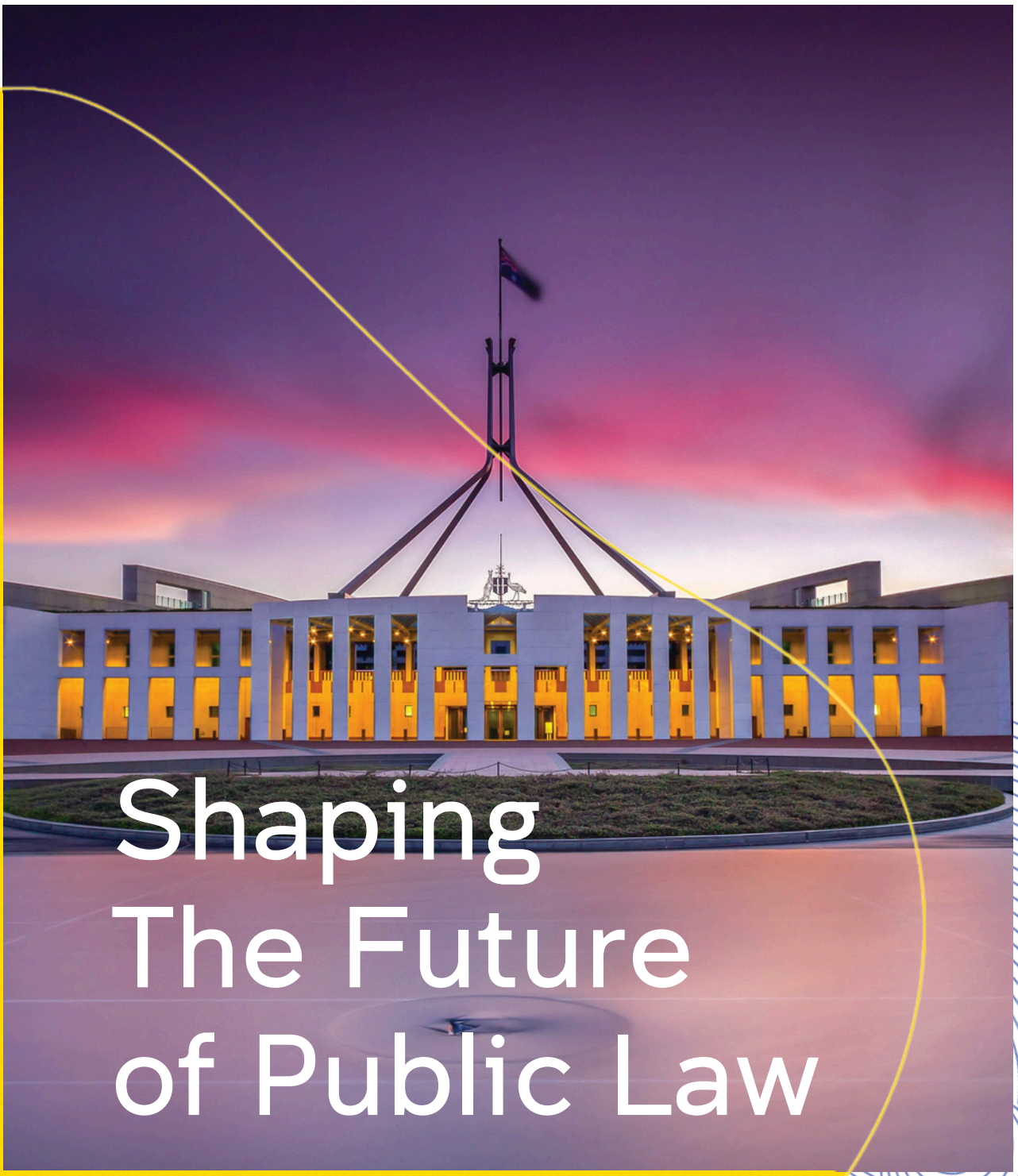
UNSW
Gilbert + Tobin
Centre of Public Law



Shaping The Future of Public Law



25 Celebrating **25 years** of the *UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law*

Shaping conversations on public law

The UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law was established in 2001 with a mission of informing public debate about legal issues at the heart of Australia's democracy. It fast became a leading and trusted source of expertise on public law — thanks to the vision, generosity, dedication and leadership of Gilbert + Tobin and Danny Gilbert AM in particular, Foundation Director Professor George Williams AO, the Centre's Advisory Board, and the Centre's academic members and PhD students.

The anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the Centre's work and impact, and to thank those who have contributed to it. Many of the particular legal issues with which the Centre is concerned have changed over the years — from anti-terror laws in the aftermath of September 11, to emergency health powers during COVID-19 and, more recently, governments' use of algorithms and AI to make decisions. Other issues have been at the core of the Centre's work throughout its existence, particularly the rights and recognition of First Nations peoples.

What has not changed is the core public law values that the Centre is dedicated to protecting, or the need for its work. For 25 years the Centre has brought governments, the legal profession, and the wider public together to explore how research and public institutions can work together to protect fairness, equality, transparency and accountability in Australia's system of government.

25 YEARS IN A SNAPSHOT























Professor Janina Boughey

It is an extraordinary privilege to be the fifth Director of the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law.

Throughout my career in government and academia, the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law has been the hub for Australian public law scholarship and engagement. The Centre's members have consistently produced excellent research on the most pressing issues at the heart of our system of government, including anti-terror laws, Indigenous rights and representation, electoral law, human rights law, judicial powers and conduct, and executive power and accountability. They have regularly shared this research, and engaged with law and policy-makers, to strengthen public debate, and improve law and policy. During my time working in government and Parliament, the Centre was the go-to source of sensible, clear, up-to-date analysis of public law issues.

What I think has made the Centre stand out is its ethos of collegiality and collaboration. Our research is strengthened by talking to people with a wide range of experiences and perspectives. The Centre's events connect academics with lawyers, public servants, judges, parliamentarians, and the communities affected by laws and the actions of government. Those connections have also made the Centre so successful at influencing government processes to protect public law values.

The four Centre directors before me — George Williams, Andrew Lynch, Sean Brennan and Rosalind Dixon — have each led with remarkable energy and dedication. Each has brought a different focus, but all have shared a commitment to the Centre's core values of promoting public law values through engagement, collegiality and research excellence. The Centre's success of the past 25 years owes much to their outstanding leadership.

But the Centre is far more than its leadership. It would not exist at all without the generous, ongoing support of Gilbert + Tobin, and of its co-founder and Chairman, Danny Gilbert AM in particular. The Centre has also benefitted enormously from the advice and support of many of Australia's leading public law minds, in particular through its Advisory Board and Steering Committee. Of special note are the chairs of the Centre's Advisory Board: Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE CBE; the Hon Chief Justice Stephen Gageler AC; and the Hon John Basten AO KC. It is hard to imagine a more eminent list of public lawyers. All members of the Advisory Board and Steering Committee have been extremely generous sharing their time and expertise to support the Centre's mission.

Professor Janina Boughey
Director, the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law



Professor Andrew Lynch

For 25 years, the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law has advanced excellence in public law through scholarship, education, engagement and leadership. Its work has had a lasting impact on Australia's legal landscape, strengthening public institutions, informing national conversations, and fostering generations of public law scholars and practitioners.

The UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law swiftly established and has sustained a unique position as a trusted source of expertise for the judiciary and legal community, as well as government, media, and the Australian public.

The Centre's work underscores a fundamental truth: that protecting the rule of law is essential to securing justice, constraining the misuse of power, and maintaining the integrity of our institutions and processes that support the democracy.

The Centre is a leading and influential voice in academic debate, law reform, and in promoting public understanding of Australian government and constitutional institutions.

As well as convening important forums such as the annual Constitutional Law conference and the biennial Mason Conversation, the Centre produces rigorous and impactful research and fosters the development of future legal scholars and practitioners. In doing so, it ensures not only the vitality of public law scholarship today, but also its continued relevance in the years ahead.

None of this would have been possible without the vision and support of Danny Gilbert and Gilbert + Tobin. On behalf of UNSW Law & Justice, I extend our deepest gratitude to Danny Gilbert for his role in establishing the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law, and to Gilbert + Tobin for their steadfast support over the past 25 years.

I look forward to continuing our valued partnership, which enables the Centre to remain a transformative force in Australian public law.

Professor Andrew Lynch
Dean, UNSW Law & Justice



Research, reform + impact

Since 2001, the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law has helped inform national conversations on democracy, constitutional reform, human rights and the rule of law. Its work has brought together research, policy and public engagement to influence debate and support meaningful legal and institutional change. Here is a brief overview of our work across different areas of public law over the last 25 years.

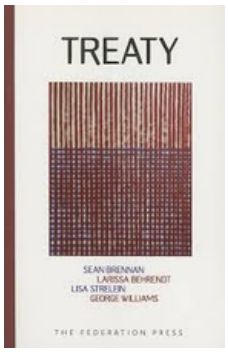
Indigenous rights

The rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lie at the heart of Australian public law discourse and have been a central concern for the Centre since its establishment. It has contributed expert legal analysis on issues including native title, the Voice referendum, and the Northern Territory Intervention.

The Centre's landmark Treaty Project, directed by Associate Professor Sean Brennan, helped shape national discussion on treaty-making through community engagement, public forums and the publication of Issues Papers. Its influential publication Treaty became a defining contribution to public law and Indigenous policy debate.

Centre members' research into Indigenous Rights, Land and Governance has included sustained work on native title and land rights law, as well as issues such as the administration of Aboriginal trust accounts and the legal dimensions of the Northern Territory Intervention. Centre members contributed to parliamentary inquiries, produced academic and policy-focused research, and engaged in public debate through media commentary, reports and community forums.

Working with the UNSW Indigenous Law Centre, the Centre deeply supported the Regional Dialogues leading to the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2017. The Centre provided accurate, evidence-based advice to members of Parliament, engaged in co-design discussions, and influenced the debate on referendum mechanics and treaty frameworks. Centre members then worked to provide Australians with clear and factual information about the 2023 constitutional referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament.



The Centre's current Treaty-making project, led by Associate Professor Harry Hobbs, is examining the public law issues surrounding Indigenous-State treaty-making at the Australian state, territory and national levels. This work has been cited in every jurisdiction exploring or undertaking treaty process.

IMAGE: 2005 Megan Davis and Professor Mick Dodson at the National Forum on Indigenous Health & the Treaty Debate 2005: *Treaty* (Federation Press)

Representative democracy and federalism



Several of the Centre's projects have examined principles at the heart of Australia's constitutional system, including representative democracy, constitutional change and federalism.

Through its elections and referendums projects, directed by Associate Professor Paul Kildea, the Centre has helped improve understanding of the legal and democratic principles that underpin Australia's system of government. We have fostered dialogue between researchers, parliamentarians and the media, including through collaborations with the Electoral Regulation Research Network and regularly hosting events with the *ABC*'s election-analyst Antony Green before recent federal elections. This work has had a meaningful impact protecting Australian's voting rights. For example, in 2021, our public-engagement work contributed to the withdrawal of the Coalition Government's Bill to introduce new voter ID requirements for federal elections.

Our work on referendums has addressed the legal and procedural dimensions of constitutional reform, including the role of public education, community engagement, and institutional design in shaping referendum outcomes. We have contributed to debates on proposals for reform at all levels of government, including on the constitutional recognition of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the same-sex marriage plebiscite proposal and local government and postal survey process, and questions surrounding Section 44 of the Constitution.

Our work on federalism, led over its course, by Professor Andrew Lynch, Associate Professor Paul Kildea, Dr Shipra Chordia, Dr Sangeetha Pillai and Professor George Williams, focused on developing a clearer framework for understanding the allocation of responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States, and applying that framework to contemporary issues such as human rights protection, water management reform, executive spending, and intergovernmental relations.

IMAGES: Elisabeth Perham, Paul Kildea and Antony Green, Australia Votes 2025





Human rights

The Centre's human rights projects, directed by Professor Megan Davis, Professor Ben Saul, Professor Edward Santow and Professor Rosalind Dixon, have advanced the formal protection of human rights in Australia by promoting informed debate and supporting law reform within the Australian constitutional system. Through comparative research, conferences, expert roundtables, submissions and civic engagement, the Centre's research helped shape the human rights legislation enacted in the ACT, Victoria and Queensland.

The Centre played a leading role in coordinating submissions and engaging civil society, legal experts and business leaders for the National Human Rights Consultation. In 2010, the Centre co-hosted the Human Rights Act Roundtable with the Australian Human Rights Commission, bringing together human rights experts and the Attorney-General's Department to advance dialogue on a federal Human Rights Act. The Centre has also engaged in civics education about what the legal protection of human rights means for Australians.

The Centre's human rights projects have focussed on the rights of vulnerable people. For example, the Homelessness Legal Rights Project, Directed by Cassandra Goldie, was a collaboration with the Public Interest Law Clearing House between 2003 and 2008. The project advanced a human rights-based approach to homelessness through research, advocacy and law reform. By creating an online repository of legal and policy resources, contributing submissions to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing and engaging in policy forums, the project helped embed housing rights within Australia's broader human rights framework.

Our Free Speech, Social Media and Online Speech Project led by Associate Professor Daniel Joyce has contributed to recent, ongoing public and political debates about the regulation of speech in various contexts, and its public law implications. For example, the project has led discussions and contributed to law and policy reform processes on the regulation of protest and mis- and dis- information online.

IMAGES: 2010 G+T Centre members
2010 G+T Centre memebrs and speakers at Human Rights Conference



Gender and public law

The gender and public law project, co-directed by Professor Rosalind Dixon and Professor Gabrielle Appleby, has examined a range of issues of significance to gender and public law — including female leadership in parliament and the judiciary, comparative approaches to gender equality, and the public law dimensions to responding to sexual harassment and violence in Parliament and the courts.

The Project hosts a website repository of feminist and critical judgments writing projects and associated research and teaching research, making them accessible. These resources demonstrate how feminist, Indigenous and other critical perspectives can challenge assumptions embedded in conventional legal reasoning and illuminate the possibilities for more inclusive approaches to judicial decision-making.

The Project has also led collaborative, comparative research on female judicial leadership, including the 2026 Elgar Companion to Female Chief Justices in Comparative Perspective, co-edited by Professor Erin Delaney and Professor Rosalind Dixon.

Since 2021, the Project has been the home to the NSW Pathways to Politics for Women program, a non-partisan place-based initiative that equips women with the skills, knowledge, confidence and networks they need to run for elected office and become political leaders.

The NSW program is funded in part by the Trawalla Foundation and is a cross-university collaboration, now run out of the UNSW Gender Equality Hub and supported by the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre, the UNSW Australian Human Rights Institute, and the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre. 2021 Program graduate Sally Sitou was elected as the ALP Member for Reid in the May 2022 election, and re-elected in the May 2026 election. Many NSW program alum have also been elected to local councils across the state.

In 2022, the Project published a report, *Managing Misconduct: A principled response to behavioural misconduct in constitutionally significant workplaces*. The report followed several reviews that found significant levels of sexual harassment, bullying and other misconduct in Australian courts and parliaments, including the Australian Human Rights Commission's Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces (on which Gabrielle Appleby served as a constitutional consultant). The report provides practical principled guidance on managing these issues.

Image Credit: Pathways to Politics NSW LinkedIn.



The modern administrative state

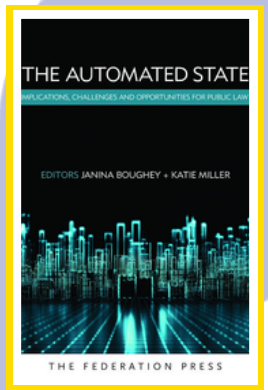
The Centre has worked with governments to understand the changing nature of administration, and the opportunities and challenges presented by technological developments and changes in the way government services are delivered. The Centre has produced collaborative, comparative and empirical research exploring how these challenges can be met while protecting core public law values such as accountability and transparency.

The Centre's Public Law and Technology project, directed over its course by Professor Janina Boughey and Dr Scarlet Wilcock, has worked with technology experts, public servants and parliamentary drafters to investigate the public law implications of government automation and explore technological approaches to legislation-making, notably 'rules as code.'

We produced the first Australian book on the public law challenges and opportunities, *The Automated State*. Our research has influenced government inquiries and guidelines on governments' use of technology. We have used our expertise to contribute to public inquiries on how governments should use and regulate their use of technology, and been invited to contribute to government processes as experts on these topics. More recently, the team has broadened its focus to encompass artificial intelligence.

Another significant and overlapping area of our research is the modern relationships between governments and the private and community sectors, and the implications for public law. This research has led to concrete recommendations for law and policy reform. For example, through her Australian Research Council DECRA project, Professor Janina Boughey has argued for amendments to freedom of information laws when governments rely on the private sector to build and manage technology used in administrative decision-making processes.

The Centre's Statutes Project, co-directed by Professor Lisa Burton Crawford and Professor Janina Boughey, has engaged with judges, practitioners, public servants and parliamentary drafters to examine the role of statutes in the modern administrative state, and produced a number of collaborative books and articles on this topic.



Images: 2024 Comparative Statutory Interpretation workshop; *The Automated State* (2021, Federation Press)



Anti-terror laws

In response to Australia's expanding anti-terrorism legislation in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the Centre engaged in a significant body of work on anti-terror legislation. Projects on anti-terror laws were led, over 10 years, by Professor George Williams, Professor Andrew Lynch, Dr Nicola McGarrity and Professor Edward Santow.

Drawing significantly on comparative study in an area that moved rapidly in the first decade after 9/11, the Centre became a leading national source of expertise on these topics. The Centre played an important role in providing a critique of, and suggesting improvements to, the vast number of anti-terrorism laws that were being enacted with steady frequency by the Commonwealth Parliament. It did this by making written and oral submissions to parliamentary and independent review bodies, and commenting in the media and at public forums on the public law implications of these laws.

After the legislative frenzy had died down, the focus shifted to producing research looking in greater depth at specific counter-terrorism measures both in Australia and overseas, and their impact on fundamental human rights. In July 2009, Professor George Williams was awarded an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship for a new project in this area titled 'Anti-Terror Laws and the Democratic Challenge'.

The Centre's research, examined how democratic nations balance expansive security powers with constitutional principles and individual rights, advancing international scholarship on counter-terrorism law and democracy. This contributed to the safeguarding of Australian democracy and the rule of law by enhancing understanding of the role of law in countering terrorism, while maintaining the defining features of a liberal democratic society.



IMAGE: Terrorism Symposium Panel 2007
Participants at the Anti-Terror Laws & Preventive Justice Postgraduate Workshop, 5 December 2011





Judges and courts



The Judiciary Project examines the constitutional and operational dimensions of Australian courts and judging, and how judicial institutions can maintain independence, accountability and public confidence while responding to contemporary pressures. Established by Professor Andrew Lynch, subsequently co-directed and directed by Professor Gabrielle Appleby, the Project has brought doctrinal, empirical and comparative research to questions concerning judges, the judiciary collectively, and courts as institutions.

A major strand of the Project's work has concerned judicial appointments, conduct and accountability. The Project's research and submissions in this area have contributed to debates about transparent, merit-based and diverse judicial appointments, and the institutional mechanisms needed to address judicial misconduct while protecting judicial independence. Most recently, Professor Appleby was involved as an advisor to the Australian Law Reform Commission's inquiry into judicial bias, and on a small working group commissioned to redraft the Council of Chief Justice's Guide to Judicial Conduct.

The Project's research has built an important empirical evidence base about the Australian judiciary, including on the contemporary challenges facing Australian judges, the use and regulation of acting, temporary and reserve judges across Australian jurisdictions, and judicial education. Project members have worked with the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration to improve judicial education and training across Australian courts.

The Project has also facilitated broader scholarly engagement with the role of judging, through collaborative projects involving past and present judges, including *Great Australian Dissents* (Cambridge University Press 2016), edited by Professor Andrew Lynch, and *The Judge, the Judiciary and the Court: Individual, Collegial and Institutional Judicial Dynamics in Australia* (Cambridge University Press 2021), co-edited by Professors Appleby and Lynch.

Recently, the Centre's Pseudolaw Project, led by Associate Professor Harry Hobbs, has been examining how pseudolaw affects our justice system and the work of courts. This work has led to a new research collaboration with the Federal Court of Australia exploring the rise in self-represented litigants, its reasons and impacts.

Across these areas, the Project has combined sustained research with engagement with the judiciary through the biennial Mason Conversation, workshops, seminars and roundtables. Its work has helped build the evidence base, conceptual frameworks and scholarly and professional networks through which contemporary questions about the judiciary can be understood and institutional reform evaluated.

IMAGES: 2026 the Hon Catherine Holmes AC, *Mason Conversation*
2019 Centre members and speakers at Towering Judges event, Hong Kong
2010 Sir Anthony Mason and Bryan Pape, G+T Centre Constitutional Law Conference

International refugee and migration law



The Centre's International Refugee and Migration Law Projects, directed by Professor Jane McAdam, aimed to enhance the quality and depth of legal and policy debate on issues including complementary protection, immigration detention, statelessness, and the legal implications of climate-induced migration.

Through a combination of international fieldwork, scholarly publications, submissions to parliamentary inquiries, and collaboration with organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Project made a sustained contribution to the development of legal and policy responses in these areas. Its research helped frame climate-induced displacement as a matter of international legal responsibility, while its work on complementary protection informed both legislative reform and the professional training of refugee status decision-makers. The Project also contributed to Australian asylum policy through expert submissions on immigration detention, offshore processing, and complementary protection frameworks

The impact and growing prominence of this work led to the establishment of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law in 2013, transforming the Project into a dedicated institutional centre focused on refugee protection. The creation of the Kaldor Centre substantially expanded the scale and reach of these activities, providing a platform for high-impact research, international collaboration, and policy engagement.



Image: 2007 Jane McAdam and colleagues in China
2012 Jane McAdam and others in Myanmar



Comparative public law and international linkages

The Centre actively fosters global connections with academic, legal, and government institutions as well as a network of research centres in the field. These collaborations enrich the Centre's contributions to public law research, comparative constitutional studies, and support for early career scholars.

The Centre's comparative constitutional law project, directed by Professor Rosalind Dixon and Dr Elisabeth Perham aims to contribute to increased interest in and knowledge about comparative constitutional developments among constitutional scholars, and particularly, lawyers and legal policy-makers in Australia.

The Constitutionalism from the Global South project directed by Professor Melissa Crouch and Professor Theunis Roux fosters scholarship and debate on constitutionalism in, of and from the Global South. The project aims to develop appreciation of Global South epistemologies and to enhance our understanding of the nature of constitutionalism in the Global South, both in its liberal and illiberal varieties. The project runs regular reading groups, seminars and occasional panels at conferences, with a particular focus on mentoring early career scholars from the Global South.

The annual Comparative Constitutional Law roundtable, which has run for 13 years, features discussions on various topics including environmental constitutionalism and authoritarian constitutionalism. The Centre has hosted visitors from across the world and also serves as a home to junior scholars from various countries. It supports PhD candidates specialising in diverse fields such as international law and feminist constitutionalism among others. And it has contributed to constitutional debates around the world, including in Myanmar, Indonesia, Chile and Kenya. The Centre's strength in comparative, quantitative and qualitative research on democratic institutions laid the foundation for the establishment of the UNSW Resilient Democracy Lab in 2026.



Image: 2020 Comparative Constitutional Law Roundtable (via Zoom)
2026 ICON-S winter/summer school, led by Professor Rosalind Dixon

Public law education

The Centre has a deep, longstanding commitment to improving knowledge about public law in Australia. To that end, we have projects dedicated to public law education in schools and to supporting public law teachers across Australian universities.

The constitutional democracy project, directed by Professor Rosalind Dixon, focuses on building understanding and engagement with Australian democratic processes, including through expanded civics education. The project has developed educational material on civics for high school teachers and a program aimed to engage students in democracy as an avenue for positive social change. The Writing Democracy Challenge has, since 2024, invited students from Years 7 to 10 from public schools across NSW to participate in a letter-writing exercise that encouraged them to make suggestions for positive social change within their school and local community. Over 500 students from participate each year, with around 70 attending a workshop at NSW Parliament House. The support of the NSW Department of Education for the program has made it possible for student from regional areas to participate in the program and workshop.

The Centre's Public Law Teaching Project, co-directed by Associate Professor Svetlana Tyulkina and Dr Elisabeth Perham is the home of the Centre's ongoing activities to support the teaching of public law subjects, both at UNSW and more broadly. The Project's flagship event is the Public Law in the Classroom workshop, hosted annually in February at UNSW. PLIC is a joint initiative, co-organised with the Public Law & Policy Research Unit at the University of Adelaide, Monash University's Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, and the Western Sydney University School of Law. It provides a space for public law teachers to come together and discuss and improve their teaching practices.









Images: 2018 & 2026 PLIC

A powerhouse of talent



Over 25 years the Centre has been an important part of the careers of many of Australia's leading public lawyers. The Centre's members and PhD students have gone on to do a range of different things in their careers, shaping Australian public law for the better.

Cassandra Goldie



Cassandra is the CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the peak council for community services and a national advocate supporting people affected by poverty, disadvantage and inequality. Cassandra undertook her PhD at UNSW and was the Director of the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law's Homelessness Legal Rights Project, which was a collaboration between the Centre and the Public Interest Law Clearing House, between 2003 and 2008. The Project supported research on the legal needs of homeless people and advocated for reform of anti-discrimination and other laws to support the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

> "The UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre's work in this project was instrumental in reframing homelessness, away from being seen solely as a social issue to being recognised as a significant human rights concern that demands legal remedies and policy reform."





Shipra Chordia

Shipra is a barrister at Omnia Chambers in Sydney, with a particular focus on public law, class actions and competition law. Shipra is a Fellow of the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law. Shipra was the Director of the Centre's Federalism Project from 2012 until 2014, and went on to complete her PhD in the Centre on the topic of proportionality in Australian constitutional law. Under her leadership
the Federalism Project focussed on the ramifications of the High Court's decision in the School Chaplains' Case and the campaign for same-sex marriage. Reflecting on the Centre's impact, Shipra notes that:

> "The UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law has long been a vibrant institution that nurtures researchers and helps them realise their potential. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities and encouragement it provided her over the years. The Centre's commitment to engaging with both the research community and the broader public has left a meaningful mark on all who have been part of it."

Paul Kildea

Paul is an Associate Professor in the UNSW Faculty of Law & Justice and the Director of the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law's Elections & Referendums Project. He is one of Australia's foremost experts in electoral law, referendums and federalism, and regularly contributes to law reform and policy debate on those topics. As an undergraduate student, Paul was one of the Centre's first interns when the Centre was established in 2001. He has been associated with the Centre ever since, undertaking his PhD at UNSW and contributing to numerous Centre projects over the past 25 years. Paul reflects on the importance of the Centre's work:

> "From the start I was drawn to the Centre by its commitment to high quality scholarship and real-world impact. On both fronts it has made an enormous contribution. And I've had the daily pleasure of working with a truly inspirational group of scholars."





Ed Santow

Ed Santow is a Professor and Co-Director of the Human Technology Institute at UTS. From 2016 to 2021, Ed was the Human Rights Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission. Ed was the Director of the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law's Charter of Human Rights Project from 2007 until 2010. That Project played a key role in providing the fundamental research underpinning the Human Rights Acts in the ACT, Victoria and Queensland, and contributed to law reform proposals in other Australian jurisdictions. Ed has reflected on his work in the Centre:

> "At the heart of public law is a concern for lawful process. And yet, if we cared only about process, we would judge kindly a law that is followed to the letter, even though it licenses sexist, racist or other forms of inhumane treatment. The Charter of Human Rights Project rejected that narrow view of public law. Instead, the Project advanced the idea that our law should uphold the rights we all rely on to live in basic dignity."

Tamara Tulich

Tamara is an Associate Professor in the Law School at the University of Western Australia. She researches preventive justice, anti-terror lawmaking and indefinite detention regimes. Tamara was a PhD candidate in the Centre's ARC Laureate Fellowship 'Anti-Terror Laws and the Democratic Challenge' project. Her PhD was on preventive measures in Australia's Anti-terror laws. Tamara says of her experience as a PhD candidate in the Centre:

> "My time at the Centre was immensely formative for my academic career. I was fortunate to be part of a vibrant research community, to learn from leading scholars, and to see firsthand how legal academics can shape public policy and law reform."



Ongoing influence

The Centre remains a leading voice in Australian public law. Past directors reflect on the Centre's impact and legacy.

"The Centre has been at the forefront of public law reform for a remarkable 25 years. It's principled, research-based approach has been critical in driving much-needed change."

Distinguished Professor George Williams AO
Foundation Director (2001 - 2008)

"The UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law has been sustained for a quarter of a century by the clarity of its founding vision and the way successive directors have applied their energies towards realising this in response to the major issues and opportunities of the times. The Centre's dynamism and collegiality are defining attributes that have enabled its members to focus outwards and achieve significant societal impact through their authentic engagement with government, the legal profession and the community."

Professor Andrew Lynch
Director (2008 - 2013)

"The Centre has concentrated public law talent at UNSW, supporting quality scholarship and sustained public engagement. It is an extraordinary thing for Danny Gilbert and the firm to have given such substantial and enduring support to this work. Personally, I've valued the cardinal importance attached to work on First Nations issues."

Associate Professor Sean Brennan
Director (2013 - 2018)

"The opportunity to help lead the Centre has been one of the great privileges of my career. The Centre is a wonderful community of scholars, who through the support of the Centre and Gilbert + Tobin, make important contributions to a wide range of issues affecting our democracy and commitment to the rule of law. The Centre is also guided by an amazing group of lawyers and judges, who I have been truly privileged to work with as Director and a longstanding member of the Centre."

Professor Rosalind Dixon
Director (2018 - 2025)

Thank you for being part of the UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law community over the last 25 years.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to continuing this work together—advancing public law scholarship, contributing to law reform and fostering informed public debate.

For more information, contact:

The UNSW Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law
E: gtcentre@unsw.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW is located on the unceded territory of the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Paddington Campuses) and Ngunnawal peoples (UNSW Canberra) who are the Traditional Owners of the lands where each campus of UNSW is situated.