

# The Future of Constitutional Reform in the United Kingdom

**Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 May 2026**

*University of Manchester, United Kingdom*

**This conference has been very generously funded by the Hallsworth Conference Fund. It is organised in association with the UK Constitutional Law Association (UKCLA).**

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

09:00-09:30 – **Registration and Coffee**

09:30-09:45 – **Welcome**

09:45 – 11:15 – **Panel 1: Monarchy**

- **Dane Luo**, Farthing Scholar in Administrative Law, Pembroke College, University of Oxford “The Crown in the British Overseas Territories”
- **Martina Todisco**, PhD student, University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) “The challenges of the British Monarchy in the twenty-first century”
- **Francesca Jackson**, Postgraduate Researcher, Lancaster University “The legislative and executive role played by the monarch via royal consent: a challenge to the 'dignified' constitution?”
- **Benedict Douglas**, Associate Professor in Law, Durham Law School “Undoing our Duty Based Constitution”

11:15-11:30 – **Refreshments**

11:30-12:45 – **Panel 2: Parliament**

- **Louise Thompson**, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Manchester and **Cristina Leston-Bandeira**, Professor of Politics, University of Leeds “Westminster Hall: A potential antidote to executive dominance?”
- **James Milton**, Lecturer, University of York “‘Getting the Whips into Shape’: Whips, Coercion, and Parliamentary Reform”
- **Saskia Rombach**, PhD student, King's College London “Codifying Privilege: the development of the push for getting privileges in the UK Parliament put on a statutory basis, 1967 – present”

12:45-13:45 – **Lunch**

13:45-14:50: – **Panel 3: Electoral Reform**

- **Pravar Petkar**, International Centre for Sustainability “Westminster Electoral Reform: Between Devolution and a Hard Place”
- **Robert Craig**, Senior Lecturer, University of Bristol “In Defence of First Past the Post”

- **Ben Stanford**, Senior Lecturer, Liverpool John Moores University and **Gary Wilson**, UG Programme Leader, Liverpool John Moores University “Proportional Representation in the Multi-Party Era: A Growing Pressure and a Growing Case?”

14:50-15:05 – **Refreshments**

15:05-16:10 – **Panel 4: Constitutional Principles**

- **W. Elliot Bulmer**, Consultant - Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law Programme, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance “A Westminster Model Constitution for the UK: Challenges of Codification”
- **Yossi Nehushtan**, Professor of Law and Philosophy, Keele University and **Beatriz Flügel Assad**, Dphil Student University of Oxford “Democratic Legitimacy of Constitutional Judicial Review in the UK: Non-Democratic Courts v Non-Democratic Legislatures”
- **Josie Welsh**, Senior Lecturer, Oxford Brookes University and **Chris Monaghan**, Principal Lecturer University of Worcester “Working in the shadows: the curious case of shadow Lord Chancellors and the duty to uphold the principle of judicial independence”

16:15– 17:00 – **Keynote 1: Professor Merris Amos “After Human Rights Law”**

17:15 – Drinks Reception

18:00 – Dinner

[Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May](#)

09:00-09:30 – **Registration and Coffee**

09:30 – 10:45 – **Panel 5: Devolution**

- **Simon Lavis**, Senior Lecturer in Law, The Open University and **Carol Howells**, Senior Lecturer in Law, The Open University “Renovating the Palace of Devolution: Crumbling Constitutional Architecture in need of Restoration?”
- **Saoirse McGilligan**, PhD Candidate , University of St Andrews “Post 'post-conflict'? Reform and Northern Ireland's consociational institutions”
- **Stuart Wallace**, Associate Professor, University of Leeds “Are human rights protections even universal in the UK?”

10:45-11:15 – **Refreshments**

**11:15-12:00 – Keynote 2: Professor Aileen McHarg “Devolution as a Constitutional Laboratory”**

12:00-13:00 – **Lunch**

13:00-14:30 – **Panel 6: Accountability**

- **Dora Devlin**, Research Fellow, UCL “Constitutional Stakes in Civil Service Reform”
- **Kate Ollerenshaw**, Senior Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire “Independent Regulators and the Constitution”
- **Jonathan Collinson**, Lecturer in Law, University of Sheffield “Too Many Eyes or a Thriving Ecosystem? Administrative justice and accountability over the executive’s immigration, asylum, and borders functions”
- **Mike Gordon**, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Liverpool “Constitutional Reform Without the Reform: Labour’s Ethics and Integrity Commission as a Re-branding Exercise”

14:30-14:45 – **Refreshments**

14:45-16:15 – **Panel 7: Politico-economic approaches to constitutional reform**

- **Tanzil Chowdhury**, Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary, University of London “The Political and Legal Constitution: Historical Forms of Capitalist Constitutionalism”
- **Dimitrios Kivotidis**, Senior Lecturer, City, University of London “Market Constitutionalism and Constitutional Reform: The case for an economic constitution that promotes social rights”
- **Panagiotis Gkagkatsis**, Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire “The concept of ‘public interest’ and the constitutional flexibility of common law principles”
- **Daniella Lock**, Lecturer, King’s College London “Funded Executive Power”

16:15-16:30 – **Plenary**