

Editorial: The Future of Company Law Part 2 – Practice

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On 27th and 28th April 2023, the Edinburgh Centre for Commercial Law hosted a conference supported by the Society of Legal Scholars' Company Law Section. This conference was on the 'Future of Company Law'. The title was deliberately wide, to flush out future directions for company law research. Submissions explored the future of the definitional boundaries of company law, future directions for the discipline, and exploration of what is meant by the 'future'. 24 papers in total were submitted and discussed. Presenters represented all career stages, and all parts of the globe. Sessions were themed around the role of participants within the company, paradigm shifts and their mechanics, capital markets, the role of law in company law, and corporate finance and creditors.

This issue and the previous issue contain a selection of 12 articles developed from the conference. This issue mostly covers practical insights of those discussed, whilst the previous issue covers mostly theoretical insights. However, the line between the two is far from neat and discrete.

In this issue, first Adefolake Adeyeye of the University of Durham explores the B Corp movement and its drive for stakeholder governance. Second, Daniele D'Alvia of Queen Mary University of London traces the development of the modern corporation from the Dutch VOC to the modern-day SPAC. Third, Arthur Sadami, Lucas Vísipico and Mateus Bernardes of the University of São Paulo review scandals in crony capitalism that took place at the Brazilian National Bank of Economic and Social Development. Fourth, Pangyue Cheng of the National University of Singapore explores how AI can be regulated, drawing on company law concepts. Fifth, Qiang Cai of the University of Aberdeen explores the case for stakeholderism in platform governance.

This collection of articles, together with those in the previous issue, helps push the frontiers of company law research in a number of different directions. It helps us challenge what we think company law is, as well as the directions that scholarship will develop in the future. We hope that the reader enjoys reading them as much as we have enjoyed editing them. A number of papers submitted to the conference, and articles in these volumes, come from scholars at the early stages of their careers. If they represent the future of company law, then that future is bright.

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