

Report: ISRF Early Career Fellowship

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I formally took up my ISRF Early Career Fellowship between April 2016 and February 2017. With the agreement of the Warwick Law School, in effect the fellowship gave me a full year's study leave from April to April, although I kept on my PhD students and one of my administrative responsibilities.

The majority of my time was spent working on the monograph entitled *Crowded Sovereignty*. The arc of the book begins with the crowd and its significance for recent political and legal theory, before moving to the question of the atmospheres produced both by the crowd and by the police in response to crowded protest. It finishes with a theory of sovereignty based around the significance of disorder, and the ordinary atmospheres of calm.

The core argument about the political importance of crowded atmospheres has not changed very much over the period. However, I have discovered a crucial nexus between conceptions of sovereignty and everyday public order. Essentially, sovereignty can be conceived of as a knot of conceptions of majesty, dignity and glory. Setting dignity aside for a moment, majesty roughly equates to greatness. To say the sovereign has majesty suggests that they are the greatest earthly power. It equates to the possibility of a physical manifestation of power and the authority of such a manifestation. But where majesty is a property of the sovereign, glory is something that must be produced through glorification. The sovereign is a circular position which at once is majestic but also has to be glorified as such. The discovery relates to the function of the doctrine of the Queen's peace within this relation. In short this common law doctrine names the relation between majesty and glory. The book therefore places this at the center of its reflections. It will establish an idea of everyday legality which invisibilises this constant play between majesty and glory.

I spent my research leave developing an analysis of the atmosphere of sovereignty, policing strategies and practices, and writing an analysis of crowds and recent critical theory. I also undertook field work in Hong Kong, interviewing participants in the Hong Kong Occupy Central protests of 2014. Alongside the book I have begun to write an article on the affective techniques of public order policing, a special issue for *Law and Critique* on 'Catastrophe and Legal Theory' and a special issue on 'Legal Aesthetics on the Street' (supported by the ISRF residential workshop funding).

This year I completed three chapters and published an article at a major generalist law journal:

- 'The Law of Crowds' *Legal Studies* Vol. 36 No. 3. [2016] 395-414 (11,614 words)
- 'Turbulent Legality, between Sovereignty and the Police' in Philipopolous-Mihalopolous A, *The Routledge Research Handbook of Law & Theory*, (Routledge, forthcoming) (9547 words)
- 'The Constitution of Turbulence' in Adleman, S and Paliwala, A, *Beyond Development* (Routledge, forthcoming)
- 'This Agitated Veil: A Spatial Justice of the Crowd' in Butler, C and Mussawir, E, (eds) *Spaces of Justice: Positions, Passages, Appropriations*, (Wildy & Sons, forthcoming) (7821 words)

Over the same period I presented at five events:

- ‘Atmospheres of Sovereignty’, International Law and Human Rights Unit; University of Liverpool (Jan 2017)
- ‘Our Revolting Mood’ *Cultures of the Left*; British Academy Funded Warwick-Jawaharlal Nehru University Collaboration, Theatre Studies, University of Warwick (Jan 2017)
- ‘Clearance’ *Law, Literature and the Humanities Association of Australasia Conference*, University of Hong Kong (Dec 2016)
- ‘The Law of Disorder’ *Annual Independent Social Research Foundation Conference*, University College London & the Museum of London (June 2016)
- ‘Turbulence and Development’ *Beyond Development Symposium*, University of Warwick (April 2016)