

## The missing piece



**Hoa Vuong**

London School of Economics

German law students are able to calculate how much rent reduction they can claim when the heater does not work. They know what to do to thwart their neighbour's building license, and are able to explain what makes a shoe a 'dangerous implement'. In a nutshell, they are trained to become practising lawyers. This is anything but wrong, since most of them, after all, will become practising lawyers. And yet, as a former German law student, I had the feeling that something was missing in my education. In the hope that the British system would offer what I was looking for, I decided to do a one-year Master of Laws at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

And, indeed, I found what I had been looking for. At LSE, I was welcomed by an open and non-hierarchical academic culture and never-ending

inspiration. Teachers and students alike were eager to explore the law outside the books, to break the law into pieces and see what was hidden behind it. I finally had the opportunity not only to do law but also to read, reflect and write about law. How come we trust law to prevent the European Union from falling apart? Why do we believe that it will create justice? Has it actually kept its promises? What I learned at LSE feels like a missing piece of a puzzle. Without it, I would have remained a 'legal craftswoman' forever: able to artfully stretch and use the law but blind to the fuller picture. I also met people from all over the world – people who looked at the law from very different angles and who challenged and shaped my own conceptions.

The moment I stepped into London, I started missing it. And I know that I will always long for the place and its people. I consider the opportunities offered to me to have been an enormous privilege and I will treasure the memory of my experiences there for the rest of my life. The BCCG Foundation has played a crucial role in the realisation of these experiences, so I would like to express my profound gratitude for their generous support. |