

A Note from the Executive Publisher

Legal Issues Journal widens its scope to include an interdisciplinary dimension – building bridges between law and science

Legal journals play a vital role in supporting and promoting justice. Many legal journals focus on single disciplines. However, as science progresses, we accumulate knowledge from different disciplines that is relevant to explaining faults in the justice process. For example, genetic science enabled us to find out that justice systems wrongly convicted a large number of people. Moreover, psychology and neuroscience have generated much insights into the sources of wrongful convictions and other justice flaws, such as memory faults and attentional and other biases.

Genetic science and neuroscience findings are also showing that many elements of the justice process are based on incorrect understanding of human behaviour and capability. For example, research has shown that human behaviour is a product of complex gene-environment processes, and that individual differences in behaviour and thought have a complex, multi-factorial nature. Moreover, advancements in genetics are enabling probabilistic prediction of different traits from information stored in our DNA.

Findings also show that our ability to tell whether someone is lying or telling the truth is very poor, that decision-making is largely unconscious and influenced by many factors, and that traits are a continuum, for example there is no clear line between what we call normal and abnormal.

To recognise the significance of interdisciplinary work and collaboration for justice, LIJ has widened its scope to include an interdisciplinary dimension. Our recent publications include interdisciplinary papers, such as genetics and human rights (see *Genetic Data Misuse: Risk to Fundamental Human Rights in Developed Economies*). By publishing interdisciplinary work, we aim to encourage inter-disciplinary collaborations between lawyers and ex-

perts from other disciplines – to build bridges between science and the law.

In addition to legal research, LIJ invites original interdisciplinary research on a range of legal matters affecting society, such as legal and ethical aspects of genetics, neuroscience and bioethics. The Journal publishes original papers, case comments, short reports, debates and book reviews. LIJ also provides important news and interpretation on changes in the legal world and coming trends affecting law, lawyers, and society.

LIJ is fully administered by pro-bono contributions of an international team of researchers and practitioners, scientists and lawyers – who share a common interest of contributing to justice. The Journal uses double-blind peer review process. Both the reviewer(s) and the author(s) are anonymous. The Journal provides fast online publication, and we welcome proposals for special issues.

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