

Keble Research

Report 2022-23

August 2023

Introduction

This report summarises the research activities supported by Keble College's Research Committee in 2022-23.

The College has dedicated funding of up to £100,000 a year to support the research activities of its Fellows and, in particular, to encourage innovative and inter-disciplinary exchanges. Oxford colleges are the ideal environments in which to cultivate the flow of ideas across often long-established academic boundaries.

We support research through three main schemes or programmes:

- Senior Research Visitors (and Collaborating Research Scholars), who are academics of high standing, generally from outside the UK. They may visit for periods of up to six weeks (occasionally longer), receiving free accommodation and dining rights as members of the Senior Common Room.
- Research Associates, who are generally post-doctoral researchers at the University who would not otherwise have a college association. Associates may be nominated as members of the Senior Common room for up to three years.
- Small Research Grants, sums of around £3000 to support Fellows in their research activities, for example organising conferences and symposia or helping complete a book project with editorial assistance.

There is also the option of bundling together nominations for Research Visitors, Research Associates and applications for research grants into coherent Projects which may develop a theme or collaboration over periods longer than just a single year.

In 2022-23 we continued to host Visiting Fellows, who are distinguished individuals from various backgrounds, not just academic, to spend extended time in the College and join the community.

The allocation of research support is agreed by Governing Body on the recommendations of its Research Committee, chaired by the Sub-Warden, Professor Stephen Faulkner.

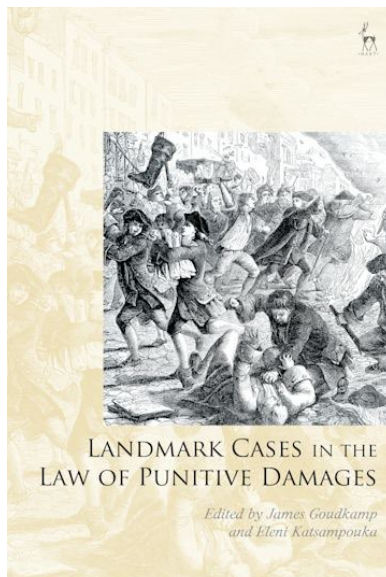
We try as far as possible to support research activities that will include or benefit our graduate community, as part of the College's programme of events designed to enable graduates to reach outside their disciplinary boundaries. This programme is coordinated by the Academic Director of the H B Allen Centre, Dr Ian Archer.

Small Research Grants

Small Research Grants were made to the following:

Fellow	Purpose
Morgan Clarke	To fund a workshop on Ethnographic Theology in Islam
Howard Smith	To purchase consumer data to conduct a welfare analysis of price-cap policies
Matt Bevis	Towards the organisation of an international conference to mark the centenary of the birth of James Schuyler, American poet
James Goudkamp	To support a workshop in preparation of an edited volume on <i>Scholars of Commercial Law</i>
Jingyi Yang	To produce and transport prototypes in a collaborative project on a thermal-responsive deployable structure
Ed Peel	For editorial assistance with the publication of a new edition of <i>Treitel: The Law of Contract</i>
Sarah Knowles	For a project on the gut microbiome and torpor in mice, to be used for rRNA sequencing
Matt Bevis	For <i>The Poet's Essay</i>
Matt Bevis	To support a seminar series on Poetry and Painting with T.J. Clark
Richard Washington	To support travel to the ship <i>St Helena</i> to download data from onboard Lidar system and automatic weather station
Ben Skipp	For travel and research support for a project on Haydn, Princely Taste and Keyboard Style in the 1770s
Gui-Qiang Chen	To develop a programme of workshops and activities for the College's Complexity Cluster in 2023-24

Landmark Cases in the Law of Punitive Damages: Workshop



Punitive damages are the law's most controversial remedy (they are awarded to punish defendants). In October 2022 a workshop was held to discuss these issues. There were around 20 people in attendance (mostly speakers but also some distinguished observers who contributed to the debate).

Presentations were given by TT Arvind and Jenny Steele (*Huckle v Money*), Kit Barker (*Lamb v Cotogno*), Ellen Bublick (*Mathias v Acco Economy Lodging Inc*), Iain Field (*Rookes v Barnard*), James Goudkamp (*Broome v Cassell & Co Ltd*), David Ibbetson (*Wilkes v Wood*), Eleni Katsampouka (*Kuddus v Chief Constable of Leicestershire Constabulary*), Pey Woan Lee (*PH Hydraulics & Engineering Pte Ltd v Airtrust (Hong Kong) Ltd*), Mark Leeming (*Harris v Digital Pulse Pty Ltd*), Mark Lunney (*John v MGN Ltd*), Felicity Maher (*Gray v Motor Accident Commission*), Solène Rowan (*Cour de cassation, Civ 1, 1 December 2010, no 09.1303*), Catherine Sharkey (*State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co v Campbell*), Zoë Sinel (*Whiten v Pilot Insurance Co Ltd*) and Stephen Todd (*Couch v AG (No 2)*).

Hart Publishing has published the essays as a collection, co-edited together with my co-convenor, Eleni Katsampouka.

Professor James Goudkamp, Fellow and Tutor in Jurisprudence

Ethnographic theology in Islam

The workshop, 'Ethnographic theology in Islam', kindly funded by a Keble Small Research Grant, took place on May 25 and was a great success. In addition to the speakers, also present as interested participants were Mark Massoud (Visiting Professor, Faculty of Law) and five doctoral students from various departments in Oxford, including from Keble.

The workshop sought to identify a new possible interdisciplinary site of encounter, innovation and impact between Islamic theology and secular anthropology. This is a potentially sensitive area, but the discussions were enthusiastic, collegial and inspiring. I think the event stands on its own, but we also discussed ways in which we might take things forward, including another meeting to be held in Birmingham and the possibility of an ensuing publication.

Keble provided the perfect setting for such a meeting, and I am very grateful for your help, that of the college office, and the conference, accommodation and catering teams for making it so. The magnificent halal lunch was especially appreciated.

Professor Morgan Clarke, Fellow and Tutor in Social Anthropology

Programme

9.30-11.00 AM Panel 1: The case for ethnographic theology

Morgan Clarke: Collaborative research and the possibility of ethnographic theology in Islam

Ali-Reza Bhojani: Towards an initial case for an ethnographic moral theology in Islam

Jeremy Kidwell: Rehabilitating comparative thinking as a practice for theologians

11.30-1.00 PM Panel 2: Engaging Islamic gender discourse in the light of women's experience

Ziba Mir-Hosseini: Is it possible to argue for equality between men and women within an Islamic framework? Challenging patriarchal thinking through conversations with Muslim thinkers and collaboration with Muslim feminist scholars and activists.

Shuruq Naguib: Hermeneutics and Ethnography: Interpreting Qur'anic references to gender in community contexts

Rajnaara Akhtar: Reflections from socio-legal research in Muslim communities

2.30-4.00PM Panel 3: Anthropology and theology: an awkward relationship?

Richard Tapper: Changing perspectives on the anthropology of Islam over three decades of fieldwork

Johan Rasanayagam: How can anthropology engage with Islam in ways that do not produce Islam and Muslims as objects of secular thought?

Amin El Yousfi: The absence of God from the anthropology of Islam

Price caps

I was awarded £2,000 from Keble College as part of a package of funding needed to buy a dataset of consumer spending in Hungary, where the government has introduced a policy of price caps on selected grocery products.

The purpose of the project is to study the impact of these price caps on grocery products at a time of inflation. Standard economic theory, assuming competitive markets, suggests these caps can result in a reduction in supply, and certainly not an increase.

I am working on the project with my PhD student, Eszter Kabos.

We have successfully raised money from the John Fell Fund, from the British Academy, and Nuffield College. We to proceeded with the data purchase and we have now used the £2,000 from Keble as part of this purchase.

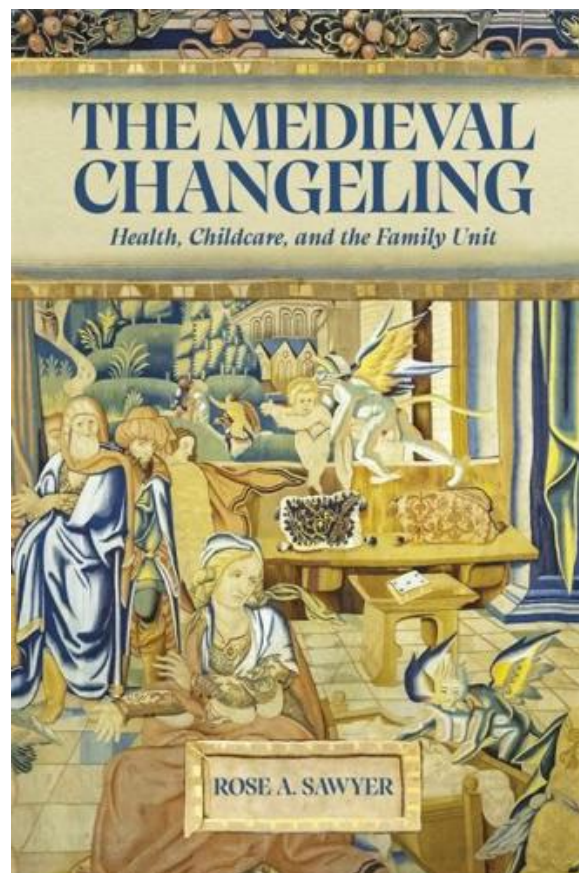
We have already done quite a lot of data work, which compares price and quantity effects from the price caps. We carry out a quasi-experimental difference-in-difference regression analysis which compares the effect of the price cap on the staple (the “treatment” group) with a similar closely-related but uncapped product (the “control” group).

Contrary to those theories of competitive supply, the quantities of the price-capped products actually *increase* after the price cap is imposed. This in turn suggests a story of imperfect competition, with monopoly power, and points to potential benefits from price control interventions in this context.

This is a long-term project which will not be complete for a couple of years, but Eszter and I are very excited to see such interesting patterns coming out of our first look at the data.

Dr Howard Smith, Tutor and Fellow in Economics

The Medieval Changeling



The Medieval Changeling: Health, Childcare and the Family Unit, written by former Keble College lecturer Dr Rose Sawyer, was published by Boydell & Brewer in April 2023.

Publisher's Synopsis

The first comprehensive study of medieval changelings and associated attitudes to the health and care of children in the period. The changeling - a monstrous creature swapped for a human child by malevolent powers - is an enduring image in the popular imagination; dubbing a child a changeling is traditionally understood as a way to justify the often-violent rejection of a disabled or ailing infant. Belief in the reality of changelings is famously attested in Stephen of Bourbon's disapproving thirteenth-century account of rites at the shrine of Saint Guinefort the Holy Greyhound, where sick children were brought to be cured. However, the focus on the St. Guinefort rituals has meant some scholarly neglect of the wealth of other sources of knowledge (including mystery plays and medical texts) and the nuances with which the changeling motif was used in this period. This interdisciplinary study considers the idea of the changeling as a cultural construct through an examination of a broad range of medical, miracle, and imaginative texts, as well as the lives of three more conventional Saints, Stephen, Bartholomew and Lawrence, who, in their infancy, were said to have been replaced by a demonic changeling. The author highlights how people from all walks of life were invested in both creating and experiencing the images, texts and artefacts depicting these changelings, and

examines societal tensions regarding infants and children: their health, their care, and their position within the familial unit.

Senior Research Visitors

Professor Marina A. Petrukhina (University at Albany, NY, USA)

Marina Petrukhina is internationally recognised for her fundamental studies of organometallic compounds of group I metals (lithium to cesium), particularly salts of aromatic and anti-aromatic hydrocarbons. These compounds are difficult to synthesise and characterise because they are highly reactive. Marina's group is the only lab in the world to have developed reliable procedures for crystallising them and determining their structures by X-ray crystallography.

Professor Harry Anderson has started a collaboration with the Petrukhina group so as to apply the techniques that she has developed to some compounds that his group is studying in Oxford. As part of this collaboration, one of his DPhil students spent two months working in her laboratory, at the Department of Chemistry, University at Albany, State University of New York. During her visit to Keble in June Professor Petrukhina discussed the results from the recent collaboration, planned future experiments, and gave a research seminar

Professor Amnon Stanger (Technion, Haifa, Israel)

Amnon Stanger is an expert in the field of physical and theoretical organic chemistry, based at the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion), Haifa. He is internationally recognised for developing computational techniques for elucidating aromatic and anti-aromatic ring currents in molecular frameworks.

Professor Harry Anderson is collaborating with him to analyse the behaviour of some of the compounds that his group has synthesised in Oxford. The identification of aromatic ring currents in large molecules, with diameters of up to 5 nm, is one of his group's main areas of research. Professor Stanger also worked closely with Dr Igor Rončević (Keble Research Associate).

The aim of the visit to Oxford was to develop theoretical models for analysing aromaticity in molecular nanostructures.

Research Associates

New appointments in 2022-23:

Associate	Field	Working with:
Dr. Difan Yuan	Mathematics	Professor Gu-Qiang Chen
Dr Igor Rončević	Chemistry	Professor Harry Anderson
Rafael Peteffi da Silva	Law	Professor James Goudkamp
Dr Sungyung Kang	Mathematics	Professor Andr��a Juh��sz
Dr Perig Pitrou	Anthropology	Professor Morgan Clarke
Dr Michael Ranes	Biochemistry	Professor Rob Klose
Dr Laura Cunningham	Chemistry	Professor Stephen Fletcher
Dr Maaret Jokela-Pansini	Geography	Professor Beth Greenhough