

Call for DPhil Applications

The following post has kindly been shared with us Roxana Banu (University of Oxford).

The Conflict of Laws/Private International Law academic team at the University of Oxford invites applications from students interested in pursuing a doctorate (DPhil, corresponding to a PhD) in the field. The Oxford Conflict of Laws team is one of the largest at any academic institution in the UK. It comprises four full-time faculty members (Associate Professor Roxana Banu, Professor Andrew Dickinson, Associate Professor Brooke Marshall and Dr Johannes Ungerer).

We are committed to supporting the next generation of Conflict of Laws scholars and welcome proposals, from prospective applicants in any country, that align with our various research interests, which are briefly outlined below. More information about the application process, the entry requirements, and the resources available to DPhil candidates can be found at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/dphil-law>. A range of financial support is available, including University and Faculty scholarships and need-based Faculty bursaries, with approximately 30 per cent of postgraduate research offer-holders receiving need-based Faculty funding and eligible offer-holders being considered automatically for many scholarships. Prospective applicants are welcome to contact any member of the Conflict of Laws team with any questions about potential supervision. For questions about the application process, please contact: geraldine.malloy@law.ox.ac.uk at the Law Faculty.

Pursuing a DPhil in Law at Oxford offers the opportunity to join an outstanding and diverse academic community. DPhil candidates benefit from membership of an Oxford college and participation in the Faculty's extensive offering of lectures, seminars, and a wide range of discussion groups, which provide regular opportunities to engage with Oxford researchers and distinguished visitors from around the world, such as in the dedicated Conflict of Laws discussion group. Research is supported by the Bodleian Law Library with more than 550,000 volumes and extensive print and electronic collections covering numerous jurisdictions, including particularly strong holdings in public and private international law. The Institute of European and Comparative Law (IECL) further

enriches this environment through exchange opportunities for postgraduate researchers with leading partner institutions.

Roxana Banu

Roxana's research focuses on the history and theory of the? conflict of laws. She is the author of *Nineteenth Century Perspectives on Private International Law* (OUP, 2018) and the co-editor of *Philosophical Foundations of Private International Law* (OUP, 2024). She has written various accounts of the field's intellectual history in the late 19th and early 20th century and of the development of the field during the interwar period. She is also interested in feminist history and theory, having written on relational feminist theories in private international law and on the role of female actors in the field's history. On the philosophical front, she has developed a moral contractualist account of private international law and has written on theories of justice.

With the generous support of a Leverhulme Research Fellowship, Roxana is currently writing a book on the history of private international law in the British Empire and would be happy to supervise DPhil projects on any topics on the history and theory of private international law.

Andrew Dickinson

Andrew works on a range of topics in the conflict of laws and adjacent fields. He is one of the specialist editors of *Dicey, Morris & Collins on The Conflict of Laws* (16th edition, Sweet & Maxwell, 2022) with responsibility for chapters on the law applicable to contractual and non-contractual obligations. His recent publications include a commentary on *The State Immunity Act 1978* (OUP, 2025), with Alexander Thompson, and *Natural Justice in Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments* (Brill, 2025), a special course of lectures for the Hague Academy.

Brooke Marshall

Brooke's research examines intersections both within the field of private international law and between the field and other areas of law and legal practice. Her work has a doctrinal foundation in international commercial dispute resolution and engages with normative and comparative questions raised by

cross-border relationships, particularly under English, EU and French law. She is the author of *Asymmetric Jurisdiction Clauses* (OUP 2023) and a co-author of *The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: A Commentary* (Elgar Commentaries in Private International Law 2025). Brooke has written on jurisdiction and choice of law, and on their relationship with contract law and international uniform law. She would be pleased to supervise DPhil projects in these areas, as well as projects that bring private international law into dialogue with other fields. Her current research explores aspects of the relationship between private international law and international arbitration, and between private international law and employment law.

Johannes Ungerer

Johannes, a Deputy Director of the IECL, examines private international law from comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives, drawing on his expertise across Common Law and Civil Law traditions. He explores how legislators and courts design and employ legal rules to balance competing interests and implement policy choices in cross-border civil and commercial relationships, including through insights from law & economics and behavioural science. His work addresses both choice of law as well as international jurisdiction in England (especially post-Brexit) and in the EU. In addition to books on private international law in German and *Default Rules in Private Law* (Hart 2025), he recently co-edited *Characterisation in the Conflict of Laws* (Hart, forthcoming) and is co-authoring an implicitly comparative monograph on *German Private International Law* (OUP). Johannes currently supervises three doctoral researchers and would be pleased to consider further DPhil projects in private international law.