



Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre Annual Report 2024-2025

Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre**Annual Report for Academic Year 2024-2025**

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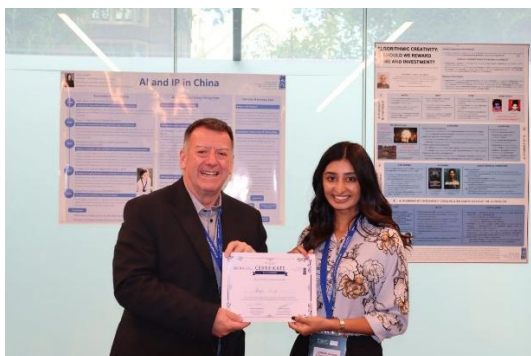
The Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre (OIPRC) acts as the focal point for our IP research community, showcasing the Law Faculty's diverse strengths across Intellectual Property law. This report provides an overview of the collective intellectual life, synergies as well as professional achievements of the IP community at Oxford over this past academic year.

Graduate and Early Career Research Community

Our community of research graduates has been especially productive over this past year, with several noteworthy achievements. In October 2024, Professors Burrell, Gangjee and Hudson met with our research graduate community group for our regular welcome (or welcome back) seminar focusing on approaches to research. This year we discussed the potential for fashioning a distinctive research identity and the dangers of following the 'herd', with a lively discussion around practical examples. Two of our graduates presented at a conference at the University of Leeds, [*A New Direction in Intellectual Property Treaty-Making? Winning Against the Odds for Human Rights, Equity, and Indigenous Peoples*](#), in May 2025. Lele Xu presented on 'Reform or Rhetoric: Complementary IP-related Treaties Post-TRIPS Concerning Vulnerable Groups', while Ataul Karim delivered a paper on 'The Disclosure of Origin in GR and ATK Patents: Fixing the Broken or Creating New Safety Nets?'.



Lele Xu and Ataul Karim Presenting at Leeds (May 2025)



Zoya wins the QMIPRI Poster Award

Zoya Yasmine (DPhil) won first place poster prize in the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute Conference 2024 'AI Frontiers in IP' sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys. Zoya also won the best abstract presentation at the Centre for Human-Inspired Artificial Intelligence (CHIA) Early Career Conference (Cambridge, March 2025) for 'Formalising human-in-the-loop: computational reductions and legal responsibility'.

We also successfully developed and delivered an ambitious policy intervention. A team of 19 research graduates primarily associated with the OIPRC, but also including the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) and the Department of Computer Science, submitted a detailed and comprehensive response to the UK Intellectual Property Office's Consultation on [Copyright and Artificial Intelligence](#), with a particular focus on Generative AI, which closed on 24 February. The consultation covered a range of issues across 47 discrete questions, which we approached in modular teams. The aim was to for our graduates to (i) experience collaborative research and (ii) learn to write specifically for a policy intervention. In this regard, the process was as important as the outcome. The effort was very ably co-ordinated by IP DPhil students Söğüt Atilla and Sarath Ninan Mathew with editorial oversight and polish from Lauren Crais.

OIPRC Response 2025 (96pp)

Gangjee, Dev S.; Atilla, Söğüt; Crais, Lauren; Fan, Jinghe; Gurusurthy, Jyothsna; Harvey, Callum; Hall, Siobhan Mackenzie; Karim, Mohammad Ataul; Lubke, Georgina; Mota, Juliana da Cunha; Müller, Elisabeth; Nanji, Farah; Ninan Mathew, Sarath; Railton, Aisling; Schwarz, Tassilo; Wong, Max; Woo, Phoebe; Yasmine, Zoya; Zhao, Yujie and Cho, Desiree,

Open Consultation on Copyright and Artificial Intelligence (Feb 2025) (96 pp)

Available at

SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5162409> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5162409>

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**Oxford Intellectual Property
Research Centre**

Submission
for

UK Intellectual Property Office
'Open Consultation on Copyright and Artificial Intelligence'
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/copyright-and-artificial-intelligence-copyright-and-artificial-intelligence>

Researchers

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Lauren Crais
Jinghe Fan
Jyothsna Gurusurthy
Callum Harvey
Siobhan Mackenzie Hall
Mohammad Ataul Karim
Georgina Lubke

Juliana da Cunha Mota
Elisabeth Müller
Farah Nanji
Sarath Ninan Mathew
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Our graduates also pursued active publication agendas. Lauren Crais co-authored 'An unusual cartography: theoretical migrations of heritage' (2025) 1 IPQ 1-29 (with Vittoria Mastrandrea) and published a book review of Charlotte Woodhead's *Caring for Cultural Heritage* (CUP, 2023) in the

Modern Law Review. Lauren also co-authored publications relating to a community led and developed resource – World Wide Dishes (WWD) – which is an image and text dataset of culinary dishes and associated cultural customs: ‘The Human Labour of Data Work: Capturing Cultural Diversity through World Wide Dishes’, Hall et al, [arXiv:2502.05961v2](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.05961v2); and ‘The World Wide Recipe: A community-centred framework for fine-grained data collection and regional bias operationalisation’, Magomere et al, [arXiv:2406.09496](https://arxiv.org/abs/2406.09496). Söğüt Atilla’s blog post on protecting works of applied art within copyright law - *‘Design or art? French court rules that Birkin Bag is a copyright work’* – was cited by AG Szpunar in his decision on [Mio/Konektra](#) (Joined Cases C-580/23 and C-795/23) (2025). Zoya Yasmine published *‘Getty Images v Stability AI: Why Should UK Copyright Law Require Licenses for Commercial TDM’* (2025) Cambridge Journal of Artificial Intelligence

Besides formal interactions at conferences and seminars, our graduate community found opportunities for more convivial discussions as well.



A strictly ethnographic study of a pub...

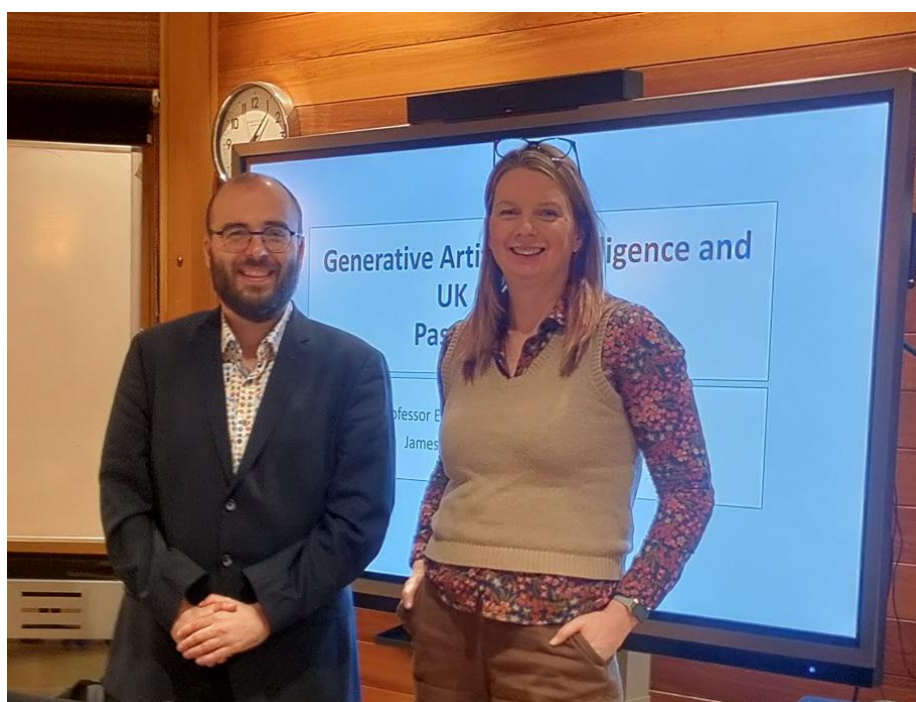


Celebrating Li Liu’s (centre right) successful DPhil viva

Research

The **(1) OIPRC invited speaker seminar series** and **(2) Intellectual Property Discussion Group seminars**, with an early career focus, continued to showcase research by leading scholars across the academic year. The OIPRC invited speaker seminars for 2024-2025 hosted the following researchers and topics:

- Dr Apostolos Chronopoulos (QMUL) - A Property Right in News: Legal reasoning in *INS v. AP*
- Dr James Parish (KCL) and Prof. Emily Hudson (Oxford) - Generative Artificial Intelligence and UK Copyright: Pastiche or Farce?
- Prof. Christophe Geiger (Luiss Guido Carli, Rome) - Elaborating an Ethical Copyright System for AI: What Role for Digital Constitutionalism?
- Prof. Madhavi Sunder (Georgetown), with Prof Anupam Sunder (Georgetown, discussant) - Provenance and Property
- Prof. Bitá Amani (Queen's University) - Some More Equal Than Others: Critical Contexts for the (False) Promises of Intellectual Property Rights



OIPRC Seminar by Prof. Hudson and Dr Parish

This was complemented by the IP Discussion Group's roster of diverse and interesting presentations, including the following:

- 'Code, courts, and confusion: The patentability puzzle of neural networks' by Dr Katarina Foss-Solbrekk and Dr Gabriela Lenarczyk (CeBIL, University of Copenhagen)
- 'Passing off the principles of British Passing Off to improve GI protection?' by Dr Andrea Zappalaglio (Leeds) and Dr Jocelyn Bosse (Queen's University, Belfast)

- 'IP and the circular economy: do we need a general 'right to repair'?' by Professor Ansgar Ohly (LMU, Munich)
- 'From Absence to Access: Redefining IP's Negative Space Through the UK Fashion Sector: Reviewing the landscape two decades after the Piracy Paradox' by Tania Phipps-Rufus (Bristol)
- 'The Potential Role of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Resolving Intellectual Property (IP) Disputes Within Qatar' by Ahmed Essa Al-Sulaiti (Director of the Office of the State of Qatar to the WTO, WIPO and UNCTAD)
- 'Do Unauthorised E-Sports Broadcasts Infringe EU Copyright Law?' by Sarath Ninan Mathew (Oxford)



Seminar on the Patentability of Neural Networks by Katarina and Gabriela



Tania's Seminar on inequalities reflected in the legal protection for fashion design

The OIPRC also continued to collaborate with other research groups within the wider Oxford Law Faculty. Professor Gangjee was a discussant at a Round Table Discussion on Artificial Intelligence, Competition and Data organised by Prof. Ezrachi and the Centre for Competition Law and Policy (Pembroke College, 1 May 2025). Along with the Property Law Discussion Group, the OIPRC co-hosted a book launch (6 June 2025) and discussion by Dr Poorna Mysoor on *Copyright as Personal Property* (OUP, 2025).

In the 2024-25 academic year, the OIPRC entered into strategic partnerships, via research collaboration agreements for developing research priorities that are of mutual interest. Facilitated by the Vice Dean for External Relations (Prof. Tom Krebs) the OIPRC has signed a Co-operation Agreement with the Innovation Law and Ethics Observatory (ILEO), Luiss Guido Carli, Rome. We've had preliminary discussions on a wide-ranging AI and IP workshop, tentatively scheduled for MT2025.



Prof. Geiger (Luiss Guido Carli) and Profs. Gangjee and Burrell sign the Agreement

We have also been approached by Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, China for an MoU that is under consideration. Meanwhile there has been significant research activity within the framework of the existing MoU with the National University of Singapore. We are co-hosting a major international conference in Singapore, being opened by the Director-General of the UN's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), [Intellectual Property and Technology in the 21st Century: Challenges In The Next Decade](#) (3-4 August 2025). We have also actively collaborated on [Fashion and Intellectual Property](#) (CUP 2025), with Professor Gangjee joining Professor David Tan of NUS as co-editor while Professors Burrell, Hudson and Gangjee contributed chapters to this innovative volume.

Turning to the wider field of research activities and publications by Senior Members of the OIPRC. Senior members of the OIPRC were also actively engaged in research projects over the course of the year. Co-authored with Professor Michael Handler, Professor Robert Burrell's [Australian Trade Mark Law](#) (3rd ed, Lexis Nexis, 2024) continues to be frequently cited by courts and tribunals across this past academic year.¹ Professors Burrell and Handler also co-authored [Who Reads the Trade Marks](#)

¹ Firstmac Limited v Zip Co Limited [2025] FCAFC 30 (19 March 2025); Cinnayum Pty Ltd v Gopika Pty Ltd as Trustee for the Meece Trust [2025] ATMO 56 (14 March 2025); Cantarella Bros Pty Ltd v Lavazza Australia Pty Ltd [2025] FCAFC 12 (14 February 2025); The President and Fellows of Harvard College v Harvard Legal Pty Ltd

[Register?](#)' (2025) 45 *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*. The analysis forensically unpacks of the level of expertise and knowledge of the internal workings of the trade mark system that is to be attributed to the notional reader of the trade mark register, which has considerable practical as well as normative significance. During this period, Professor Burrell presented his OJLS research on 'Who Reads the Trade Mark Register?' at the University of Queensland (3 Oct 2024) and the University of Auckland (7 April 2025). He participated in the Paris IP Roundtable, Allen & Overy Shearman, Paris (6 Nov 2024), interacting with practitioners across a range of topics of contemporary relevance.

In collaboration with Dr Juan Vives-Vallés, a Visiting Researcher at the OIPRC in 2023-2024, Professor Gangjee co-authored '[Lightning in a Bottle? Wine GIs and Disruptive Innovation](#)' (2025) IIC [forthcoming] investigating whether cutting edge innovation (CRISPR-CAS biotechnology) can be used to preserve traditional grape varieties used by reputed wine appellation regions experiencing climate change; in other words, innovation in the service of preserving wine-making traditions. Professor Gangjee also published an extended analysis and critique of a major UK Supreme Court intervention in *SkyKick*: '[The Sky's the Limit? SkyKick and Speculative Trade Mark Registration](#)' (2025) MLR [forthcoming]. In related research, he triaged the problem of 'clutter', where trade mark registers are increasingly filled with unused or partially used marks and what might be done about this: 'Decluttering' in I Fhima and A Moerland, *Research Trends in Trade Mark Law* (Edward Elgar, 2025) [forthcoming]. Dev also presented his ongoing research at the following UK and international fora: 'Lightning in a Bottle' (European Policy for Intellectual Property Association Conference, Pisa, September 2024); 'ARIA's Emergent IP Policy: Ensuring Taxpayers Benefit?' (London School of Economics IP Seminar, October 2024); Discussant at an Early Career panel for the IP & Innovation Researchers of Asia (IPIRA) Network workshop (Online, November 2024); 'AI and the Death of Trade Marks?' (CIPIL Spring Conference, Cambridge, March 2025) and (Expert workshop on AI and Trade Marks, City University, June 2025). Professor Gangjee acted as an invited expert for the UK Government, joining a delegation advising the Ethiopian IP Office in relation to developing a geographical indications (GI) registry for protecting the export value of local specialities, such as Ethiopian Coffee (International Conference on Geographical Indications, Addis Ababa, June 2025).



Prof Gangjee joins the UK Government Delegation to Ethiopia (L)

And Presenting at EPIP in Pisa (R)

[2025] ATMO 25 (6 February 2025); *Mink Pink Fashion Group Pty Ltd v Staple & Hue Pty Ltd ATF Staple & Hue Trust* [2024] ATMO 244 (13 December 2024); *Killer Queen, LLC v Taylor* [2024] FCAFC 149 (22 November 2024); *Comite Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne v Network Nutrition Pty Ltd* [2024] FCA 780 (11 July 2024).

Visiting Professors

Each year the centre hosts visiting scholars from around the world. Our research community benefits from their experience and participation. They often provide informal mentoring and feedback to our graduate researchers. Over the past academic year, our visitors were:

- Professor Bitu Amani, Queen's University who was researching aspects of intellectual property related to AI/data and sustainability.
- Professor Zhong Chun, Intellectual Property Research Institute of Jinan University who is working at the intersection of competition law and intellectual property issues.

Moot

The 22nd Annual [Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot](#) was held in Oxford from 20-22 March 2025 at various locations around Oxford, including the University of Oxford's Faculty of Law and Pembroke College. Mooting, a simulated court proceeding, allows law students to practice their advocacy skills by presenting legal arguments before a panel of judges.



Notably, the Finals are argued before highly experienced IP judges

This year's problem concerned the case of *Multilever plc v Greenland Supermarket plc* [2024] HCE 337, which addressed legal issues arising from registered trademarks. After a rigorous blind assessment of submitted written memorials, 32 teams from around the world were invited to Oxford for the oral proceedings. Following intense rounds of legal argumentation in the preliminary, quarterfinals, and semi-finals rounds, the [University of Toronto](#) and the [University of Technology Sydney](#) moved to the Grand Final, presided over by esteemed IP judges Lord Kitchen, Mr Justice Meade, and Daniel Alexander, KC. The University of Toronto, led by [Avital Sternin, PhD](#), [Alessia Woolfe](#) and [Rebecca Tyli](#) were crowned this year's Oxford IP Moot winner.



The Moot allowed 32 Teams from around the world to interact at Oxford

Professor [William McGeeveran](#) from the [University of Minnesota Law School](#), delivered this year's Tangentum Lecture on the topic, 'Idolizing Brands'. His lecture was truly thought-provoking and insightful. Once again, we gratefully acknowledge the organising team led by [Professor Emily Hudson](#), Director of the Oxford Annual IP Moot, for their hard work and dedication.



The finalists of the IP Moot alongside judges and organisers