

Dr Peter Underwood

APPOINTMENTS

Academic Appointments

- 2024 - **The University of Auckland, Faculty of Law**
Senior Lecturer
LL.M Programme director, teaching on Equity, Company Law & Corporate Governance.
- 2018 – 2024 **University of Exeter**
Lecturer in Law 2021 - 2024
Postgraduate Teaching Associate 2018- 2021
- Teaching on core modules and optional modules with research led teaching. Leading workshops, seminars and lectures (further details in 'Teaching' section below).

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Education

- 2015- 2022 **Law School, University of Exeter**
PhD Law
Thesis: Reconceptualising the Corporate Group; A study examining the legitimacy of Corporate Power?
Supervisors: Dr Wanjiru Njoya & Dr Joseph Lee
Examiners: Professor Charlotte Villiers, Professor Janet Dine
Pass minor corrections.
- This research explores the role and contribution of corporate groups with the challenge of expanding corporate power. It explores the impact the entrenchment of limited liability has on company law with corporate groups to ascertain if substantial corporate power is legitimate.
- 2013 – 2014 **The University of Law, Bristol**
LL.M LPC (Commendation)
Electives: Advanced Property Law and Practice, Commercial Law and Practice, and Employment Law
Dissertation: Analysis of the employment law reforms under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013
- 2010 - 2013 **Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University**
LLB (Hons) Law (Upper Second Class)
Dissertation: Critical Legal Thinking in Philosophy. The Theories of Bentham, Rawls and Nozick: "All men think justice to be a sort of equality... But there still remains a question: equality or inequality of what?"

Professional Qualifications

2023	Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice – Distinction
2023	Fellow Higher Education Academy
2019	Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy

RESEARCH

Book Chapters

2026	Underwood P, The Limited Company in Groups, The nature of the Corporation. Edinburgh University Press, ed J Hardman, S Watson, B Lythberg, C Van der Elst (forthcoming)
2025	Underwood P, Shareholder Primacy as the Foundation of Corporate Finance, Research Handbook of Corporate Finance, Edward Elgar (in press)
2025	Underwood P, Gavin P, Deconstructing the Dichotomy: Carrol's pyramid as a response to Woke capitalism, Edited Collection on Woke Capitalism, Edinburgh University Press, Eds, S Wheeler, V Barnes, J Hardman, E Micheler (in press)
2021	Noussia K., Underwood P., Frastanlis S. (2021) Restructuring, Winding-Up & Portfolio Transfer of Insurance Companies in Distress, In: Marano P., Noussia K. (eds) The Governance of Insurance Undertakings: Corporate Law and Insurance Regulation, Vol. 5, Springer International Publishing AG, Cham/ Switzerland.

Books

2024	Underwood P, Corporate Group Legitimacy: Reconceptualising the Corporate Group (Routledge) • Pre-publication reviews from Professor Janet Dine (Professor of Corporate Law Queen Mary) and Professor Charlotte Villiers (Professor of Law, Bristol) • Reviews forthcoming in the Edinburgh Law Review and Journal of Corporate Law Studies • Book Launch with panel and comments from Professor Jodi Gardner, Professor Craig Elliffe and Professor Susan Watson
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Journals

2026	Underwood P, O'Malley P, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of the Corporation: Governance, Agency, and Accountability. Cambridge Forum on AI: Law and Governance, Cambridge University Press (forthcoming)
2026	Underwood P, Buckley L, Duty Calls: Good Faith and Best Interests in Company Law: New Zealand and the UK) – Journal of Business Law (accepted- forthcoming)
2026	Underwood P, The Evolution of Parkinsonian Corporate Theory. - Accepted • Pre-publication reviews by Professor Paddy Ireland and Professor Marc Moore.
2025	Underwood P, Buckley L Chartered for Change: Corporate Law Reform in Aotearoa. New Zealand Business Law Quarterly (forthcoming)
2025	Underwood P , 'Article: Unveiling the Influence: The Dynamics of Corporate Group Structures, (2025), 22, European Company Law, Issue 2
2024	Underwood P (2024). In-corporating crisis: Time to shift the paradigm away from Shareholder Primacy. European Business Law Review
2023	Lee J, Underwood P . AI in the Boardroom: Let the Law be in the Driving Seat. International and Comparative Corporate Law Journal. • Most downloaded paper of 2024 University of Auckland SSRN.

W.I.P

- 2026 Watson S, Underwood P, AI and the Power of Personhood: A Legal Fiction We Can't Ignore - Abstract submitted to Global Corporate Governance Colloquium
- 2026 Underwood P, D Yuratic Caveat Educator: The Student-Consumer in Legal Education , Target journal The Law Teacher, Abstract submitted to ALT

Conferences and Events

- 2025 NUS Singapore, EW Barker Centre for Law and Business – invited talk on Corporate Governance Legal and Theoretical perspectives (with Professor Martin Petrin).
- 2025 Queens University Belfast, Invited Speaker: Antipodean Perspectives on Company Law
- 2025 Good Faith and Best Interests in Company Law: New Zealand and the UK Considered, SLS Annual Seminar (30% acceptance rate)
- 2025 UNSW – Invited speaker to panel on Law & Technology
- 2025 ' Deconstructing the Dichotomy: Carrol's pyramid as a response to Woke capitalism', Society of Corporate Law Academics Conference. February The University of Technology Sydney
- 2024 "Corporate Groups: With Great Power, Comes Great Irresponsibility' Society of Legal Scholars, Company Law Section Conference, Rethinking Company Law 21st – 22nd March 2024
- 2024 'The Company in Corporate Groups' Perspectives on the Corporation A Joint Conference between the University of Auckland, Monash University and the University of Edinburgh. Hosted by the Edinburgh Centre for Commercial Law 24-26 June 2024
- 2023 'Corporations in Crisis: It is broke, and we must fix it' 2023 SCoLA Conference, Swinburne Law School, Australia
- 2023 'In-corporating Pluralism into Corporate purpose' Global Corporate Law Seminar Series, Online
- 2023 'In-corporating Crisis: Time to shift the Paradigm Away from Shareholder Primacy' - The Future of Company Law - SLS Supported Conference University of Edinburgh
- 2023 'The Mistaken Duality of Parkinsonian Corporate Theory' - , Hart Workshop 2023, IALS London
- 2019 'Corporate groups, with great power comes greater irresponsibility' at ICCL Annual Postgraduate Research Conference 2019 Durham Law School, University of Durham

Impact

- 2025 NZ's Companies Act is finally being reformed – but will the changes go far enough? [The Conversation](#)
- 2025 NZ took the lead on director duties reform. Why are we set on giving it up? [Newsroom](#)
- 2024 Organising and facilitating 'Corporate Law at Crossroads Conference'
- This conference consisted of a roundtable and public presentations. It brought together around 30 participants from academia, practice, non-profit and parliament. The aim of the event was to discuss and critique pending amendments to the Companies Act 1993 (NZ) ahead of formal submissions.
- 2023 - Financial Reporting Council Consultation Response
Proposed Revisions to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2023 interdisciplinary response alongside Exeter Centre for Leadership: Ruth Sealy, Professor of Responsible Leadership
Loretto Leavy, PhD Candidate/ Company Secretary. Department of Finance and Accounting: Grzegorz Trojanowski, Professor of Finance.

Research Group Memberships

2024 -	Society of Corporate Law Academics
2023 - 2025	SLSA
2022 – 2023	European Corporate Governance Institute: ECGI
2017 -	Society of Legal Scholars
2016 – 2024	Centre for Commercial and Corporate Law (Co-director 2022 -2024) University of Exeter

Leadership

2025 -	Co-organiser – alongside Dr Victoria Barnes, Dr Jonny Hardman, Professor Sally Wheeler and Professor Eva Micheler
2025	Peer reviewer – Journal of Corporate Law Studies
2025	Co Editor – NZBLQ – Company Law Developments & Reform.
2025	Co Editor -Themed issue Cambridge Forum on AI: Law and Governance – AI & The Corporation
2024	Co-editor of European Business Law Review special edition on “The Future of Company Law” where all articles were peer reviewed and went through at least three editorial rounds.

Research Awards

2025	International Central Networks and Partnerships Grant 2025 – Awarded Sydney Networks \$3,155
2025	University of Auckland RDF Stream 2 – Awarded NZ\$9,997.00
2023	SLS SMALL PROJECTS AND EVENTS FUND - £5,000 – Applied, unsuccessful The aim of this seminar is to bring researchers together across disciplines and across jurisdictions to discuss the opportunities and challenges of AI and the Corporation.
2023	The 7th UK-China Alliance for the Humanities in Higher Education Conference – Reconnecting China - £1,500 Awarded Attending Global conference to present research on behalf of Exeter.
2023	20 – £295,000 – Applied, unsuccessful The Diasy Chain effect of Corporate Power. This project will collate publicly available data and undertake analysis to explore ownership models. Submission was peer reviewed ahead of being permitted to submit application.
2023	Society of Corporate law Academics (SCOLA) (Australia) Life member bursary - \$800 Awarded Life member bursary named in honour of Professor Paul Redmond. \$800 awarded to attend the conference.

TEACHING

Teaching Experience

University of Auckland

2025- Present	Company Law Course Director Refreshed the company law course, adjusting the delivery and assessment formats. Introduction and design of 2 new styles of delivery. Delivered to a cohort of around 250 students.
2025	Equity Design and delivery of lectures relating to the trust. Assessment design and grading.
2024 -	Corporate Governance Course Director Designed and Delivered new course as part of part 4 LL.B Delivered Lectures and Seminars to a cohort of around 60 students Responsible for designing the assessment and ILOs

University of Exeter

2023- 2024	Principles of Company Law (LLM) Module Convenor Designed and Delivered new module as part of LLM on Law and Business Delivered Lectures and Seminars to cohort of 32 students Responsible for designing the assessment and ILOs
2019 - 2024	Company Law (LLB) Seminar Leader, 5 groups of 20-25 students. Delivered lectures to a cohort of 150 students, including remotely. Setting and marking of summative assessments.
2019 - 2024	Introduction to Company Law (LLB) Acting Module Convenor, responsible for marking and assessment (2019). Seminar Leader, 1 group of 20-25 students. Setting and marking of summative assessments.
2018 - 2024	Land Law (LLB) Seminar Leader Syndicate Leader Delivery of Online lectures to cohort of 350 students Setting and marking of summative assessments.
2018 - 2019	Contract Law (LLB) Syndicate Leader

Supervision Experience

2025	3 x LL.B (hons) Student
2023 -	1 x PhD Student as Supervisor 1
2022	3 X LLM Masters Dissertation Students

2022 **1 x JD Dissertation Student**

Visiting Positions

October 2026 **University of Cambridge**
Herbert Smith Freehills Global Visitor

Academic Citizenship

2024 - **The University of Auckland**
LL.M & MLS Programme Director

In this role I advise and oversee the incoming students into the LL.M & MLS. Key role responsibilities are evaluating international and domestic applications and assisting in postgraduate routes into law.

2022 - 2024 **University of Exeter**
Co-Director of Admissions

In this role I run open days including talks to prospective students and their parents. The role also required meeting with international students who had an interest in studying within the UK on a 1 to 1 basis. The role required a detailed knowledge of not only the LLB at Exeter but the market more broadly both internationally and domestically.

2022 - 2024 **University of Exeter**
Co-Director – Centre for Commercial and Corporate Law

In this role I sat on the research committee for the department representing the interests of members of the centre. I also organised internal and external speakers to deliver talks within the centre. I was also solely responsible for modernising member lists and communications through technology.