Let me tell you a story ...
Intellectual Property, Character and Narration
Johanna Gibson, Herchel Smith Professor of Intellectual Property Law

Intellectual property is that area of law most closely preoccupied with a society’s cultural output and creative self, in that it is that system which identifies the “author,” protects the cultural materials produced by the creator, and allows for commercialisation of those materials within the increasingly significant knowledge economy. In this way, the intellectual property system narrates society and suggests its cultural progress, legitimating certain materials emanating from that society – sufficiently original, sufficiently inventive, sufficiently distinctive, sufficiently new. What is the role of intellectual property in authenticating our society and what existence is there for materials produced and understood outside the framework of patents, copyright, trademarks and designs and the like? Is there a world outside the world view of copyright? In her inaugural lecture, Professor Johanna Gibson will demonstrate the performance of intellectual property through a series of events and identities, and the building of creative community through narration.

Johanna Gibson is Herchel Smith Professor of Intellectual Property Law and Director of the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute (QMIPRI), within the Centre for Commercial Law Studies. In 2010 she was also appointed Director of the Intellectual Property Institute (IPI), a UK not-for-profit organisation for intellectual property research and policy, making her the first woman to hold the prestigious position in its 30 year history. Professor Gibson consults regularly to industry and the profession as well as to government institutions, including the European Commission Directorate-General of Research and Innovation, the European Patent Office, and the UK Intellectual Property Office where she has recently been appointed Chair of the Expert Advisory Group on Trade and Development. Professor Gibson has published widely and is the author of numerous articles and books, including: Intellectual Property, Medicine and Health (2009); Creating Selves: Intellectual Property and the Narration of Culture (2006), which was cited with approval in the HM Treasury Gowers Review in Intellectual Property; and Community Resources: Intellectual Property, International Trade and Protection of Traditional Knowledge (2005). Before moving to academia, Professor Gibson was in commercial practice in intellectual property, media and competition law in Australia.

Wednesday 11 May 2011 at 6.30pm
Willoughby Lecture Theatre, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6BQ
A reception will follow the lecture.
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Please note that tickets will not be issued for this event.

Key: 1 Willoughby Lecture Theatre   2 The Shield, Dawson Hall
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