

UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF LAW: ENGAGING STUDENTS IN CRIMINAL LAW CASEWORK

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ABSTRACT

The article draws on students' evaluations and reflections to describe a new legal clinic, the Criminal Law Matters Legal Clinic, at the University of Queensland. This article outlines an approach informed by the work of Carol Smart to encourage students to critique the power of law. Through an analysis of student learning, the article examines how the clinic prompted students to engage in a deeper critical understanding of power in the context of their clients' circumstances and their role as 'lawyers'. The article concludes by emphasising the value of the work of Smart when engaging students in reflective practice about the power of law.