

Towards the abolition and realisation of the Critical Law School?

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The formative statement of the CLC set out its focus as being 'to explore the manner in which legal doctrine, legal education and the practices of legal institutions work to buttress and support a pervasive system of oppressive non-egalitarian relations'. Taking this statement seriously and recognising the Critical Law School, wherever in the world it may be and whether it exists in a recognisable concrete form or just in the minds of a handful of like-minded souls, as a legal institution, this stream invites participants to take inspiration from Karl Marx's call for the abolition and realisation of philosophy and begin to theorise the abolition and realisation of the Critical Law School.

This would be to refuse the hypostatisation of the Critical Law School 'as such' and to recognise it as a society founded in the abstract and in denial of the differences in the material reality of its members. This, then, would be to problematise the role of the Critical Law School in the marketplace that is the neoliberal university and to take seriously the possibility that the idealisation of the School serves to legitimate and (re)produce the existing alienated social relations of the neoliberal university.

The work of realising the Critical Law School would be that of overcoming both the alienation of the School from its members, as well as the alienation of its individual members as bearers of their categories from each other and themselves. Such work necessitates exploring the reality behind the Ideality and strategising our way out of it.

To that end, this stream welcomes papers, reflections, experiences, critiques and provocations engaging with this theme in both traditional and non-traditional formats. We also welcome proposals for workshops, roundtables and panels.

Topics that submissions may want to explore might include, but are in no way limited to:

- 'Critical' as capital
- In-against-and-beyond the institution: strategies of refusal, sabotage & subversion
- Coloniality & decolonisation in the Law School
- Social reproduction in the academy
- Feminist killjoy(ing) as praxis
- Immaterial & affective labour
- The university as a factory
- Managerialism, workloads, metrics, REFs & TEFs
- Hierarchies, networks and alliances
- PREVENT and other forms of staff/student surveillance
- Precarity in Higher Education
- The PhD student as worker?
- The democratic School and academic citizenship
- Writing and publishing with integrity
- Resisting borders & the hostile environment
- Connections and disconnections: the Critical Law School and Critical Legal Practice
- Workloads and mental health