



UK IVR

2015 Annual Conference

Call for Abstracts

Public/Private: Unlocking the Boundaries of Legal Thought

The public/private dichotomy is an enduring idea in legal thought. Nonetheless, it is challenged in manifold ways. It is manifested in *structural* dichotomies between public and private actors, between public and private law, and between public and private international law. *Substantive* dichotomies between the public and private spheres are also under increasing pressure: the private elements of the public are acknowledged, for instance by studies on the right to privacy and the privatisation of the public space, while the public implications of the private are increasingly brought to the fore through law's progressive engagement with issues such as domestic violence and child abuse.

In light of the varied and topical nature of these dynamics, this conference aims to provide a forum for exploring and unlocking different aspects of the public/private dichotomy. Contributions are invited from legal and political philosophy, socio-legal theory, legal anthropology, legal history, and other law-related disciplines to tackle questions such as the following: How *does* and how *should* law affirm or challenge the public/private divide? What are the underlying commonalities in the foundations of public and private law? What role do private actors play in developing international or transnational law and legal frameworks? How do philosophical, sociological and anthropological perspectives help transcend boundaries such as domestic/international or public/private? How should such perspectives inform the law and governance?

Keynote speakers will be: **Professor Saskia Sassen (Columbia University)**, **Professor Maeve Cooke (UCD)**, and **Professor George Letsas (UCL)**.

We welcome contributions to the theoretical and practical understanding of the public/private divide and its implications for, but not limited to, the following topic areas:

- Philosophical Foundations of Public and Private Law: Commonalities and Distinctions
- Private Law and Human Rights Law
- Private Law in Public Places
- Public Law in Private Spaces
- Private Law and Political Struggle and Resistance
- Constitutional Property Law
- Cultural Property and Heritage Law
- Global Administrative Law
- Transnational Law and Governance
- Feminist Perspectives on the Public/Private Divide



23rd-24th October 2015

School of Law

Queen's University Belfast

Full rate: £50

UK IVR members: £40

Students/ unemployed: £30

Abstracts of up to 200 words should be sent to:

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by 1 July 2015



**Queen's University
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