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NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

## MANCHESTER 2008: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

The SLSA's annual conference this year was held in March in Manchester. The choice of venue proved popular and 336 delegates from around the globe converged on the city to enjoy a stimulating range of papers and the warm Mancunian hospitality.

About 170 SLSA members and a similar number of non-member colleagues arrived in Manchester on 18 March. Of these, 65 were from non-UK institutions, including 25 from Ireland.

The sessions were organised using a combination of streams and keywords: an arrangement that was piloted successfully at Kent 2007. There were 30 streams and 8 keywords this year. In all, delegates attended 104 sessions and presented 292 papers. Two special panels were also organised. The abstracts of all the conference papers will be available for download from the SLSA website in the near future. Organisers received much positive feedback and the SLSA would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment.

## SLSA 2009: De Montfort University, Leicester

Preparations are well underway and dates are confirmed as 7-9 April 2009. Details of streams and keywords will appear in the next newsletter. Organisers: Trevor Buck e tbuck@dmu.ac.uk and Gavin Dingwall **e** gdingwall@dmu.ac.uk.

## SLSA SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 2008-09

In the summer of 1999, the SLSA launched a new scheme designed to encourage research initiatives in a practical way. This year, the fund is again £8000 and SLSA members can apply for a maximum of £1500 per project. *The closing date each year is 31 October.* 

The Research Grants Committee takes into consideration the coherence and costing of the proposal and the applicant's likely contribution to socio-legal scholarship, including anticipated publications or enhancement of the prospect of future research grants from other grant-making bodies. 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. Decisions for each round of grants are made no later than 31 January each year. You must use the official application form and you are advised to look at the titles, reports and summaries from past grantholders to help you decide whether your project is appropriate for a grant. Examples of past small grant reports and summaries are available on the SLSA website **w** www.slsa.ac.uk plus full application details. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact Mary Seneviratne e mary.seneviratne@ntu.ac.uk.

Inside, this year's seven successful applicants summarise their projects and two completed projects report back (pp 4-7).

## SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES AND THE HUMANITIES

## 5 November 2008: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Final call for papers

This one-day conference is hosted by the SLSA with the support of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. The keynote speaker is Melanie L Williams, Professor of Literary Jurisprudence, School of Law, Exeter University, author of Secrets and Laws - Collected essays: true tales of law, lives and literature (2005) and Empty Justice: One hundred years of law, literature and philosophy (2002).

## Aim

The SLSA recently adopted the strap-line: 'Where law meets the social sciences and humanities'. This conference will provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information specifically on the relationship between the humanities and socio-legal studies. The field of humanities (including literature, history, cultural studies and the arts) uses methods that are largely analytic, critical and speculative, rather than the mainly empirical approaches associated with the sciences. This approach offers opportunities for productive engagement with socio-legal studies.

## Rationale

The SLSA conceives of socio-legal studies as embracing 'disciplines and subjects concerned with law as a social institution, with the social effects of law, legal processes, institutions and services and with the influence of social, political and economic factors in the law and legal institutions' (SLSA, First Re-Statement of Research Ethics, para 1.2.1). The aim of this conference is to address these elements of socio-legal studies with particular reference to the humanities, and, perhaps, to break away from what Douzinas and Nead call 'the excessive logonomocentrism' of modern literary jurisprudence.

## Opportunity for publication

Selected papers may be considered for publication in an edited collection on socio-legal studies and the humanities.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be emailed by 16 July 2008 to the academic coordinator: Dermot Feenan, University of Ulster, School of Law, at **e** d.feenan@ulster.ac.uk, to whom enquiries may also be made: t +44 (0)28 9036 6374.

## SLSA subscriptions due on 1 July

Full membership is still frozen at £30, postgraduate at £10 (first year free). Details are on the SLSA website w www.slsa.ac.uk and membership benefits are listed on page 15. Queries should be addressed to Dermot Feenan e d.feenan@ulster.ac.uk.

## Also in this issue

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- Launch of Legal Empirical Research Support Network website - p 3
- SLSA-Hart prizes 2009 p 7
- JAC: call for applications p 8
- Consultation on SLSA Statement of Ethical Practice p 9

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## Changes to SLSA Exec

Tony Bradney, Anne Barlow, Helen Carr, Fiona Cownie and Lisa Glennon stepped down at the AGM in March. All gave their time and energy freely over recent years and their contribution will be greatly missed. Thank you!

#### Newsletter contact details

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### www.slsa.ac.uk

The SLSA website contains information about the SLSA and its activities. The bulletin board contains information on events, jobs, publications etc. Contact Marie Selwood e marieselwood@btinternet.com with details of announcements for posting.

## Disclaimer

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

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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. We are delighted to welcome the University of Nottingham as our newest sponsor and would like to thank all our sponsors for a successful first year. If you think that your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, please contact SLSA chair Sally Wheeler e s.wheeler@qub.ac.uk.	The University of Nottingham University of Kent	KEELE UNIVERSITY
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## LAUNCH OF LERSNET

In the autumn/winter 2007 edition of the Socio-Legal Newsletter (SLN 53:1), Martin Partington outlined his idea for an empirical legal research support network. Caroline Hunter reports on the birth of the network and its aims and objectives. The Legal Empirical Research Support Network (LERSnet) was to be a response to the findings of the Nuffield Enquiry report, Law in the Real World,1 which identified within the research community a lack of capacity for carrying out empirical legal research. We are delighted to announce that the website - w www.lersnet.ac.uk - central to delivering the aims of the network, was launched at the SLSA's 2008 conference in Manchester where more volunteers came forward to help with developing it as a core resource for empirical researchers.

The website is full of interesting information including links to research training courses, resources and materials and research funding possibilities for

## SLSA seminar competition

In 2006, the SLSA launched a new seminar competition to complement the Small Grants Scheme. In the first year, 2007, two events were supported. Unfortunately, in 2008, the judges were unable to make any awards.

Five submissions were received from a mixture of established and new scholars, from diverse universities, covering a wide range of subjects. However, none were found to have complied with all the competition rules. Specifically, a number of applications did not provide an adequate financial breakdown and/or did not adequately address and/or fulfil the criteria listed in Section 2 of guidelines (relevance the and innovation; access and inclusivity; availability of alternative funding; potential to raise the profile of the SLSA; dissemination).

Full details of the competition can be found on the SLSA website **w** www.slsa.ac.uk.

If you are considering applying for the next round, you are strongly advised to read the rules and entry critieria most carefully to ensure that you comply in full. The next closing date is **31 January 2009**.

Amanda Perry-Kessaris

aspiring and experienced empirical legal researchers. More importantly, the LERSnet working party<sup>2</sup> wants the site to be interactive and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and skills. To this end there is a blogging area where invited bloggers will start up and lead particular debates on issues. Forthcoming blogs include Sally Wheeler on getting empirical work published in mainstream UK law journals. If you have a relevant issue which you would like to air on the blog, please contact Caroline Hunter e caroline.hunter@manchester.ac.uk.

In addition the site has a forum space in which problems, issues and indeed solutions to carrying out empirical legal research can be debated. We very much hope that members of SLSA will join in or initiate the debates. There is a project noticeboard where you can seek partners and other assistance on particular projects and a skills exchange where we hope to match up people looking for particular skills with those who have them to offer. To be successful LERSnet needs you to contribute and take part. We very much hope that it will become the first place that people go to when

## SLSA Postgraduate Conference 2008

The 2008 SLSA Postgraduate Conference was held on 23-24 January at the Dennison Centre and was hosted by the School of Law at the University of Hull. It was the very first conference I attended as a postgraduate student and what an invaluable introduction it was to my life as a research student - never to be forgotten! I was extremely grateful to find out that the two-day conference was entirely free, from accommodation to registration, as well as being open to members and non-members alike. This was a pleasant surprise because it enabled any postgraduate student to participate, not just those with financial assistance. The conference was very well-organised with thanks being due to everyone involved - in particular, Kayleigh Hadley and Kim Van der Borght at Hull – for their hospitality and generosity.

The conference was divided into small workshops. Due to the number of participants, two workshops ran simultaneously. The timing of tea/coffee breaks did much to maximise the opportunity for networking, evident from the fact that many students were busy exchanging details. A wise professor once told me that 'It's all about networking!' I have kept this advice in mind and I have benefited from it contemplating and looking for assistance in carrying out empirical legal research.

In addition, if you have a course, an event planned, or know of any resources or funding sources currently not featured on the website, please contact a member of the working party with details. The site is very much a work-inprogress and it is hoped that it will grow and develop over the coming months.

Finally, in his recent article, Martin Partington mentioned the publication of a special issue of the *Journal of Law and Society* in 2008 containing a number of papers on research methodologies that were initially presented to the 2005 Hart Workshop. That special edition is now available<sup>3</sup> and is, of course, amongst the resources listed on LERSnet. **Notes** 

- Hazel Genn, Martin Partington and Sally Wheeler (2006) Law in the Real World: Immoving our understanding of how law
- Improving our understanding of how law works, Nuffield Foundation.
  2 LERSnet working party: Fiona Beveridge, Keleigh Coldron, Robert Dingwall, Caroline Hunter, Nick Jackson, Marc Mason, Angela Melville, Vanessa Munro, Martin Partington,
- Marie Selwood and Sally Wheeler. 3 'Law's reality: case studies in empirical research on law' (June 2008) JLS 35(s1).

enormously. During the conference I got to know many research students and academics with whom I have kept in touch and many of whom I met again at the SLSA 2008 in Manchester in March.

The first workshop I attended provided step-by-step advice about the journey to establish a career in academia. It covered the 'Pleasures and perils of socio-legal research', a practical, hands-on session and a realistic account of life in the field of socio-legal studies. One of the most beneficial sessions for me was 'Managing your supervisor' by Professor Tony Bradney. This is an area that might be taken for granted, but, particularly for international students unfamiliar with cultural codes in the UK in general and of academic life in particular, it can be a difficult relationship to deal with. The session on 'Publishing and developing your academic career' by Professors Fiona Cownie and Sally Wheeler put the future in perspective for postgraduates at the start of their careers.

I truly benefited from this conference. It was such a success for me, and the experience has encouraged me to attend other conferences. I recommend it to all postgraduates. My sincere gratitude goes to everyone involved in funding, organising and welcoming us. Forough Ramezan-Khah Next year's conference will be at Birkbeck, London, in January.

## Crime and security in post-communist Europe

Agata Fijalkowski, University of Lancaster Law School, £1500 My research project comprises three stages: an analysis of crime statistics in Poland and Romania; an examination of Polish and Romanian criminal law; and an investigation of the perceptions of crime, past and current views, in both countries.

National and international statistics indicate that crime in Poland and Romania is relatively low, if not in decline.<sup>1</sup> However, both countries have seen a rise in corruption and hate crimes.<sup>2</sup> Poland (1997) and Romania (2004) have new penal codes. Polish and Romanian societies continue to worry about safety, although statistics do not confirm the level of insecurity felt. Political campaigns that focus on fighting corruption are vigorously supported (Bodnar and Ziolkowski 2007; Roguska 2007).<sup>3</sup> In this vein, in both countries criminal legislation is criticised as ineffective and badly drawn.

The theme of corruption is strongly connected to the diffusion of the communist elite (*nomenklatura*). Socio-legal research that has been carried out on the diffusion of its networks and how this affects security (Los and Zybertowicz 2000) helps us understand the nature of a police state, which both Poland and Romania were. My initial research has, without fail, returned to the question of how these two countries have dealt with their past, where 'totalitarian society [was] organized as a military unit [that] demanded submissiveness and obedience' (David 2003). Commentators posit that the manner in which Poland dealt with de-communisation means that the past 'will create fear for many years' (Bachmann 2000). This surmise can be extended to Romania.

This has led me to interview Polish judges, Polish and Romanian scholars and Romanian political scientists and practitioners at the Institute for the Study of Communist Crimes de-communisation measures and about aims. Decommunisation practices have significantly shaped the character of the law, some of which has been revisited by the courts. What is unmasked is the tension that is found within a concept of justice that embraces the past, present and future. This can be identified in the 2007 Polish Constitutional Tribunal decision (K2/07, 11 May 2007) on the amended Lustration Act 1997. In short, the judgment ruled unconstitutional attempts to lustrate some 700,000 persons, publishing lists of collaborators, and abolishing the right to file cassation with the Supreme Court. Alongside these developments are calls for national reconciliation and retributive justice in relation to the period of martial law in Poland (1981-83). I was privileged to take part in

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### Articles

- To what extent do third parties influence business compliance? Vibeke Nielsen & Christine Parker
- Constitutionalizing employment relations: Sinzheimer, Kahn-Freund and the role of labour law – Ruth Dukes
- Health, social movements and rights-based litigation in South Africa – Marius Pieterse
- The scope of criminal law and criminal sanctions: an economic view and policy implications Roger Bowles, Michael Faure & Nuno Garoupa

#### **Book reviews**

- Law's Practical Wisdom: The theory and practice of law making in new governance structures in the European Union by Katerina Sideri – Stijn Smismans,
- *Risk Regulation and Administrative Constitutionalism* by Elizabeth Fisher Anne Meuweuse
- Not a Suicide Pact: The constitution in a time of national emergency by Richard A Posner – Richard Mullender

a conference on transitional justice held at the University of Bucharest's Faculty of History in May 2008 exploring how the law takes on not only a symbolic role (Teitel 2005), but also a temporal one (Priban 2007), in the process unveiling paradigm shifts between law and political circumstances that construct 'transitional critical truths' accompanying the regime in power (Teitel 2005). Thus, legal consciousness reveals a (re)construction of the notions of justice and security. Participants concluded that history and law need to work together rather than being mutually exclusive. Such a step may allow societies to confront the past and regain confidence in institutions.

The final part of the project critically considers the legitimacy of institutional arrangements and the basis for civil society in a changing Europe (Podgórecki and Oligati 1996). Grosescu (2007) notes that civil society never took root in Ceausescu's regime. There was a significant difference in the character of the transition between the two countries. For Romania, the protest was individual in character in comparison with Poland's opposition movement (Solidarity).<sup>4</sup>

Recently, the Polish film director Andrzej Wajda, in referring to *Katyń*, expressed his secret intention in making the film. Wajda was propelled by the desire to capture 'those moviegoers for whom it matters that we are a society, and not just an accidental crowd' (Applebaum 2008, p 14). Polish and Romanian societies are about to begin a new chapter in their histories, in which they have a concrete role in institution-building and leading the national conversation about the past. This will reshape respective notions of crimes and security.

I am grateful to the SLSA for supporting this ongoing project. Research results will be presented at SLSA 2009.

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- David, R (2003) 'Lustration laws in action: the motives and evaluation of lustration policy in the Czech Republic and Poland (1989–2001)', Law and Social Inquiry 28(2):387–439
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#### Notes

- 1 Please note that the *European Sourcebook on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics* and the International Crime Victims Survey are due to publish reports in 2009. See Poland's Central Statistical Office (GUS) at **w** www.stat.gov.pl/english and Romania's National Institute of Statistics at **w** www.insse.ro/cms/rw/pages/index.en.do.
- 2 Street children are of particular concern in Romania. See Romania's National Institute of Statistics, n 1 above.
- 3 For example, 88 per cent of Poles view corruption as the biggest problem for the functioning of the state.
- 4 For an excellent insight into this aspect of Romanian life see the documentary *Cold Waves* (*Razboi pe calea undelor*), directed by Alexandru Solomon (Romania 2007).

## Pilot study of child protection within UK sport: analysis of compliance of governing bodies with national guidelines and legal requirements

## Guy Osborn and Steve Greenfield, Law School, University of Westminster; £1160

Funding was successfully sought to fund the pilot of the above study from the SLSA during the 2006–07 academic year. The funding went, amongst other things, towards the costs of travel for initial interviews, which also contribute to a broader project analysing the issue from a comparative perspective, particularly drawing upon the experiences of youth sport in Scandinavia.

A catalyst for the project was the successful London bid for the 2012 Olympics and Government policies designed to support and develop a sporting culture that encourages widespread participation in recreational sport, particularly amongst the young.

Governing bodies now, with the potential threat of loss of funding, have to develop and institute policies that meet the nationally agreed standards. The study involved an analysis of regulatory frameworks protecting children within the context of sport, and in particular to implementation of international and national policies within individual sports, by looking at:

- the child protection policy from each chosen sporting body against the nationally approved standards;
- and the identification of inherent and structural problems in the implementation of the policy.

Our original aim was based on determining the extent of the gap between the paper policies and activity at (sports) ground level. It had seemed to us that it was unlikely that the proliferation of policy documents could be successfully translated into the practice that was envisaged. Thus the key to the project was the analysis of how policy 'works' in practice? It became apparent at the outset that we would need to concentrate on one sport and excavate more deeply rather than take a broad brush, as was originally envisaged.

We concentrated on football and a number of interviews were conducted with coaches and administrators including those at Hertfordshire Football Association, the Football Association and the University of Hertfordshire, as well as individual club coaches and academics. The initial results were interesting and, indeed, did reveal gaps in some areas that we had not considered at the outset, such as the provision of suitable facilities and the effect on the children's development.

We have thus moved towards a wider definition of child protection that encompasses a range of issues from the organisation and administration of sport through to the coaching and nurture.

An initial paper on the findings was given at the Children, Sport and Physical Activity Conference (London, Ontario, June 2007) entitled 'Protecting children from harm within youth football: does self governance work or is there a case for direct legal intervention?'. One interesting and parallel strand that has emerged has been the intrusion of adults into child space, and the over-organisation of children's leisure time based on a perceived 'need' for safety. Thus over-protection may have a detrimental effect.

The grant has enabled us to embark on an exciting and innovative piece of research and we are grateful to the SLSA for this opportunity. We are aiming to publish and disseminate these findings further over the next year.

## Understanding mobility and internationalisation in the discipline of law in the UK

## Jessica Guth, University of Bradford, £1173.50

The Bologna Process has been the driving force of higher education reform in Europe since its beginnings in 1999. The main aim is to establish a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2010. Unhindered mobility of students, teachers and researchers within this area is to be achieved through the implementation of a set of action streams including the creation of a readable and transparent system of degrees essentially based on three cycles: undergraduate bachelor degrees, masters degrees and doctorates. Parallel to the Bologna Process, the European Council agreed that the EU should become 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth'.<sup>1</sup> The development of a European Research Area, where researchers and academics can move freely, aims to help achieve this goal. But to what extent do these initiatives apply to and impact on law as an academic discipline in the UK? Recent work by Ackers et al highlights issues raised by academic mobility in the social sciences.<sup>2</sup> However, law as an academic discipline sets itself apart from many other social science disciplines and merits a study of its own. In the UK the ambition of most law students is to become a practising lawyer and the undergraduate law curriculum is to some extent governed by professional bodies. This pilot project looks at the extent to which the Bologna Process and developments in EU policy are impacting on legal education in the UK and what the drivers of and barriers to mobility are in academic law from undergraduate level upwards. It considers the rationale for mobility and the impact of it from a policy as well as from a personal perspective and thus gives unique insight into how mobility in the academic discipline of law can be managed effectively to encourage the creation and dissemination of knowledge as well as the acquisition of key skills.

### Notes

- 1 European Council (2000) Presidency conclusions from the Lisbon European Council, 23 and 24 March, Nr: 100/1/00, p 2
- 2 H L Ackers et al (2007) 'Doctoral mobility in the social sciences. report to NORFACE ERA-Network' www.liv.ac.uk/law/elprg

## Culture and human rights in Colombia: negotiating indigenous law

### Sandra Brunnegger, University of Cambridge, £1500

I will use the SLSA small grant to fund a research stay in Colombia building on my previous contextual analysis of the legal and anthropological stakes of six cases dealing with the competence of indigenous law brought before the Colombian Constitutional Court. My current research seeks to extend the 'culture and rights' debate by exploring human rights ethnographically; it involves an examination of the politicisation of indigenous identity and self-image in Colombia. Colombia's 1991 Constitution granted both a measure of autonomy to indigenous peoples' legal systems and proposed the 'coordination' of indigenous and state law, with the aim of squaring indigenous legal practices with international human rights norms. Through ethnographic fieldwork at two coordination initiatives, an indigenous law school in Cauca and an indigenous tribunal in Tolima, I will capture how the incorporation of rights standards in indigenous law necessarily entails a process of negotiation in which the social importance of rights concepts and practices is debated and generated. In this sense, my ethnographic analysis of specific cases aims to demonstrate the simultaneous constitution of new bodies of indigenous law and the emergence, through the identity politics of indigenous groups, of new understandings of political subjectivity in Colombia. The project overall will result in a book manuscript.

## The sword and shield or misplaced faith? How DNA evidence affects reasoning in criminal cases

## Michelle Cowley, University of Oxford, £1411

Baroness Scotland recently claimed that DNA evidence is the 'sword and shield' of the criminal justice system (Nuffield Council on Bioethics 2007). This phrase refers to the propensity for DNA evidence to pinpoint the guilty and protect the innocent, much as fingerprinting evidence is expected to do. Yet scientific analyses of DNA show that matches are not 100 per cent conclusive (Dror and Charlton 2006) and psychologists are beginning to debate whether jurors reason in a way that is consonant with the statistical thinking necessary for reasoning about probabilistic evidence such as DNA (Johnson-Laird 2006). The concern is that jurors may consider DNA to mean more than its probative value objectively indicates (eg Koehler and Macchi 2004), especially in the absence of other evidence or plausible alternative possibilities (Johnson-Laird 2006). This concern raises important questions, not only about the admissibility and use of DNA in criminal proceedings, but also about the expectancies of a societal solution to implement bio-information in national DNA databanks as a strategy to combat crime.

This grant will fund two pilot studies to investigate quantitatively how people reason about DNA evidence in cases in which they have no prior knowledge. Consider the media speculation that Madeleine McCann, the child who disappeared while on holiday in Portugal, was in fact killed rather than abducted. The speculation that followed about the DNA evidence implied conclusiveness, whereas forensics apply a statistical match criterion between zero and 100 percent. The alternative possibility, that the transport of Madeleine's belongings had led to cross-contamination, also explained the

## Future directions for the 'wider police family'

## Jonathan Merritt, De Montfort University, £934

It is apparent that little has been written on the specific day-today roles and duties in policing of non-attested or nonwarranted staff (ie not constables) taken from their perspective. Although much literature exists on public perception, the political imperative and wider socio-legal issues associated with, for example, the 16,000 or so police community support officers (PCSOs) on our streets. These patrolling officers have a status and role which is very new but arguably draws on some very old, pre-Metropolitan Police Act 1829 ideas. This project seeks to concentrate on the PCSO and discern the future development of the role by examining its evolution to date.

Interviews and focus groups are being held with the senior command and community policing officers, both PCSO and constable, across three police forces. The digitally recorded data is being analysed with the help of software to code it and look for common themes. The research is primarily concerned with whether the role is evolving into a specialist wing of police interaction with those policed or whether it is simply becoming a junior auxiliary rank below that of constable. The gathering of the data is almost complete thanks to the co-operation, generosity and organisation of the forces concerned. That is not to mention the professionalism and openness of the officers interviewed who are taking time out of their busy working day to be involved. I am especially indebted to them.

The results will be distilled into an article over the next six months but already some interesting and extremely positive threads are becoming apparent which may bode well for the future of community policing. The emerging picture is not at all of a 'failed experiment', cited in some quarters, but of a role which is an asset, albeit in need of 'tweaking', perhaps even major adjustment, from legislators and policy makers. DNA evidence regardless of how conclusive the match. But do jurors readily challenge DNA evidence in their reasoning? The first study examines whether the questionnaire materials, which focus on DNA evidence, can reliably detect differences or biases in people's reasoning, as the guilt of the defendant becomes more diagnostic according to the DNA random match probability. The second study will examine if the consideration of the same criminal case, for which measures of caution are introduced about the interpretation of DNA, is alleviated of biased or unconsidered reasoning about DNA evidence.

The results have the potential to make a theoretical contribution to the current gap in knowledge about how people reason in real world contexts (Oaksford and Chater 2007) and to inform research agendas on how to present DNA evidence in light of the psychological realities of people's reasoning (Nuffield Council on Bioethics 2007). The programme of research will also contribute to a larger grant application to examine systematically how juries reason about DNA evidence in several contexts including: when other forensic evidence corroborates or refutes the DNA evidence; when the judge's caution varies in its explicitness; and when there is consistent or conflicting expert evidence about the DNA.

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## Meeting the needs of teenage boys made homeless as a result of domestic violence

### Helen Baker, University of Liverpool, £1450

All too frequently, families are made homeless as a result of fleeing domestic violence. Much is known about the experiences and service provision needs of women and young children who find themselves homeless as a result of being forced to leave home. The pilot empirical project funded by this grant (which will cover the travel, accommodation and transcription costs of undertaking the research) will fill an identifiable gap in research relating to the impact of laws and policies upon teenage boys made homeless as a result of domestic violence, a significant cause of homelessness for this group. Often, the housing options for teenage boys are limited by the refusal of most refuges to admit them (as young men), resulting in their separation from their mothers and younger siblings, and sometimes 'choosing' to stay with the perpetrator. The research aims to identify the needs and available housing provision for this under-researched group through a number of qualitative interviews with both teenage boys and service providers. It will provide a starting point for widening and deepening debates in relation to teenage boys as a service user-group, and provide a significant addition to existing research into domestic violence by focusing on the experiences and opinions of this group and relevant service providers, in order to make concrete recommendations for change and highlight good practice. It will build specifically on recommendations made in Stalford, Baker and Beveridge (2003)<sup>1</sup> in this regard. This empirical work will also allow comparisons to be drawn between the experiences of women, children (including teenage girls) and teenage boys.

#### Notes

1

H Stalford, H Baker and F Beveridge (2003) *Children and Domestic Violence in Rural Areas: A child-focused assessment of service provision*, Save the Children, Plymbridge

## The social and legal construction of nonhuman animals

## Karen Morgan, University of Bristol, £765

The primary aim of this pilot study is to question the relationship between human and nonhuman animals, examining how and why it becomes possible for some nonhuman animals to be legislatively and discursively constructed as objects whereas others are granted subjectivity. The research examines those human/nonhuman animal relationships which may be articulated in terms of intimacy (eg companion animals) and those which may be expressed in terms of utility (farmed animals). Intended to form part of a larger piece of research, this study will ascertain: whether legislative and discursive practices regarding nonhuman animals indicate discrepancies which are contingent upon us relating to the animals in terms of intimacy or utility; and whether human acknowledgment of any pain or suffering experienced by nonhuman animals is mediated by the category into which they are placed.

In addition to a selective literature review, the methodology for this work involves examining discursive practices in a variety of settings including legislation and regulation, relevant animal welfare literature and popular and specialist print media. The fieldwork will consist of semi-structured interviews with key actors in relation to animal welfare, reflecting their roles as policy makers, campaigners and regulators. The combination of discursive and interview-based research will facilitate an examination of the ways in which the categorisation of nonhuman animals translates into public and organisational discourses (and vice versa). In addition, it will enable an exploration of the extent to which a recognition or denial of subjectivity can be associated with the purposes with which we associate nonhuman animals (ie in terms of utility or intimacy).

The research results will be disseminated though conference papers and journal articles. Preliminary findings and anticipated issues were discussed at the British Sociological Association in March 2008.

## SLSA-HART SOCIO-LEGAL PRIZES 2009

## Each year the SLSA runs two book prizes and an article prize in partnership with Hart Publishing.

The Executive Committee of the SLSA invites nominations for its three annual prizes.

• the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize

a book prize, open to all, for the most outstanding piece of socio-legal scholarship published in the 12 months up to 31 October preceding the closing date for nominations

- the Socio-Legal Article Prize an article prize, open to all, for the most outstanding piece of socio-legal scholarship published in the 12 months up to 31 October preceding the closing date for nominations
- the Hart Socio-Legal Prize for Early Career Academics a prize for the best book – published in the 12 months up to 31 October preceding the closing date for nominations – emerging from a previously awarded PhD, MPhil, LLB or MA

Full details of the rules and downloadable nomination forms can be found on the SLSA website: **w** www.slsa.ac.uk and follow the links for prizes. Closing date: **24 November 2008**. If you have any queries about these prizes you should contact Fiona Beveridge **e** f.c.beveridge@liverpool.ac.uk.

## Short lists

In 2007, the SLSA decided to publish short lists for the two book prizes (but not the article prize) in recognition of the high

## A longitudinal analysis of the mortgage repossession process 1995-2008

## Lisa Whitehouse, University of Hull, £1485

Recent moves by mortgage lenders in the UK to tighten their purse strings, combined with a rise in repossessions and falling house prices, has led to concern that the property market may be set to experience a repeat of the 'housing crisis' of the early 1990s. In light of this concern and attempts by the Labour Government since 1997 to reform the mortgage industry, this project will pursue three general but related questions:

- 1. What role does the law play currently within the mortgage relationship and how does the repossession process operate in practice?
- 2. To what extent have the policies of the Labour Government impacted upon the repossession process and the mortgage relationship generally?
- 3. To what extent will these policies prove effective in avoiding a repeat of the housing crisis of the early 1990s?

In attempting to answer these questions, an empirical survey into the law of mortgage will be conducted including semistructured interviews with district judges, lenders, the Financial Ombudsman Service, the Building Societies Association, the Financial Services Authority and consumer organisations. The findings arising from this survey will be compared with data from a similar survey undertaken in 1995 with the objective of offering a unique longitudinal analysis of the repossession process. In order to maximise the value of the research outputs, the findings of the research will be disseminated in a variety of formats including journal articles and conference papers. Overall, this research aims to make a valuable and unique contribution to current thinking across a range of audiences in respect of an issue that impacts significantly upon social, political and economic factors on a global scale.

I would like to thank the SLSA for the funding provided.

standard of submissions. Below are the 2008 shortlists plus comments from the judges.

## Book prize 2008

Stephen Bottomley (2007) *The Constitutional Corporation: rethinking corporate governance,* Ashgate

Lorna Fox (2006) Conceptualising Home, Hart

Steven Greer (2006) *The European Convention on Human Rights: Achievements, problems and prospects,* Cambridge

The winner was Stephen Bottomley. The judges said: 'This offers a fresh new perspective on notions of shareholder value, which has suffered from too much economism in the past . . . fluently written, impeccably argued . . .'

## Early career prize 2008

David Keane (2007) Caste-Based Discrimination in International Human Rights Law, Ashgate

Tsachi Keren-Paz (2007) Torts, Egalitarianism and Distributive Justice, Ashgate

Wanjiru Njoya (2007) Property in Work: The employment relationship in the Anglo-American firm, Ashgate

The winner was David Keane. The judges said: 'This is work in the best traditions of socio-legal scholarship, rich with contextual and doctrinal insights.'

## Article prize 2008

Donald McGillivray and Jane Holder (2007) 'Locality, environment and law: the case of town and village greens', *International Journal of Law in Context* 3:1–17

The judges said: 'We liked the article's. . . return to a local perspective . . . an effective mix of theory, case law and case study . . . genuinely thought-provoking.'

## Judicial Appointments Committee: we only select the best . . . but you have to apply!

The band of past and present academics in full or part-time judicial office is small but very select. They include Baroness Hale, Lord Justice Buxton, Lord Justice Maurice Kay, Mr Justice Beatson, Mr Justice Cranston, Mr Justice Elias and Professor Andrew Burrows. These individuals show how academics can make a significant contribution to the work of the judiciary and the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) wants to encourage more people to follow their example. Of our own commissioners, David Pearl has himself lectured at Cambridge and the University of East Anglia before becoming President of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Director of Studies at the Judicial Studies Board and now President of the Care Standards Tribunal.

In July the JAC expects to launch a selection exercise for recorders, deputy district judges and legal members for a new tax tribunal. These and numerous other opportunities are open to suitably qualified SLSA members. The JAC wants to encourage applications from a wider pool of candidates, including legal academics.

If you are interested, please go to our website – **w** www.judicialappointments.gov.uk – where you will find information on current and forthcoming vacancies. At the same address are editions of *Judging Your Future*, our regular newsletter which features information on how to apply and where the JAC will be holding roadshows around the country.

The JAC will also be attending future SLSA annual conferences. If you have any questions about how you might be able to get involved in judicial work, please do come and talk to our representatives.

I encourage you to look into these vacancies and to consider whether you should apply. As the past success of academics within the judiciary shows, an application now could be the start of a valuable and exciting new phase of your career.

The Right Honourable Lord Justice Roger Toulson JAC Commissioner

## Justice Access Programs Alert

JAPA (Justice Access Programs Alert) is a free bi-monthly electronic alert published by the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales, Australia. It covers innovative programmes improving access to justice for economically and socially disadvantaged people throughout but not limited to NSW. Programme evaluations are included if available. Each issue will include a focus on a specific theme. Programmes for Aboriginal people are featured in the first issue, which is now available. Contributions and feedback are welcome and can be sent to e arussell@lawfoundation.net.au. To subscribe go to w www.lawfoundation.net.au/publications/newsletters/japa.

Anna Russell

## Old Bailey online

The Old Bailey Proceedings Online Project which was launched in 2000 was completed this spring. The website makes available a fully searchable, digitised collection of all surviving editions of the Old Bailey Proceedings from 1674 to 1913, and of the Ordinary of Newgate's Accounts, 1690 to 1772. It allows access, free of charge for non-commercial use, to over 210,000 trials and biographical details of approximately 3000 men and women executed at Tyburn. In addition to the text, there are digital images of all 190,000 original pages of the Proceedings, 5000 pages of Ordinary's Accounts, advice on searching and historical and legal background material. The project was funded with grants from the AHRC, the Big Lottery Fund and the ESRC. **w** www.oldbaileyonline.org

## Managing research postgraduates in law

Fiona Cownie and Kate Malleson are running an informal morning session for directors of postgraduate research (or equivalent) in law to share experiences and knowledge about managing the postgraduate research process. The session is on 15 September 2008 from 10.30 to 12.30 at Queen Mary, University of London (Lincoln's Inn Fields campus, 67-69 Lincoln's Inn Fields). The idea arose from our discussions as postgraduate research directors at Keele and Queen Mary about common issues and concerns during which we found it helpful to bounce ideas off each other. We very much hope that a larger group will find it useful to get together in this way. There will be three themed discussions on the following topics: getting started (admissions, induction); getting on (managing progress, supervision, research methods training, writing-up); and completing (completion rates, the viva). There will be no formal presentations, but the discussion in each session will be guided by a chair. The intention is to allow participants to exchange ideas and information and raise questions and concerns about the process. If you are interested in attending, email Kate Malleson e k.malleson@qmul.ac.uk so that we have an idea about numbers, as lunch will be provided.

The session is timed to allow those who wish to to move on to the SLS annual conference which is a five-minute walk away at LSE and starts in the afternoon of 15 September.

Kate Malleson and Fiona Cownie

## Human pandemic influenza in Europe

Professor Robyn Martin of the Centre for Research in Primary and Community Care, University of Hertfordshire, is leading a public health law project, PHLawFlu, which has received funding from the EU in the framework of the Public Health Programme. The associate partners are the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, Unite 558 of the Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medicale, France, Escola Nacional de Saude Publica of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal, and Technische Universitat Dresden, Germany.

PHLawFlu has two key components. The first is the development of the European Public Health Law Network, a website designed to facilitate the exchange of expertise on the use of law as a tool for public health protection and promotion across the EU (plus Croatia, Turkey, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). The network will enable us to identify public health law experts across Europe to participate in the substantive research element of the project.

The second component of PHLawFlu focuses on disease preparedness, specifically in relation to human pandemic influenza. The objective is to develop a portrait of national public health laws across Europe pertaining to communicable disease control. The research will consist of a series of workshops to be held across Europe, in which rapporteurs from the project states with expertise in public health law examine a disease scenario based on the WHO pandemic disease phases. Accompanying the scenario will be targeted questions about law underpinning national pandemic preparedness plans. The workshop data will then be analysed to enable the identification of gaps and inconsistencies in European disease protection.

The ephln website is developing a repository of global public health law information (articles, legislation, government documents, news) on all aspects of law as a tool for public health, including both communicable and non-communicable disease. Membership is free, and open to anyone whose work or research involves public health law. In particular, we welcome legal academics with an interest in public health. We intend the website to provide a source of materials for public health law research and teaching and welcome contributions for the site. Visit **w** www.ephln.org to become a member. *Emily Fitzgerald* 

## Centre for Responsibility, Rights and the Law

The Law School at the University of Sussex will formally launch its new Centre for Responsibility, Rights and the Law at an international, interdisciplinary conference on Gender, Family Responsibility and Legal Change to be held at Sussex from 10-12 July 2008. The launch will take the form of a keynote lecture to be delivered by Baroness Hale of Richmond on the afternoon of Friday 11 July. In her lecture, Baroness Hale will reflect upon her work in the area of gender and family law and identify aspects of the law which are still in need of reform. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception. The lecture will mark the beginning of the activities of the centre which aims to facilitate and develop doctrinal, theoretical and empirical research into responsibilities, rights and the law nationally, in the EU and internationally. It will bring together research into responsibilities and rights cutting across five key areas of research within the Law School (child and family law, European law, international law, criminal law and justice, and comparative law) and will operate through a programme of conferences, lectures, workshops, seminars and research.

For more information on the centre please contact its director, Professor Susan Millns **e** s.millns@sussex.ac.uk or visit **w** www.sussex.ac.uk/about/research/research\_groups.php. For more conference information and registration details visit **w** www.sussex.ac.uk/law/1-4-9-1.html. **Susan Millns** 

## ConWEB: call for papers

The editors of ConWEB – Jutta Brunnee (Law, University of Toronto) and Antje Wiener (Politics and IR, University of Bath) – invite the submission of unsolicited manuscripts, from social science and law backgrounds, which address the broad themes of constitutionalism and governance beyond the state. Papers focusing on international relations, international law, European integration theories and/or empirical studies of complex state contexts and international relations are welcome. Interdisciplinary work is particularly encouraged.

Recently published papers within the series include 'The new institutionalism and European integration' by Mark A Pollack and 'Gender and European integration' by Birgit Locher and Elisabeth Prügl. Pollack examines the new institutionalisms in rational choice and historical analysis and their contributions to EU studies, briefly summarising the core assumptions of each approach before discussing specific applications to the study of the EU and the question of enlargement. Locher and Prügl assess the contribution of gender approaches to understanding European integration. They offer a conceptualisation of such approaches as including a distinct ontology, epistemology and methodology. Their paper illustrates these contentions presenting case studies of the EU's response to sex trafficking, the reform of the common agricultural policy and of enlargement. These papers and previous ones can be accessed via the ConWEB homepage **w** www.bath.ac.uk/esml/conWEB.

## Background

ConWEB was founded within the framework of the UACES Study Group on Constitutionalism and Governance Beyond the State by Jo Shaw (Law, Edinburgh) and Antje Wiener. ConWEB papers are edited and reviewed by the editors and by members of the editorial board according to specific areas of expertise. An extensive interactive process includes up to three pages of comments from both editors, resulting in suggestions 'publishable as is', 'publishable with minor revisions', 'revise and resubmit' or 'not publishable'. In cases of doubt or disagreement, papers are sent to anonymous peer reviewers.

Papers should be submitted by email to either of the editors e jutta.brunnee@utoronto.ca or e a.wiener@bath.ac.uk.

Hannes Hansen-Magnusson

## Consultation on the SLSA's Statement of Ethical Practice

The SLSA ethics sub-committee has recently revised the association's *Statement of Ethical Practice* with regard to the ESRC research ethics framework and new legal developments of potential relevance to socio-legal research practice. A copy of the old *Statement of Ethical Practice* and the draft for the new one can be found on the SLSA website **w** www.slsa.ac.uk (both versions can be downloaded from the home page). We very much welcome feedback and suggestions for changes from all members of the socio-legal community. Please send your comments by **1** September 2008 to Bettina Lange **e** bettina.lange@csls.ox.ac.uk.

Bettina Lange, Dermot Feenan, Dave Cowan (SLSA ethics sub-committee)

## New guidelines on copyright and research

The Publishers Association and the British Academy have recently published *Joint Guidelines on Copyright and Academic Research*. The guidelines address problems such as fair-dealing exemptions, protection for different types of materials including digital and troublesome ownership issues. **w** www.britac.ac.uk

## Governing through anti-social behaviour

A new network of researchers, practitioners and policy-makers is exploring the use and impact of anti-social behaviour-related interventions drawing upon the most up-to-date research findings and lessons from practice. Funded by the ESRC and managed by the Centre for Criminal Justice Studies at the University of Leeds, the network is organising a series of seminars and a final 'dissemination conference' (in spring 2009). The research seminar series is forging a vibrant network of scholars and reflective practitioners seeking to understand shifts in the nature of contemporary control and improve the possibilities for better social regulation, conflict management and crime prevention.

The network has a specific interdisciplinary focus drawing together people from a variety of disciplines, including geography, urban studies, housing, family and gender studies, education, psychology, criminology, youth studies, sociology, political sciences, cultural studies and social policy. The network will also explore comparative developments across different European countries.

Further information can be obtained from the network's website: **w** www.law.leeds.ac.uk/esrcASB. *Adam Crawford* 

## MA in international childhood studies, University of Sheffield

This new MA, which is provided in close collaboration with the University of Sheffield's Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, is an innovative and exciting programme that explores recent developments in the study of the social construction of childhood. Providing first-class teaching by scholars of international repute, it offers the opportunity to learn in a research-led, interdisciplinary environment. The programme will provide an excellent grounding for those wishing to pursue or develop further their careers and skills as researchers and practitioners. It will especially benefit those working for the continued development of services and rights for children, whether in the public, private or not-for-profit (NGO) sectors. Additional details can be found at **w** www.sheffield.ac.uk/socst. For informal discussion, please contact Professor Adrian James e adrian.james@sheffield.ac.uk. For programme information and application forms, please contact: Graduate Admissions e sociological.studies@sheffield.ac.uk. Adrian James

## The economic approach to law and development: principles, effects and defects

## Amanda Perry-Kessaris outlines the research that she will be undertaking over the next two years funded by a British Academy Research Development Award.

Commentators are increasingly troubled by the extent to which economic principles seem to dominate the theory and practice of law and development. They have queried, for example, the tendency to deify market forces, to rely on a narrow set of evaluative criteria, such as efficiency, to mathematise social problems and to promote homogenisation (see Trubek and Santos 2006). Over the last decade, I have contributed to this emerging critique by tracing the evolution of one aspect of econo-centric development theory, what I call 'investment climate discourse'. My contribution has been unusual in that I have sought to measure the economic approach both from within, using its own criteria, and from without, using the criteria of other, more socially attuned, disciplines. So, for example, I have demonstrated how investment climate discourse fails to support the foreign investors that are its intended beneficiaries, let alone the wider population (eg Perry-Kessaris 2002; 2008 forthcoming). In the course of this research, I have been troubled by the fact that noneconomic approaches to law and development, including work critical of the economic approach, are disjointed, lacking in common points of positive and normative reference (see, eg contributions in Hatchard and Perry-Kessaris 2003). If the welloiled machine of the economic approach to law and development is to be fairly evaluated, let alone supplanted, a rigorous theoretical framework must be applied. So, I wish to contribute further to the field of law and development by exploring the principles, defects and effects of development economics using Roger Cotterrell's law-and-community lens.

The law-and-community approach is to employ a revitalised concept of 'community' to map and evaluate law's role in social interactions. Networks of 'relations of community' exist wherever there are objectively verifiable interactions that are relatively 'stable and sustained' and are characterised by mutual interpersonal trust. Such interactions, Cotterrell argues, occur across the full range of Max Weber's four ideal types of social action: traditional, affective, belief and instrumental (Cotterrell 1997, pp 80-2). Flexible, yet robust, law-and-community analysis offers a fresh perspective on the theory and practice of law and development by allowing us simultaneously to hold in mind a broad range of contemporary actors and their 'fluctuating', 'overlapping', complex and sometimes transnational relations (Cotterrell 2006, pp 7 and 67). In so doing, we become able both to 'seek similarity' and 'appreciate difference' in the values and interests that are central to each of these relations (Cotterrell 2002, p 49). Using a law-and-community lens, the economic approach to law and development can be

## CMCL, Melbourne

Dan Hunter, Megan Richardson (CMCL-Centre for Media and Communications Law at the University of Melbourne Law School) and Julian Thomas (Swinburne University of Technology) were awarded an ARC Discovery grant for the project, Amateur Hour: The Sociolegal Construction of Amateur Media. The funding is for AUD\$210,000 over three years.

The rise of amateur networked production is a highly significant transformation in Australia's cultural and media industries. Innovation policy provides incentives for the socially optimal production of new works, but amateurs do not produce for commercial gain, and may not respond to commercial incentives of intellectual property. The project articulates motivations, incentives and conditions for amateur content production. www.law.unimelb.edu.au/cmcl Amy Harrington

read as privileging the values and interests that are characteristic of instrumental relations. The question arises as to what extent economic values and interests are different from, and even in conflict with, those associated with traditional, affective and belief relations.

The law-and-community approach also highlights a universal role which law can and ought to fulfil in respect of all social interactions: the support of mutual interpersonal trust. Such trust is the cause and the effect of the interactions and sense of belonging that characterise relations of community. It 'encourages future interaction and provides the motivation to engage in relatively free, uncalculated relations with each other' (Cotterrell 2006, pp 73-4). Drawing on Cotterrell's work, I have highlighted three ways in which law supports trust and, thereby, the productivity that is characteristic of communitylike relations. It expresses, in the form of contracts, institutions and so on, the trust which holds actors together; it draws actors in further by ensuring their participation in social life; and it coordinates the differences that hold actors - and different networks of community - apart (Perry-Kessaris 2008 forthcoming). So, the law-and-community lens reveals the need to ask, for example, how these communal mechanisms might perform in the context of legal reforms conducted under the dominant economic approach to law and development.

I believe that Cotterrell's work offers a methodological lifeboat to the field of law and development, but I cannot properly pursue this idea until I learn more about development economics. So, between 2009–11, I will be using a British Academy Research Development Award of £85,000 to investigate three questions:

- What values and interests are central to, and privileged by, the theory and practice of development economics?
- How does development economics address law, positively and normatively?
- What effect does the economic approach to law and development have upon law's ability to act as a communal resource?

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## Newton International Fellowships

Newton International Fellowships were launched on 4 June 2008 and will be run by the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society to cover the broad range of natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities.

Newton International Fellowships aim to attract the world's best post-doctoral researchers to Britain for a period of one to two years. Funding for follow-on activities will continue for up to 10 years after the Fellows have returned overseas, with the aim of maintaining links with the UK. In addition, Newton Fellows will have the opportunity to join a national alumni scheme for international fellows run by RCUK. More details are available from **w** www.newtonfellowships.org.

## George Mason University inaugurates new Center for Justice, Law and Society

The socio-legal world recently expanded with the creation of the Center for Justice, Law and Society (CJLS) at George Mason University, just outside Washington DC. CJLS links top social scientists with policymakers and practitioners in law, judicial administration and legal development. CJLS faculty and graduate students are drawn from multiple disciplines, including justice studies, sociology, anthropology, conflict analysis and public affairs. Together, they share an interest in making academe more useful to practitioners and enriching academic research with the experience of practice. CJLS has three core objectives:

- advancing research and scholarly debate on questions of law and legal behaviour;
- bridging the gap between academe and practice so that policymakers and practitioners are better informed by the insights of academic research, and academicians better understand how the concepts they study behave in practice;
- assisting policymakers and practitioners by applying empirical research to practical problems in the field.

CJLS is an academic centre in the field of law and society. Unlike traditional law schools, which study legal doctrine, CJLS examines the effects of legal processes and studies the social forces that influence legal rules, institutions and practices. CJLS sponsors colloquia, advances research, and trains graduate students with interests in law and society.

## Current projects

CJLS researchers are engaged in several projects that connect academe to practice. These include:

a cross-national study of the practice of extraordinary rendition;

## people...

**PENNY BOOTH**, previously Principal Lecturer and then Reader in Law at Staffordshire University Law School has been conferred Professor of Child and Family Law.

PROFESSOR CHRISTINA LYON, Queen Victoria Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law at the University of Liverpool Law School was after 15 years service at the University of Liverpool (and before that seven years as Head of the Law School at Keele) granted the title of Emeritus Professor of the University and Honorary Research Fellow in the Liverpool Law School on 16 December 2007 and was then sworn in by Lord Justice Leveson at the Royal Courts of Justice as a full-time circuit judge on the Northern Circuit on 17 December 2007. Professor Lyon is sitting now in crime at Preston Crown Court and in family cases at Blackburn Family and Care Centre. Readers of the newsletter please note that Professor Lyon also retired as Editor of the Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law on 31 December 2007 after 24 years as joint editor and any queries about submissions to the journal should now be directed to the editor, DR JIM GODDARD e j.a. goddard@bradford.ac.uk. Professor Lyon is continuing her close association with the Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law at the Liverpool Law School and with her publishing schedule on Butterworths Family Law Encyclopaedia and on her book Child Abuse.

DR PATRICK HANAFIN of Birkbeck Law School has been promoted to Professor of Law.

SIBO BANDA has been appointed law lecturer in the Department of Business and Law in NUI, Maynooth, Ireland e sibo.banda@nuim.ie. PROFESSOR ELIZABETH COOKE of the University of Reading has been appointed Law Commissioner from 3 July 2008 for a period of five years.

ANDREW KENYON, director of the Centre for Media and Communications Law, Melbourne, has been reappointed as an expert legal advisor to the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to assist in the development of draft guidelines for the implementation of controls on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship under the Framework Convention.

- a systematic, comparative survey of lawyers and law enforcement officers on the trade-off between civil liberties and homeland security;
- comparative research on the treatment of citizenship and immigration cases in Canada;
- an evaluation of the cost of federal death penalty cases;
- an evaluation of the effects of increased court security;
- an ethnographic analysis of socio-legal change in Bolivia.

## Faculty and staff

CJLS is led by a nine-person faculty board, three of whom – Professors Jon Gould, Susan Hirsch and James Willis – have won recent scholarly awards from the Law and Society Association. They are assisted by an advisory board of policymakers, practitioners and fellow academicians and a group of talented graduate research fellows.

### 'Breaking it down' abstracting service

Among its activities, CJLS has inaugurated a twice-annual publication to highlight academic research of interest to policymakers and practitioners. Entitled 'Breaking it down: justice, law and society abstracts for policy makers and practitioners', this service provides concise summaries of relevant research published in more than 15 academic journals. Authors who have published such work are encouraged to contact CJLS directly so that their research may be included.

## More information

Additional information about CJLS may be found on our website at  $\mathbf{w}$  cjls.gmu.edu. In the years ahead CJLS looks forward to hosting faculty while on sabbatical or research leave. To learn more about CJLS, to subscribe to the abstracting service, or to inquire about collaboration, please contact the CJLS director, Jon Gould,  $\mathbf{e}$  cjls@gmu.edu. Jon Gould

## Social and Legal Studies 17(2)

Intersectional race and gender analyses: why legal processes just don't get it – Dr Elena Marchetti

- Risk in action: the practical effects of the youth management assessment Dale Ballucci
- Border control and the limits of the sovereign state Mary Bosworth
- Democracy captured by its imaginary Vincent Druiolle
- Towards a fiscal sociology of tax credits and the fathers' rights movement – Ann Mumford
- Demystifying deaths in police custody: challenging state talk Simon Pemberton

## Social and Legal Studies 17(3) 'Emerging commons' Special Issue

Emerging Commons – Jane Holder & Tatiana Flessas

- Enclosure, common-right and the property of the poor Nicholas Blomley
- Crofter forestry, land reform and the ideology of community Alison P Brown
- What public presence? Access, commons and property rights Jonathan Mitchell
- Governing global fisheries: commons, community law and third country coastal waters Emma Witbooi
- The repatriation debate and the cultural commons Tatiana Flessas

## **Fragmenting Fatherhood:** A socio-legal study (2008 forthcoming) Richard Collier and Sally Sheldon, Hart Publishing $\pounds 22/\pounds 33$ 248 pp

Discussion of the legal status, responsibilities and rights of men who are fathers – whether they are married or unmarried, cohabiting or separated, biological or 'social' in nature – has a long history. In recent years, however, western societies have witnessed a heightening of concern about whether families need fathers and, if so, what kinds of fathers these should be. A debate about the future of fatherhood has become central to a range of conversations about the changing family, parenting and society. Law has played an important part in these discussions, serving as a focal point for broader political frustrations, adopting a central role in mediating disputes, and operating as a significant symbolic 'authorised discourse' which provides an official, state-sanctioned account of the scope of paternal rights and responsibilities.

Fragmenting Fatherhood provides the first sustained engagement with the way that fatherhood has been understood, constructed and regulated within English law. Drawing on a range of disparate legal provisions and material from diverse disciplines, it sketches the major contours of the figure of the father as drawn in law and social policy, tracing shifts in legal and broader understandings of what it means to be a 'father' and what rights and obligations should accrue to that status. In thematically linked chapters cutting across substantive areas of law, the book locates fatherhood as a key site of contestation within broader political debates regarding the family and gender equality. Fragmenting Fatherhood provides an important and unique resource and speaks to debates about fatherhood across a range of fields including law and legal theory, sociology, gender studies, social policy, marriage and family, women's studies and gender studies.

### **Redirections in the Study of Expert Labour: Established professions and new expert occupations** (2007) Daniel Muzio, Stephen Ackroyd and Jean-François Chanlat (eds), Palgrave Macmillan £55 288pp

Why are expert occupations interesting to study? This book reveals a great deal that is of interest about the current state of three key occupations: lawyers, doctors and management consultants. The conclusions are not always what you might expect. It reveals important differences of fortune between the occupations. While business consultancy is a growth area, there are significant differences within the industry between firms. Lawyers have been under ideological attack for many years but studies show that law firms have responded effectively in adverse circumstances. For other traditionally trained occupations, such as doctors, however, it is less clear what the future may demand in terms of their profession. There is a paradoxical quality to the current pattern of demand for expert labour: demand not only varies a good deal between occupations, but it seems to bear little relationship to whether the skills are found in traditional or new occupations.

Living Law: Studies in legal and social theory (2008) Roger Cotterrell, Ashgate £85 (10% discount if ordered online) 412pp Living Law presents a comprehensive overview of relationships between legal and social theory, and of current approaches to the sociological study of legal ideas. It explores the nature of legal theory and socio-legal studies today as teaching and research fields, and the work of many of the major socio-legal theorists. In addition, it sets out the author's distinctive approach to sociological analysis of law, applying this in a range of studies in specific legal fields, such as the law of contract, property and trusts, constitutional analysis, and comparative law. The book is divided into four parts: the scope of legal inquiry; socio-legal theory and theorists; interpreting legal ideas sociologically; law, morality and community.

## *The Europeanisation of Contract Law: Current controversies in law* (2008) Christian Twigg-Flesner, Routledge £60 232pp

Critical yet accessible, this book provides an overview of the current debates about the 'Europeanisation' of contract law. Charting the extent to which English contract law has been subject to this activity, it is the ideal volume for readers unfamiliar with the subject who wish to understand the main issues quickly. It examines a range of key developments, including: a string of directives adopted by the EU that touch on various aspects of consumer law; and recent plans for a European Common Frame of Reference on European Contract Law. Bringing together advanced legal scholarship, critically examining key developments in the field and considering the arguments for and against greater convergence in the area of contract law, this is an excellent read for postgraduate students studying contract and/or European law.

## Marx and Law (2008) Susan Easton (ed) Ashgate £145 586 pp

This collection of classic articles affirms Marx's continuing relevance to modern debates on the role of law. The issues addressed include: the implications of Marx's analysis of law for understanding the form and functions of law; justice and injustice; the critique of liberal legalism; the ideological nature of law; international human rights law; and crime and punishment. The legacy of Marx's work is reassessed in the context of recent historical changes.

## **Reputation and Defamation** (2007) Lawrence McNamara, Oxford University Press £50 254pp

The first study of what reputation is, how it functions, and how it is and should be protected under the law, Reputation and Defamation addresses the inconsistencies and failures of the common law that have been observed for over a century. It develops a theory of reputation and uses it to analyse, evaluate and propose a revision of the law. Contrary to the legal orthodoxy, defamation law did not aim and function to protect reputation until the early nineteenth century. Consequently, the historically derived tests for what is defamatory do not always protect reputation adequately or appropriately. The 'shun and avoid' and 'ridicule' tests should be discarded. The principal 'lowering the estimation' test is more appropriate but needs reworking. Christian tradition and Victorian moralism are embedded in the idea of 'the right-thinking person' that provides the test's conceptual foundations, but these are problematic in an era of moral diversity. Instead, 'the rightthinking person' should be associated with an inclusive liberal premise of equal moral worth and a shared commitment to moral diversity; any departure from this must be justified on sound, expressly stated ethical grounds. That demand serves to protect reputation appropriately and effectively in an age of moral diversity.

## 50 Years of the European Treaties: Looking back and thinking forward (2008 forthcoming) Michael Dougan and Samantha Currie (eds), Hart Publishing £35/€52.50 394pp

The essays which appear in this work are based on the papers presented at a two-day conference held in Liverpool in July 2007 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome establishing the EEC (European Economic Community). The collection reflects critically upon some of the EU's core characteristics and speculates imaginatively on the diverse challenges facing the EU in the future. Exploring the pressing contemporary problems facing Europe and throwing light on the big questions which will define the EU's identity in the medium term, the essays also draw out links with, and threats to, the historical achievements of European integration. For any scholar or practitioner interested in the nature of the constitutional relationship between the Union and its Member States and the tensions between economic and social policy objectives, these essays will be essential reading.

### **Regulating Policing: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984: Past, present and future** (2008) Ed Cape and Richard Young (eds), Ashgate £25/€37.50 244pp

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) was an innovative and controversial attempt to regulate the investigation of crime. Two decades on, it now operates in a very different context than in the mid-1980s. Whilst legal advice has become established as a basic right of those arrested and detained by the police, the police service has become both increasingly professionalised but also increasingly driven by government objectives and targets. The Crown Prosecution Service, originally established to separate prosecution from investigation, is now becoming involved in the investigative process with the power to make charge decisions.

Although the basic structure of PACE has survived, almost continual revision and amendment has resulted in a markedly different creature than that which was originally enacted. Further changes are imminent as the government has embarked on a further review of PACE. This collection brings together some of the leading academic experts, police officers and defence lawyers who have a wealth of experience of researching and working with the PACE provisions. They examine the critical questions and issues surrounding PACE, providing unique and exciting insights into the demands and challenges of the regulation of policing.

### **Regulating Deviance: The redirection of criminalisation and the futures of criminal law** (2008 forthcoming) Bernadette McSherry, Alan Norrie and Simon Bronitt (ed) Hart £22 256pp

The criminal attacks that occurred in the United States on 11 September 2001 have profoundly altered and reshaped the priorities of criminal justice systems around the world. Domestic criminal law has become a vehicle for criminalising 'new' terrorist offences and other transnational forms of criminality. 'Preventative' detention regimes have come to the fore, balancing the scales in favour of security rather than individual liberty. These moves complement already existing shifts in criminal justice policies and ideologies brought about by adjusting to globalisation, economic neo-liberalism and the shift away from the post-war liberal welfare settlement. This collection of essays - by leading scholars in the fields of criminal law and procedure, criminology, legal history, law and psychology and the sociology of law - focuses on the future directions for the criminal law in the light of current concerns with state security and regulating 'deviant' behaviour.

## Transitional Justice from Below: Grassroots activism and the struggle for change (2008) Kieran McEvoy and Lorna McGregor (eds), Ashgate £30/€45 224pp

Although relatively new as a distinct field of study, transitional justice has become rapidly established as a vital field of enquiry. From vaguely exotic origins on the outer edges of political science, the study of 'justice' in times of transition has emerged as a central concern of scholarship and practical policy-making. A process of institutionalisation has confirmed this importance. At the national level, international donors contribute huge sums of money to 'Rule of Law' programmes designed to transform national justice systems.

This collection seeks to offer something quite different to the mainstream of scholarship in this area, emphasising the need for bespoke solutions to different transitions rather than 'off-theshelf' models. The collection is designed to offer a space for diversity, prompted by a series of perspectives 'from below' of societies beset by past violent conflict which have sought to effect their transition to justice. In doing so the contributors have also sought to enrich discussion about the role of human rights in transition, the continuing usefulness of perspectives from above, and the still contested meanings of 'transition'.

### Amnesty, Human Rights and Political Transitions: Bridging the peace and justice divide (2008 forthcoming) Louise Mallinder, Hart Publishing £60/€90 524pp

Amnesty laws are political tools used since ancient times by states wishing to quell dissent, introduce reforms, or achieve peaceful relationships with their enemies. In recent years, they have become contentious due to a perception that they violate international law, particularly the rights of victims, and contribute to further violence. This view is disputed by political negotiators who often argue that amnesty is a necessary price to pay in order to achieve a stable, peaceful and equitable system of government. This book aims to investigate whether an amnesty necessarily entails a violation of a state's international obligations, or whether an amnesty, accompanied by alternative justice mechanisms, can in fact contribute positively to both peace and justice.

#### Crime, Procedure and Evidence in a Comparative and International Context: Essays in honour of Professor Mirjan Damaška (2008 forthcoming) John Jackson, Maximo Langer and Peter Tillers, Hart Publishing £55/€82 372pp

This book aims to honour the work of Professor Mirjan Damaška, Sterling Professor of Law at Yale Law School and a prominent authority for many years in the fields of comparative law, procedural law, evidence, international criminal law and continental legal history. Damaška's work is renowned for providing new frameworks for understanding different legal traditions. To celebrate the depth and richness of his work and discuss its implications for the future, the editors have brought together an impressive range of leading scholars from different jurisdictions in the fields of comparative and international law, evidence and legal theory. Using Damaška's work as a backdrop, the essays make a substantial contribution to the development of comparative law, procedure and evidence. The book is divided into three parts. The first explores a number of insights from Damaška's work in the fields of evidence, criminal law and legal theory. The second part considers contemporary trends in national and international criminal procedure. The final part of the book assesses Damaška's contribution to and the challenges faced by comparative law in the twenty-first century.

## Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly

The *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly* was relaunched in spring 2008 (59(1)) with a special issue on jurisprudence edited by George Pavlakos. For subscriptions and back issues contact **e** law.office@qub.ac.uk. If you are interested in submitting an article, contact the editor Sally Wheeler **e** s.wheeler@qub.ac.uk.

## Journal of Law and Society special issue

The *Journal of Law and Society* invites expressions of interest concerning the guest editorship of the JLS special issue (spring 2010). Newsletter readers are invited to contact the editor with their proposals.

Please 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 issue is normally 75,000 words, inclusive of footnotes, and carries between 8 to 10 papers. The deadline for completed copy is November 2009. The JLS may provide funds to support a conference for the authors. The issue will also appear as a book published by Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford.

A decision on the 2010 publication will be taken in September 2008 thereby allowing the editor one year to produce the copy. The special issue for 2009 is titled 'Economic globalisation and ecological localisation' and is edited by Bob Lee (Cardiff Law School).

Philip Thomas, JLS Editor, e thomaspa@cardiff.ac.uk

#### WORKSHOP: 'SOFT LAW' PRACTICES, ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND LEGAL SCHOLARS 26-30 August 2008: Ljubljana, Slovenia

'Soft law' has undoubtedly acquired a prominent position in the making of a global legal order. Designating quasi-legal instruments, such as 'principles of conduct', 'guidelines', 'code of practices', 'declarations', it is widely used by non-state actors such as the IMF and the WTO and by transnational political institutions such as the UN, the EU and even the G8. This panel examines empirical (ethnographic) case studies of its concrete functioning within any politicised social field (migration policies, trade agreements, bioethics, security and anti-terrorism strategies, human rights etc). Conference details at **w** www.easa2008.eu/en/informacija.asp?id\_meta\_type=13.

#### RICS: LEGAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 4-5 September 2008: Dublin

Please see the symposium website for details **w** www.cobra2008.com. Further information is available from Paul Chynoweth, the symposium chair, at **e** p.chynoweth@salford.ac.uk.

## MANAGING HIGH-RISK SEX OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY

8 September 2008: University of the West of England This conference seeks to evaluate the measures used, and being considered for use, in the treatment and risk management of sex offenders and questions whether such high-risk offenders can be effectively managed within the community. It will feature: discussion of original empirical research findings; exploration of current measures including MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangements), treatment programmes, registration requirements and community notification; examination of new technology and ideas, including human rights implications. It will be of interest to probation officers, prison officers, police officers, psychologists, psychotherapists, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, educators, voluntary sector workers and academics. Contact Phil Rumney e phil.rumney@uwe.ac.uk or Karen Harrison e karen.harrison@uwe.ac.uk

#### SEXUAL OFFENCES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: CHALLENGING MYTHS, SUPPORTING VICTIMS 9 September 2008: University of the West of England

This conference seeks to examine the nature and effect of myths and negative social attitudes on law enforcement and consider various strategies that might be used to challenge successfully the impact of myths and stereotypes on the enforcement of the criminal law. It will examine the influence of rape myths in wider society and the criminal justice process, along with strategies to counteract their impact on law enforcement, discuss original empirical research findings and examine attitudes to female, male and child sexual victimisation. It will be of interest to police officers, social workers, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, educators, psychologists, rape crisis workers, voluntary sector workers and academics.

Contact Phil Rumney  ${\bf e}$ phil.<br/>rumney@uwe.ac.uk or Karen Harrison  ${\bf e}$  karen.harrison@uwe.ac.uk

## • CONCEPTUALISING UNCONSCIONABILITY IN EUROPE

8-9 September 2008: Durham University Institute for Commercial and Corporate Law

A comparative conference on contract law in financial transactions, this is the first of a series of events dedicated to analysing concepts aimed at protecting the vulnerable in financial transactions. It will explore concepts of unconscionability in contract law, as an expression of contractual unfairness in the context of financial transactions contracts.

For further information please contact James Devenney **e** j.p.devenney@durham.ac.uk, Lorna Fox **e** lorna.fox@durham.ac.uk and Mel Kenny **e** mel.kenny@Durham.ac.uk.

## FROM THE UTOPIANISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE PRIMACY OF THE POLITICAL

9-10 September 2008: The Law School, Lancaster University This conference offers the opportunity to explore and engage with the latest theoretical and empirical developments in the field of human rights by focusing on the many questions in recent literature, cases and events. For further details contact **e** d.seymour@lancaster.ac.uk.

#### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FAMILY LAW 13TH WORLD CONFERENCE: FAMILY FINANCES 16-20 September 2008: Vienna, Austria

The 13th World Conference will consider whether and how the law supports the family and its members and, respectively, whether the state and the economy provides sufficient means to sustain family structures, or vice versa. **w** www.univie.ac.at/isfl

#### POWER: FORMS, DYNAMICS AND CONSEQUENCES 22-24 September 2008: University of Tampere

What is power and who has power today? Has power escaped from nation-states to international organisations and the global market? Does power reside in big institutions or is it rooted in micro-level interaction? How does power hide from view and therefore become most effective? By bringing together scholars who approach power from different angles this conference will advance our understanding about power relations in social reality. **w** www.uta.fi/power2008

## THE LOCAL RELEVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

16-18 October 2008 University of Antwerp, Belgium Organised by the University of Antwerp and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (Venice). Further details about the UCSIA conference and conference workshops are at **w** www.ucsia.org.

## • JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ANNUAL LECTURE 22 October 2008: 6.30pm, University of Reading

The 2008 JEL annual lecture will be given by Professor Neil Gunningham of the Australian National University, who is a distinguished Visiting Professor at Cardiff University during 2008. Professor Gunningham is an internationally renowned expert on environmental regulation and is the author of several books on the subject. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception. Lecture and reception are both free, but booking is required and can be done via **w** www.reading.ac.uk/law.

## • MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SPEECH: Call

20-21 November 2008: CMCL, University of Melbourne Law School Plenary speakers include: Kathy Bowrey, University of NSW; Cherian George, Nanyang Technological University, Jonathan Griffiths, Queen Mary, University of London; Peter Jaszi, American University, Washington DC. Themes include: content creation, use and re-use; copyright law, technology and control; defamation and public debate; digital worlds and publics; free speech and media access; futures of television; journalism and popular media; media representations of law; privacy and publicity. Call closes: 1 August 2008. w www.law.unimelb.edu.au/cmcl

## WORKSHOP: BIOTECHNOLOGY, EUROPEAN LAW AND CITIZENS

9 September 2008: School of Law, Queen's University Belfast Speakers include Mark Flear (QUB), Tammy Hervey (Sheffield), Jean McHale (Leicester), Therese Murphy (Nottingham) and Sara Ramshaw (QUB). This workshop seeks to provide descriptive and critical accounts of the relationships between European law and biotechnology with a focus on their relevance and impacts for citizens. The contributions to the workshop look at issues ranging from the Internal Market and biotechnology, particularly governance and constitutionalism, to case studies on EU regulation, and the cultural impacts of European biotechnology regulation. The workshop is timely given the growing and increasingly active role of the EU in the governance of health, bioscience and biotechnology. Contact: Dr Mark Flear, Queen's University Belfast, +44(0)2890973489, e m.flear@qub.ac.uk.

www.qub.ac.uk/schools/schoolofLaw/newsandevents/events

## LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN SOUTH ASIA: INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

9-11 January 2009: Centre for Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Themes include: constitutionalism, reform and resistance; the body, techniques of governance and regulatory power; property, labour, displacement; and violence and suffering. For more details, contact **e** lassnet@gmail.com.

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