

Access to Justice and Communication Challenges for Litigants in Person

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Start and End date:	August 2013 - Ongoing research	
1. Brief summary of what the research is about.	The research focuses on the below areas: • Communicative, cognitive, conceptual and procedural difficulties of litigants in person • Vulnerabilities of litigants in person • Communication challenges of judges in semi-represented and fully unrepresented cases • Professional ethics for solicitors/barristers in semi-represented cases • Institutional communication and the role of courts in access to justice for litigants in person	

2. What are the research questions?	The research questions are as follows: • What communicative, cognitive, conceptual and procedural difficulties litigants in person experience and why • How best to support litigants in person after cuts to legal aid • How judges manage communication with litigants in person and mitigation between parties • How to ensure litigants in person are treated ethically by legal representatives for opposing parties • How to enhance institutional communication to support litigants in person as clients of the legal system
3. What, if any, outputs so far?	Chapters Tkacukova, T. (2010). "Cross-Examination Questioning: Lay People as Cross-Examiners." In M. Coulthard and A. Johnson (eds). <i>The Routledge Handbook of Forensic Linguistics</i>. London and New York: Routledge. 333–346. Articles Tkacukova, T. (forthcoming). "Communication in Family Court: Financial Order Proceedings from the Perspective of Litigants in Person". <i>Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law</i>. Tkacukova, T. (2015). "A corpus-assisted study of the discourse marker 'well' as an indicator of institutional roles: Professional and lay use in court cases with litigants in person". <i>Corpora</i> 10(2): 145-170. Tkacukova, T. (2014). "Use of quotations as a narrativisation technique during cross-examination: McDonald's Corporation v. Helen Steel and David Morris". <i>Explorations in Language and Law: Language and Law in Professional and Academic Settings: Analyses and Applications</i>. vol 1. Rome: NovaLogos. 105–117.

	Tkacukova, T. (2011). "Lay People as Cross-Examiners: A Linguistic Analysis of the Libel Case McDonald's Corporation v. Helen Steel and David Morris." <i>The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law</i> 17(2). 307–310.
4. What outputs are planned?	Monograph on access to justice for litigants in person
5. What is the anticipated impact?	Support network for litigants in person
6. Comments / additional information / requests for data or input from the broader administrative justice community	The study will benefit from gaining access to verbatim transcripts of court hearings and court files from cases with litigants in person.