



Nottingham
Law School
Nottingham Trent University

NLS Research Seminar Series

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Access to Justice Research: Shaping effective responsive legal service interventions to address inequality, discrimination, and poverty by co-designed evidence informed policy and practice. Three research studies: AHRC, Health Justice Partnerships and NLS Legal. Presenter: Dr Liz Curran

My Research

- *Already improving Access to Justice - Evidencing how to improve outcomes to shape and inform improved service delivery, policy, and practice to address laws or poor administration to avert systemic inequality and exclusion.*
- *Evaluation and research also explores impact and effectiveness. It shares good practice to shape services and service design. It looks at innovation and human centred, responsive design working closely with philanthropy, governments, the legal profession, and charity partners.*

How:

- *Documents how (by harnessing law) inequality is addressed in the UK and abroad.*
- *Focuses on the poor, disadvantaged/vulnerable.*
- *Provides practical solutions and effective change for practice and in policy and funding decisions.*

Have other funded research projects in the United Kingdom and abroad and alongside this providing evaluative and strategic advice to a range of charities through NTU consultancy retainers. For today discussing 3 projects only.

SDG relevance

SDGs, poverty (SDG 1), good health and wellbeing (SDG 3) inequality (SDG 10), collaboration (SDG 17) justice and strong institutions (SDG 17). These are also the origins of the UN in its identification of the SDGs. The social determinants of health which were integral in shaping the SDGs (see terminology section) are also included in the benchmarking.

The point of the research (in a nutshell)

CURRAN, L., 2023. [Evidence - effective justice interventions making a difference.](#)

Link

<https://nottinghamtrentuniversity.wistia.com/medias/7fk20dcouc>

1. AHRC- 'Scoping the Future Law and Social Justice – Listening & Hearing from the Frontline.'

Our project report (11 NTU researchers and interdisciplinary) identified research priorities for the AHRC in law and social justice. The final report was informed by over 400 pages of qualitative data from front line service agencies (Foodbanks, Women Refuges, legal support agencies,, Aged Charities, Disability Services etc) and community members. The report for the Arts and Humanities Council (AHRC) entitled, 'Listening and Hearing from the Frontline' It was published by the AHRC in July 2023. It has informed the recently announced funding for a Centre for Social Justice by the AHRC £5million.

Collaborative, interdisciplinary, challenge-led research in law and social justice. Themes examined including trust, accountability, vulnerability, and citizens' rights. We asked their experiences and views on what would lead to positive changes including in local, national, and, where relevant, international policy and practice.

2. *'Bagaraybang bagaraybang mayinygalang (BBM) Empowering & Alleviating: A Health Justice Partnership'* (Hume Riverine Community Legal Services & Albury Wodonga Community Health Service) (2022-2025).

Around the world, colonised communities are still significantly impacted in terms of their life outcomes and ability to advance the sustainable development goals (SDGs), due to the impacts of colonisation on various minoritized populations. This includes ongoing poverty, inequality, poor mortality rates and negative health and well-being. The growing body of international research cannot be ignored.

This annual research field trips and report examine the effectiveness of this Health Justice Partnership (Hume Riverina Legal Service & Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service) which aims to improve justice and social determinant of health outcomes for Aboriginal community members experiencing poor mental health and well-being. What makes a difference in people's lived through justice interventions, how, when and why?

3. Research and Impact Evaluation NLS Legal

Funded through the NLS Strategic Research Fund (sole researcher). This research explores the impact and effectiveness of NLS Legal on client lives and client contexts, on students and staff. The overarching aims of the research design in this Framework are to find out what is being done, why it is being done and to reflect on the quality and effectiveness of the service and its impact. It examines the impact of having legal support on client outcomes including social determinants of health and justice.

Findings and recommendations draft report being finalised in Feb 24) on NLS Legal with lessons on effectiveness based on the empirical data from the study.

References

CURRAN, L., 2021. [Better law for a better world: new approaches to law practice and education.](#) Abingdon: Routledge. ISBN 9780367180423.

CURRAN, L., 2022. [Early access to legal support can make a real difference.](#) *The Law Society Gazette*.

CURRAN, L., 2022. [Law centres: the comparative way ahead.](#) *Solicitors Journal*. ISSN 0038-1047

References (cont.)

- ZHAO, J., CURRAN, L., DOAK, J., DURDIYEVA, S., GALLOP, S., HALL, H., HENN, M., LEWIS, T., KELLEZI, B., O'NIONS, H. and TRICKETT, L., 2023. [Scoping the future law and social justice - listening & hearing from the frontline: final report.](#) Nottingham Trent University.
- CURRAN, L. and ALICI, N., 2023. [Addressing the torment of powerlessness: 2023 first research and impact evaluation report of the health justice partnership on mental health and wellbeing \(BBM\) on Bagaraybang bagaraybang mayinygalang \(BBM\): Empowering & Alleviating: A Health Justice Partnership \(HJP\) of the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service \(HRCLS\) & Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service \(AWAHS\) offering legal support for social & emotional well-being with Aboriginal Peoples in Northeast NSW and Victoria.](#) Nottingham: Nottingham Law School.
- CURRAN, L., 2022. ['Going deeper' - the Invisible Hurdles stage III research evaluation final report.](#) Nottingham: Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University.

Comments and Questions