



GRIFFITH JOURNAL OF
LAW & HUMAN DIGNITY

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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE EDITORIAL – 2012 TO 2022

DR ALLAN ARDILL*

Founded in 2012, the Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity celebrates a decade of publishing. To mark the achievement, the Editorial Board invited our esteemed inaugural authors to write for the Journal again, together with scholars having an enduring connection to Griffith University. This editorial provides the context for the Anniversary Issue with a brief history of the Journal.

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I ORIGINS

Our *Journal* began as an initiative of the 2011 Executive of Griffith Law School ('GLS') to explore ways to create a stronger law school community following a difficult corporate restructure of the University in 2010. My brief was to explore options to build community between staff and students. After convening meetings over several months with Gold Coast students, there was consensus around the idea of creating a student edited law journal. A proposal was prepared and the GLS Executive agreed to support the creation of this *Journal*.

* Lecturer, Griffith Law School, Founder and Consulting Executive Editor. I thank Kirsten Gunhold for contributing to this editorial.



Inaugural masthead - 2011

Together with a team of 15 students I established the *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* in 2011. The *Journal* Board began as a democratic student entity and over time it has shifted to become a merit-based supervisory structure led by an Editor-in-Chief.

Over the years I have changed my involvement away from leadership and training to consulting and risk management so that today the *Journal* is wholly student administered and edited. As a consultant to the student Editorial Board, I provide some training, help with recruitment, advise the Editor-in-Chief and the Board about policy and the management of risk, and I also act as the link between the Board and GLS. Occasionally I might help with editing, however the Editorial Board makes the decisions democratically, with the Editor-in-Chief having the final say.

Since we began, we have had three publishers. We started by publishing ourselves using our own website after registering a domain name. When Griffith ePress learned of our existence in 2013 we were invited to publish with them. This lasted for several years until the savage federal budget cuts made to university funding prompted an end to Griffith ePress. Since 2018, we have been publishing with the Public Knowledge Project through Simon Fraser University¹ at an annual cost to GLS of approximately \$900 (\$850 for the publishing platform and \$50 for our domain name) plus my time. Clearly an efficient and effective publishing model.

¹ See <https://pkp.sfu.ca/hosting-services/>

II A DECADE OF PUBLISHING

The *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. We published our first Issue over Easter 2013 as Volume 1 Issue 1 (2012). Since the publication of our inaugural Issue in 2012, the *Journal* Board has been served by 99 GLS students and we have now published 163 articles.

The *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* is a double-blind peer-reviewed interdisciplinary and critical law journal. It publishes two Issues per year plus occasional Special Issues.² The *Journal* also publishes narratives as blind refereed articles.³ We have also published a conversation with world renowned critical pedagogy scholar Peter McLaren.⁴

IV ANNIVERSARY AUTHORS

To mark the achievement of a decade of academic publishing, the Editorial Board invited some of our esteemed inaugural authors to write for the *Journal* again, together with two scholars who have an enduring connection with Griffith University. Among the authors who graced our inaugural Issue were Julian Burnside AO KC and the Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG, and both generously agreed to write for the *Journal* again.

Julian Burnside continues to promote justice and human dignity in his article 'A bit of history'. In 2012⁵ he wrote about the plight of asylum seekers and this time he shares his experience in the struggle of workers, asylum seekers, and First Nation Australians for justice. In his fifth article for the *Journal*,⁶ Michael Kirby reminds us of the continuing

² Four special Issues have been published: (1) 2014 Volume 2(1) Women and Violence Special Issue, (2) 2015 Special Art Issue, (3) 2017 Gender, Culture, and Narrative Special Issue, and (4) 2019 Law & Human Dignity in the Technological Age Special Issue.

³ Please refer to the *Journal*'s [Narrative Policy](#) for details.

⁴ 'Teaching Against the Grain: A conversation between Editors of the Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity and Peter McLaren on the importance of critical pedagogy in law school' (2019) 7(1) *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 173-202.

⁵ Julian Burnside, 'Borderline Justice: Dignity and Decency Outside the Margins' (2012) 1(1) *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 36-54.

⁶ Michael Kirby, 'Privacy Protection and Media in Australia: Unfinished Business' (2012) 1(1) *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 117-141; 'Kinsey, Empiricism, and Homo/Transphobia' (2016) 4(2) *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 121-142; John Marsden's Impatience and LGBTIQ Rights: The Ongoing Challenge for Equality (2017) 5(2) *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 165-182; 'Beyond Marriage Equality and Skin Curling' (2018) 6(2) *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 1-24.

struggle to end the death penalty. He starts by recognising in 1922 Queensland was the first common law jurisdiction to abolish the death penalty, only to see judicial opposition to reform plaguing Australia before the tide eventually turned. Still, success in Australia has not necessarily set the standard in other jurisdictions where 'hold-outs' remain requiring the continued advocacy for justice.

Both Professor John Braithwaite and Professor Therese Wilson have enduring connections with Griffith University. Professor Braithwaite began his academic career teaching criminology at the School of Humanities, Griffith University in 1975. Professor Braithwaite is internationally renowned for his research involving responsive regulation and restorative justice in the field of criminology, is currently involved in the 25-year comparative project, '*Peacebuilding Compared*', and has had a long involvement in social movement politics in these areas in Australia and Internationally for 50 years.⁷ In honour of the *Journal's* commitment to freedom and dignity, Professor Braithwaite cautions against 'social movement weakness and social democratic sloth in rich countries' in his article 'Regime Change Geopolitics: Obstacles to Freedom and Dignity'.

Professor Wilson has previously published in the *Journal*,⁸ is Dean and Head of Griffith Law School, and a Director of Asbestos Awareness Australia. Professor Wilson and Professor Gill North, Adjunct Professor at both Deakin University Law School and Griffith Law School have collaborated to argue for proper regulation to prevent unnecessary deaths from asbestos exposure in Australia. The danger from exposure to asbestos is not well understood in the community and the regulatory response is inadequate. Indeed, tragically, Professor North passed away after a three-year battle with the asbestos-related cancer, mesothelioma, on 23 December 2021. Despite the significant risk to Australian lives posed by *in situ* asbestos, governments have failed to ensure that Australians are accurately informed about that risk, and responsible corporations have not been fully held to account.

⁷ <https://researchprofiles.anu.edu.au/en/persons/john-braithwaite>

⁸ Therese Wilson, 'The Private Provision of Essential Financial Services and the Corporate Social Responsibilities of Banks and Insurance Companies' (2018) 6(1) *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 1-22.

V THANK-YOU

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I thank all of our authors and the referees for their respective roles in the production of knowledge. I also thank Professor Therese Wilson for her belief in the importance of a student run law *Journal*. Had it not been for Professor Wilson's patronage, our *Journal* may have collapsed for want of funding following the University decision to end Griffith ePress. I also want to thank Catherine Turner for her administrative assistance over many years. Lastly, I thank all of the students who have volunteered their time and creativity to provide the opportunity for our authors to flourish.

Dr Allan Ardill

Founding and Consulting Executive Editor *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity*

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