

# Cardiff Law School



---

**BLACKWELL LAW AND SOCIETY  
CHAIR**

**INAUGURAL LECTURE**

---

**Changing History:  
Images of Welfare in Law  
and Society**

*Delivered by*

**Professor Daniel Wincott**

---

**THURSDAY 15th APRIL 2010**

6.30pm (Wine reception from 5.45pm)

At **CARDIFF LAW SCHOOL, MUSEUM AVENUE, CARDIFF**

*(Building reference no. 28 on the map overleaf)*

---

FREE ADMISSION TO THIS PUBLIC LECTURE IS BY TICKET ONLY *from*

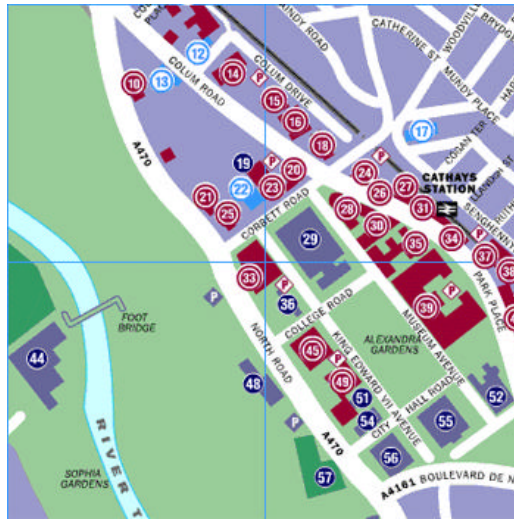
John Ryder, *Public Lecture Co-ordinator,*

Cardiff Law School, Law Building, Museum Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3AX

Or, preferably, by e-mail to: [Law-lectures@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Law-lectures@Cardiff.ac.uk)

---

 **WILEY-BLACKWELL**



# Professor Daniel Wincott

---

Professor Daniel Wincott took up the Blackwell Law and Society Chair at Cardiff Law School in September 2008. He moved from a Chair in European and Comparative Politics at the University of Birmingham, and earlier held positions in Law and Politics at the Universities of Leicester and Warwick. His undergraduate and master's degrees are from the University of Manchester and he holds a PhD from the London School of Economics.

Professor Wincott is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Law and Society*. He is Co-Chair of the Wales Governance Centre (WGC) and is the Law School's representative for the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research Data and Methods (WISERD).

The Welfare State remains a core preoccupation for scholars of Law and Society. It is also the focus of considerable public debate and a vast academic literature across disciplines. Yet there is a widespread sense that the best years of the Welfare State are past. Its 'Golden Age' lasted for some thirty years after the Second World War. The social rights of citizenship we once enjoyed have now been seriously eroded, or wholly lost. Cast in this light, current policies appear as poor substitutes for those of the past. By making it seem impossible to recapture these imagined glories, their history also has implications for the future. Of course, a Golden Age is not usually identified until after it has finished. Looking back, we can ask whether the purported features of the Golden Age Welfare State actually existed at the time. Did contemporaneous analysts think that welfare policy created robust rights? Did they believe they lived in a Welfare State? If not, perhaps the idea of the Golden Age should be questioned. How and when did it develop? How and when did it end? To explore these issues, I analyse various ways in which the Welfare State concept has been used historically (both during and since the Golden Age). Reconstructing images of the Welfare State from contemporary academic and popular sources, I consider how they depict the past and juxtapose it to their contemporary situation. The lecture will pay particular attention to images of welfare in socio-legal research, especially in the Cardiff-based *Journal of Law and Society* which is linked to the Chair inaugurated by this lecture.