

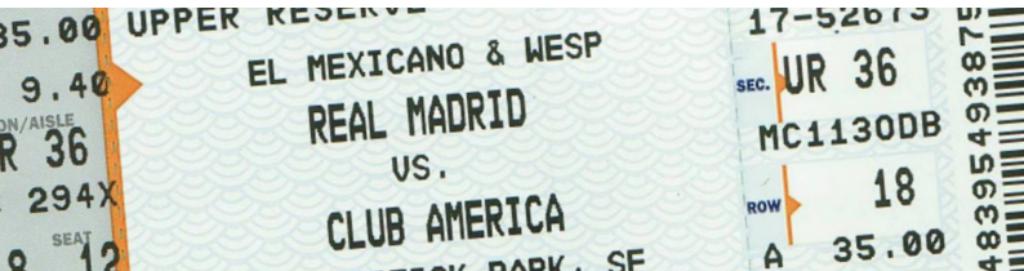


Professor Mark James

Mark is one of the country's leading sports lawyers, specialising in the criminalisation of player and spectator behaviour at sporting events. He is also a leading expert on Olympic law.

Mark's first appointment at Manchester Met was in 1997 where he developed the innovative MA Sport and the Law. In 2006, Mark moved to University of Salford to help establish the Salford Law School. During his time there, he was appointed to a number of positions: Reader in Law, Associate Head (Research), Director of the Salford Centre of Legal Research, and served two years as Head of School.

Mark re-joined Manchester Law School in January 2016 to take up the position of Director of Research. He is currently researching ambush marketing at major sporting events, the regulation of football disorder, ticket touting, and consent to injury. In 2018, Mark presented his research to the APPG on Ticket Abuse in Parliament.



Ticketing and touting: what is a ticket and when can it be traded

This project, led by Professor Mark James (Manchester Law School) and Prof Guy Osborn of Westminster Law School, will examine the meanings of sports tickets and the contested legality of touting.

The relationship between sports fans and tickets to sporting events is legally and culturally ambiguous. This ambiguity manifests itself in perceptions of what a ticket is and what can, or cannot, be done with it.

A ticket is evidence of a contractual licence that allows the holder to enter a stadium to watch an event and is a tradable commodity that can be worth many times its face value. The secondary market in tickets is condemned by 'real sports fans' and fuelled by the desire of those same fans to attend key events.

The legality of touting is equally ambiguous; it can be a crime, a breach of contract or a lawful free market transaction. The project has already fed into the government's consultation on ticket touting and will propose a new legal framework for ticketing.