

# Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER No 79 SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2016

## LANCASTER 2016

*Between 5 and 7 April 2016 Lancaster University Law School welcomed around 500 delegates from across the world for SLSA 2016. The conference saw more than 500 papers presented, along with 20 posters, across 53 streams, showing the continuing growth of the conference and the SLSA more generally.*

Away from the conference's parallel sessions, delegates had the opportunity to visit Lancaster Castle and wander through the 360 acres of park and woodland comprising Lancaster University Campus. On the first evening, delegates enjoyed a wine reception and paella evening, with music from Quay Change and a collection of fantastic posters submitted to the Poster Session. On the second evening, delegates attended the conference dinner and prize-giving, including the well-deserved Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community, awarded to Martin Partington. Musical entertainment during the dinner was again provided by Quay Change, with after-dinner dancing accompanied by Undercover Manchester.

The SLSA continued to offer support to enable postgraduate researchers to attend the conference through its travel bursaries funded through the generosity of the *Journal of Law and Society* and *Social and Legal Studies*. A total of 18 postgraduate researchers from the UK, Europe and further afield benefited from the scheme. We also continued to offer hardship funding for colleagues in circumstances which would otherwise prevent their attendance. Additionally, for the first time, we were able to offer support to allow attendance by a number of charitable organisations so that they could share their work with delegates and build links for future collaboration. The organisations sponsored were the Birchall Trust, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Scottish Refugee Council, South Lakes Citizens Advice and Survivors Manchester.

We are very grateful for all the hard work that the conference team, the Online Store team, University Catering,



*At the SLSA Annual Dinner, current SLSA chair Rosemary Hunter congratulates our first ever chair Martin Partington on receiving the Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community*

and our student ambassadors did in the run-up to and during the conference itself: also, to all of the stream and theme conveners who organised and chaired their individual sessions. Finally, thanks to the conference sponsors for their continued support. Without all of these people, the event could not have been the success that it was.

Although the weather was typically Lancastrian, we hope all of the delegates who attended enjoyed their time at Lancaster University and we look forward to seeing everyone again at Newcastle 2017.

*Tom Webb and Siobhan Weare*

*See pages 13–15 for reports on some 2016 streams and themes.*

## ANNUAL PRIZE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIO-LEGAL COMMUNITY: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This prize was launched in 2011 and in its first five years has been awarded to Mavis Maclean, Phil Thomas, Roger Cotterrell, Sally Wheeler and Martin Partington. The winner receives £500 and lifetime membership of the association. SLSA members are invited to submit nominations for this year's prize. There are no specific criteria. Nominators should simply state in 100 words why the person they are nominating would be a worthy recipient of the prize. The prize is funded by a private sponsor.

Visit the website to find out why the five previous winners were chosen [www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/prizewinners](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/prizewinners).

Nominations should be sent by email to [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk). Closing date: **4 September 2016**.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership fees are due on **1 July 2016**. The annual full membership fee is £40 (student rate £20).

As we are currently experiencing some technical problems with our Paypal facility, members are requested to renew their subscriptions by standing order (please make sure that it is for the correct amount) or via bank transfer to the SLSA account.

- **bank:** Co-operative Bank
- **sort code:** 08-92-99
- **account number:** 65209341
- **account name:** Socio-Legal Studies Association

Please make sure your that name is attached to the bank transfer.

Alternatively, you can send a cheque made out to the 'Socio-Legal Studies Association' to SLSA Treasurer, Mark O'Brien, School of Law, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BP.

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**Newsletter sponsorship**

The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is sponsored by a consortium of law schools interested in promoting socio-legal studies in the UK. If your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, please contact SLSA chair Rosemary Hunter e rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk.

Newsletter academic sponsors 2013-2016 are: Birkbeck; Cardiff Law School; Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford; University of Exeter; Kent University; University of Liverpool; the LSE; Newcastle University; Northumbria University Newcastle; University of Nottingham; QMUL; Queen's University Belfast; University of Leicester; University of Sheffield; University of Strathclyde; University College London; University of Warwick; University of Westminster; and University of York.

The newsletter is also sponsored by the *Journal of Law and Society*.



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## REFRESHING SLSA STREAMS AND THEMES

*The SLSA Executive Committee has decided to review and rationalise our streams and themes for the purpose of future conferences.*

There is a feeling that the boundary between 'streams' and 'themes' has become blurred, that we have drifted away from the original concept of 'themes', and that there ought to be space for people to organise panels which don't necessarily fit within a stream or theme. Accordingly, for the future:

- a stream is a grouping which is expected to continue from conference to conference (and may choose to have its own page on the SLSA website);
- a theme is a one-off grouping for the purposes of a single conference which reflects a current hot topic of debate or an issue of emerging importance, and which would be expected to attract at least six papers – there will be a maximum of seven themes per conference;
- a panel is a single session made up of three to four papers.

In line with these revised definitions we will be taking the following actions:

1. Current stream and theme convenors will be invited to re-apply over the summer for recognition as a stream and members may also apply to establish new streams. If members would like to be involved in convening an existing stream, they are encouraged to approach the current convenor to discuss that possibility. A stream must have at least two custodians (two convenors or a convenor and deputy-convenor) and an articulated rationale as to why it is likely to be of ongoing interest to conference attendees. Streams may cover a single topic area (e.g. 'EU law') or may be cross-cutting (e.g. 'Exploring legal borderlands'); their subjects may be substantive, methodological (e.g. 'Research methodologies and methods') or theoretical (e.g. 'Systems theory thinking'). Decisions on the recognition of streams will take account of the need to avoid overlaps with other streams and to maintain a mix of subject area and cross-cutting streams.
2. There will be a call for themes ahead of each annual conference. Themes must conform to the definition above and will be specific to a single conference. Any theme wishing to continue beyond a single conference will need to apply for recognition as a stream and meet the criteria for a stream in point 1 above.
3. There will also be the possibility for people to propose panels that do not fit within either a stream or a theme.

We hope members, conference attendees and convenors will find this revised arrangement clearer, more comprehensible and conducive to interesting and lively conference discussions.

### Future SLSA Annual Conferences

In 2017 the SLSA Annual Conference will be hosted by the University of Newcastle from 5–7 April and in 2018 we will be gathering at the University of Bristol from 27–29 March. In 2019, we will be going to Leeds University (dates to be confirmed).

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in articles in the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the SLSA.

## SLSA EXEC NEWS

On 6 April 2016 at our Lancaster conference, SLSA members gathered for the AGM. The meeting was well attended and SLSA officers reported on another busy and successful year for the association. At the meeting four new members joined the Executive: Natalie Corbett, Exeter University; Jill Dickinson, Sheffield Hallam University; Neil Graffin, Open University; and Petra Mahy, SOAS, University of London.

SLSA members are invited to propose items for inclusion on the agenda of future Executive Committee meetings. The next meeting is on **14 September 2016**. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for the meeting, please contact Kevin Brown [e k.brown@qub.ac.uk](mailto:k.brown@qub.ac.uk).

Minutes from past meetings are available at [w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/executive#meet](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/executive#meet).

## SLSA POSTER COMPETITION

At SLSA 2016, we held our fourth exhibition of posters in what has now become one of the regular fixtures of the conference. Delegates were invited to view the posters at the end of the Tuesday sessions and the judging took place the next day. The judges were Rosemary Hunter (SLSA chair), Martin Partington (winner of the 2016 SLSA Annual Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community) and Charlotte Bendall (then SLSA postgraduate representative). Out of a strong field, congratulations go to the judges' choices as joint winners:

- Bruno Obialo Igwe, Maynooth University: 'The impact of domestic violence legal regulation and enforcement in Ireland on Nigerian immigrants';
- Stacy Sinclair, University of Westminster: 'Designing + (dis)assembling disputes'.

The winning posters are available on the website at [w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/17-events/272-poster-exhibition](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/17-events/272-poster-exhibition).

## SLSA ONE-DAY CONFERENCES

One-day conferences have always been a key part of the SLSA's work. Past conference topics have included: exploring the 'socio' in socio-legal studies; equality, human rights and good relations; justice, power and law; new ethical challenges in socio-legal research; socio-legal studies and the humanities; exploring the legal in socio-legal studies; and exploring the comparative in socio-legal studies. If you have an idea for organising a one-day conference, please contact [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

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#### SLSA admin

The SLSA has a dedicated email address for applications for and queries about all prizes, competitions and funding schemes. Contact [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

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## MEET YOUR EXEC

*Jill Dickinson was appointed as a member of the SLSA Executive Committee at this year's Annual Conference.*

I am delighted to be joining the SLSA's Executive Committee and am really looking forward to working with the rest of the team on some of the many different things that the SLSA is involved with.

I initially came across the SLSA when I gave my very first conference presentation at the Annual Conference in York. I was pleased to find such a supportive atmosphere for my first outing as a researcher. For that first paper, I presented some of the research findings from my LLM on home defence. Time has truly flown by since then and, having found how much I enjoyed the research element of my role in academia, I embarked upon a part-time PhD and am now almost two years into it, studying alongside my senior lecturer role, all at Sheffield Hallam University.

My PhD focuses on law and shopping centres within an urban regeneration context. My interest in this area stems from the 10 years that I spent in practice as a commercial property solicitor, specialising in retail property portfolio management. Working with shopping centre management teams, I enjoyed seeing new spaces being developed, reconfigured or put to different uses, knowing that I had had a part to play in assembling the supporting legal documentation.

However, another element of my role involved supervising trainee solicitors and work placement students. It was this particular aspect that prompted my move into academia. I enjoyed working alongside both the trainees and the students, finding it really rewarding to help them to develop their careers. I can't believe that was eight years ago and I haven't looked back since!

Having found opportunities to teach both property law and careers development at the university, I have been able to combine the best of both worlds. Research-wise, this continued interest in all things space, place and people recently led to me co-developing and convening a new 'Spatiality and inclusivity' stream for SLSA 2016, together with my colleague Dr Vicky Heap. It was great to have the opportunity to propose and run this new stream which attracted papers on a broad range of subjects: squatter-settlements and spaciality case law, collaborative learning spaces, and our own paper which focused on anti-social behaviour issues and shopping centre management.

Whether you want to gain feedback on a paper, propose and convene a new stream, take part in the new Mentoring Awards or apply for funding, the SLSA continues to support both new and more-established researchers through a collaborative environment. As such, I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to work with the rest of the Executive Committee in helping to take forward the SLSA and its various initiatives from here.

### SLSA Mentoring Awards: new application deadlines

Applications are invited for these awards aimed at supporting travel and accommodation for SLSA members who wish to visit and spend up to a week working with a chosen mentor. Applicants must be paid-up members of the SLSA who are not currently undertaking a PhD.

Full details are available at [www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/mentoring](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/mentoring).

Enquiries about this scheme should be directed to [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

Three annual deadlines have been introduced for this relaunched scheme: **1 October, 1 February and 1 June.**

## SLSA SEMINAR COMPETITION WINNERS 2016

*This year, three proposals were successful and the subcommittee awarded £9510 from the prize fund. Full reports on all three events will appear in the autumn issue of the newsletter.*

The closing date for the next round is **12 December 2016**. See website for details: [www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition).

### **Imagining the State for Progressive Politics, 19–20 May 2016, Kent Law School, University of Kent**

*Davina Cooper, £3618*

This workshop started from the premise that how concepts, such as the state, are imagined and understood depends on what they are being imagined for. While conceptual thinking is shaped by the social conditions, problems and challenges of its time and place, some ways of thinking about states appear to advance critique far more than they advance transformative thinking. This workshop explored forms of state conceptualising and reimagining that hold some promise for transformative social politics, addressing the state's relationship to progressive social change as well as the contours of hoped-for worlds.

### **Reproductive Futures: Reproductive choices?, 1–2 July 2016, Southampton University**

*Natasha Hammond-Browning and Claire Lougarre, £3392*

This meeting is designed to bring together academics working on human reproduction from legal and ethical perspectives in order to consider and reflect on the next era in this field. The key objective of the meeting is to facilitate the cross-fertilisation of ideas on issues that are currently on the reproductive radar, broadly conceived. These ideas will include both a re-engagement with established 'traditional' debates (in light of recent developments) and 'new' challenges posed by emergent technologies. Among others, topics include surrogacy, abortion and assisted reproductive technologies. Confirmed speakers include Julie McCandless (LSE), Kirsty Horsey (University of Kent), and Rita D'Alton Harrison (Royal Holloway). Please register through the Eventbrite website: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reproductive-futures-reproductive-choices-tickets-25195019983](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reproductive-futures-reproductive-choices-tickets-25195019983).

### **Labour Law for a Warming World? Exploring the intersections between work, regulation and environmental sustainability, 12 September 2016, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Warwick**

*Ania Zbyszewska, £2500*

This interdisciplinary, exploratory seminar, sponsored by the SLSA and the University of Warwick Faculty of Social Sciences, will bring together labour lawyers and socio-legal scholars interested in work regulation in conversation with researchers in environmental sustainability, climate justice and international development to reflect on:

1. whether labour law and regulation of work – as currently conceived and institutionalised – can play a role in facilitating the development of more socially cohesive, egalitarian and ecologically sustainable labour regimes in the future; and
2. how the adoption of a broad ecological perspective, or one that is grounded in a notion of long-term sustainability (in its social, ecological and economic dimension), challenges labour-law frameworks and whether it can be usefully applied to rethinking and revitalising the discipline.

The seminar is free to participants, but space is limited so please register by contacting the seminar organiser Dr Ania Zbyszewska at [a.zbyszewska@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:a.zbyszewska@warwick.ac.uk).

## BUDDY-UP SCHEME

*At SLSA 2016, for the third year running, a 'buddy-up' scheme was organised between academics and PhD researchers. Ruth Brittle, AHRC/M3C-funded PhD candidate at the University of Nottingham, took part.*

The purpose of the scheme is to give PhD students an opportunity to discuss their research and ideas with a leading academic in their field and to help them get the most out of the conference. I was paired with Dr Dallal Stevens who is an associate professor at the University of Warwick whose research interests include refugee and asylum law and policy. Her current interests focus on the protection of refugees and forced migrants in the Middle East.

Dallal and I met for our 'buddy-up' session over lunch and it gave me a valuable opportunity to discuss my research project with someone who is a renowned expert in refugee law and policy and has researched and written extensively in the field. I presented a paper in the 'Refugee and asylum law: theory policy and practice' stream which was coordinated and chaired by Dallal. My research is focusing on children's rights in asylum procedures and, in particular, the role of the best interests principle in a child's claim for asylum. My initial question in my research project considers whether the best interests principle is a gateway or barrier to international protection.

Dallal gave me valuable and insightful feedback on my research project, challenging me to delve more deeply into the policy angle and suggesting I explore the UK approach to unaccompanied children, both in policy and legislation. She provided some literature recommendations and suggested I consider studies that have been carried out by other researchers into the asylum system in the UK. As well as receiving excellent academic advice from her, I was also interested to hear about Dallal's own research and developments in academic research on refugee and asylum law more generally.

The buddy-up scheme is an excellent way to meet experts in your field (outside of your supervision team) in a convivial and nurturing environment and is very useful in furthering your academic networks. I would encourage more academics and PhD students to get involved in the scheme at the SLSA conference in 2017.

I would like to thank Dallal for being my academic 'buddy', and Charlotte Bendall, who recently stepped down as the postgraduate representative, for coordinating the scheme again this year.

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The next SLSA POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE will be hosted by the London School of Economics from 5–6 January 2017. This annual event is free to attend and includes overnight accommodation and meals (but not travel). Full details will be announced in the autumn, so keep the dates free.

*people . . .*

**STEFAN MACHURA** has been given a personal chair in criminology and criminal justice at Bangor University.

# SLSA

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## SLSA BOOK AND ARTICLE PRIZES 2017

Nominations are now open for this year's book and article prizes. There are four prizes:

- the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize;
- the Socio-Legal Article Prize;
- the Hart Socio-Legal Prize for Early Career Academics;
- and the Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize.

The closing date is Monday 3 October 2016. Publications published in the 12 months up to 30 September 2016 are eligible.

The first three prizes are generously sponsored by Hart Publishing. The Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize is sponsored by a private benefactor and the same rules apply for this as for the other book prizes, but no book or author will be eligible to win the Theory and History Prize *and* the Book Prize or Prize for Early Career Academics in the same year.

The winners of all the book prizes will receive £250 and the winner of the article prize will receive £100. Winners will be invited to participate in special sessions at next year's Annual Conference in Newcastle. Full details can be found on the SLSA website [www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk) and follow the prizes links. If you have a query about any of the prizes, please contact [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

## SLSA BLOG

The SLSA blog went live on 15 June 2016. The blogeditors are inviting contributions for future issues. If you have an idea for a short article (maximum 1000 words) on a hot topic of interest to your SLSA colleagues and others, please email [blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk).

## AcSS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

As a member of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), the SLSA can nominate eminent socio-legal scholars for appointment as academicians. Full details of the process are available on the AcSS website [www.acss.org.uk](http://www.acss.org.uk). The paramount requirement for successful nomination is 'evidence of eminence and impact of the nominee's contribution to social science'. Please send nominations (maximum 500 words) to SLSA chair Rosemary Hunter [rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk).

## SLSA membership benefits

Benefits of SLSA membership include:

- three 16-page (minimum) newsletters per year;
  - personal profile in the SLSA online directory;
  - discounted SLSA Annual Conference fees;
  - weekly ebulletin;
  - eligibility for grants (research, fieldwork and training), Seminar Competition, prizes and Mentoring Awards;
  - members' priority in newsletter publications pages;
  - discounted student membership (with first year free);
  - free annual postgraduate conference;
  - student bursaries for SLSA Annual Conference;
  - discounts on subscriptions to a selection of law journals;
  - 20 per cent discount on Ashgate, Hart, Palgrave Macmillan and Routledge books bought online;
  - special membership category for retired members
- . . . and much more. Visit [www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk) for details.

## SLSA GRANT SCHEMES

*Applications are now open for the next round of Research Grants and PhD Fieldwork Grants.*

The Research Grants Scheme has been running since 1999 and to date has funded 103 socio-legal research projects. The scheme aims to support work for which other funding sources would not be appropriate and to encourage socio-legal research initiatives in a practical way.

Applications for this year's round are now invited. Applications are considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA, wherever they live. Applications must be made using the Application Package available on the SLSA website. The Application Package is subject to change so please make sure that you download the latest version.

The deadline for applications is **31 October 2016**. Individual awards are up to a maximum of £3000. Decisions will be made no later than **31 January 2017**. The Research Grants Committee takes the following elements into consideration:

- clarity of the aim(s) and objective(s) of the research – originality, innovativeness and importance of the research; methodology (including coherence with aim(s) and objective(s), practicability and, if applicable ethical considerations); budget; and potential impact;
- funding will not normally be provided for conference attendance or to subsidise postgraduate course fees;
- funding will not be provided via this scheme for one-day conferences or for seminar series;
- feedback will be given to unsuccessful applicants;
- no member will receive more than one grant per year;
- Executive Committee members are not eligible for the scheme.

For more information and to help you decide whether your project is appropriate for an SLSA grant, visit the SLSA website where there are examples of project summaries, reports from past grantholders, a full list of previous grantholders and project titles and Dermot Feenan's instructive article on submitting your applications, first published in SLN 66:4–5. [www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/small-grants](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/small-grants).

### Fieldwork funding for PhD students

In January 2013, in response to the number of applications from postgraduate students, the SLSA Executive agreed to create a PhD fieldwork scholarship, with separate selection criteria, under the general umbrella of the grants scheme. The scheme's aim in both cases is to support work for which other funding sources are not available and to encourage socio-legal research initiatives in a practical way.

Applications are now invited for the fieldwork scheme for the year 2017. Applications to the scheme are considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA, wherever they live. Funding will only be made available to students who have completed their first year of study by the time the grant is to be taken up and who are not in receipt of ESRC or AHRC funding. Applications must be made using the PhD Fieldwork Application Package available on the SLSA website where you will also find examples of previous awards made under the general grant scheme. Closing date: **31 October 2016**.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

Below and on the next three pages, we publish summaries from the four projects being funded in the latest round of grant awards, plus reports from three completed projects.

## Summaries

### Graphic design, civil society and the current negotiations for the econo-legal reunification of Cyprus

**Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Kent University, £2730**

How did, do and could civil society actors use graphic media to communicate econo-legal aspects of the current Cyprus reunification negotiations? During the last major round of negotiations, which ended in the failed 2004 Annan Plan, communication seems to have been limited to text-heavy policy booklets. Today we see fantasy news programmes set in 2030 to highlight the potential econo-legal gains of reconciliation; animations covering Cypriot ethnographic history and the legal intricacies of bi-zonal bi-communal federation; and information design, distributed via social media, communicates data about levels of interpersonal trust on the island which are crucial determinants for its econo-legal future. Increasingly, there are examples of more interactive, potentially dialogic, designs for peace: one project allows users to move through demographic and cultural time in the divided city of Nicosia between 1878 and 1974, overlaid with contemporary music; another uses 3D modelling to allow members of the public to sketch possible plans for the town of Varosha which has been deserted since the 1974 Turkish invasion. Funding from the SLSA will allow me to travel to Cyprus to conduct visual research and to interview civil society actors behind these and other projects. This will help me to understand the benefits and limitations of adopting a graphic approach in this context. Funding will also pay for Greek language training so that I can interpret a wider range of communications. The research is important and original because it prefigures the academic dimensions of an emergent field of practice – graphic design for econo-legal change – which is

evident in an international constellation of government 'policy labs' using design thinking and practice to improve policy-making and implementation. The article in which I first identified synergies between graphic design and econo-legal change won the 2015 SLSA article prize. Follow my progress on Twitter @aperrykessaris.

### Abortion travel: the experience of women in Northern Ireland travelling to Great Britain to access abortion care

**Marie Fox, University of Birmingham, and Sheelagh McGuinness, University of Bristol, £2237.60**

Restrictions on abortion in Northern Ireland are coming under increasing levels of scrutiny by the media, the courts and NGOs. Of particular concern is that women in Northern Ireland who wish to access abortion services are forced to travel to another part of the UK – and then are required to pay. The overall aim of this study is to examine the experience of these women. With funding from the University of Birmingham we undertook an online survey of the experience of women who travel from Northern Ireland to England to access abortion services and conducted a review of academic literature in this area.

The second stage of our research will involve three further objectives:

1. to undertake interviews with women who have travelled from Northern Ireland to England to access abortion services;
2. to undertake interviews with key stakeholders who have facilitated women's travel from Northern Ireland to Great Britain or represented them in court; and
3. to analyse the transcripts of these interviews in order to assess the extent to which Marcia Inhorn's 'reproductive exile' framework is reflective of the experience of these women.

## Production of the state: the role of forest-rights legislation, communities, and civil society in India

**Meenakshi Narayan, Michigan State University, £3000**

This research project examines the production of the state within the context of Indian forests, by investigating the role of forest communities and civil society organisations in mobilising a rights-based legislation. In December 2006, the Government of India passed the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (FRA), legally acknowledging the rights of eligible tribal and forest-dwelling communities to live in, use, manage and conserve forestland. Nearly a decade since its enactment, evaluations of the Act have revealed its inconsistent implementation between states, genders, communities and individuals. While significant, I argue that these analyses have paid inadequate attention to the agency of communities and civil society organisations (CSOs) in engaging with the law. My research foregrounds the dialectical engagements between state actors, CSOs and forest communities, at both the local and national levels, as they engage with the law. At the local level, I will focus on how the Chenchu, a hunter-gather community of Andhra Pradesh, interact with local state actors and CSOs through each of their varied goals and aspirations in relation to the law. At the national level, I will examine civil society networks' use of email listservs as a means of consolidating local experiences of the FRA to forge a national-level engagement with the law. Tying together the local and national-level articulations of actors as they engage with this rights-based legislation, I argue that the state, as an always incomplete project, is produced through the interactions of state actors, civil society and those at the margins of the state.

## Evaluating risk and responsibility in the domestic violence disclosure scheme

**Marian Duggan, University of Kent, £1005**

On International Women's Day 2014, Theresa May MP announced the national implementation of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme as part of broader strategies to reduce violence against women in the UK. It emerged following the murder of Clare Wood by her former partner George Appleton in 2009 and the subsequent coroner's investigation which suggested that people should have the ability to make inquiries to the police about a partner when they have concerns or suspicions about potentially violent behaviour.

The resulting scheme – also known as 'Clare's Law' – allows people the right to ask for information from the police about a partner's past if they have concerns about their own safety. In the first year of national operation, almost 4000 applications and 1300 disclosures were made. On this basis, media reports regularly claim that the scheme has been 'successful' in 'preventing domestic violence' and has 'saved lives'.

However, as no research has been conducted into the scheme, all we know at the moment is the number of applications and disclosures. Therefore, my research seeks to answer several key questions.

- How is the scheme operating in practice? Does this match how it was intended to operate?
- How is the scheme regarded by members of the statutory and third sectors tasked with implementing it?
- What are the pros and cons of the scheme in its current guise?
- What action was taken by those to whom disclosures were/were not made?
- Can this scheme prevent domestic abuse?

Qualitative research is being undertaken with police officers, independent domestic violence advisers, domestic abuse service

providers and scheme applicants. I am very grateful to the SLSA for providing grant money to cover the transcription costs of this research.

## Final reports

### The legitimisation of hydraulic fracturing regulation: power, prejudice and public participation

**Joanne Hawkins, Bristol University, £1617.60**

The research engages with an issue of significant importance in the fracking debate: what makes a regulatory decision regarding fracking legitimate to the public and to what extent does participation play a role? A fieldwork grant from the SLSA was used to conduct empirical work which enabled the research to actually ask those affected by fracking decisions what it was that they perceived as a legitimate regulatory decision. The research conducted semi-structured interviews and focus groups with members of the public living within two miles of a current/proposed shale gas exploration site at five locations across the UK. An additional focus group with industry members and a semi-structured interview with an environmental regulator were conducted in order to contrast perceptions and provide perspective and comment on findings from the interviews with members of the public.

The research revealed some unexpected themes when considering the key factors that influenced the public perception of legitimate regulatory decision-making. The research contests and contrasts the existing literature on regulatory decision-making and public participation through highlighting the demand, among the public interviewed, for expert-led decisions justified by information. There was a clear lack of demand for increased public participation in the data with a corresponding reasoning that members of the public were not qualified/did not possess the relevant skills or experience to contribute to decisions regarding fracking. It became clear that the way in which the public defined an 'expert' was of central importance. While the definition was primarily connected to the possession of scientific skills and qualifications, it emerged that this alone was insufficient to guarantee a scientist would be regarded as an expert. There were a number of additional factors which shaped social trust and determined which scientists the public were prepared to trust in decision-making. It was clear that trust was a foundational factor in shaping interviewees' desired model of decision-making and that at present there is a significant lack of trust in both decision-making procedures and their accountability (due to the perceived absence of expert-led decision-making).

Yet, despite this clear demand for expertise and information, the research also revealed that the data was highly complex and a number of contradictions (between what interviewees wanted and the assumptions that underpinned such desires) were present. These complexities were visible in the expectations underpinning what expert-led decision-making would achieve, the type of regulatory controls that experts would implement when managing risk and in the assumption that increased information to justify decisions would always correlate positively with the perceived legitimacy of decisions. Despite this, the research showed that, contrary to the existing literature, the solution to such complexities does not lie in increased public participation and deliberation (the demand for which was absent in the data). The research re-contextualises the traditional debates over the public's role in decision-making in the context of an environmental problem with significant local impacts. This offers a fascinating insight into how well-established theories of legitimate regulatory decision-making, focusing on increased participation, from across disciplines actually contrast empirical data on public perceptions of the key legitimating factors in regulatory decision-making.

**Judicial communication in the English youth court: expressing sentencing explanations to young offenders**

**Max Lowenstein, Bournemouth University, £758**

There is little recently published qualitative research on the actual workings of youth courts, including the extent of judicial participation and engagement within them (Lowenstein 2015). The importance of gathering qualitative data matters because it helps us to understand youth sentence explanations, informs judicial training and provides an understanding of how court culture changes over time (Allen et al 2000). Most studies, not all focused on England and rarely including qualitative data, date back to the late 1970s and early 1980s and hint at marginal judicial participation (Weijers 2004: 23–30). This small pilot project, funded by the SLSA, has qualitatively investigated (Kvale 1996: 200–04) the sentencing explanations from those who predominantly produce them, namely magistrates. Such sentencing explanations and the way they are communicated (expressed) matter because they can promote offender-understanding of the sentence and help to prevent future re-offending (Home Office 2001). Furthermore, they form part of the statutory duty to give reasons for and explain the effect of a sentence passed in court (s 174, Criminal Justice Act 2003).

This research has considered the expression of sentencing explanations through face-to-face/telephone interviews with 16 youth court magistrates across Southern England. Indicative shared judicial perceptions (norms) regarding their sentencing explanation experiences in court were provided. The results have been briefly summarised as:

1. The source(s) which inform sentence explanations – youth offenders themselves, their parents/guardians and the presentencing reports of youth offending teams (YOTs) mattered most for all 16 magistrates as they regularly engaged with young offenders.
2. The influence of other courtroom actors – those who regularly engaged (see 1 above) with the young offender and could further explain the sentence mattered most for all 16 magistrates.
3. The extent of judicial perceived participation and engagement with young offenders, including the recidivism impact – this was predominantly judicially perceived as very high, but with moderate recidivism declining with higher seriousness offences. The key seriousness principles were offender culpability and offence harm (Sentencing Council 2004). YOT support was predominantly viewed as

crucial to explaining the meaning of seriousness principles to the youth offender.

4. The predominant mode of expression (positive to negative) – the informal youth setting helped to provide a detailed hearing, predominantly focused upon positive sentencing expressions that promoted youth understanding and sought any necessary support/treatment.
5. The detailed reasoning behind sentence explanations beyond what we currently know – we currently know that this reasoning involves sentencing explanations that focus upon human behaviours, language simplification and moral education (Weijers 2004: 30). Beyond this, family/care-giver support dynamics, countering peer-group pressures, understanding religious and cultural differences and influencing young offenders’ personalities via empathetic examples of offence harm mattered most when addressing their specific welfare needs. Parenting orders also mattered as they provided positive enforcement to consensual parenting contracts.

To conclude, this pilot study provided key insights regarding how sentencing explanations are applied and why they matter. Youth offenders benefit from magistrates who have extensive youth-sentencing experience and training. These judges can provide valuable empathy examples that explain seriousness principles to the youth offender. Youth court magistrates perceive that they are significantly engaging with young offenders. However, they do recognise the limits of their sentencing explanations upon youth recidivism, particularly as offence seriousness increases and where re-offending has become persistent. YOTs and family care-givers appear to be very important and positive influences upon youth offenders and the youth judiciary can utilise these support services beyond the court to support the chosen sentence. The ultimate goal is that youth offenders fully engage with and properly understand their sentences, as they attempt to rehabilitate themselves.

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**SLSA Research Training Grants: new application deadlines**

Applications are invited for these grants aimed at supporting training in social science research methods and the use of data analysis software (eg SPSS and NVivo) for SLSA members who do not possess but wish to acquire these skills and do not have access to sources of institutional support to do so. The grants will cover the cost of attendance at a relevant training course offered by an established provider. See, for example, the courses offered by the National Research Methods Training Centre at the University of Southampton [www.ncrm.ac.uk](http://www.ncrm.ac.uk).

Eligible applicants will be members of the SLSA who are early or mid-career researchers and not currently undertaking a PhD. Full details are available at [www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/slsa-research-training-grants](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/slsa-research-training-grants).

Three annual deadlines have been introduced for this relaunched scheme: **1 October**, **1 February** and **1 June**.

**Dual reports of domestic abuse**

**Oona Brooks, University of Glasgow, £1741.41**

This research report highlights findings from a study that used Scottish police data to undertake exploratory analysis of dual reports (DR) of domestic abuse (DA). DRs occur when both parties in a relationship are reported to the police as perpetrators of DA simultaneously. As such, these potentially conflicting accounts present a particular challenge to both conventional understandings of DA and the police response to these offences, yet there is a paucity of research evidence about this issue. This study used anonymised quantitative data from three Scottish police divisions to examine the nature of DR incidents, how common they are, and how the police respond to them. A total of 532 DR incidents recorded within the context of



a heterosexual relationship in 2012/2013 were identified for further analysis using a police database.

Key findings include the following:

- DRs accounted for 5.4% of recorded domestic abuse incidents.
- The most commonly recorded DR incidents are threatening and abusive behaviour, common assault, breach of the peace and bail offences.
- It is estimated that 3% of incidents with a male perpetrator occur within context of a DR compared to 16% of incidents with a female perpetrator.
- Only 40% of DR incidents are reported by victims, while half (50%) are reported by a third party.
- The vast majority of DR incidents (97%) resulted in a crime or offence being recorded by the police. This figure is markedly higher than for other domestic abuse incidents – 50% of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in Scotland as a whole in 2012/2013 resulted in a crime or offence being recorded.
- The proportion of incidents recorded as a crime and subsequently reported to the procurator fiscal (PF) in the DR sample is also greater than the equivalent proportion for Scotland as a whole (64% compared to 39%).

- In cases where at least one report was made to the PF, the majority (69%) had a report submitted in relation to *both* incidents.

The *Joint Protocol on Domestic Abuse* agreed between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and PF Service (revised in 2013) stipulates that submitting a report to the PF in respect of both parties should be avoided where there is reason to believe that a counter-allegation has been made by the perpetrator. On the basis of the statistical data extracted from the police database for the current study, it is not possible to ascertain whether DRs are being made in the context of a counter-allegation, the actual dual perpetration of violence or self-defence. Nonetheless, in a high proportion of DR cases, a report is being submitted to the PF for both parties. This suggests that there may be challenges for the police in determining whether counter-allegations are being made.

Further qualitative research is required to explore this issue, specifically the context within which DRs occur and the criminal justice response to these incidents from the perspective of both practitioners and victims.

This study was jointly funded by the SLSA, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research.

## BIICL and Bingham Centre impact partnerships

In the last year the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law (a constituent part of BIICL) have run two successful workshops in partnership with university-based research projects. The workshops brought together expert groups of academics and practitioners, taking new research to practitioner audiences, with those working in practice then providing input and feedback into research questions, methods, outcomes and ways forward.

One workshop, jointly run with the Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, looked at non-violent extremism. The other, with the China Policy Institute, University of Nottingham, examined the rule of law and market governance in China – both ESRC-supported. Practitioner participants included people working in law and policy from government, Parliament, business and civil society organisations, as well as barristers and lawyers from major firms.

BIICL and the Bingham Centre work at the intersection of academic and policy-oriented research. With strong links with policy and professional communities, a central London location, ESRC and AHRC recognition and a sharp awareness of the research impact agenda, they welcome interest and proposals from academics looking at research impact pathways and partnerships. Please visit [www.binghamcentre.biicl.org](http://www.binghamcentre.biicl.org) and [www.biicl.org](http://www.biicl.org), or contact Patricia Ambrose via email at [p.ambrose@biicl.org](mailto:p.ambrose@biicl.org).

Lawrence McNamara

## Criminal Cases Review Commission

The Research Committee of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) has issued calls for proposals for three new projects: 'Legal aid and legal representatives'; 'Young offenders'; and 'Northern Ireland non-Troubles criminal convictions'. Closing date for all three calls: **31 August 2016**. The CCRC is not able to offer funding but can offer access to data, relevant contact details, support for funding applications and so on. Please visit the SLSA website for details. [www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/news/research-and-funding#CCRC](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/news/research-and-funding#CCRC)

## JLS special issue guest editorship: invitation for expressions of interest

The *Journal of Law and Society* (JLS) invites expressions of interest concerning the guest editorship of the special issue (spring 2018). Readers are invited to contact the editor with their proposal by **5 September 2016**.

Send a list of authors, agreed and those yet to be confirmed, and working titles of each contribution. Prepare one page explaining the purpose and range of the collection. The material must be 'socio-legal', fit the character of the JLS and have current relevance and appeal to our international and diverse readership. The issue must also be both thematic and coherent. The issue is 75,000 words, inclusive of footnotes, and normally carries between 8 to 10 papers. The deadline for completed copy is November 2017. The JLS may provide funds to support a meeting for the authors. The issue will also appear simultaneously as a book published by Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford. A decision on the 2018 publication will be taken in September 2016 thereby allowing the editor one year to produce the copy.

The special issue for 2017 is titled 'Austerity and law in Europe' and is edited by Marija Bartl and Markos Karavias (University of Amsterdam).

Contact: Philip Thomas, JLS Editor, [✉ Cardiff Law School, Cardiff University, Cardiff CF10 3AX](mailto:thomaspa@cardiff.ac.uk) [e thomaspa@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:thomaspa@cardiff.ac.uk).

Phil Thomas

## Newsletter advertising

We have a limited amount of space available in the newsletter for advertisements. Rates are as follows (no VAT to add).

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## The Establishment of the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University

In December 2015, the Centre of Law and Society was jointly set up by the *Journal of Law and Society* and Cardiff University to encourage and provide an institutional framework for the support of socio-legal, sociological, theoretical and interdisciplinary research and education. It aims to provide an academic environment in which academics and students, as well as visiting scholars and fellows, can meet, discuss their views and ideas, present research projects and outcomes, and deliver lectures and seminars.

Closely linked to the *Journal of Law and Society* and its activities, the centre will enable and raise the profile of high quality socio-legal scholarship and promote innovative research of international quality focusing on socio-legal, empirical and theoretical analysis of legal institutions and processes and the impact of social, political, economic and scientific influences on law, legal professions and legal activities. It specifically promotes sociological and socio-legal methodology, including empirical research methods in legal science.

The centre's mission is to build on existing research and cooperate with other socio-legal institutions and centres in the UK and abroad in the fields of sociology and social theory of law, legal cultures, legal anthropology, legal education, legal professions and ethics, comparative sociology of criminal justice, family law, law and religion, law and medicine, law and environment, law and business regulation, and socio-legal studies of EU integration.

The centre has a wide range of activities and research programmes supporting the exchange and development of ideas, through conferences, symposia, seminars, research methods seminars, reading groups and working paper electronic publications, between academics, practitioners and others. It maintains an electronic archive and online profile of socio-legal activities, information and study materials, seminars and conversations with sociologists of law and socio-legal scholars.

On 9 and 10 June 2016, the centre hosted its first conference 'Main currents in the contemporary sociology of law: the state of

the sociology of law and socio-legal studies in the UK and the JLS's contribution to it'. Some of the most distinguished scholars representing different substantive areas of research who have enormously contributed to and actually shaped socio-legal studies in the last several decades and also collaborated with the JLS – such as Roger Cotterrell, William Twining, David Sugarman, Linda Mulcahy, Tony Bradney, Fiona Cownie, Kieran McEvoy, Davina Cooper, Mavis Maclean, Dave Cowan and Sally Wheeler – presented a synthetic review reflecting on the meaning and context of the sociology of law and/or socio-legal studies in their research areas of law and justice.

This event was followed by another successful conference, 'Transnational constitutional law and new patterns of democracy', organised by John Harrington, with Chris Thornhill from Manchester University as the conference's keynote speaker. Furthermore, the centre organised a one-day conference 'Gender rules: research methods in law' on 23 June 2016 with Joanne Conaghan, Lizzie Barmes and Ania Zbyszewska as main speakers.

In the academic year 2016/2017, the centre will sponsor its first annual theme on environmental law and anthropocentrism in law, politics and philosophy under the title 'The centre cannot hold: beyond anthropocentrism in the anthropocene?' to be convened by Anna Grear.

The centre also has a research visitor scheme which is open to very early career scholars and PhD students to come, conduct and present their research at Cardiff School of Law and Politics. The visitors are provided with accommodation, work space and related facilities in the School of Law and Politics. In exceptional circumstances, they can be offered limited financial support for expenses related to their visit. Deadline for the next academic year's applications: **15 September 2016**.

The centre's Executive Committee members are Ambreena Manji, Lydia Hayes, Jiri Priban (director), Roseanne Russell and Stewart Field. For further information, see the centre's website and/or contact the centre's director Jiri Priban [e jpriban@cf.ac.uk](mailto:jpriban@cf.ac.uk).

*Jiri Priban*

## Funding opportunities

### ESRC large grants competition 2016/2017

The ESRC invites proposals to take forward an ambitious research agenda with the potential to effect significant economic or societal impact. Proposals are welcomed for standard research projects, large-scale surveys, infrastructure projects, and for methodological developments in any area of the social sciences. Proposals should be between £1 million and £2.5 million for a period of between three to five years. This call provides opportunities for promoting innovation and interdisciplinarity, both within and beyond the social sciences, while excellent research within a particular social science discipline is also welcome. Applicants are encouraged to submit an early registration of interest by **8 July 2016**. Closing date: **13 October 2016**. See website for details: [w www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/large-grants-competition-2016-17](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/large-grants-competition-2016-17).

### ESRC-AHRC call for proposals on forced displacement

The ESRC and AHRC have launched a call for innovative, interdisciplinary projects focusing on the experiences of the forced displaced (both internationally and internally) whether due to poverty, war, conflict, persecution or human rights violations. Drawing upon funding allocated from the Global Challenges Research Fund, this call explicitly recognises the global and protracted nature of people displacement in the

modern age. With this in mind the ESRC and AHRC are launching a call that takes a longer-term, cross-cultural and global look at the experiences of, and challenges presented by, forced displacement. Funding is available for innovative, interdisciplinary proposals of up to £300,000 of between six to 24 months' duration. Applicants are required to clearly demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of their proposed work. It is a requirement that projects include a combination of social science and arts and humanities expertise and approaches. Closing date: **20 July 2016**. See website for details: [w www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/esrc-ahrc-call-for-proposals-on-forced-displacement](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/esrc-ahrc-call-for-proposals-on-forced-displacement).

### The newsletter needs you

The next copy deadline is **17 October 2016**. Please send your

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to Marie Selwood [e marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com) or [t 01227 770189](tel:01227770189).

## Books and reports

***Intention, Supremacy and the Theories of Judicial Review*** (2016) John McGarry, Routledge £90 184pp

In the late 1980s, a vigorous debate began about how we may best justify, in constitutional terms, the English courts' jurisdiction to judicially review the exercise of public power derived from an Act of Parliament. Two rival theories emerged in this debate, the *ultra vires* theory and the common law theory. The debate between the supporters of these two theories has never satisfactorily been resolved and has been criticised as being futile. Yet, the debate raises some fundamental questions about the constitution of the UK, particularly: the relationship between Parliament and the courts; the nature of parliamentary supremacy in the contemporary constitution; and the possibility and validity of relying on legislative intent. This book critically analyses the *ultra vires* and common law theories and argues that neither offers a convincing explanation for the courts' judicial review jurisdiction. Instead, the author puts forward the theory that parliamentary supremacy – and, in turn, the relationship between Parliament and the courts – is not absolute and does not operate in a hard and fast way. Rather, it functions more flexibly with courts balancing particular Acts of Parliament against competing statutes or principles. McGarry argues that this new conception of parliamentary supremacy leads to an alternative theory of judicial review which significantly differs from both the *ultra vires* and common law theories.

***Lawyers and Mediators: Services for separating families*** (2016) Mavis Maclean and John Eekelaar, Hart £55 176pp

Do lawyers make matters worse, or do they provide information, advice and support which can help to prevent disputes arising or manage them when they do? Do mediators enable parties to communicate and reach agreements tailor-made to their needs? Or, working outside the legal framework, do they find it difficult to protect weaker parties and access expert advice? What happens when lawyers become mediators? This book will describe the structure of service provision and the day-to-day work of lawyers, mediators and lawyer mediators, drawing on empirical work carried out between 2013 and 2015 immediately after the recent changes to the management of divorce and separation within the family justice system. The reduction in legal-aided help in 2013 and the failure of mediation to fill the gap in 2014–2015 have given rise to a difficult debate. This book aims to provide an account of some of the practical effects of these policies through a description of the daily work of practitioners in the sector. It raises the question of whether we need to choose between traditional legal services and the new processes of private ordering or whether intermediate positions might be possible.

***Sentencing and Punishment: The quest for justice*** (2016) Susan Easton and Christine Piper, Oxford University Press 4th edn £28.99 528pp

This text, now in its fourth edition, has always focused on what counts as justice in sentencing and punishment by applying penal theories and human rights to the issues covered. This latest edition has fuller discussions of the impact of human rights jurisprudence, particularly in relation to prisoners, but it also reveals the tensions and limits, notably in relation to prisoners' voting rights and conditions for minors in detention. Given developments in recent years, there is expanded coverage of Sentencing Council guidelines and also rehabilitation in the community. Material on young offenders has been restructured and updated and the book includes two new chapters. 'Impact on victims and offenders' considers the impact of the crime and/or punishment on both sets of individuals and 'Instead of punishment?' assesses the extent to which restorative justice, principles of child welfare, and being mentally disordered lead to approaches which are alternatives to punishment.

***What is a Court?*** (2016) JUSTICE Working Party Report, committee chair Alexandra Marks 80pp  
w <http://justice.org.uk/what-is-a-court/>

In 2015, JUSTICE launched a Working Party looking at 'What is a Court?', challenging long-held notions of what is required of a court or tribunal and intended to inform the reform programme of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). The report recommends, firstly, the reconception of court and tribunal rooms as 'justice spaces'. This new model is defined by its inherent flexibility and rejection of the over-standardisation prevalent in existing courts and tribunals. Justice spaces should be designed to adapt to the particular dispute resolution process taking place within them, and the needs of users, rather than the other way around. Secondly, the committee recommends a flexible and responsive court and tribunal estate, made up of a number of dynamic parts. The Working Party suggests a portfolio of Flagship Justice Centres; Local Justice Centres; 'pop-up courts'; remote access justice facilities; and digital justice spaces. The Working Party emphasises the importance of technology and its potential to meet user needs and maximise access to justice. All the proposals are anchored in a commitment to a core set of principled considerations. Finally, the report makes practical recommendations aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the HMCTS Reform Programme.

***Property and Human Rights in a Global Context*** (2016) Ting Xu and Jean Allain (eds) Hart £55 352pp

Property as a human rights concern is manifested through its incorporation in international instruments and as a subject of the law through property-related cases considered by international human rights organs. Yet, for the most part, the relationship between property and human rights has been discussed in rather superficial terms, lacking a clear substantive connection or common language. That said, the currents of globalisation have witnessed a new era of interrelation between these two areas of the law, including the emergence of international intellectual property law and the recognition of indigenous claims which speak to an engagement with human rights law. This collection starts the conversation between human rights lawyers and property lawyers and explores analytical approaches to the increasing relationship between property and human rights in a global context.

***Unleashing the Force of Law: Legal mobilization, national security, and basic freedoms*** (2015) Devyani Prabhat, Palgrave Macmillan Socio-Legal Series £70 240pp

This book uses multi-jurisdiction empirical data and draws on cause-lawyering, political-lawyering and Bourdieusian juridical field literature to analyse the invocation of legal norms aimed at the protection of basic freedoms in times of national security tensions. It asks three main questions. When do lawyers mobilise for the protection of basic freedoms? In what kind of mobilisation do they engage? And how do the strategies they adopt relate to the outcomes they achieve? Covering the last five decades, the book focuses on the 1980s and the 1990s through an analysis of legal work for two groups of independence seekers in the 1980s – namely, Republican (mostly Catholic) separatists in Northern Ireland and Puerto Rican separatists in the US – and on post-9/11 issues concerning basic freedoms in both countries.

## Journals

*The European Journal of Risk Regulation* will be published by Cambridge University Press from January 2017. It was developed and launched by Lexxion in 2010 in partnership with editor-in-chief Professor Alberto Alemanno, of HEC Paris and New York University, in response to an increasing focus on risk globally and a significant increase in risk regulation. It will continue to be managed by the same editorial team.  
w [www.lexxion.de/en/zeitschriften/fachzeitschriften-englisch/ejrr.html](http://www.lexxion.de/en/zeitschriften/fachzeitschriften-englisch/ejrr.html)

● **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVERSATION No 5 OF 6: DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**

Royal Irish Academy, Dublin: 30 June 2016

See website for details: [www.ria.ie/events/digital-citizenship](http://www.ria.ie/events/digital-citizenship).

● **FLAK SEMINAR: MIXING FEMINISM, LEGALITY AND KNOWLEDGE**

Queen Mary University of London: 30 June 2016–1 July 2016

Please see website for details:

[www.law.qmul.ac.uk/events/items/167540.html](http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/events/items/167540.html).

● **INAUGURAL UK MENTAL DISABILITY LAW CONFERENCE**

30 June–1 July 2016: University of Nottingham

Please see website for details: [www.slsa.ac.uk/images/Flyer\\_Law\\_conf\\_2016.pdf](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/images/Flyer_Law_conf_2016.pdf).

● **REPRODUCTIVE FUTURES: REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES?**

University of Southampton: 4–5 July 2016

This event is supported by the SLSA and Centre for Health Ethics and Law, University of Southampton. Attendance is free but places are limited so please register through the website:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reproductive-futures-reproductive-choices-tickets-25195019983](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reproductive-futures-reproductive-choices-tickets-25195019983).

● **ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS 2016 CONFERENCE**

4–7 July 2016: University of Durham

Stream: ‘Politics, “market-making” and the organ trade: empirical accounts of (in)human practices’. Please see website for details.

[www.nomadit.co.uk/asa/asa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4401](http://www.nomadit.co.uk/asa/asa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4401)

● **ESRC RESEARCH METHODS FESTIVAL**

University of Bath: 5–7 July 2016

Please see webpage for details:

<http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/RMF2016/home.php>.

● **ENDING CHILDHOOD OBESITY: A CHALLENGE AT THE CROSSROADS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW**

University of Liverpool London Campus: 7–8 July 2016

Please see website for details: [www.liverpool.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/ending-childhood-obesity](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/ending-childhood-obesity).

● **THE FUTURES WE WANT IN NUMBERS: SEARCHING LEGAL INDICATORS FOR A BETTER WORLD**

10–14 July 2015: Vienna, Austria

This is the third International Sociology Association Forum of Sociology. See website: [www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016](http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016).

● **MARKETS IN POLICING: THE APPETITE FOR AND ORGANISATIONAL, CULTURAL AND MORAL LIMITS TO MARKETS IN PUBLIC POLICING**

School of Law, University of Leeds: 11–12 July 2016

Please see website for details and booking:

[http://store.leeds.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=34&prodid=6181&searchresults=1&catid=71](http://store.leeds.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=34&prodid=6181&searchresults=1&catid=71).

● **URBAN LAW DAY 2016: GOOD URBAN LEGISLATION IN RESOURCE-POOR SETTINGS: CHALLENGES AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS**

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London: 15 July 2016

Jointly organised by Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and UN Human Settlements Programme. See website for further information: [www.sas.ac.uk/support-research/public-events/2016/urban-law-day-2016-good-urban-legislation-resource-poor-settings](http://www.sas.ac.uk/support-research/public-events/2016/urban-law-day-2016-good-urban-legislation-resource-poor-settings).

● **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON AGGRESSION: 22ND WORLD MEETING**

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia: 19–23 July 2016

Please see website for details:

[www.iec.mq.edu.au/research/cfrc/isra\\_2016](http://www.iec.mq.edu.au/research/cfrc/isra_2016).

● **WHAT'S INFORMALITY GOT TO DO WITH IT? DOMESTIC WORK, THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

SOAS, University of London: 27 July 2016

Speaker: Professor Adelle Blackett, Professor of Law, McGill University, and SOAS Centenary Visiting Fellow. Please see website for details: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/domestic-work-the-employment-relationship-and-social-justice-tickets-25705945174](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/domestic-work-the-employment-relationship-and-social-justice-tickets-25705945174).

● **‘AFTERNOON TEA’: LAW, DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR**

SOAS, University of London: 29 July 2016

Speaker: Professor Adelle Blackett, Professor of Law, McGill University, and SOAS Centenary Visiting Fellow. See website: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afternoon-tea-seminar-on-law-development-and-labour-tickets-25725481608](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/afternoon-tea-seminar-on-law-development-and-labour-tickets-25725481608).

● **DISABILITY AND RURAL MEN**

University of Wollongong, Australia: 10 August 2016

Presenter: Professor Barbara Pini. Please see website for details:

<http://lha.uow.edu.au/law/LIRC/events/UOW213768.html>.

● **LAW AND CULTURE CONFERENCE 2016: (IN)VISIBILITY**

Centre for Law and Culture, St Mary's University, Twickenham: 5–6 September 2016

Please see website for details: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/134274](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/134274). Closing date for registration: 31 August 2016.

● **MEDICO-LEGAL SYMPOSIUM: THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF NEUROLAW**

8–9 September 2016: Edinburgh University

This symposium aims to provide up-to-date information on the theory and practice of the application of neuroscience to the law. See website for details: [www.criminalbar.com/events/other-events/q/date/2015/11/13/medico-legal-symposium](http://www.criminalbar.com/events/other-events/q/date/2015/11/13/medico-legal-symposium).

● **THE NEW LEGAL TEMPORALITIES? DISCIPLINE AND RESISTANCE ACROSS DOMAINS OF TIME**

University of Kent, Canterbury: 9–10 September 2016

Speaker: Carol Greenhouse, Princeton University. See website:

[www.kent.ac.uk/law/time/events/new-legal-temporalities.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/law/time/events/new-legal-temporalities.html).

● **CRIMINAL LAW REFORM NOW**

American Express Community Stadium, Brighton: 13 September 2016

See University of Sussex website for details: [www.sussex.ac.uk/law/research/law-reform-now/criminal-law-reform-now](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/law/research/law-reform-now/criminal-law-reform-now).

● **LAW, JUSTICE AND AUSTERITY: POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

University of Leeds: 13 September 2016

See website for details: [www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/2016/school-of-law-inaugural-postgraduate-research-conference-2016](http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/2016/school-of-law-inaugural-postgraduate-research-conference-2016).

● **RE-IMAGINING LABOUR LAW FOR DEVELOPMENT: INFORMAL WORK IN THE GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH**

SOAS, University of London: 15–16 September 2016

SLS (Society of Legal Scholars) Annual Seminar 2016. Attendance is free, but registration is essential. Please see website for details:

[www.soas.ac.uk/law/events/15sep2016-re-imagining-labour-law-for-development-informal-work-in-the-global-north-and-south.html](http://www.soas.ac.uk/law/events/15sep2016-re-imagining-labour-law-for-development-informal-work-in-the-global-north-and-south.html).

● **3RD WOMEN IN WAR AND AT WAR CONFERENCE: GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY POST-2015: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Open University, Milton Keynes: 15–16 September 2016

Please see website for details: [www.slsa.ac.uk/images/2016summer/Call\\_for\\_Papers-1.pdf](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/images/2016summer/Call_for_Papers-1.pdf).

● **W G HART LEGAL WORKSHOP: VALUING EXPERTISE – LEGAL, NORMATIVE AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS**

20–21 September 2016: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Academic directors: Richard Ashcroft (QMUL); Nicolette Priaux (Cardiff University); Matthew Weait (University of Portsmouth). Please see website for details: [http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/hart/wgh\\_legal\\_workshop\\_current\\_year.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/hart/wgh_legal_workshop_current_year.htm).

● **INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE ASIAN LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION**

National University of Singapore: 22–23 September 2016

Please see website for details:

<http://law.nus.edu.sg/cals/events/ALSA2016>.

● **INNOVATING FOR CHANGE IN GLOBAL FISHERIES GOVERNANCE**

23 September 2016: University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway

See website for details: [https://en.uit.no/forskning/forskningsgrupper/nyheter/artikkel?p\\_document\\_id=355759&sub\\_id=443478](https://en.uit.no/forskning/forskningsgrupper/nyheter/artikkel?p_document_id=355759&sub_id=443478).

- **JUSTICE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CONFERENCE 2016**

*Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, London: 14 October 2016*

Please see website for booking and details: [w http://justice.org.uk/events/justice-human-rights-law-conference-2016](http://justice.org.uk/events/justice-human-rights-law-conference-2016).

- **WORLD CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY**

*The Post House, Stafford: 20 October 2016*

Theme: Building peace from the ground up. See website for details: [w www.fmcstaffs.co.uk/training/booking](http://www.fmcstaffs.co.uk/training/booking).

- **DOING WOMEN'S LEGAL HISTORY: ONE-DAY INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE: CALL**

*Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London: 26 October 2016*

See website: [w www.sas.ac.uk/support-research/public-events/2016/doing-women-s-legal-history-call-papers](http://www.sas.ac.uk/support-research/public-events/2016/doing-women-s-legal-history-call-papers). Closing date: **31 July 2016**.

- **UK IVR CONFERENCE 2016: LAW AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

*University of Leeds: 29–30 October 2016*

Organised by the Centre for Law and Social Justice and School of Law. Please see website for details: [w www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/2016/call-for-papers-uk-ivr-conference-2016](http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/2016/call-for-papers-uk-ivr-conference-2016).

- **RESTRICTED AND REDACTED: WHERE NOW FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGITAL INFORMATION CONTROL?: CALL**

*Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London: 9 November 2016*

Please see website for details. Abstracts to be sent to

[e eliza.boudier@sas.ac.uk](mailto:eliza.boudier@sas.ac.uk). See also: [w www.sas.ac.uk/support-research/public-events/2016/restricted-and-redacted-where-now-human-rights-and-digital-info](http://www.sas.ac.uk/support-research/public-events/2016/restricted-and-redacted-where-now-human-rights-and-digital-info). Closing date: **1 July 2016**.

- **THE FUTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UK: CALL**

*Mithras House, University of Brighton: 10 November 2016*

Please see website for details: [w https://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/thefutureofhumanrightsintheuk](https://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/thefutureofhumanrightsintheuk). Closing date: **15 July 2016**.

- **DISRUPTION, TEMPORALITY, LAW: THE FUTURE OF LAW AND SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP: CALL**

*Griffith Law School, Australia: 30 November–3 December 2016*

See website for details: [w www.legalscholarshipblog.com/2016/05/17/disruption-temporality-law-the-future-of-law-society-scholarship-brisbane-australia](http://www.legalscholarshipblog.com/2016/05/17/disruption-temporality-law-the-future-of-law-society-scholarship-brisbane-australia). Closing date: **30 June 2016**.

- **SOCIETY, LAW AND LEGAL CULTURE: CALL**

*Zagreb, Croatia: 1–2 December 2016*

Please see website for details: [w http://soclawzagreb.pravo.hr](http://soclawzagreb.pravo.hr). Closing date: **1 September 2016**.

- **LASSNET CONFERENCE 2016: 4TH EDITION**

*10–12 December 2016: Jawaharlal Nehru, Delhi, India*

Theme: Thinking with evidence — seeking certainty, making truth. Please see website for details: [w www.lassnet.org](http://www.lassnet.org).

### *Journal of Law and Society (autumn 2016)*

#### Articles

The cogs and wheels of reflexive law – business disclosure under the Modern Slavery Act – Shuangge Wen

Developing a public interest mandate for the governance and use of administrative data in the United Kingdom – Graeme Laurie and Leslie Stevens

Inventing drugs: a genealogy of a regulatory concept – Toby Seddon

What's the use of a hashtag? A case study – Helen Carr and Dave Cowan

Disability discrimination law in the UK and the new civil rights history: the contribution of Caroline Gooding – Nick O'Brien

#### Book reviews

*Living on the Margins* by Linda McDowell – Alice Bloch and Sonia McKay

*The Psychology of Tort Law* by Sally Lloyd-Bostock – Jennifer Robbenolt and Valerie Hans

*Rethinking the Law School* by Antony Bradney – Carel Stolker

## STREAMS AND THEMES

*Following our successful 2016 Lancaster conference, some of the stream and theme convenors report back.*

### Administrative justice

This year the stream had sessions on: participation in administrative justice, exploring legal participation in tribunals and courts; early twentieth-century appeals about national health services; and a presentation on the UK Administrative Justice Institute. The session on administrative justice and the courts discussed 'sufficient interest', public interest in litigation and civil society, and bringing the Russian state to court. Papers in the ombudsman sessions discussed online activists, HMRC soft law and lessons from the ombudsman, and the impact of judicial review on ombudsmen. Finally, a series of additional papers highlighted the wide terrain of the administrative system and the influence of administrative decision-making on public life. These included a case study of public authority compliance; combatting corruption in Nigeria post its Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015; work capability assessment; and the meaning of financial assistance for survivors of sexual victimisation.

Our stream covered a wide range of topics and brought together current researchers in the field from across the globe to share ideas and offer critical reflection on ongoing projects. We look forward to next year and to welcoming existing and new researchers to be part of the administrative justice stream.

**Naomi Creutzfeldt** [e n.creutzfeldt@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:n.creutzfeldt@westminster.ac.uk)  
and **Richard Kirkham** [e r.m.kirkham@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.m.kirkham@sheffield.ac.uk)

### Challenging ownership

This stream continues to thrive, as evidenced by the papers presented at Lancaster. Sessions were scheduled across all three days and were grouped under the themes of: common spaces and the law; property and origins; property as a zero-sum game; multi-level ownership; and researching lives and housing. Discussions at the sessions were lively and, we hope, helpful and constructive for the presenters and the participants alike.

The papers represented a very broad range of property law in practice, theoretical and historical perspectives, and jurisdictions. We look forward to continuing at future conferences, although we have ideas for some changes, perhaps to the title of the stream. Sadly, this year was Penny English's last year as co-convenor. Many thanks to Penny for all her work over the years, especially as she was responsible for starting off the stream, initially as a new theme.

**Sarah Blandy** [e s.blandy@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.blandy@sheffield.ac.uk),  
**Penny English** [e penny.english@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:penny.english@anglia.ac.uk)  
and **Francis King** [e f.king@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:f.king@westminster.ac.uk)

### Crime and criminal justice

We had another strong stream this year with 22 papers presented in seven very well-attended sessions in which we heard a varied and informative range of papers that addressed all levels of the criminal justice system – from arrest, detention and bail through to victim participation, juror directions and sentencing. A diverse number of disciplines were represented and prompted discussion from many different perspectives. The utility of a number of offences and defences was also questioned and many speakers looked to how the substantive law and criminal justice processes could be improved. This was also the focus of our special session from the Law Commission co-hosted by ourselves, along with the 'Sentencing and justice' and 'Vulnerable suspects and defendants' streams. In this very well-attended session David Ormerod QC, law commissioner for criminal law, summarised the work of the Law Commission and outlined the current programme of law reform. David responded to questions and comments from

delegates drawing on their own research to highlight areas ripe for reform. He also encouraged delegates to respond to consultations to help shape the law moving forward.

We also heard from a number of early career researchers who gave details of exciting new projects and who received some valuable feedback from delegates. We hope this will help them shape their research and, as always, we would look to encourage researchers at all levels to contribute to the stream.

**Vanessa Bettinson** e [vbettinson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:vbettinson@dmu.ac.uk)  
and **Samantha Pegg** e [samantha.pegg@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:samantha.pegg@ntu.ac.uk)

## Information

This stream is dedicated to socio-legal conversations about all aspects of the growing interactions between information and society. As society becomes more dependent on information and data to make policy and enforcement decisions and 'nudge' the behaviour of citizens, and the right to access information becomes contentious, the stream convenors believe that information is becoming ever more important as a topic for socio-legal engagement. The development of the stream shows that this belief is shared by a number of academics, at all stages in their careers. The collection, analysis, sharing, communication and use of information are all topics of interest and all featured during an excellent set of panels at SLSA 2016.

Some panellists addressed familiar topics, such as whistleblowing and surveillance, but considered novel theoretical perspectives or examined new empirical data; others addressed novel topics, such as food-labelling and freedom of information. Papers were accompanied by in-depth discussion between the keen audience and presenters.

For the future, the convenors hope to see the stream continue to grow, becoming a logical home for all those who study interactions between law, information and society. We look forward to an even more successful stream in Newcastle next year.

**Richard Hyde** e [richard.hyde@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:richard.hyde@nottingham.ac.uk)

## Labour law

This year we had some lively contributions from around the world. The UK's recent introduction of the living wage was evaluated by Keith Puttick, in particular its impact on hours and occupational benefits. This paper generated an animated discussion about the role of state support and the social-wage income. Polly Lord played excerpts from interviews with farmers about their working lives. Their position as simultaneously employer and worker was discussed and potential solutions for this unique form of precarious employment suggested. Margaret Downie examined recent cases on the burden of proof in indirect discrimination cases, contrasting the approach taken by the UK courts with EU case law, and concluded that, if equality was the goal, then the

European approach of placing the burden of proof squarely on the employer must be followed by the UK Supreme Court. Xin Zhang discussed her mixed methods study of migrant and urban workers in China and the differences in their treatment by employers in relation to accidents at work. She found that temporary unskilled migrant workers were less likely to have insurance therefore more likely to follow a private route for compensation and less likely to achieve a satisfactory outcome. Olawale Ajai looked at the 'juridification' of labour law from a Nigerian perspective, suggesting that, despite increasing workers' rights, conditions might not be as good as we think and making suggestions for reform.

It was particularly interesting to contrast the approach taken by different jurisdictions to the protection of workers, consider the gaps in each system and compare solutions. It is hoped this stream will continue to attract a similar variety of contributions at next year's conference.

**Margaret Downie** e [m.downie@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:m.downie@rgu.ac.uk)

## Law and neoliberalism

This theme met for the first time at SLSA 2016. As the march of neoliberalism continues, scholars are increasingly examining the impact of neoliberal policies on the operation, substance and role of law in society. However, as they work across a diverse range of areas, these scholars risk remaining disparate and so the aim was to draw them together to identify common themes. Nine excellent papers from scholars of various levels of seniority were delivered across three sessions. Their subject matter crossed jurisdictional boundaries and concerned employment law, adult social care, judicial activism, criminal justice, debt, housing, human rights and international economic law. Recognising that the boundaries of neoliberalism are contested, the call for papers had defined it broadly as a political, social and economic project which favours individual responsibility, self-management, free markets and privatisation over state intervention. While this provoked some discussion, speakers focused on exploring how neoliberal policies are affecting law as a social and political practice and changing the relationship between the law, the individual and the state. Some considered how cost and efficiency drivers, central to the neoliberal project, are altering not only power dynamics in society, but also broader conceptions of 'justice'. Papers also deconstructed and challenged narratives used to support neoliberal policies and questioned the extent to which these policies deliver supposed advantages of 'choice', 'cost-effectiveness', 'quality' and 'independence', and if so, at what price?

Many thanks to the speakers involved and to all those attending the sessions for their contributions and feedback.

**Annette Morris** e [MorrisA7@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:MorrisA7@cardiff.ac.uk)

## Law, politics and ideology

In this, the theme's second year, we received 12 abstracts from five countries. Ultimately, seven people presented. Papers ranged over topics on: compassion and judging (Dermot Feenan); the rise of deposit banking (Iain Frame); the contribution of constitutional courts to democratic transitions of the Former Yugoslavia (Edin Hodzic); constituent power (Jack Meakin); lawyering values in contemporary national security litigation (Devyani Prabhat); Schmitt's constitutionalism (Dimitrios Tsarapatsanis); and politico-legal forces driving the Conservative Party's reform agenda (Gary Wilson). The methodological concerns ranged from: broad theoretical analysis of the problematics (characteristic of sociology) of the relationship between the state and the people (Meakin), particularly in claimed moments of exception to the rule of law – such as the recent EU/Greek banking stand-off (Tsarapatsanis); through deep analysis of difficult cases in post-conflict constitutional courts for populations with significant

### **Social and Legal Studies 25(5) October 2016**

Cohabitation's boundaries and the confines of tradition – Robert Leckey

After the war: displaced women, ordinary ethics, and grassroots reconstruction in Colombia – Julieta Lemaitre

Reading 'class' in international law: the labour question in interwar Egypt – Mai Taha

Intersexuality and the 'right to bodily integrity': critical reflections on female genital cutting, circumcision, and intersex 'normalizing surgeries' in Europe – Francesca Romana Ammataro

'I think it's rape and I think he would be found not guilty': focus group perceptions of (un)reasonable belief in consent in rape law – Wendy Larcombe, Bianca Fileborn, Anastasia Powell, Natalia Hanley and Nicola Henry

ethno-national cleavages in order to test their intended 'liberalising' purpose (Hodzic); to a claimed shift from 1980s radicalism to – based on interview data and analysis of court cases – a form of legal formalism in, chiefly, US cause-lawyering in contemporary national security cases (Prabhat). Gary's paper engaged directly with the party-political values underpinning contemporary Conservative Party reforms. It is hoped that future conference sessions on the theme will help develop analysis of ideology and its political implications.

**Dermot Feenan** e [dermot.feenan@port.ac.uk](mailto:dermot.feenan@port.ac.uk)  
and **Andrew Gilbert** e [andrew.gilbert@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.gilbert@anglia.ac.uk)

## Methodology and methods

This year the stream was convened by Petra Mahy, SOAS, and Eleanor Pritchard, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford. We invited papers from all spheres of socio-legal and empirical legal research which explicitly addressed methodology and methods and received a great response. We held four panel sessions including an 'author-meets-reader' session where SLSA prizewinner Henry Yeomans discussed his book *Alcohol and Moral Regulation: Public attitudes, spirited measures and Victorian hangovers* (2014 Policy Press). Two papers explicitly addressed ethical questions of research methods: Amanda Keeling discussed the difficulties of ensuring informed consent when she was conducting participant observation with social workers and their vulnerable clients, while Eleanor reflected on the ethical problems of conducting fieldwork in post-conflict Kosovo. Then we had a range of presentations on different empirical methods and sources. Lois Bibbings introduced her research, using historical textual sources, on British male conscientious objectors from the First World War and their development of different forms of 'conscience'. Vanessa Richardson reported on her interview research exploring participants' experiences of having been in care. Petra reflected on the problems with and solutions to comparability in a study of plural work regulation in Indonesia and Australia. Finally, we had a lively discussion where Jo Samanta, Sarah Sargent and Kudret Yeldon presented their experiences working with focus groups and the use of grounded theory to analyse transcripts, and then Fabio Ferraz de Almeida advocated the use of 'natural' conversational material such as police interview transcripts with suspects.

**Petra Mahy** e [petra.mahy@soas.ac.uk](mailto:petra.mahy@soas.ac.uk)

## Refugee and asylum law: theory, policy and practice

This theme had a very successful second conference in Lancaster. Sixteen papers were offered and we had a range of very interesting discussions dealing with global as well as UK-specific issues, with speakers from as far afield as Australia. What was particularly exciting was the number of presentations by PhD students; it is clear that there is much excellent research being undertaken on asylum-related topics and the field is burgeoning. As the issue of forced migration assumes increasing global significance, the role of socio-legal studies will be extremely important in helping to develop imaginative but evidence-based responses and we look forward to next year's conference to hear about new work.

**Dallal Stevens** e [d.e.Stevens@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:d.e.Stevens@warwick.ac.uk)

## Spatiality and inclusivity

Being intentionally broad in scope, this new stream is designed to explore the extent to which the design and development of different spaces and places either entice or dissuade particular social groups from engaging with them. The stream attracted papers on a broad range of topics.

Firstly, Amy Ludlow and Ruth Armstrong presented their paper on 'Learning together in prisons: the transformative

potential of curating inclusive spaces of encounter'. It explored the University of Cambridge's Learning Together initiative, set up with support from the Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund. The scheme brings together students from prisons and universities to study degree-level material in a prison environment. The presentation included some excellent anecdotes, clearly illustrating the positive outcomes for all involved. Convenors Jill Dickinson and Vicky Heap, Sheffield Hallam University, presented a paper on 'Place-making and shopping centres: exploring the tensions between stakeholders and the law', analysing and evaluating potential conflicting stakeholder interests in shopping-centre management. Combining aspects of law and criminology, the paper draws upon Jill's PhD research into law's role in shopping-centre operations and brings in elements of Vicky's research into antisocial behaviour (ASB). In doing so, it considers the spectrum of different formal and informal mechanisms available for managing ASB and its impact.

The stream concluded with a paper from Antonia Layard, Bristol. Entitled 'The spatiality of protest: Diggers 2012', the paper was framed around a case study of a group of squatters, Diggers 2012, who established the Runnymede Eco-village on disused land owned by a private property-developer. Developing methods in legal geography, the paper asked how we might read cases spatially, drawing on insights from critical legal studies and feminist legal practices, and, in doing so, attempted to explore both the presence and absence of spatiality in legal thinking and practices.

**Jill Dickinson** e [jill.dickinson@shu.ac.uk](mailto:jill.dickinson@shu.ac.uk)  
and **Vicky Heap** e [v.heap@shu.ac.uk](mailto:v.heap@shu.ac.uk)

## Vulnerable suspects and offenders

This year we convened a new stream on 'Vulnerable suspects and offenders'. There have been many changes in policies, procedures and attitudes towards vulnerable witnesses in the criminal justice system, but vulnerable suspects and defendants have tended to be left out. We were delighted to have plenty of interest in the stream and we held three sessions (nine papers) which were well attended. Key themes were: defining vulnerability; identifying and responding to vulnerability (or failing to) in various settings, including police stations and courts; difference in attitudes/approaches where the vulnerable person is a suspect/defendant (as opposed to a complainant/witness); and difficulties in persuading stakeholders that processes may need to be adjusted to accommodate vulnerable suspects/defendants. Papers drew upon a mixture of empirical, doctrinal and theoretical methodologies.

The theme of vulnerable suspects and offenders forms the basis of work being done by the Centre for Evidence and Criminal Justice Studies at Northumbria University. We hold regular seminars and other events on this theme and welcome new members interested in engaging in research on the topic.

**Nicola Wake** e [nicola.wake@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.wake@northumbria.ac.uk)  
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### **Social and Legal Studies 25(4) August 2016**

Sexual violence in the digital age: the scope and limits of criminal law – Nicola Henry

Legal knowledges and surveillance in the condo world – Randy K Lippert and Stefan R Treffers

Forensic technologies in music copyright – Jose Bellido

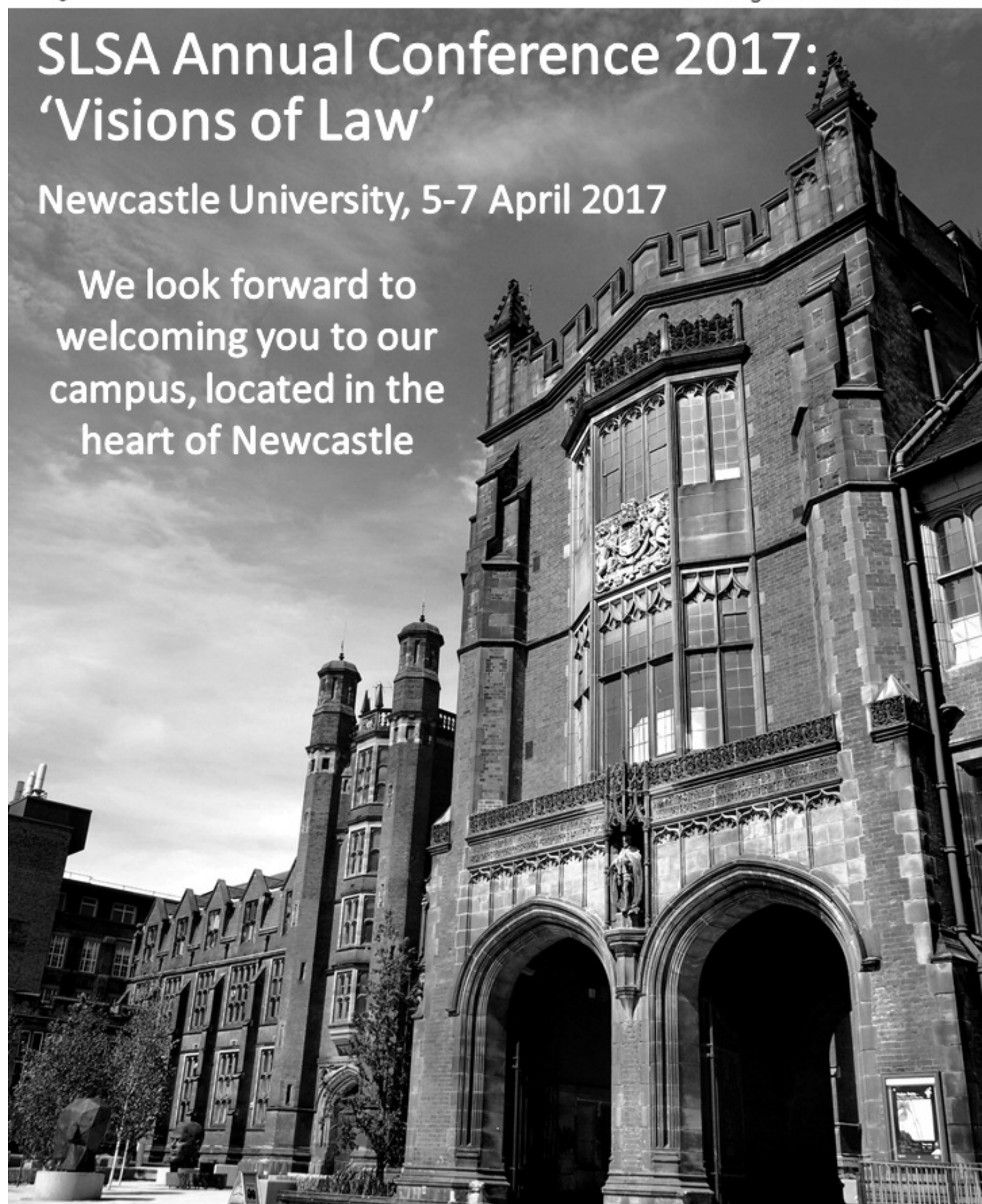
Anti-trafficking (ILL-) efforts: the legal regulation of women's bodies and relationships in Cambodia – Clara Bradley and Natalia Szablewska

Who dares fine a murderer? The changing meaning of money and fines in Western European criminal systems – Patricia Faraldo-Cabana

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For more information please contact the organisers Nikki Godden-Rasul ([nikki.godden-rasul@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:nikki.godden-rasul@ncl.ac.uk)) and Kevin Crosby ([kevin.crosby@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.crosby@ncl.ac.uk))