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#### Enquiries:

If you have questions about this document, contact openresearch@mmu.ac.uk. Please include the URL of the record in e-space. If you believe that your, or a third party's rights have been compromised through this document please see our Take Down policy (available from https://www.mmu.ac.uk/library/using-the-library/policies-and-guidelines) CONNECTING LEGAL ACADEMICS, LEGAL PRACTICE AND LEGAL EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY OF THE LAW'S 'WELLBEING TURN'

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Why are so many people shy, lonely, shut up within themselves, unequal to their tasks, unable to be happy? Because they are inhabited by fear, ... erecting walls around themselves instead of building bridges into the lives of others; shutting out life? (Newton, 1948)

Diversity unlocks innovation' (Hewlett, Marshall et al. 2013)

## What if we were all....

#### ...in the same picture



ALA SALAS

4 V5 6 ST 2 8 9

(30)

To ME ALL MIRCH

Published by @TheAthletic

#### A. Connections...

- Legal Education and the Legal Profession
- Academics
- Institutions

**B.** Complementary competencies...

*Fitting in is about assessing a situation and becoming who you need to be to be accepted.* 

Belonging, on the other hand, doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are.'

(Brown 2017)

# C. Output...What are we arguing? A socio-legal critique reveals 'connections' in:

- 1. An underlying conceptualisation of wellbeing as a particular kind of social problem (e.g. a focus on lawyer *ill*-being rather than the positive attitudinal features of wellness);
- 2. A new politics of wellbeing/ political economy of wellness in society; the need to explore how distinctive kinds of 'wellbeing problems' have emerged across different areas of law (whose wellbeing are we talking about?); and
- 3. Interconnected ideas about wellbeing, professional identity and commitment; wellbeing as a moral project and the intersectional dimensions of wellbeing itself.

### Core point:

Structural and cultural changes within the legal community and new ideas of legal professionalism are impacting in contradictory ways...

...on lawyers, law students and legal academics alike;...

processes that suggest this may, ultimately, be a wicked problem for the legal profession to solve.

## **THANK YOU**

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Over lunch, enjoy considering and recording:

A. Connections...what is your connection to who you meet?

B. Complementary competencies...what competency do you bring and what challenge are you facing that someone else might already have expertise in?

C. Output...what might you usefully create together, joyfully and for good?