

# **The (Un)Makers of Law: How Resistance is Shaping**

## **Legal Thought and Practice**

### **Call for Papers**

The Strathclyde Postgraduate Law Conference 2026, supported by the Strathclyde Alumni Fund, is seeking abstract submissions surrounding how resistance is shaping legal thought and practice. Postgraduate students and early-career researchers wishing to present their work at the conference are invited to submit abstracts to [pgrlaw-conf@strath.ac.uk](mailto:pgrlaw-conf@strath.ac.uk) by Friday 17 April. The conference will take place online on Tuesday 26 May and in-person Wednesday 27 May. We also encourage LLM and honours students to submit an abstract for our poster presentation on Wednesday 27 May, based on their research.

In an era in which the international rules-based order is openly questioned, resistance against normative legal frameworks has grown in prominence. Whether through judicial review, the contestation of universalism, or civil disobedience, we are continually called to question our entrenched traditions. This has challenged researchers to develop more effective methods in their work; whether adopting culturally sensitive approaches, incorporating demands for a just transition, or utilising other interdisciplinary perspectives. Within this context, participants are invited to consider the ways in which resistance is manifested within both legal doctrine and a broader socio-legal perspective.

Such resistances have manifested across the legal sphere, through customary law, ecological debate, human rights discourse, community-based land reform, civil rights movements, minority theory, amongst numerous other fields. By exploring how these areas have opposed assumptions within the law, both actively and implicitly, researchers may reflect on what it means to resist and what place resistance has within their work.

Drawing on a personal approach to understanding resistance, postgraduate and early-career researchers are encouraged to explore how they engage with the topic in their research – whether that is done actively or passively. With many alternative narratives promoting a scepticism of legal orthodoxy, resistance has evolved, raising questions surrounding what it means to ‘resist’ and whether all opposition is ‘good’ opposition. Subsequently, this conference emphasises the function of resistance as both a breaker and maker of legal traditions. Thematically appropriate theoretical or doctrinal works are also welcome.

#### **Submission Guidelines**

- Abstract: Please submit a concise abstract (max: 350 words).
- Keywords: include a maximum of five keywords that highlight your research.

- Author Information: Provide your full name, pronouns, a brief biography (max: 100 words), university affiliation, and contact information for all contributing authors.
- Please indicate whether you will be presenting in-person or online.
- Abstracts should be submitted electronically via email to [pgrlaw-conf@strath.ac.uk](mailto:pgrlaw-conf@strath.ac.uk).
- For LLM and honours students wishing to display your research, please submit an outline for your poster along with a brief biography following the instructions above.
- The Conference is committed to widening participation and ensuring that LLM and honours students are able to present their research. We will endeavour to support such applicants through the availability of funding to assist with printing costs.