

Article and Book Prizes

Guidance Notes

If you require this document or the form in an alternative, accessible format, then please contact the [SLSA Administrator](#).

The aim of the prizes is to celebrate and promote the work of socio-legal academics. Following submission of nominations, and prior to the SLSA Annual Conference, a shortlist of nominations will be published. The winners of the prizes will be announced at the Annual Conference. The conference is a key event for community building and networking between socio-legal scholars, as well as celebrating the achievements of those shortlisted. Consequently, we warmly welcome and encourage all shortlisted nominees to attend the Annual Conference but also recognise that this is not always possible.

The value of the prizes will be: for the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize, £250; for the SLSA Article Prize, £100; for the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize for Early Career Researchers, £250; and for the Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize, £250. On previous occasions, the judges have sometimes exercised the power to divide the whole sum equally between the winners. The rules governing these prizes are as follows.

General Rules

1. The general rules apply to all four prizes, unless otherwise stated.
2. Nominations for each of the prizes can be accepted from any one member of the SLSA, including the author(s) of the nominated publications. Nominators and all nominee authors must be fully paid-up members of the SLSA. Nominations are also welcome from publishers provided that statements are included indicating that the author has consented to the nomination, indicating that the nominated author is a fully paid up member of the SLSA, and explaining why the nominated work is socio-legal (see Rule 9, below).
3. All nominations for the article and book prizes must be submitted online using the appropriate forms. These forms are available via the [SLSA Prizes Page](#) and in the dropdown menu within the members' section. Nominations can be submitted by members only if they have a registered account and an [active subscription](#). Publishers can request a free online subscription that will enable them to nominate using our online form and details on this are provided in the FAQs.

4. All book nominations MUST indicate which of the book prizes (the Hart Book Prize/the Prize for Early Career Academics/the Theory and History Prize) the work should be considered for. Nominations will require selection of at least one prize and permit selection of up to two prizes. If a book is nominated and subsequently shortlisted for more than one book prize in the same year, then the Board of Trustees reserves the right to determine the most appropriate allocation of awards.
5. Both the shortlist and the winners of the four competitions will be determined by the Board of the SLSA. No individual feedback will be provided.
6. The SLSA seeks to encourage both single-authored and collaborative work. Jointly authored work may be submitted for any of the prizes. However, in the case of collaboration between an early career academic, as defined in Rule 17, and a co-author who is not an early career academic, a book will only be considered for the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize. There is to be no restriction on the number of co-authors permitted.
7. Edited collections are not eligible for the any of the book prizes.
8. Books and articles by eligible authors will be considered provided that:
 - a. they have been published in the 12 months up to 30 September preceding the closing date for nominations; and
 - b. they have not been nominated in an earlier SLSA prize competition.
9. All nominations for all prizes must include
 - a. the month and year in which the book/article was published;
 - b. a statement showing that the author(s) has consented to the nomination;
 - c. a statement explaining why the nominated work is socio-legal.
10. The prizes will be awarded to the successful candidates at the SLSA's Annual Conference, and details of the shortlisted nominees as well as the winners will be published in the Socio-Legal Newsletter and on the SLSA website.
11. Works by members of the SLSA Board of Trustees are not eligible for nomination for any of the above prizes.
12. The closing date for all prizes is the **first Monday in October each year**.

Prize Specific Rules

Socio-Legal Article Prize

13. The Socio-Legal Article Prize is open to all academics. This includes postgraduate research students.

14. Individual book chapters are eligible for the article prize.
15. Only one submission to this prize may be made by any one individual each year.

Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize

16. The Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize is open to all academics. This includes postgraduate research students.

Hart Socio-Legal Early Career Prize

17. The Hart Socio-Legal Prize for Early Career Academics (a prize for the best book emerging from a PhD, MPhil, LLB or MA) is open to authors who are early career academics. By early career academics we mean someone who is either:
 - a. within eight years of their PhD award (this is from the time of the PhD 'viva' oral test), or equivalent professional training; or,
 - b. within six years of their first academic appointment (the first full or part time paid employment contract that lists research or teaching as the primary function).These periods exclude any career break, for example due to family care or health reasons.

18. Eligibility for nomination will be determined, if appropriate, by academic status at the time of publication, not at time of nomination. Decisions on eligibility will be made by the SLSA Board of Trustees and are final.

19. All books submitted by early career academics under this scheme can also be submitted for consideration for the 'Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize' (See Rule 4, above).

Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize

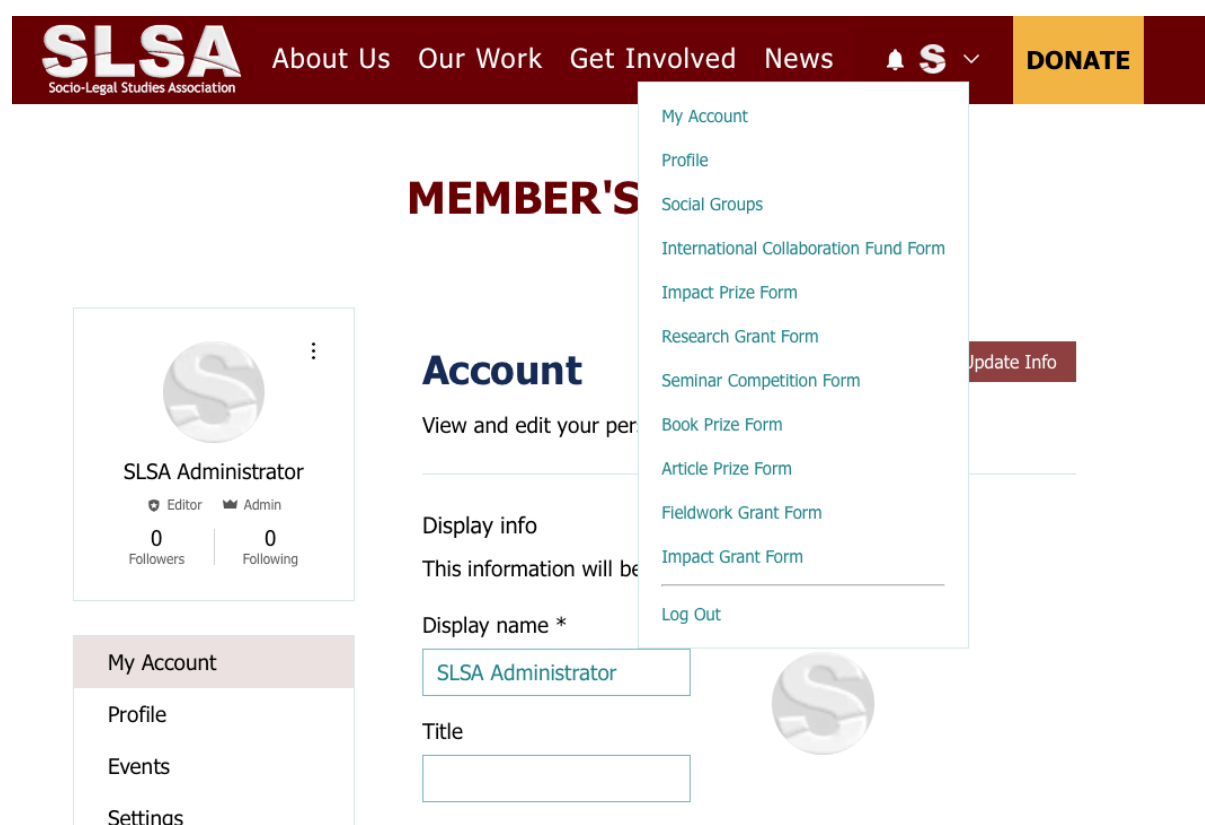
20. The Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize is a prize, open to all (this includes postgraduate research students), for the most outstanding book which makes either:
 - a. a contribution to socio-legal theory (rather than legal philosophy as such) of any kind. While such a contribution should certainly be empirically informed (though not necessarily based on original empirical socio-legal research), one of its major objectives should be to contribute in some way to general theory in the field of 'law and society', or to social theory of law; or
 - b. a contribution to socio-legal history (i.e. a historically oriented study of any aspect of law in society) either in one country, or comparatively, or more generally; or otherwise a contribution to the study of any aspect of the history of socio-legal scholarship, or of sociology of law, or of the

relations of law and the social sciences in one country, or comparatively, or more generally.

Books may be entered for the Theory and History Prize alone, or may also be considered for either the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize or Prize for Early Career Academics (See Rule 4, above).

Submitting a Nomination

All nominations must be submitted online via the electronic nomination form available via the drop-down menu in the member's area (once you are logged in).



The screenshot shows the SLSA (Socio-Legal Studies Association) website's member area. At the top is a dark red navigation bar with the SLSA logo, links for 'About Us', 'Our Work', 'Get Involved', 'News', a notification bell, a user profile icon, and a 'DONATE' button. Below this, the main heading 'MEMBER'S' is partially visible. The central section is titled 'Account' and includes a profile card for 'SLSA Administrator' with roles 'Editor' and 'Admin', and zero followers/following. To the right of the profile card is a dropdown menu listing various nomination forms: 'My Account', 'Profile', 'Social Groups', 'International Collaboration Fund Form', 'Impact Prize Form', 'Research Grant Form', 'Seminar Competition Form', 'Book Prize Form', 'Article Prize Form', 'Fieldwork Grant Form', 'Impact Grant Form', and 'Log Out'. Below the dropdown, there are input fields for 'Display name *' (containing 'SLSA Administrator') and 'Title'. A large, semi-transparent 'S' logo is overlaid on the right side of the page.

Announcement of Winners

The shortlist will be announced in early February 2026. The winners will be announced at the SLSA annual dinner which will be hosted by the University of Sussex on 31 March 2026.

Privacy Statement

The data supplied to the SLSA in the nomination process will be used for the purposes of processing and evaluation of the nomination for the relevant prize, publishing shortlists, announcing the winners, and making any relevant payments. We will check the SLSA membership database for your current membership status.

The name, institutional affiliation, and relevant work, for those shortlisted may be recorded and shared on our website, e-bulletin, the Socio-Legal Newsletter, and social media. Our legitimate basis for processing your data under Article 6 of GDPR is the performance of a contract. Any queries or data access requests should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#) in the first instance.

Enquiries

Any enquiries about the scheme and application process should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#).