



Professor Aurora Plomer
LLB, PhD, MA, B.A. Hons

Professor of Intellectual Property and Human Rights

Area of research

Professor of Intellectual Property and Human Rights

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Summary

International Intellectual Property Law, European Patent Law, Human Rights, Regulation of New Biotechnologies, Bioethics.

Biography

Professor Aurora Plomer joined the University of Bristol Law School in August 2016 from the University of Sheffield where she was Director of the Sheffield Institute of Biotechnology, Law and Ethics. She was previously a Reader in Law at the University of Nottingham and a Lecturer in Law at the University of Leeds. She graduated in Philosophy at the University of Lancaster (BA, MA, PhD) and in Law at the University of Manchester (LLB). Professor Plomer teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses on Intellectual Property (LAWD2043, LAWDM0022), International Intellectual Property and Human Rights (LAWD30114) and European Human Rights (LAWDM0120). She also teaches on the University of Alicante, Master "["Intellectual Property" \(Master Lucentinus\)](#)", Course "Patents" (2016-). From September 2017 to August 2019 Professor Plomer led the School's Primary Research Unit on Law and Governance. Professor Plomer is on research leave from September 2019 to August 2020.

Professor Plomer has been awarded a Major Research Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust for a project on Intellectual Property and the Human Rights of Companies in Europe. From September 2020 until August 2022 she will be researching the history and rationale for the extension of property rights to companies in the European Convention on Human Rights. The outcome of this project will be a monograph on Intellectual Property and the Human Rights of Companies in Europe which will be published by Cambridge University Press.

Professor Plomer's recent research has focused on the interaction between intellectual property rights, human rights and innovation. In 2014, she was a Senior Fernand Braudel Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence where she researched the [history of patent harmonization in Europe leading to the creation of the Unified Patent Court](#). Professor Plomer's latest book [Patents, Human Rights and Access to Science](#) (Edward Elgar, 2015) examines the historical and moral foundations of the right to access the benefits of science in international law and the implications for current debates on the monopolies created by patents in the life-sciences.

In September 2017, she was invited to take part in a high-level international meeting on [Innovation for Sustainable Development](#) organized by UNESCO and the Mexican state of Guanajuato. Her presentation on 'Patents, Biotechnology and Global Justice' drew on examples of R&D public-private partnerships in Europe to highlight the challenges in integrating protection of fundamental human rights with IP rights. An expanded version of her presentation '[IP Right & Human Rights for Innovation and Sustainable Development](#)' has been published by UNESCO (2018).

Professor Plomer is currently a collaborator on an international project funded by the Academy of Finland (2016-2020) '[Constitutional Hedges of Intellectual Property](#)' led by Prof. Tuomas Mylly (PI). The project addresses the ways in which IP, investment treaties and fundamental rights fence IP protection in Europe.

Professor Plomer is a member of the European Commission's panel of ethics experts on new technologies, health and innovation in the FP7 and Horizon 2020 programs. She has been a visiting fellow at the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley; the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Stanford and the University of Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre. Her research has been funded by UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the Brocher Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, the British Academy and the ESRC.

You can view a selection of Professor Plomer's publications on researchgate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Aurora_Plomer

And ssm:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=858404

Keywords

- International and European Intellectual Property Rights
- European Patent Law
- International law
- Human Rights
- EU Regulation of New Technologies
- Bioethics & Biolaw

Memberships

Organisations

[University of Bristol Law School](#)

Staff role

- [Academic Staff](#)

Research group

- [Intellectual Property and IT Law](#)

Selected publications

- Plomer, A, 2019, '[The EPO as patent lawmaker in Europe](#)'. *European Law Journal*, vol 25., pp. 57-74
- Plomer, A, 2018, '[The European Court of Human Rights: an unlikely forum for the enforcement of IP Rights](#)'. in: Christophe Geiger, Craig Allen Nard, Javier Xeuba (eds) *Intellectual Property and the Judiciary*. Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 91-115
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- Plomer, A, 2011, '[The Right to Access the Benefits of Science and Intellectual Property Rights: Biotech Innovations and Fundamental Rights](#)'. in: R Bin, S Lorenzon, N Lucchi (eds) *Biotech Innovations and Fundamental Rights*. Springer-Verlag Berlin
- Plomer, A, 2012, '[After Brüstle: EU accession to the ECHR and the future of European patent law](#)'. *Queen Mary Journal of Intellectual Property*, vol 2., pp. 110-135

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Courses

Professor Plomer currently teaches 3 courses: