021. The theme for this year is **‘CRISIS, SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE: THE ROAD TO EQUITY’**.

Historically, and especially in the 21st century, ‘crisis’, ‘sustainability’ and ‘justice’ are intrinsically intertwined concepts; the quest for justice must be sustainable enough to avert future crises. A crisis disrupts society and creates instability; legal and policy responses need to be sustainable in order to prevent the reoccurrence of crisis. More recently, the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing humanitarian, economic, and political crises have worsened global economic and social inequalities and presented an opportunity to revisit law’s role in securing justice and sustainability: What are the legal and policy challenges to a sustainable future? Are the legal and policy responses adequate and sustainable? How efficient is the law in securing justice for the marginalized?

These issues question whether the existing transnational and national legal and policy regimes compromise the ability of present and future generations to have the benefits of a just society or if they pave the way to future equity. Concerns with legal and policy responses to crises have been amplified by increasing globalisation, the cross-border impact of local and regional crises and the need for transnational legal and policy responses to these challenges. The cumulative efforts to address these crises have resulted in different prefigurative models of just, equitable and sustainable societies. Law plays an integral role in this social engineering. However, the role of law, and its relationship with crises must be critically assessed from at least 3 lenses:

1. The role of law in the recognition, definition and/or concealment of crises
2. The laws’ response or reticence to crises
3. The law’s role in originating, reproducing and sustaining crises

This critical approach enables the deconstruction and reflect on the role of law in securing justice and sustainability from different dimensions. The Committee welcomes papers that include but are not limited to the following themes:

- Environmental issues
- Global policymaking and strong institutions
- Human Rights
- Corporate Responsibility
- Law and Development
- Gender Inequality
- Access to healthcare and medicine
- Economic and Social Change
- Culture and politics
- Transnational Law
- International trade, finance and investments
- Pre and post COVID 19

Abstract submissions should be **no longer than 250 words** and should be sent to lawgradconference@kent.ac.uk. Please note that full paper submissions are requested for consideration for two prizes which are available for the '*Best Internal Paper*', the '*Best External Paper*'.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Deadline for submission of abstracts: **3rd May 2021**

Notification of acceptance: **14th May 2021**

Draft paper submission date: **11th June 2021**

For any enquiries, please contact: lawgradconference@kent.ac.uk

We sincerely look forward to seeing you on the 6th and 7th of July 2021 at the “**Crisis, Sustainability and Justice: The Road to Equity**” conference.