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Centring Students for Access to Justice in an Uncertain Digital World

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The Problem:

Some marginalised groups will be left behind with the development of AI

- digital poverty
- language barriers
- learning needs
- chaotic circumstances
- mistrust of authority



The answer:

Legal educators must nurture and develop junior lawyers who understand this dilemma and are motivated to be part of the solution



Centring Students:

Practical steps to 'centre' students in their own learning and the law

Help students understand their power to wield law as a tool for change, and develop their desire to do so.

Increase engagement and self-confidence in students, promoting more positive student/graduate outcomes.



Centring Students in their Education: Some Theory

bell hooks:

“The classroom remains the most radical space of possibility in the academy.”

Schlossberg, Prilleltensky: Mattering is of fundamental human importance



Methods

‘What Law Means to Me’

Meaningful and relevant content

Critical reflection on the content

Positions of responsibility within the Law School

Meaningful law clinic activities aligning with students values

Students understanding their own unique value as a lawyer in clinic

Appropriate and relevant careers offering



Results

Equity in the provision of education/addressing awarding gaps
Students are aware of their strengths and abilities, understand where they fit into the legal profession, and have nurtured the values and hopes which brought them to law.

By centring law students in a variety of ways throughout their legal education, we can support a new generation of lawyers, who are empowered to identify societal injustice and understand their own role in improving it.



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Thank you!

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References

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- Suhraiya Jivraj and others, *Towards Anti-Racist Legal Pedagogy: A Resource* [https://research.kent.ac.uk/decolonising-law-schools/#:~:text=This%20Social%20and%20Legal%20Studies,qualifyin%20law%20degree%20\(QLD\)](https://research.kent.ac.uk/decolonising-law-schools/#:~:text=This%20Social%20and%20Legal%20Studies,qualifyin%20law%20degree%20(QLD))