In celebration of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta the theme of the British Legal History Conference 2015 at the University of Reading is ‘Law: Challenges to Authority and the Recognition of Rights’.

While different forms and ideas of authority have shaped law historically, law has also been moulded by, and influenced, challenges to authority brought to assert and seek recognition of rights. Magna Carta resulted from one such challenge, but challenges to social, economic, political and doctrinal authorities existed before Magna Carta and have continued to occur since. The British Legal History Conference 2015 is concerned to explore how law, both public and private, has been shaped by, and shaped, challenges to authority brought to seek the recognition of rights. It welcomes papers which examine how law, legal processes and legal actors have developed in response to such challenges to authority, and indeed how an understanding of the law has itself often influenced these challenges. While the conference will explore challenges of different natures and from different epochs, proposals concerned with Magna Carta, and particularly its impact beyond England, are welcomed.

In addition to this general call for papers, the 2015 Conference will also include a special session for young and less experienced scholars. The organisers welcome proposals from postgraduate and early career researchers for this session.

Proposals for papers (maximum 300 words) should be submitted to BLHC2015@reading.ac.uk by 30 September 2014.

About the University of Reading
The University was established in 1892 and received its Royal Charter in 1926. The main Whiteknights campus is the former country estate of the Marquis of Blandford and is one of Britain’s most beautiful campuses. It is located two miles from Reading Railway Station, Britain’s largest interchange station outside London, providing good transport links to all parts of the UK, and there is a regular bus service between the campus and the station. There are frequent trains to London Paddington, thirty minutes away. Heathrow Airport is accessible by public transport and is a 45 minute drive away and there is also a regular direct train service to Gatwick Airport.

Delegates who are also attending the ‘Traditions, Borrowings, Innovations, & Impositions: Law in the Post-Colony and in Empire’ conference at the University of Ghana will find that there are direct daily flights between Accra and London Heathrow.

About the Conference
The Conference will be held from the 8th to the 11th of July 2015. Registration will be on the 8th of July. The special session for early career scholars will be held on the 8th of July and full sessions will be held on the 9th, 10th and morning of the 11th of July. Accommodation for delegates will be available at the Whiteknights Campus and there are many nearby hotels.

Conference Organisers
Professor Catharine MacMillan, School of Law, University of Reading
Dr. Charlotte Smith, School of Law, University of Reading