

ABOUT THE MCGILL GLSA RESEARCH SERIES

The McGill GLSA Research Series is an online journal reviewed by graduate students and a publication associated with the McGill Annual Graduate Law Conference. The first edition was published in 2021 under the leadership of Mirosław Michal Sadowski, followed by the second volume under the guidance of Sandrine Ampleman-Tremblay. Both the Annual Conference and the Research Series are initiatives undertaken by graduate students with the aim of encouraging their peers to present and publish their research. Both initiatives are devised as learning opportunities for both the organizers and the participants, with collaboration amongst graduate students and early-career scholars being the key element.

The Theme of Law & Prejudice

It is a truth universally acknowledged that... since the 2019-2020 edition, the Graduate Law Students Association (GLSA) Conference has combined cinematography and the law. In 2019-2020, the organizing committee planned a conference inspired by the movie *Love Actually* and held discussions on the legal implications of trust and intimacy under the theme of “Law Actually”. The 2020-2021 committee then organized a conference titled “Law and the City” as an homage to the famous TV series and movies *Sex and the City*. The conference for 2021-2022 was centered around the theme “(Legal) Adaption,” inspired by the movie *Adaptation*. In the spirit of maintaining this tradition, the 16th Annual McGill Graduate Law Conference committee chose “Law & Prejudice” as the theme inspired by the 2005 movie *Pride and Prejudice*, adapted from Jane Austen’s novel.

Law is often perceived to affect attitudes and behaviours beyond its instrumental consequences. Legal rules can shape public behaviour beyond deterrence, which makes law a powerful tool for communicating norms and values. Law is assumed to mirror social

consensus, which is why scholars have wondered whether law might change prejudice and, consequently, affect domains beyond the law's grasp. However, while changes, movements, voices, and issues may develop and alter the social fabric, it is possible that the law may be slow to catch up. The resulting redundancy in law may, sometimes, go unnoticed and shackle the very people or issues the law was enacted to protect. Subjects such as climate change, gender equality issues, and invasion of privacy, in addition to many others, increasingly challenge our existing conceptions of legal normativity. Identifying the prejudices in law and criticizing them in relation to the current social reality is, thus, indispensable and, arguably, necessary.

Inspired by such thoughts, the over 50 conference participants presented papers relating to prejudice in law during the 16th Annual Conference held in a hybrid format in Montreal at the Faculty of Law, McGill University on 4th and 5th May 2023. This edition of the Research Series includes selected papers that were presented during the conference and have been developed by the authors based on the comments and feedback they received.