8. Where next for family law?
Jonathan Herring

Where next for family law?’ turns towards the future for family law as family life continues to go through many changes. The law is struggling to keep up with these changes. There are three key battlegrounds predicted to emerge as the law seeks to find an appropriate response to the realities of family life in the current century. These relate to individual versus relational values, gender and family life, and society and family law. Will there be an end to family life in the future? It is unlikely. The traditional family structure may be less prevalent but there will always be a need for intimate relationships and the creation and raising of children.

2. Playing philosophically
Rob Iliffe

‘Playing philosophically’ considers Newton's early life, describing how his immersion in worlds of practical ingenuity not only offered portents of his great future, but led directly to it. Newton's early mastery at using mechanical tools, along with his expertise in drawing and designing, was extremely useful for developing his experimental skill. In the latter half of 1659 his mother decided to pull him out of school to run the family estate. However, his headmaster offered to let him board for free — possibly a key factor in his mother allowing him go back to his grammar school to prepare for university.

Ageing: A Very Short Introduction
Nancy A. Pachana

Ageing: A Very Short Introduction discusses the lifelong dynamic changes in biological, psychological, and social functioning involved in ageing. Increased lifespans have created
an urgent need to find ways to enhance our functioning and well-being in the later decades of life. This is reflected in relevant policies and action plans from the WHO and the UN. Looking to the future, this VSI considers advancements in provision for our ageing populations, including revolutionary models of nursing-home care. Understanding the process of ageing is not only important for individuals but also for societies and nations if the full potential of those entering later life is to be realized.

4. Social and interpersonal aspects of ageing
Nancy A. Pachana

How we interact with others, with the physical and social environment, as well as how well we cope with life events, role changes, and positive and negative stresses all affect how we age. Later life is also intimately connected to, and affected by, circumstances and decisions earlier in life. Social support and engagement are critical for physical and emotional well-being. ‘Social and interpersonal aspects of ageing’ explores ageing in a social and societal context. The ways in which older adults engage with younger cohorts and their contribution to their family, communities, and society more broadly have changed over time and have also been affected by social and technological advances.

Family Law: A Very Short Introduction
Jonathan Herring

Family Law: A Very Short Introduction provides insight not only into what family law is, but why it is the way it is. How have laws had to respond to social changes in family life? The last few decades have seen rising divorce rates and an increase in the use of surrogate mothers. How do family courts deal with the chaos of modern family life? Family law has recently been challenged to keep up-to-date with the social and scientific changes which affect it. What is a family? What makes someone a parent? What rights should children have? What will families look like in the years ahead? What new dilemmas will the courts face?

5. Children's rights
Jonathan Herring
‘Children’s rights’ looks at different definitions of childhood that exist in the law and the rights that a child has in today’s family law. Children have a right to life and the right not to be harmed. The matter of dispute lies in the question of whether they have all the same rights that adults have. One argument is that we need to restrict people from doing things that will cause harm to them or to others if they do not understand sufficiently what they are doing. A more persuasive argument in favour of restricting children’s rights might be made on the basis that doing so during childhood is necessary in order to maximize children’s autonomy in adulthood.

5. Data protection
Raymond Wacks

The routine functions of government and private institutions require a continual supply of data about us in order to administer effectively the many services that are an integral part of modern life. The provision of health services, social security, credit, insurance, and the prevention and detection of crime assume the availability of a considerable quantity of personal data and, hence, a willingness by individuals to supply it. The ubiquity of computers and computer networks facilitates almost instant storage, retrieval, and transfer of data, a far cry from the world of manual filing systems. At the core of all data protection legislation is the proposition that data relating to an identifiable individual should not be collected in the absence of a genuine purpose or the consent of the individual concerned. Adherence to, and enforcement of, this idea (and the associated rights of access and correction) has been mixed in the nearly 100 jurisdictions that have enacted data protection legislation. This chapter assesses the extent to which these statutes have succeeded in protecting personal data.

10. Population policies and future challenges
Sarah Harper

Population policies aim to modify the growth rate, composition, or distribution of a population. In practice, they can be explicit or implicit. The two main areas in which governments attempt to control or influence through population polices are fertility and migration. ‘Population policies and future challenges’ also considers some key population challenges of the 21st century. Will fertility rates fall to replacement in sub-Saharan Africa? What is the relationship between environment, population, and consumption in different parts of the world? How will we feed and provide water for the projected 9 or 10 billion of us by 2050? What will be the impact of the ageing of the world’s population and of technological change?
4. Privacy and freedom of expression
Raymond Wacks

The genesis of the American law’s protection of privacy was its concern to limit or control the extent to which an individual’s private life is subjected to unauthorized publicity conducted by the media. The tabloid press in Britain has been embroiled in a number of cases involving royalty, pop stars, film stars, fashion models, and the like. The telephone hacking scandal in the United Kingdom led to the the Leveson Inquiry Report of 2012—the most comprehensive investigation into the ethics and practice of the media, with a significant section devoted to privacy and media intrusion. Its recommendations relating to media self-regulation continue to engender heated debate in Britain. The Internet raises new, intractable problems that surface almost daily. The extent to which privacy is voluntarily relinquished by users of social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube is examined, and proposals for reform are considered.

3. A legal right
Raymond Wacks

Privacy is acknowledged as an essential human right, recognized by a number of international declarations, among which the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are the most significant. Interpreting these provisions, the European Court of Human Rights provides important guidance in respect of the attempt to balance privacy against competing rights and interests, and this is briefly discussed. Leading decisions of the courts of various jurisdictions illustrate the problems of definition and the attempt to balance privacy against other competing rights. Cases before the US Supreme Court have generated an enormous, divisive debate concerning, in particular, the subject of abortion, which the Court has conceived to be an element of the right to privacy. A discussion of the celebrated US Supreme Court judgement in Roe v Wade is fundamental to an analysis of the meaning and limits of individual privacy.