SLSA 2017: NEWCASTLE

The SLSA’s Annual Conference this year will be held at Newcastle University from 5–7 April 2017.

Yet again, the Annual Conference is fast approaching! Registration is open and the standard rate is still available but only until 13 March 2017. After that the late rate will apply. The closing date for all registrations is 6pm on 31 March 2017. Be sure not to miss these important deadlines. Visit the website as soon as you can at www.slsa2017.com.

This year we received nearly 500 abstracts in response to the call for papers and the theme and stream convenors have started to put the panels together. As always, there are a great range of papers and delegates will have difficulty choosing between the parallel panel sessions. The conference hub and all the seminar rooms for each session are centrally located on campus, near the University Quadrangle’s World War memorial garden.

We have also received 13 excellent posters which will be entered into the poster competition and displayed throughout all three days of the conference. This year delegates will be able to vote for their favourite to win.

On the first evening, delegates can enjoy a wine reception at the Great North Museum, Hancock. We are lucky enough to be hosting it in the ‘Living planet’ exhibition space, which means guests can enjoy some natural history alongside their socio-legal studies. The conference dinner, on the second evening, will be served in the beautiful Great Hall of the Discovery Museum. The museum is full of fascinating exhibitions on industry, science and technology. At the dinner SLSA chair, Rosemary Hunter will announce the winners of the SLSA book and article prizes and Professor Linda Mulcahy, winner of this year’s Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community, will also receive her award.

As previously publicised, the theme of this year’s conference is ‘Visions of law’. On the one hand, this will mean exploring the visual representations and the relationship between law and the visual. On the other, it also encompasses the myriad ways of ‘seeing’ law which are made possible by socio-legal studies.

We are very excited to be welcoming our plenary panel. The panel members are Dr Thomas Giddens (St Mary’s University), Professor Linda Mulcahy (LSE), Professor Amanda Perry-Kessaris (University of Kent) and Leonora Saunders (freelance photographer). They will be speaking to the central conference theme. Their biographies and abstracts for the keynote panel on Wednesday 5 April 2017 can be found on the conference website www.slsa2017.com/keynote-speakers. In keeping with the theme, delegates will have the opportunity to view the Athena Project portraits of leading women in law and policy, temporarily exhibited in the on-campus Long Gallery, in addition to the Inspirational Women of the Law portraits which are a permanent feature of Newcastle Law School. See www.iwlaw.uk.

If you have any questions, please see the conference website www.slsa2017.com or email slsa@newcastle.ac.uk. The conference steering committee look forward to seeing you in Newcastle in April!

Nikki Godden-Rasul and Kevin Crosby

SLSA BOOK AND ARTICLE PRIZE SHORTLISTS

In another extremely strong field of nominations, the SLSA Exec is delighted to announce the shortlists for this year’s book and article prizes.

Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize

Alessandrini, Donatella (Kent) (2016) Value Making in International Law and Regulation: Alternative possibilities, Routledge

Barmes, Lizzie (Queen Mary) (2016) Bullying and Behavioural Conflict at Work: The duality of individual rights, OUP

Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize


Harrington, John (Cardiff) (2017) Towards a Rhetoric of Medical Law, Routledge

Hart Prize for Early Career Academics

Prabhak, Devyani (Bristol) (2016) Unleashing the Force of Law: Legal mobilization, national security and basic freedoms, Palgrave


Socio-Legal Article Prize


Hunter, Caroline (York) (2015) ‘Solar panels, homeowners and leases: the lease as a socio-legal object’ in Dave Cowan and Dan Wincott (eds), Exploring the Legal in Socio-Legal Studies, Palgrave

The winners will be announced at the annual dinner in Newcastle on 6 April 2017.

Future SLSA Annual Conferences

SLSA members will be gathering at the University of Bristol from 27–29 March 2018 and at Leeds University from 3–5 April 2019. Save the dates.

SLSA

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NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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

Newsletter academic sponsors 2016—2019 are: Birkbeck; Cardiff Law School; Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford; Kent University, Leeds Beckett University; the LSE; Newcastle University; Northumbria University Newcastle; QMUL; Queen’s University Belfast; University College London: University of Exeter; University of Leeds; University of Leicester; University of Liverpool; University of Nottingham; University of Sheffield; University of Strathclyde; University of Sussex; University of Westminster; University of York; and Warwick Law School.

The newsletter is also sponsored by the Journal of Law and Society.
SLSA EXEC NEWS

Annual general meeting

The AGM will take place at 1pm on Thursday 6 April 2017 at the University of Newcastle. To suggest an agenda item, please send details to SLSA secretary Kevin Brown at k.brown@qub.ac.uk by Monday 20 March 2017. Copies of the minutes of last year’s AGM will be included in this year’s conference packs (and are available on the SLSA website www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/executive-committee).

SLSA chair

SLSA chair Rosemary Hunter will be standing down at this year’s AGM. Vice chair Rosie Harding said: ‘On behalf of the SLSA Executive Committee, and the membership of the Association, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rosemary Hunter for her extensive service to the SLSA over her six years as chair, and three previous years as a member of the Exec. Her clarity of mind, her unwavering focus on the important issues facing socio-legal studies generally and the SLSA specifically, and consistent advocacy for the importance of socio-legal work in law schools, legal academia and social science research has ensured that socio-legal studies remains a vital part of research and teaching in law. It has been my great pleasure to support Rosemary as vice chair over the last couple of years, and I know that she will remain a great friend to the association, the Executive Committee, and to socio-legal studies in the years to come.’

Members attending the AGM will need to elect a new chair from the Exec membership.

Thank you

Also standing down are Sarah Blandy (former membership secretary) and Kevin Brown (current secretary), who have both served six years, and Dave Cowan (former vice chair), Carla Cifro, Petra Mahy and Francis Sheridan (current publisher liaison officer) who have served three years. Serving on the Exec, especially in a postholding capacity, requires time and commitment and the Exec would like to thank those leaving for their contributions.

Vacancies on Executive Committee

This means that there will be at least four vacancies arising at the AGM. If you feel that you can offer your time and expertise and are interested in being nominated for any of these vacancies then it is important that you attend the AGM where nominations will be taken and a secret ballot held if nominations exceed the number of seats available. You also need to attend the AGM if you wish to nominate a colleague. Information on the role and duties of Exec members can be found on the website at www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/executive-committee#role.

Anyone interested is welcome to contact the chair or a member of the Exec for an informal chat about the role.

Welcome

Finally, we are delighted to welcome to the Exec next year’s conference organisers Devyani Prabhat and Janine Sargoni from Bristol University.

SLSA BLOG

The SLSA blog went live last summer. The blogeditors welcome contributions. If you have an idea for a short article (maximum 1000 words) on a hot topic of interest to your SLSA colleagues and others, please email blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk. See http://slsablog.co.uk/blog.

SOCIO-LEGAL SCHOLARS HONOURED

The work of a number of senior SLSA members has recently been publicly acknowledged.

New Year’s honours list

Former SLSA chair, Sally Wheeler, professor of law and head of the School of Law at Queen’s University Belfast, received an OBE for services to higher education in Northern Ireland.

Nicola Lacey, professor of law, gender and social policy at the LSE, received a CBE for services to law, justice and gender politics.

Carol Smart, emeritus professor of sociology, University of Manchester and former co-director of the Morgan Centre for the Study of Relationships and Personal Life also received a CBE, for services to the social sciences.

The full honours list is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-years-honours-list-2017.

Academy of Social Sciences

Neville Harris, professor of law at the University of Manchester and co-director of the Manchester Centre for Regulation, Governance and Public Law, has been appointed a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. To be eligible for nominations, scholars need to be ‘people of established status and reputation [who] have made a substantial contribution to wider social science – to policy or practice – going beyond the normal requirements of their position’. The full list of fellows, which includes many eminent SLSA members, is available at www.acss.org.uk/fellows.

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The SLSA has a dedicated email address for applications for and queries about all prizes, competitions and funding schemes. Contact admin@slsa.ac.uk.

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Disclaimer

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

SLSA Guidance on Open Access

The SLSA Guidance on Open Access (OA) is available on the SLSA website along with SLSA chair Rosemary Hunter’s presentation on OA from our 2014 conference: www.www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/open-access#SLSA. If you would like a member of the SLSA’s OA subcommittee to visit your institution to give a presentation on OA, please contact Rosemary Hunter e rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk.
Feminist strategy in international law: understanding its legal, normative and political dimensions

Catherine O'Rourke, Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University, £1443.72

The research project was intended as an intervention into lively debates and much critical reflection on the efficacy or otherwise of over two decades of engagement with public international law. The project aimed to develop a methodology for understanding costs and benefits in feminist engagement with international law. The objective was to generate new data about how feminist activists understand costs and benefits in feminist engagement with international law, in order:

1. to develop and refine a tri-level typology of feminist engagement with international law, that focuses on (a) local/domestic, (b) transnational non-governmental, and (c) ‘insider’ advocacy within the institutions of international law, and to understand the tensions between these different levels of feminist advocacy in international law;

2. to interrogate scholarly understandings of costs and benefits in feminist engagement with international law by comparing the empirical findings to the outcomes of a literature review of relevant scholarship in critical feminist doctrinal literature and in quantitative political science scholarship; and

3. to advance theoretical elaboration of feminist strategy in international law.

The SLSA funding supported the research assistance for a scoping study of different feminist scholarly work in international law. The project aimed in the initial design and development.

One of the key findings was the importance of understanding the different bodies of literature: doctrinal feminist engagements focused principally on the status and enforcement of feminist-informed changes to international law; international relations scholars focused more on the norm creation and diffusion dynamics reflected in their codification at international level and incorporation at domestic level; and politics scholars tended to focus on the conflict and power politics that led to the adoption or rejection of particular ideas in international law and the receptiveness at the domestic level. This proved a very productive finding for further interrogation through the interviews with feminist activists.

The results can be briefly summarised as follows:

1. feminist actors differed in their understanding of international law principally as a set of rules to which states are bound, as a set of values that may reflect feminist commitments, and as a political tool to advance the claims of local feminist civil society;

2. actors within international institutions tended to give greatest emphasis to the formal and doctrinal elements of international law, not least as these were the actors most routinely confronted by state formalism and resistance to feminist claims-making;

3. local actors emphasised the political significance of the international law, as providing a shared platform for activity across diverse civil society actors and for providing relatively generic tools that could be interpreted and re-articulated to meet domestic advocacy needs;

4. feminist strategy in international law is usefully informed by more deliberate consideration of its legal, political and normative dimensions, as well as an awareness that these dimensions will be differently weighted by differently situated feminist actors. By elucidating the different rationales for feminist engagement, and also in cautioning differently situated feminist actors as to the potential costs elsewhere of their advocacy, such analysis may ultimately inform more constructive engagement across these differences.

In one sense, feminist ambivalence about international law as either inadequate to the task of securing gender equality or, more nefariously, as actively complicit in the maintenance of gender inequality, resonates compellingly with longer-term feminist concerns about engagement with domestic law. In another sense, however, the findings do suggest that international law offers unique sites of opportunity and risk to those who seek to utilise it in the advancement of feminist objectives. The risks identified through the project principally concerned the weak nature of gender equality norms emerging in contemporary international law; the vulnerability of these norms to capture by militaristic state interests; and the dangers of privileging the Security Council as an organ of international law-making. The opportunities, conversely, emerge from international law’s supranational monitoring and enforcement bodies over state behaviour; the relative openness of international law-making to articulating certain feminist values, in ways that arguably have scant domestic parallel; and the potential of international law to underpin local alliances across organisations and issues.

An article laying out the findings of the Northern Ireland pilot study is currently under review with an international law journal. The project has attracted significant external interest during its conduct. For example, Professor Hilary Charlesworth at the Australian National University invited me to visit with her for two weeks to develop the project, under the auspices of her Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship, in June 2015.

The findings from the SLSA-funded research also underpinned two further successful research-funding applications. Support to develop and expand the findings, rolled out to other case studies and to other regimes of public international law, has been funded by the UK’s Department for International Development as part of the Political Settlements Research Programme led by Christine Bell at Edinburgh University. The monograph from this project has been further supported by an Irish Fulbright Scholar Award 2016/2017, to support six-months’ research leave at the University of Minnesota Institute for Global Studies Human Rights Program, with Professor Barb Frey.

I am grateful to the SLSA for its funding at an important point in the project’s initial design and development.
Inclusive justice? A comparative examination of the participatory nature of SEN tribunals in Northern Ireland and Wales

Orla Drummond, Ulster University, £1095

Article 12(2) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly states that children should have the opportunity to be heard in any judicial or administrative proceeding affecting them. Yet, research highlighted that children were rarely involved in Special Educational Needs (SEN) tribunals and that persistent barriers to access to justice existed for those seeking to engage with this mechanism of legal redress. Therefore, in order to examine the participatory nature of these tribunals, this research, funded by the SLSA Fieldwork Grant and a Modern Law Review scholarship, utilised a comparative approach which examined SEN tribunals in both Northern Ireland and Wales. The rationale for the comparative approach of these distinct jurisdictions was that, at that time, Wales was piloting a child right to appeal to SEN tribunals, while Northern Ireland retained the traditional parental right to appeal only.

One of the key aspects of the research was the gathering of qualitative data, namely focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders in the decision-making process. Participants included children, parents with experience of the tribunal, education authorities, tribunal administrative staff, tribunal judiciary and representatives from relevant government departments in both Northern Ireland and Wales. The SLSA very kindly provided £1095 to enable essential data collection in Wales. Having been granted the award I was able to travel to Wales to conduct additional fieldwork and, luckily, had the opportunity to observe a SENTW tribunal in Cardiff; an essential element of the research which was not permitted in Northern Ireland.

Through the collection of data, findings established that there were a number of procedural and attitudinal barriers to the children’s participation at SEN tribunals. Indeed, parents who had engaged with this mechanism raised a number of concerns regarding the tribunals as they currently function and identified procedural elements which could significantly impact on child participation in the process. On a general level, the tribunals were acknowledged as being predominantly utilised by middle-class parents and/or those with higher levels of literacy and legal capacity. Additionally, the majority of parental respondents noted that they struggled to source and engage with essential advice and support systems when SEN disputes arose. For many, the tribunal was formal, legalistic and intimidating, with expectations of an informal process met by the reality of an environment where education authorities often employed legal representation, leading to a sense of unfairness around the process. In terms of child participation, one of the main factors for parents excluding their children was the fear that they would encounter an intense adversarial hearing and cross-examination by legal representatives. This protectionist approach extended to the need to shield the child from sensitive personal information, including both knowledge of the dispute and knowledge of their own impairment/disability. Central to the findings was that adult respondents benchmarked the sanctioning of child participation at SEN tribunals on the abstract notion of capacity. There was a concern that many of the children at the nucleus of SEN disputes may not be of an age or maturity to participate in the decision-making process. This notion of competence was often inextricably linked to the age and/or impairment of the child and justified through the concept of the child’s best interest. While a number of concerns have been highlighted by the research, an equal number of suggestions for the enhancement of child participation have been advanced and it is hoped that this will build the foundation for further research in this area and the development of a model of child participation in SEN decision-making.

The SLSA fieldwork grant has been invaluable in enabling me to undertake research for which I would otherwise have struggled to find funding. It has provided wider understanding of the issues and contributed to the dissemination of my work through enhanced networking. I am extremely grateful to the SLSA for its support.

Coupling the disparate: the justice–reconciliation nexus in Israel/Palestine: a note from the field

Rimona Afana, Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University, £1900

The Israel/Palestine impasse has been described as an intractable conflict. It features the last ongoing settler colonial project in the world – active for over one century – and the longest belligerent occupation of our times – spanning half a century. My study explores the justice–reconciliation discourse in this locale, focusing on civic activism. Theoretically, a critical lens to the applicability of transitional justice and conflict transformation is developed by employing settler colonialism as frame pertinent to capturing the idiosyncrasies of injustice and division in Palestine/Israel. Empirically, the study contributes a grounded engagement with the topic by mapping the current civic landscape on justice and reconciliation in Israel/Palestine and by eliciting meanings correlated to the justice–reconciliation nexus by leading grassroots activists.

In autumn 2016, I travelled in Palestine/Israel for fieldwork. It was a transformative journey both intellectually and spiritually as I familiarised myself with concepts I had previously only known, delved into subtleties around my topic, and got back to my roots, the Palestinian heritage I’ve been kept away from. Fieldwork altered my rapport with the project’s thematic, knowledge and research, and with myself: looking back, this phase was a reminder of my values and mission. Some of the leading voices on justice and reconciliation contributed to my research – founders, current and former directors of and senior activists in some of the best known organisations in this area in Israel/Palestine – and my initial hypotheses were substantiated by interview data. Contributors’ insights confirmed that justice and reconciliation are interdependent and their nexus exhibits synergies and tradeoffs. That settler colonialism seems to be indeed the core structure and process blocking justice and reconciliation in Israel/Palestine; and that a gap persists between the requirements of justice and those of reconciliation when it comes to their current civic implementation. Intriguing nuances around the validity of these hypotheses surfaced during interviews which I am currently documenting in my findings chapter.

During fieldwork I volunteered with several collectives and went on multiple field trips to understand how the justice–reconciliation nexus (or rather its opposite, the lingering injustice and division) is experienced by Palestinians and Israelis. I also developed three documentary photo series: one on closed gates throughout the West Bank, as a metaphor of closure/openness in a divided landscape; another on Holocaust survivors, elderly Palestinians displaced in 1948, who contributed their stories to a local memorialisation project; and the third on places and faces throughout Palestine/Israel – over a thousand snapshots which I continue to share online with friends around the world. I feel humbled by the stories I’ve been entrusted with by the (extra-)ordinary people I met on my journey, enriched by the dense insights from experts who contributed to my research, and privileged to be not just completing a degree, but polishing a life project.

I am grateful to the SLSA Research Grants Committee for putting their trust in my study at its earliest stage and for facilitating this precious time in the field.
Managing without a retirement age in universities: a comparative picture

Alysia Blackham, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, £2000

In 2011 the UK Coalition government changed the face of retirement policy almost overnight by abolishing the national default retirement age (DRA). While employers may still adopt an employer-justified retirement age (EJRA) to manage the end of the employment relationship, there remains significant legal uncertainty regarding when a retirement age will be ‘justified’, leaving many employers in a state of limbo. Employers are increasingly abandoning fixed retirement ages rather than risk a legal challenge from retired employees.

UK employers therefore now face a brave new world of workplace relations, where retirement must generally be managed on a case-by-case basis and negotiated with individual employees. This raises serious questions for many organisations. For example, what impact will the abolition of the DRA have on the need for performance management for older staff, the creation of work opportunities for new generations, and the scope for workforce planning?

These issues are particularly significant for workplaces with white-collar staff, a hierarchy with limited senior positions and/or under-developed performance management systems, such as universities. Universities appear to be particularly ill-prepared for the abolition of the DRA: many used mandatory retirement as a workforce management tool prior to 2011 and few have well-developed performance management systems in place due to the need for collegiality and academic freedom. At the same time, a significant proportion of academic staff wish to work beyond the age of 65. This may well create a ‘perfect storm’ of workplace relations in UK universities.

In this context, this project investigated the implications of the abolition of the DRA at the organisational level, focusing on the higher education sector. Funding was obtained to conduct organisational case studies of universities in the UK and USA, to investigate both how UK universities are responding to the abolition of the DRA and how comparative institutions in the USA, which have been operating without fixed retirement ages since 1994, are responding to an ageing academic workforce.

Organisational case studies were conducted with universities in California, Massachusetts and New York State; and with universities across the UK. Case studies included semi-structured interviews with human resources directors, university management, unions and members of equity committees, as appropriate or available. A documentary review was also undertaken of university policies.

Overall, US universities appeared to be far more sophisticated and developed than UK universities in how they managed an ageing academic workforce without a retirement age, reflecting the longer period of time that has elapsed since legal reform. However, US universities still experienced difficulties with securing intergenerational fairness, workforce planning and maintaining high standards of academic productivity.

This research will generate a series of academic articles, two of which are in the final stages of preparation for submission. The first, on UK universities’ responses to the removal of mandatory retirement, will be targeted at a legal journal. The second, on organisational strategies to manage an ageing academic workforce, will be targeted at a higher education journal.

This fieldwork has also informed the development of a later project, currently being conducted with funding from the Legal Education Research Network, on precarious academic work in law faculties in the UK and Australia.

PG ROUND-UP

Hello! My name is Jess Mant and I am a second year PhD student based in the Centre for Law and Social Justice at the University of Leeds. It is a pleasure to introduce myself as your new PGR representative.

It’s my job to represent PGRs on the SLSA Exec, generally making sure that the activities of the association are also considering the PGR perspective and to keep you up-to-date with opportunities and events going on across the SLSA and elsewhere.

SLSA PG Conference 2017

As part of this role, on 5 and 6 January 2017, I attended the SLSA Postgraduate Conference, which was generously hosted by the LSE at its new PhD Academy. The conference, which is held annually at different institutions, provided a range of informative sessions specifically catered to the needs of socio-legal PGRs, whether those starting out on a PhD, or those looking forwards to socio-legal academic careers. The conference was organised by Linda Mulcahy and sessions were led by Linda and other senior socio-legal academics – Rosemary Hunter, Sally Wheeler, Dave Cowan, Tony Bradney and Fiona Cownie – and covered a range of topics essential to life as a socio-legal scholar. For example, discussions included how to get published in socio-legal journals; how to manage the supervisor-student relationship; academic job-hunting; and an introduction to the debate surrounding the boundaries of socio-legal scholarship more generally.

This was my second time attending the conference, having hugely benefited myself from the sessions held at the University of Oxford a year earlier. The response from PGRs was as unequivocally positive as last time, maintaining the conference to be a unique opportunity for practical advice that is specifically aimed at researchers working in socio-legal studies, especially for those coming from more doctrinal backgrounds or institutions.

Next year’s conference will be hosted by Queen’s University Belfast from 4 to 5 January 2018. Save the dates.

Mailing list

As part of my role as PGR rep, I want to make sure that you can attend lots of events like these and so I manage a PGR-specific mailing list, separate from the main SLSA list. If you would like to be added to my list, or if you are a PGR and would like to write a report for the newsletter about an event that you have attended or have an idea for an article or news item, please just drop me an email.

PGR—ECR buddy scheme

Finally, I am currently organising a ‘PGR-ECR’ buddy scheme to be held at SLSA 2017 in Newcastle, which will be taking place from 5 to 7 April. The aim of this is to get PGRs networking with early career researchers (ECRs) in their field who have recently finished the PhD process and may even be starting their first jobs. As part of this scheme, I am going to set up an ‘ECR zone’, where a rotation of two to three ECRs will be present at each coffee break and PGRs can drop by for an introduction and an informal chat about doctoral study and the move into an academic career. I am currently looking for ECR volunteers for this scheme, so if you are at the end or have recently finished doctorate study and would be interested in volunteering for one of the breaks at the conference, I’d love to hear from you.

In the meantime, for any rep-related matters you can email me at e j.l.mant@leeds.ac.uk, or get in touch via twitter @JLMant1.
NATIONAL JOINT SLSA, IALS AND BRITISH LIBRARY SOCIO-LEGAL TRAINING DAYS

David Gee, deputy librarian at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS), University of London, looks back on this successful five-year collaboration supporting socio-legal researchers.

Over the past five years, the SLSA, IALS and the British Library have successfully collaborated in organising a popular series of national socio-legal training days for the UK legal research community. The training days offer attendees presentations by experts on the key library and archive sources and research methodologies used in particular academic fields. Research topics covered in previous training days include legal biography (2013); law, gender and sexuality (2014); and criminology and criminal justice (2015).

The ongoing difficulties for researchers in identifying the key library and archive sources for certain research topics and the often bewildering choice of socio-legal methods that can be employed when undertaking scholarship in a particular field are the two main reasons why the SLSA, the IALS and the British Library want to organise these national socio-legal training days. Between us, we feel that we can identify a range of stimulating speakers who will be able to answer these questions for researchers. At the same time we are keen to highlight and promote often hidden specialist library and archive collections across the UK and provide a forum for interested academics and researchers to discuss the merits and challenges of using particular qualitative, quantitative, comparative and feminist approaches in their research work.

The audiences for these training days are mainly academics, researchers and postgraduate research students based at universities across the UK. Each training day has gained a fresh audience from researchers dedicating precious time to their particular focus of scholarship and those tempted to attend training in subject fields outside of their main research interest.

A selection of articles deriving from the presentations given at these training days have been published in academic journals and made available in pre-print format on the IALS website: http://ials.sas.ac.uk/study/research-training/socio-legal-research-national-workshops-ials.

The most recent joint socio-legal training day was held at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on Friday 25 November 2016 with Professor Rosemary Hunter (chair of SLSA), Jonathan Sims (curator for law and socio-legal studies at the British Library) and myself selecting the speakers and organising the programme. The topic this time was the socio-legal sources and methods in international law.

Sources for international law research

During the morning Hester Swift gave a very useful presentation on the extensive international law collections at IALS Library; Lesley Dingle talked about the history of the international law sources and the key academics and librarians who developed them at the Squire Law Library at Cambridge University; and Jeroen Verl Shiite spoke about the specialist international law collections available to international researchers at the Peace Palace Library in the Hague, The Netherlands. Later in the day Jonathan Sims expertly surveyed the often hidden international law collections at the British Library. Specialist archives were also highlighted with eye-opening papers by Mira Siegelberg (QMUL) on the archives of international legal history and Ruth Frendo on the recently catalogued treasure trove of archives and records of the International Law Association (ILA) held at IALS.

Socio-legal methods used in international research

Presentations illustrated numerous different socio-legal research methodologies and approaches and included inspirational talks by Luis Eslava (Kent) on ‘Ethnographic thinking in international law’; Isobel Roelë (QMUL) on ‘How does the UN Security Council work? Beyond paper and procedure’; Yassin Brunger (Leicester) on ‘Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain. Revealing international legal cultures through empirical evidence’; Jessie Hohmann (QMUL) on ‘Objects and material cultures of international law’; and Emilie Cloatre (Kent) on ‘Actor-network theory, materialities and the study of international law’.

It is hoped that a selection of articles deriving from some of these presentations will be included in a forthcoming special issue of Legal Information Management.

GOVERNING THE PLANET: ISSUES IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

The second workshop in the IEL in Context Workshop Series was held on Thursday 3 November 2016 at the University of Warwick. Organiser Celine Tan reports.

The workshop was organised by the Centre for the Law, Governance and Regulation of the Global Economy (GLOBE), Warwick Law School. The International Economic Law (IEL) in Context Workshop Series is organised by GLOBE at Warwick Law School aimed at exploring the interdisciplinary and contextual nature of contemporary scholarship in international economic law, broadly defined.

Sixteen attendees gathered to consider the various contemporary legal, social, political and economic issues in global environmental governance and international law. Based upon the involvement of the organiser in several successful workshops of this nature, one of the main aims was to encourage as much discussion as possible between the speakers and those attending. This was achieved by allocating an hour for each of the three presentations – half an hour for the speaker followed by 30 minutes’ discussion. The final session was an open discussion in which attendees could ask questions or comment on anything raised in the presentations.

The first speaker, Professor Louis Kotzé from the Faculty of Law, North-West University, South Africa, spoke on ‘Constitutionalising global environmental law and governance’. He outlined the emergence of the relatively new field of global environmental constitutionalism and analysed its strengths and weaknesses.

Evadne Grant, School of Law, University of West England, was the second speaker, presenting on ‘Global environmental governance and human rights’. She described the limits and potential for using human rights in relation to the environment under the European Convention on Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights. Discussion of the presentation included the absence of similar treaties in Asia.

The third speaker was Professor Duncan French from the Law School, University of Lincoln, whose presentation was entitled ‘Governing the planet in the era of climate change: navigating operational, normative and structural challenges’. Professor French examined the future of global environmental governance by analysing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This series is part-funded through an SLSA seminar award.
Beyond trafficking and slavery: towards decent work for all

Dr Prabha Kotiswaran, Reader in Law and Social Justice at King’s College London, has been awarded a GCRF Strategic Networks Grant (worth £145,464) for this project.

The severe labour exploitation encapsulated in terms like ‘forced labour’, ‘human trafficking’ and ‘modern slavery’ is widely regarded as a major contemporary development challenge. Although governments and civil society have devoted considerable work and expenditure to anti-slavery policy, such efforts are consistently hampered by a dearth of nuanced, sophisticated empirical understandings of the phenomena. Through the grant, Dr Kotiswaran and her collaborators (many of whom edit the Open Democracy blog Beyond Trafficking and Slavery) aim to fill this research gap by bringing together global stakeholders to map the knowledge terrain and co-defining an original research agenda around the Eighth Sustainable Development Goal. This aims to achieve ‘decent work for all’ through what Target 8.7 describes as ‘immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour’ by 2030. In addition to its knowledge-building effort, the project will engage directly with activism through convening three regional workshops and initiating networking opportunities for actors in developing countries from South Asia, South Africa and Latin America.

Gender violence across war and peace

The ESRC has granted £140,000 to Professor Christine Chinkin, LSE, to support this GCRF Strategic Network over an 18-month period. The network will investigate the diverse forms of gender violence (violence committed against individuals or groups on the basis of ascribed gender) that exist across war and peace. Contemporary international diplomacy, development policy and humanitarian practice are all to a significant degree concerned with the challenge of gender violence.

For many analysts, it has been crucial to understand gender violence in terms of a continuum, connecting wartime atrocities with ‘peacetime’ patterns of exclusion, structural inequality and prejudice. The network will investigate the continuum of violence thesis in more detail, by bringing together researchers, practitioners and activists from four different countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Lebanon and Sri Lanka) to identify research needs, build interdisciplinary relationships and exchange knowledge. Focusing on core themes of forced displacement, transitional justice and intersecting identities, the Network will also produce a series of working papers, as well as engaging more broadly through blogs and short videos.

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens: online exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens was launched at the National Library of Australia on 16 November 2016 with the help of over 100 guests, many of them women, or the relatives of women, who were featured in the exhibition. See www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers.

The exhibition is an important outcome of the Australian Research Council-funded project ‘Trailblazing women and the law’. It documents how women with law degrees have used the skills and experiences from their broader life experience, together with their law degrees and various forms of practice, to have an impact on others in society, as a form of active citizenship in the civic sphere more broadly. The women featured engage with multiple meanings of the word ‘citizenship’, understanding it in a legal sense, a political sense, in talking about rights and as a way of marking one’s identity.

The project was led by Professor Kim Rubenstein of the Australian National University, together with Associate Professor Gavan McCarthy and Helen Morgan from the University of Melbourne, in a partnership with Australian Women Lawyers, the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Court of Australia, the National Foundation for Australian Women and the National Library of Australia. Dr Nikki Henningham and Larissa Halonkin provided project management and research support.

Five hundred women are featured in the online exhibition, including 45 who were interviewed by Professor Rubenstein and Dr Henningham for the project and whose interview material will be curated as part of the National Library of Australia’s Oral History and Folklore collection. A section of the website entitled ‘Auto/biography’ features the life-writing and reflections of several of Australia’s best legal minds.

The Australian Women’s Archives Project www.womenaustralia.info is proud to be associated with this important initiative, documenting the many important ways that women lawyers have ‘stood at the forefront of women’s participation in Australian civic life’.

SLSA Research Training Grants

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

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

There are three annual deadlines for this scheme: 1 October, 1 February and 1 June.
ESRC project on autonomy, rights and children with special educational needs: a new paradigm?

Over the past few years in both England and Scotland legislation has established important new education rights for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) (additional support needs in Scotland). This ESRC-funded Anglo-Scottish project (grant contribution approximately £430,000) represents the first significant attempt to ascertain whether the reforms truly represent a paradigm shift in the recognition and realisation of these rights and more generally. The English and Scottish components will be led by Professors Neville Harris and Sheila Riddell respectively. The research will be conducted between spring 2017 and the end of 2018.

Until the legislative changes, which have been phased in, the overwhelming emphasis within the law in this area has been on the rights of parents, integral to a policy of promoting ‘partnership’ between parents and education authorities, albeit one whose aims have not been fully realised in practice (as the government has itself acknowledged). But now, for example, under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 in England, those aged 16-plus have an independent right: to advice and information from the local authority; to express views on assessment of their needs and on a draft education, health and care plan (these plans have replaced ‘statements’ of SEN); to select a particular school as their placement; to request a review of their needs; to appeal in their own right over a wide range of issues; and to participate in mediation. For the under-16s, while the new rights are more limited, their autonomy has received some recognition. English local authorities, when carrying out SEN functions, must now have regard not only to the child’s views, wishes and feelings, but also to the importance of maximising his or her participation in SEN decisions and ensuring provision of the necessary support and information for this. The Act enables pilot schemes to be introduced for children to appeal or bring disability discrimination complaints under the Equality Act 2010. In Scotland, the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 has conferred, on those judged to have capacity, independent rights equivalent to those held by parents – ostensibly a more substantial extension of children’s status as rights-holders than in England.

Considering relevant theoretical frameworks concerned with children and young people’s rights and autonomy, and referencing previous empirical studies of participation in a range of contexts, including judicial processes, the ESRC research will be predominantly empirical, centring on evidence-gathering (via case studies, observation, surveys and interviews) and analysis in connection with the practical realisation of the various rights and the factors which affect it. It aims to facilitate cross-jurisdictional comparison and an understanding of how particular kinds of capability limits may differentially impact on the realisation of individual rights and broad policy aims. An important feature of the research will be the involvement of children and young people in key elements of it, including qualitative aspects and dissemination activities.

Neville Harris (Manchester), James MacAllister and Sheila Riddell (Edinburgh)

Socio-legal postgraduate courses

The following UK institutions are currently inviting applications for their socio-legal postgraduate courses.

- University of Bristol: MSc socio-legal studies – closing date 1 September 2017 [www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/2017/ssl/msc-socio-legal-studies]
- Cardiff University: MSc/PgDip social science research methods (socio-legal studies) – closing date 31 August 2017
- University of Essex: MSc criminology and socio-legal research – no fixed closing date but recommended before 1 July 2017
- University of Exeter: MRes in socio-legal research – closing date TBC [www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/law/sociolegalmres/#Overview]
- University of Glasgow: MRes in socio-legal studies – closing dates (international non-EU) 21 July 2017 and (UK and EU students) 25 August 2017 [www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/sociolegalstudies]
- Kent University: MPhil/PhD socio-legal studies – UK students no fixed closing date, international students 31 July 2017 [www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/144/socio-legal-studies]
- University of Nottingham: MA socio-legal and criminological research – no fixed closing date for UK/EU students, international students 18 August 2017

The newsletter needs you

The next copy deadline is 22 May 2017. Please send your news; publications; research information; new jobs/promotions/awards; articles; events and anything else of interest to socio-legal colleagues to Marie Selwood e marieselwood@btinternet.com or t 01227 770189.
Law Commission consultation on the protection of official data

The Law Commission has published a consultation paper which suggests ways to improve the law around the protection of official information. The relevant statutes – the Officials Secrets Acts in particular – are being independently reviewed to ensure that the law is keeping pace with the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The Law Commission has come to a number of provisional conclusions as to how the legislation could be improved that it believes will enhance the protection currently afforded to official information. The consultation is open until 3 April 2017.

To access the full consultation, provisional conclusions and recommendations and to respond, please visit the website www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/protection-of-official-data/

Call for case studies in social science research ethics

There is an ongoing debate about the nature of ethics and ethics review in the design, conduct and practice of social science research. As part of Sage’s collection of cases in research methods, Dr Nathan Emmerich is commissioning and editing a series of case studies in research ethics. These should be relatively succinct tales from the field, suitable for an undergraduate/postgraduate readership, and offer insight and guidance on the ethical conduct of research. Previous cases have addressed the challenges of getting ethical approval for research, the ethics of interviewing survivors of rape in post-conflict Rwanda and the construction of information sheets for the purposes of securing informed consent.

Cases that address substantive issues and reflect the complexities of conducting research are of particular interest. Further details can be found on the website http://methods.sagepub.com/writeethicscase.

To discuss an idea for a case, please contact Nathan Emmerich at n.emmerich@qub.ac.uk. Closing date for the current round of submissions: 31 August 2017.

British Academy/Newton international funding schemes currently open

Newton Advanced Fellowships provide early to mid-career international researchers with an opportunity to develop their research strengths and capabilities through training, collaboration and visits with a partner in the UK. These fellowships are available for researchers based in Malaysia, Mexico and South Africa, postdoctoral or above, or with equivalent research experience, with a UK co-applicant. Closing date: 15 March 2017.

Newton mobility grants support international researchers based in a country covered by the Newton Fund to establish and develop collaboration with UK researchers around a specific jointly defined research project. These one-year awards are particularly suited to initiate new collaborative partnerships between scholars who have not previously worked together, or new initiatives between scholars who have collaborated in the past. Closing date: 15 March 2017.

Newton international fellowships aim to attract early career postdoctoral researchers from overseas in the fields of natural sciences, physical sciences, medical sciences, social sciences and the humanities. They enable researchers to work for two years at a UK institution to foster long-term collaborations. Applicants must have a PhD, no more than seven years’ active full-time postdoctoral experience, be working outside the UK, and not hold UK citizenship. Closing date: 22 March 2017.

The Newton Fund supports reciprocal schemes for UK researchers with the British Academy’s international partners in Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Turkey and Vietnam. Closing date: 31 March 2017.

Please see the website for full details of all these schemes www.britac.ac.uk/funding-opportunities.

SLSA Mentoring Awards

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

Full details are available at www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/mentoring.

Enquiries about this scheme should be directed to admin@slsa.ac.uk.

There are three annual deadlines for this scheme: 1 October, 1 February and 1 June.

SLSA membership benefits

Benefits of SLSA membership include:

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

Social and Legal Studies 26(3)

An equal right to inherit? Women’s land rights, customary law and constitutional reform in Tanzania – Helen Dancer

Jurisdiction as sovereignty over occupied Palestine: the case of Khan-al-Ahmár – Alice M Panepinto

Indefinite detention meets colonial dispossession: indigenous youths with foetal alcohol spectrum disorders in a white settler justice system – Harry Blagg, Tamara Tulich and Zoe Bush

Remorse in context(s): a qualitative exploration of the negotiation of remorse and its consequences – Irene van Oorschot, Peter Mascini and Don Weenink

Participatory research and the medicalization of research ethics processes – Tehseen Noorani, Andrew Charlesworth, Alison Kite and Morag McDermont

SLSA membership benefits
**Nuffield Foundation grants for research and innovation**

The Nuffield Foundation is currently reviewing its priorities and will be publishing its new strategic intent for its grants programmes in summer 2017.

The seven existing funding programmes are accepting applications as usual. They are: children and families; early years education and childcare; economic advantage and disadvantage; education; finances of ageing; law in society; and open door. Outline applications for these programmes need to be submitted by **13 March 2017** with full applications due on **3 July 2017**.

In addition, the foundation is calling for applications on the following topics:

- Significant structural shifts in British society – demography, social geography, family structures, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, mental health, disability and other vulnerability.
- The impact of technology on social and economic outcomes, on skills necessary for the modern labour market, and on the wider issue of social relationships and personal identity in a data-driven economy and digital culture.
- The relationship between trust in data, evidence and institutional authority, and popular values and beliefs.
- The balance between the protection of individuals and personal responsibility in fostering individual and collective well-being in civic society.
- Inequalities within and between different generations.

The application and criteria are the same as for the current programmes. Please see the Nuffield Foundation website [www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org).

**UKAJI’S Current Research Network: update**

The UK Administrative Justice Institute (UKAJI), based at the University of Essex, has been set up to develop a UK-wide, cross-disciplinary community of researchers undertaking empirical research, funders, practitioners and policy-makers. More about UKAJI’s work, which is funded by the Nuffield Foundation until September 2017, is on our website and blog at [www.ukaji.org](http://www.ukaji.org).

We define administrative justice broadly, as ‘the interaction between people and the state, from rule-making to decision-making to challenge to resolution’. This covers a wide range of areas, including, for example, immigration, welfare benefits and education as well as topics such as decision-making, public services, complaints handling and courts, tribunals, ombudsmen and mediation.

As part of UKAJI’s work, we disseminate information about current research projects related to administrative justice that are being undertaken in the UK at the moment. These may be funded by research councils or other bodies or being undertaken without specific financial support. The focus of our Current Research Register is on work-in-progress; we appreciate that projects may not yet have findings or clear conclusions.

We published the first version of the Current Research Register in October 2015, with subsequent updates in May 2016 and October 2016. In each version we have updated the register and also published 8 to 10 profiles giving more information about specific projects in depth. We are now preparing the May 2017 update and welcome additions to the register and the list of profiles.

The register is available at [https://ukaji.org/current-research-register](https://ukaji.org/current-research-register).

*Margaret Doyle and Sally Barrs*

**AHRC open funding calls**

**Doctoral Training Partnerships**

The AHRC has announced the call for the next phase of Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP2). These DTPs will provide training for research students across the full range of the arts and humanities, as well as across areas of interdisciplinary research located at the boundaries with the sciences and social sciences. The AHRC expects to invest in approximately 10 DTPs, each supporting five annual cohorts of students with the first of these starting in 2019. Applications are invited from consortia of eligible UK-based research organisations which can demonstrate excellence in the delivery of arts and humanities postgraduate training. Closing date: **19 October 2017**.

**Research grants: early careers**

This scheme is intended to support well-defined research projects enabling individual researchers to collaborate with, and bring benefits to, other individuals and organisations through the conduct of research. The scheme is not intended to support individual scholarship. The early career route provides grants for projects between £50,000 and £250,000 for a varying duration up to a limit of 60 months. This is an open call with no specific closing date.

**Knowledge transfer partnerships**

These support UK businesses wishing to improve their competitiveness, productivity and performance by accessing the knowledge and expertise available within UK universities and colleges. The AHRC is one of a number of sponsors of this scheme and will support or co-sponsor projects that demonstrate and utilise knowledge, skills or technologies arising from all areas of arts and humanities research. This research base offers a huge resource for a diverse range of sectors to draw on that knowledge and expertise, in order to deliver a step change in their capability and performance. A KTP is a three-way partnership between an academic, a business partner (including private sector companies, charities and public sector organisations) and a recent graduate (known as the associate) who is employed to work on the specific project relevant to the business partner. This is also an open call with no closing date.

Please visit the AHRC website for details of all these schemes [www.ahrc.ac.uk](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk).

**ESRC research grants**

The ESRC is inviting applications via its research grants open call. Awards ranging from £50,000 to £1 million can be made to eligible institutions to enable individuals or research teams to undertake anything from a standard research project through to a large-scale survey and other infrastructure or methodological development.

There is considerable flexibility when it comes to subject area. As long as the applicant’s suggested topic falls within the ESRC’s remit, any research area is acceptable. Proposals can draw from the wider sciences, but the social sciences must represent more than 50 per cent of the research focus and effort.

Proposals can be submitted at any time – there are no fixed closing dates. The ESRC aims to announce the majority of decisions within 26 weeks of receiving the proposal although this is not guaranteed, since it is dependent on receiving sufficient good quality peer review comments within the timescale.

Please see the website for full details of this scheme and how to apply [www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/research-grants](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/research-grants).

This introduction explores four decades of anti-discrimination laws in Australia. The authors argue that effective laws protecting against and deterring discrimination are vital for a fair future and emphasise the theoretical and social contexts that underpin this area of the law. The text is divided into three sections: the first addresses the social and conceptual context, history and framework of anti-discrimination laws; the second analyses the main elements of the law and the processes of enforcement; and the third explores broader avenues for pursuing equality beyond simply prohibiting discrimination. Written in a clear and concise style, this book will be a vital resource for students.

The Rise and Fall of the Right of Silence (2017) Hannah Quirk, Routledge £85 232pp

Within an international context in which the right to silence has long been regarded as sacrosanct, this book provides the first comprehensive, empirically based analysis of the effects of its curtailment. The right to silence has served as the practical expression of the principles that an individual was to be considered innocent until proven guilty and that it was for the prosecution to establish guilt. In 1791 the Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution outlawed self-incrimination and, in more recent times, this privilege has been a founding principle for the International Criminal Court, the new South African Constitution and the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

Despite this, over the past 30 years, when governments have felt under pressure to combat crime or terrorism, the right to silence has been reconsidered, curtailed or circumvented. The analysis here focuses upon the effects of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, when curtailing the right to silence was advocated in terms of ‘common-sense’ policy-making and achieved by an eclectic borrowing of concepts and policies from other jurisdictions. Its implications are here explored in detail with reference to England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but within a comparative context examining how different ‘types’ of legal systems regard the right to silence and the effects of constitutional protection.


Consumer out-of-court redress in the EU is experiencing a significant transformation due to the recent implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Directive and the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Regulation. The directive ensures the availability of quality ADR schemes and sets information obligations on businesses and the regulation enables the resolution of consumer disputes through a pan-European ODR platform.

This volume examines the impact of the new EU law in the field of consumer redress. Part I examines the main methods of consumer redress, including mediation, arbitration and ombudsman schemes. Part II analyses the implementation of the directive in nine member states with very different legal cultures in consumer redress as well as the distinct approach taken in the US. Part III evaluates new trends in consumer ADR by identifying best practices and looking at future trends in the field. The book concludes by calling for the mandatory participation of traders in consumer ADR.

The Unitary EU Patent System (2017) Justine Pila and Christopher Wadlow (eds), Hart £50 240pp

The purpose of this book is to explore the key substantive, methodological and institutional issues raised by the proposed unitary EU patent system contained in EU Regulations 1257/2012 and 1260/2012 and the Unified Patent Court Agreement 2013. The originality of this work lies in its individual contributions and broad approach, taking different (historical, constitutional, international, competition, institutional and forward-looking) perspectives on the proposed patent system, thus offering a multi-authored and all-round legal appraisal of the proposed unitary system from experts in the field as well as leading figures from the worlds of legal practice, the Bench and the European Patent Office. The unitary patent system raises issues of foundational importance in the fields of patent and intellectual property law, EU law and legal harmonisation with which the book engages.

The Emotional Dynamics of Law and Legal Discourse (2016) Heather Conway and John Stannard (eds), Hart £70, 320pp

In his seminal work, Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Goleman suggests that the common view of human intelligence is far too narrow and that emotions play a much greater role in thought, decision-making and individual success than commonly acknowledged. The importance of emotion to human experience cannot be denied, yet the relationship between law and emotion is one that has largely been ignored. However, the last two decades have seen a rapidly expanding interest into the way in which law and the emotions interact, including the law’s response to emotion and the extent to which it pervades the practice of the law. In this volume, leading scholars from both sides of the Atlantic explore these issues across key areas of private law, public law, criminal justice and dispute resolution, illustrating how emotion infuses all areas of legal thought. The collection argues for a more positive view of the role of emotion in the context of legal discourse and demonstrates how the law could, in the words of Goleman, become more emotionally intelligent: A 20 per cent discount is available for SLSA members. See www.bloomsburyprofessional.com/uk/emotional-dynamics-of-law-and-legal-discourse-9781849467872 and use discount code CV7 at the checkout.


This book explores how economic liberalisation can be reconciled with human rights and environmental protection in the regulation of international trade. It is primarily concerned with identifying the lessons the international community can learn, in the context of the World Trade Organization, from decades of European Community/Union experience in facing this question. It demonstrates that it is possible to reconcile the pursuit of economic and non-economic interests, that the EU has found a mechanism to do so and that the application of the principle of proportionality is fundamental to the realisation of this. It argues that the EU approach can be characterised as a practical application of the principle of sustainable development. The book also identifies fundamental conditions crucial to achieving this ‘reconciliation’ and goes on to explore the implications of lessons from the EU experience for the international community and argues that a more holistic approach to the consideration of ‘sustainable development’, encompassing economic and non-economic concerns, is not only desirable in principle but realisable in practice.


This book consists of the keynote papers delivered at the 2012 WG Hart Workshop on Globalisation, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice organised by the Queen Mary Criminal Justice Centre. The volume addresses, from a cross-disciplinary perspective, the multifarious relationship between globalisation, on the one hand, and criminal law and justice, on the other. At a time when economic, political and cultural systems across different jurisdictions are increasingly becoming or are
perceived to be parts of a coherent global whole, it appears that the study of crime and criminal justice policies and practices can no longer be restricted within the boundaries of individual nation states or even particular transnational regions. But in which specific fields, to what extent, and in what ways does globalisation influence crime and criminal justice in disparate jurisdictions? Which are the factors that facilitate or prevent such influence at a domestic and/or regional level? And how does or should scholarly inquiry explore these themes? These are all key questions which are addressed by the contributors to the volume.

**States, the Law and Access to Refugee Protection: Fortresses and fairness** (2017) Maria O’Sullivan and Dallal Stevens (eds), Hart £65 336pp

This timely volume seeks to examine two of the most pertinent current challenges faced by asylum seekers in gaining access to international refugee protection: first, the obstacles to physical access to territory and, second, the barriers to accessing a quality asylum procedure – which the editors have termed ‘access to asylum justice’. To address these aims, the book brings together leading commentators from a range of backgrounds, including law, sociology and political science. It also includes contributions from NGO practitioners. This allows the collection to offer interdisciplinary analysis and to incorporate both theoretical and practical perspectives on questions of immense contemporary significance.

**Delivering Family Justice in Late Modern Society in the Wake of Legal Aid Reform** (2017) Mavis Maclean (ed), Cambridge University Press £90 168pp

Legal aid for family cases in private law (mainly divorce and separation) – where the state is not directly involved as it is in public law cases where there are issues of domestic violence or neglect or abuse of children – came to an abrupt end, together with help for welfare and immigration cases, on 1 April 2013 when the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 came into effect. This book presents an account of the wide-ranging problems which the researchers and practitioners expected to ensue. Sadly, their fears have been realised in many areas of legal help and advice. In 2014, the National Audit Office took the view that, although the Ministry of Justice had succeeded in making considerable savings in the cause of austerity, it had failed to investigate or understand the impact of these cuts on the individuals concerned and society as a whole. This book was previously published as a special issue of the *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*.

**Mapping Paths to Family Justice: Resolving family disputes in neoliberal times** (2017) Anne Barlow, Rosemary Hunter, Janet Smithson and Jan Ewing, Palgrave Socio-Legal Series £70 254pp

The family justice system in England and Wales has undergone radical change over the past 20 years. A significant part of this shifting landscape has been an increasing emphasis on settling private family disputes out of court, which has been embraced by policy-makers, judges and practitioners alike and is promoted as an unqualified good. This volume examines the experiences of people taking part in out-of-court family dispute resolution in England and Wales. It addresses questions such as how participants’ experiences match up to the ideal; how recent changes to the legal system have affected people’s ability to access out-of-court dispute resolution; and what kind of outcomes are achieved in family dispute resolution.

This book is the first study systematically to compare different forms of family dispute resolution. It explores people’s experiences of solicitor negotiations, mediation and collaborative law empirically by analysing findings from a nationally representative survey, individual in-depth interviews with parties and practitioners, and recorded family dispute resolution processes. It considers these in the context of ongoing neoliberal reforms to the family justice system, drawing out conclusions and implications for policy and practice.

**Greening Criminology in the Twenty-First Century** (2017) Matthew Hall, Tanya Wyatt, Nigel South, Angus Nurse, Gary Potter and Jennifer Maher (eds), Routledge £85 240pp

In the twenty-first century, environmental harm is an ever-present reality of our globalised world. Over the last 20 years, criminologists, working alongside a range of other disciplines from the social and physical sciences, have made great strides in their understanding of how different institutions in society, and criminal justice systems in particular – respond – or fail to respond – to the harm imposed on ecosystems and their human and non-human components. Such research has crystallised into the rapidly evolving field of green criminology. This pioneering volume, with contributions from both leading experts and younger scholars, represents the state of the art in criminologists’ pursuit of understanding in the environmental sphere while at the same time challenging academics, lawmakers and policy developers to explore new directions in the study of environmental harm.

**The Penal Voluntary Sector** (2017) Philippa Tomczak, Routledge £85 188pp

The penal voluntary sector and the relationships between punishment and charity are more topical than ever before. In recent years in England and Wales, the sector has featured significantly in both policy rhetoric and academic commentary. Penal voluntary organisations are increasingly delivering prison and probation services under contract and this role is set to expand. However, the diverse voluntary organisations which comprise the sector, their varied relationships with statutory agencies and the effects of such work remain very poorly understood. Demonstrating how the legacy of philanthropic work and neoliberal policy reforms over the past 30 years have created a complex three-tier penal voluntary sector of diverse organisations, this cutting-edge interdisciplinary text will be of interest to criminologists, sociologists of work and industry, and those engaged in the voluntary sector. Use code FLR40 for a 20 per cent online discount.


At a time when the future of the welfare state is the object of heated debate in many European countries, this edited collection explores the relationship between this institution and social rights. Structured around the themes of the politics of social rights, questions of equality and social exclusion/inclusion, and the increasing impact of market imperatives on social policy, the book explores the effect of transformations in the welfare state upon social rights and their underlying rationalities and logics. Written by a group of international scholars, many of the essays discuss a number of urgent and topical issues within social policy, including: the social rights of asylum seekers; the increasing marketisation and commercialisation of public welfare services; the care of the elderly; and the obligation to work as a condition of access to welfare benefits.
**THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT AND THE UK: A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR A SOFTISH BREXIT?**
13 March 2017: The River Room, King’s College London, Strand Campus
A UK Association for European Law seminar. Please see website for details. w www.ukael.org

**TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES**
14 March 2017: Newcastle University
Please see website for details. w www.legalscholars.ac.uk/event/symposium-tackling-gender-based-violence-universities

**DEMONSTRATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**
17–18 March 2017: Law School, University of Bristol
Please see the conference website for more information. w www.bristol.ac.uk/law/dbe

**IALS NEW BOOK FORUM: BREWING LEGAL TIMES: THINGS, FORM AND THE ENACTMENT OF LAW BY EMILY GRABHAM**
Chair: Professor Diamond Ashiagbogomaker; commentators: Professor Marie Andrée Jacob, Professor Amade M’charek and Professor Alain Frappard. This book is shortlisted for the SLSA 2017 Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize. Please see website for booking for this free event. w www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/7539.

**COMMONWEALTH LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: COMMONWEALTH LAWYERS OF THE FUTURE**
21–24 March 2017: Melbourne, Australia
See website for details. w www.clea-web.com/events-conferences/melbourne-2017

**HOUSING LAW RESEARCH NETWORK THIRD ANNUAL HOUSING LAW SYMPOSIUM: HUMAN RIGHTS, HOUSING AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**
23–24 March 2017: Malmö University, Sweden
Please see flyer for details. w http://slsa.ac.uk/images/2016winter/HHRN_Malmo_Symposium_2017.pdf

**BREXIT AND FAMILY LAW**
27 March 2017: Trinity College, University of Cambridge
This is a joint seminar of the Child and Family Law Quarterly and Cambridge Family Law. Please see website for details. w www.fambrexit.law.cam.ac.uk

**CEILA ANNUAL LECTURE WITH PROFESSOR JOSE E ALVAREZ**
28 March 2017: Queen Mary University London, Mile End Road, London
Please see website for details. w www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceila-annual-lecture-with-professor-jose-e-alvarez-tickets-31677367860

**THE BUSINESS OF JUDGING: JUDGING BUSINESS-RELATED DISPUTES AND THE ROLE OF JUDGES IN ENGLAND AND WALES TODAY**
29 March 2017: University of Liverpool London Campus, Finsbury Park, London
Please see website for details. w www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-business-of-judging-tickets-2930033188

**LEAD BOOK FORUM: GENDERING EUROPEAN WORKING TIME REGIMES BY ANIA ZYSZEWSKA**
29 March 2017: Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London
Please see website for details. w www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lead-book-forum-gendering-european-working-time-regimes-tickets-2969313957

**POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE: THE INTERWOVEN RELATIONSHIP OF LAW AND MEDIA**
30–31 March 2017: Aberystwyth Law School
Please see webpage for details. w www.facebook.com/AberLawConference

**MODERN STUDIES IN PROPERTY LAW**
10 April 2017: Queen’s College Cambridge
See webpage for details of this publication workshop. w http://private-law-theory.org/?p=9946

**ASSOCIATION OF LAW TEACHERS CONFERENCE 2017**
10–11 April 2017: University of Portsmouth
See website for details. w www.port.ac.uk/school-of-law/school-events/association-of-law-teachers-conference-2017

**HORSES, SOCIETY AND THE LAW: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**
11 April 2017: Hugh Aston Building, De Montfort University, Leicester

**FROM COLLECTIVE LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS TO LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF COLLECTIVE DISSERT?**
19–20 April 2017: Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford
Please see website for details. w www.law.ox.ac.uk/events/collective-legal-consciousness-legal-consciousness-collective-dissent

**PRISON REFORM IN ENGLAND AND WALES: PRIORITIES FOLLOWING THE WHITE PAPER**
20 April 2017: Central London
Keynote speaker: Bob Neill MP, chair, Justice Select Committee. See website for details. w www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/prison-reform-17/25063

**UNREGISTERED MUSLIM MARRIAGES: REGULATIONS AND CONTESTATIONS**
24–25 April 2017: De Montfort University, Leicester
Please see website for details. w www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/schools-and-departments/leicester-de-montfort-law-school/events/unregistered-muslim-marriages-%E2%80%93-regulations-and-contestations.aspx

**IDENTITY POLITICS IN INDIA**
27 April 2017: Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London
Speaker: Professor Makarand R Paranjape. Please see website for details. w www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/identity-politics-in-india-with-professor-makarand-r-paranjape-tickets-31708614319?aff=erelexpmlt

**FOURTH WINCHESTER CONFERENCE ON TRUST, RISK, INFORMATION AND THE LAW**
20 April 2017: University of Winchester
Keynote speakers: Professor Katie Atkinson, University of Liverpool, and John McNamara, IBM senior inventor. Please see website for details. w http://store.winchester.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&deptid=10&catid=11&prodid=379

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT**
9–10 May 2017: University of Oslo, Norway
Please see website for details. w www.jus.uio.no/ifp/english/research/projects/smalt/events/conferences/trade-and-investment.html

**HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS**
10 May 2017: Birmingham City University
Please see flyer for details. Closing date: 10 March 2017. w www.slsa.ac.uk/images/2017winter/Human_Rights_Challenges_in_the_21st_Century_Conference_M3C_BCU_Conference_-_Call_For_Papers.pdf6

**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: INAUGURAL ANNUAL MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE**
Theme: ‘One state’, ‘two state’ and ‘third way’ solutions to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict: paving the way to a functional Palestinian state. Please contact the conference organisers at a admin@csips.org or visit the website. w https://csips.org/tag/conferences
**ICC-BAKER MCKENZIE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017: TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN GLOBAL COMPETITION LAW**

12 May 2017: The Hotel, Boulevard de Waterloo 38, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Please see website for full programme information.

www.icc-mcmul.ac.uk/events/items/190808.html

**ANNUAL GRADUATE LAW CONFERENCE 2017: GOVERNING OUR COMMONS: WHAT MATTERS TO US TODAY**

13–14 May 2017: McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Organised by the Graduate Law Students Association. Please see website for details.

www.mcgill.ca/agcl

**SYMPOSIUM ON LAW, COMPASSION AND HEALTHCARE**


Please see website for details. www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/7540

**SIXTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAW, REGULATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY**

5–6 June 2017: Hotel Fort Canning, Singapore

Please see website for details. www.law-conference.org/index.html

**IALS NEW BOOK FORUM: REVALUING CARE IN THEORY, LAW AND POLICY: CYCLES AND CONNECTIONS BY ROSIE HARDING, RUTH FLETCHER AND CHRIS BEASELEY (EDS)**

13 June 2017: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Chair: Professor Diamond Ashiagbor; commentators: Dr Yasmin Gunaratnam, Dr Lucy Series and Professor Ambreena Manji. Please see website for booking for this free event.

www.sas.ac.uk/events/event/7540

**SYMPOSIUM: COMPASSION — IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM LAW**

15 June 2017: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Please see website for details. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/symposium-compassion-immigration-asylum-law-tickets-31854032687aff=es2

**HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN EUROPE: HUMANITY, DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL EUROPE**

15–16 June 2017: European University Institute, Florence, Italy


**LEGAL EDUCATION, LEGAL PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGY**

16–17 June 2017: Nottingham Law School, Centre for Legal Education

Please see website for details. www4.ntu.ac.uk/apps/events/15/home.aspx/event/189361/default/centre_for_legal_education_conference_2017

**LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING: WALLS, BORDERS, AND BRIDGES — LAW AND SOCIETY IN AN INTER-CONNECTED WORLD**

20–21 June 2017: Sheraton Maria Isabel, Mexico City

The SLSA is a co-sponsor of this event. See website for further details.

www.law-and-society.org

**NORTH EAST PGR LAW FORUM CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS**

30 June 2017: Northumbria University, Newcastle

Please see website for details. Closing date: 17 April 2017.


**WG HART LEGAL WORKSHOP ON LAW, SOCIETY AND ADMINISTRATION IN A CHANGING WORLD**


For additional information please contact sas.events@sas.ac.uk and see website for details.


**JURIS DIVERSITAS: FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

10–12 July 2017: Lyon, France

Theme: Law and food. In partnership with EM Lyon and Université Jean Moulin. Please see website for details.

http://jurisdiverstais.blogspot.co.uk/2016/12/juris-diversitas-5th-annual-conference.html

**SIXTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED LEGAL STORYTELLING: CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

11–13 July 2017: American University, Washington College of Law, Washington DC, USA

Extended deadline: 12 March 2017. Please see website for details.

www.lwionline.org/applied_storytelling_conferences.html

**SYMPOSIUM: COMPASSION — CHILD AND FAMILY LAW**


Please see website for details.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/symposium-compassion-child-family-law-tickets-31856575876aff=es2

**WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY: WORKSHOP ON LEGAL PLURALISM AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN LAW**

16–21 July 2017: Maltepe University, Istanbul

See website for details.

http://irv2017.org

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FAMILY LAW 16TH WORLD CONFERENCE**

27–29 July 2017: Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam

Please see website for details.


**EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW ANNUAL CONFERENCE: GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS, GLOBAL COMMONS AND FUNDAMENTAL VALUES – THE RESPONSES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW**

7–9 September 2017: University of Naples Frederico II, Italy

Please see website for details.

www.esil-sedi.eu/node/1444

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**Journal of Law and Society (summer 2017)**

**Árticles**

Employee insolvency priorities and employment protection in France, Germany and the UK – Federico Mucciarelli

Sacred spaces, sacred words: religion and same-sex marriage in England and Wales – Paul Johnson and Robert Vanderbeck

Legal pluralism, gendered discourses and hybridity in land-titling practices in Cambodia – Mikael Baaz, Mona Lilja and Allison Ostdal

Bent into security: barrister contribution to a skewed order in two terrorism prosecutions in Australia – Willem deLint and Wondwossen Kassa

Companions on a serendipitous journey – Nicola Lacey

**Book reviews**


Sally Engle Merry, *The Seductions of Quantification* – Katie Cruz

Stephen Bainbridge and Todd Henderson, *Limited Liability* – David Campbell
SLSA Annual Conference 2017: ‘Visions of Law’

Newcastle University, 5-7 April 2017

We look forward to welcoming you to our campus, located in the heart of Newcastle

For more information and the call for papers, see www.slsa2017.com or contact the organisers Nikki Godden-Rasul and Kevin Crosby slsa@ncl.ac.uk