

"Art as Legal Method" Research Project (H2021-0377)



Entropy Awakening, Travis De Vries (2022)

Studying Critical Approaches to Copyright Law (LAWS6086)

Overall

- 47 students (out of 121) gave permission for their course data (incl discussion posts and reflections) to be used in the study
- 15 semi-structured interviews
- Interview duration was approximately 30-40 mins
- Participants included both Indigenous* and non-Indigenous students

*exact number of Indigenous participants redacted to preserve anonymity. 5 students total in the cohort identified as First Nations.

Interview Topics

- expectations of studying intellectual property law prior to the course
- experience of the transition from doctrinal content to the Critical Approaches to Copyright module
- Effectiveness of course materials in the Critical Approaches module (artwork; theory; case study) for prompting critical reflection
- Perspectives on studying an artwork in a law subject
- Role of discussion board and reflection activities for exploring themes of art, law, and justice

"It was completely different to what most law modules are. Like, you normally read a million pages and then you answer a few questions. That's usually what we get. Right. And so being able to go through someone's art and come up with your own interpretation ... it was really enlightening... So it wasn't like a, oh, I guess I get to just reflect on this, but it also sparked different ideas from the content in my mind."

"What I liked about this module especially was that I was able to really think about how it made me feel as a member of that society [as a First Nations person]... being able to look at the concepts and study the law in the sphere of the social space was really valuable, in short. It was a really balanced sort of, I didn't feel like you were trying to sway us in a very specific way... reflection was the perfect way to do it... [you] can come to ... conclusions [yourself]."

"I guess my first reaction was this is a bit odd and I felt a little bit ... uncomfortable at first, but I think it sparked some internal conversation or dialogue about IP in more of a critical space that we don't get to do in most courses and areas of law. We don't get either time or focus to actually step back and go, why is the content like this? ... I thought it was novel and interesting."

"It was something that I really actually enjoyed, analysing Travis's artwork. Yeah. Cause it was something that I hadn't done. I hadn't done something like that since high school...."
