UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

University of Portsmouth



Vulnerability is Good:

The Implications for Law of Positive Accounts of Vulnerability

A One-Day Seminar

Rector's Drawing Room,
Exeter College, University of Oxford

10.00am - 5.00pm

Wednesday 5th July 2017

PROGRAMME AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Keynote Speaker

Martha Albertson Fineman, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, School of Law, Emory University, USA and director of The Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative.

Aim

This seminar will provide a forum for presentations and discussion on positive aspects of human vulnerability and the possibilities and implications for law of treating vulnerability as a condition that makes possible not only harm and suffering, but also flourishing. Particular attention will be paid to the implications of positive accounts of vulnerability for human rights, healthcare, family, and elder law.

Rationale

There has been significant critical engagement with the use of the principle of vulnerability in law. An extensive scholarly literature has been built-up that addresses whether vulnerability is best conceptualised as universal and/or particular, objective and/or subjective, inherent and/or situational, and requires empowerment and/or protection. There has been less critical engagement with the assumption that vulnerability means something like (universal and/or particular) exposure to harm, suffering, or exploitation. Most accounts of vulnerability are harm-based, and associate it with weakness and passivity. So conceived, vulnerability is usually presented in a negative light and is treated as a threat to flourishing and autonomy.

Yet an increasing number of legal theorists have challenged reductively negative accounts of the meaning and implications of vulnerability. These theorists have raised the possibility that vulnerability has positive dimensions and is a source of multiple forms of well-being.

This seminar brings together some of these theorists to explore more fully the implications and challenges for law of conceptualising vulnerability in a more positive manner.

Academic Coordinators

Jonathan Herring
Professor of Law, Exeter College, Oxford University

Daniel Bedford
Senior Lecturer, School of Law, University of Portsmouth

PROGRAMME

9.30am-10.00am	REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS
10.00am-10.15am	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION Jonathan Herring & Daniel Bedford
10.15am-11.15am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS **Professor Martha Fineman**
11.15am-11.45am	MORNING REFRESHMENTS
11.45am-12.45pm	HUMAN RIGHTS LAW **Anna Grear,** Professor of Law, Cardiff University Discussant: **Fiona de Londras**, Professor of Global Legal Studies, University of Birmingham
12:45pm-1.30pm	LUNCH
1.30pm-2.15pm	FAMILY LAW **Alison Diduck,** Professor of Law, University College London
	Discussant: **Jo Bridgeman**, Professor of Healthcare Law and Feminist Ethics, University of Sussex
2.15pm-3:00pm	LAW AND AGEING **Jonathan Herring,** Professor of Law, Exeter College, Oxford University Discussant: **Rosie Harding**, Professor of Law and Society, University of Birmingham
3:00pm-3.15pm	DISCUSSION
3:15pm	AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS
3.45pm-4.30pm	HEALTHCARE LAW **Mary Neal,** Senior Lecturer in Law, Strathclyde University Discussant: **Dr Beverley Clough**, Lecturer in Law, University of Leeds
4.30pm-4.50pm	PLENARY
4.50pm	THANKS & CLOSE

Final Programme

A final programme will be made available via email from mid-May.

Presentations will take place in the Rector's Drawing Room. Refreshments will be served in the Rector's Garden and lunch will be served in the Dining Hall.

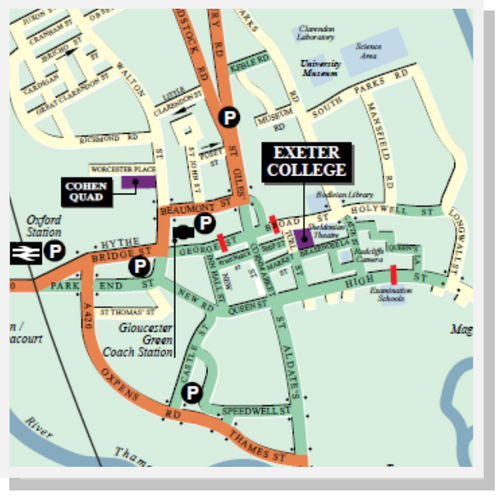
Booking

There are a limited number of places available for those who are interested in attending the seminar. Please contact Daniel Bedford by email: daniel.bedford@port.ac.uk.

There are no charges for delegates.

Venue

The seminar will take place in the Rector's Drawing Room, Exeter College, Turl Street, Oxford, OX1 3DP



Details of ways of getting to the College can be found at: http://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/college/contact/travel.html

Accommodation

Any accommodation must be booked by each delegate separately. The University of Oxford offers the following accommodation options:

B&B and Self-catering in Colleges
To book, visit: http://www.conference-oxford.com/bb-self-catering or tel. 01865 276190.

University Club Accommodation
To book, visit: http://www.club.ox.ac.uk/make-a-booking.html or tel. 01865 271044

Further Information

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