

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER No 76 SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2015

SLSA 2015: A HUGE SUCCESS AT WARWICK

This year's annual conference was hosted by Warwick University from 31 March to 2 April. It was our most popular conference to date with 450 delegates from the UK and abroad gathering for three days of academic debate, networking and socialising.

The conference featured over 40 streams and themes ranging from 'Access to environmental justice' to 'Transitions from conflict: the role and agency of lawyers'. The packed plenary session on day one featured Professors Sally Wheeler, Joanne Conaghan and Alan Norrie leading a discussion on the topic of 'Teaching law in context'. There was also a poster exhibition, sponsored by *Social and Legal Studies*, with 16 exhibitors presenting visual summaries of their research on subjects as diverse as dance, the suppression of emotion, and dirty research (see page 4 for the judges' tips on designing an effective poster).

An interactive walk around the campus (entitled 'A moving experience of legal education') was led by Professor Gary Watt and Warwick's curator of art Sarah Shalgosky hosted a tour of the university art collection, indoor and outdoor. In addition, there was the opportunity to see a Shakespeare-inspired play, *Little Venice*, written and performed by undergraduates from the School of Law and the Department of English. On the final day, delegates with the time to stay on visited historic Kenilworth Castle. At the conference dinner on day two, SLSA chair Professor Rosemary Hunter presented prizes to this year's SLSA prizewinners in the Panorama Suite and the band, Funk Education, made up of Warwick Law School students and graduates, entertained the diners until late.

The SLSA Executive Committee would like to thank organisers Maebh Harding and Jonathan Garton and the rest of the Warwick team for the many months of hard work that went into achieving such a successful event.

Next year's conference will be hosted by the University of Lancaster, 5-7 April 2016. The call for papers will be announced in the autumn.

SLSA one-day conferences

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

SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCES 2018 ONWARDS: CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The SLSA Executive Committee is seeking expressions of interest from universities wishing to host our annual conferences from 2018 onwards.

The conference runs for three days (lunch day 1-lunch day 3) and usually takes place just before the Easter break each year, although alternative dates in early-mid April will be considered. The criteria we consider are:

- a strong local team of organisers, supported by their head of department;
- a venue capable of catering for approximately 400 delegates;
- overnight accommodation for about 300 people;
- a range of types of accommodation close to the conference venue, including low-cost accommodation suitable for postgraduate students;
- an accessible location;
- approximately 20 good quality seminar rooms within walking distance of each other;
- a lecture theatre for plenary sessions and the AGM;
- a computer lab capable of functioning as an internet cafe;
- a cloakroom for storing luggage;
- reliable wifi in all venues;
- a central area suitable for registration, publishers' stands, poster displays, Twitter wall and coffee/tea and lunches;
- plans for two evening events, including a conference dinner;
- adequate administrative and finance support;
- ability to provide a conference website (ideally with direct editorial control);
- capacity to promote the conference through local and wider networks;
- competitive pricing of delegate registration packages.

In recent years local teams have often been supported by a university conference office or department. The SLSA publisher liaison officer also provides assistance in liaising with publishers and organising sponsorship packages. Since the annual conference is one of the SLSA's key sources of income, a projected profit of at least £17,000 is desirable. Anyone wishing to have an informal chat about the possibility of hosting the conference should contact the SLSA chair, Rosemary Hunter. Expressions of interest should be submitted to admin@slsa.ac.uk by **14 September 2015**. Please indicate, with reasons, if you have a preference for any particular year.

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2015—2016**

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Next copy deadline: **19 October 2015**
Next publication date: **23 November 2015**

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Newsletter sponsorship

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

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

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



SLSA Exec news

On 1 April 2015 at our Warwick conference, SLSA members gathered for the AGM. The meeting was well attended and SLSA officers reported on an eventful and successful year for the association. At the meeting four new members joined the Executive – Lois Bibbings, Bristol University; Nwudego Chinwuba, Lagos University; Emilie Cloatre, Kent University; and Carla Crifo, Leicester University – and Kevin Brown took on the job of SLSA secretary.

At the Executive Committee meeting on 14 May 2015, Rosie Harding was voted in as vice chair and Sharon Cowan was co-opted to the Executive as Scottish representative.

SLSA members are invited to propose items for inclusion on the agenda of future Executive Committee meetings. The next meeting is on **17 September 2015**. If you have any suggestions for agenda items for the meeting, please contact Kevin Brown [e k.brown@qub.ac.uk](mailto:k.brown@qub.ac.uk).

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

Annual Prize for Contributions to the Socio-legal Community

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

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

Nominations should be sent by email to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk). Closing date: **7 September 2015**.

Membership renewals

Membership fees are due on 1 July 2015. The annual full membership fee is £40 (student rate £20). Our preferred method of payment is via the online PayPal facility (available at [w www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk)), where you can renew your membership, or join the association, using a credit or debit card. To renew your membership online, you need to login to the SLSA website, go to 'My Profile' and click on the subscription tab. Please choose the recurrent payment option, to avoid us having to send you reminders in future years, or your membership lapsing. If you have any problems using this system, please contact [e jed.meers@york.ac.uk](mailto:jed.meers@york.ac.uk).

Some members with existing standing orders are still paying the wrong rate or paying the correct rate into the wrong bank account. Please check that your standing order is for the correct amount and being paid to:

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

The newsletter needs you

News and feature articles are always needed for the newsletter, plus information about books, journals and events. The next deadline is **19 October 2015**.

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

New SLSA funding schemes now open

The SLSA Executive Committee is delighted to announce that our two new funding schemes are now open for applications. Applications for both new schemes are on a rolling basis.

SLSA Research Methods Training Bursaries

The aim of this scheme is to support training in social science research methods and the use of data analysis software (eg SPSS and NVivo) for SLSA members who do not possess but wish to acquire these skills and do not have access to sources of institutional support to do so. The SLSA will provide bursaries to cover the cost of attendance at a relevant training course offered by an established provider. 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 [w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/research-methods-training-bursaries](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/research-methods-training-bursaries)

The SLSA Mentorship Scheme

The aim of this scheme is to support 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 [w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/mentorship-scheme](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/mentorship-scheme).

Enquiries about these schemes should be directed to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

SLSA book and article prizes 2015

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

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

The closing date is Monday **5 October 2015**. Publications published in the 12 months up to **30 September 2015** are eligible.

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

The winners of all the book prizes will receive £250 and the winner of the article prize will receive £100. Winners will be invited to attend an author-meets-reader session at next year's Annual Conference in Lancaster.

Full details of all the prizes can be found on the SLSA website [w slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk) and follow the prizes links. If you have a query about any of the prizes, please contact [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

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The next **SLSA POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE** will be hosted by the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford, from **7-8 January 2015**. This annual event is free to attend and includes overnight accommodation and meals (but not travel). Full details will be published in the autumn, so keep the dates free.

Disclaimer

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

BUDDY-UP 2015

For the SLSA conference 2015, our postgraduate representative Charlotte Bendall organised a buddy-up scheme for PhD students participating in the conference. Eva Klambauer, King's College London (KCL), took advantage of the opportunity to meet Joanne Conaghan.

The purpose of the scheme was to pair up PhD students with leading academics in the field of socio-legal studies and give them an opportunity to network, discuss their work and enrich their overall experience at the conference. I was paired up with Professor Joanne Conaghan who was an outstanding 'buddy' during the conference. It was a fantastic experience to discuss my PhD project and academic career plans with such a senior academic and receive extremely valuable feedback.

I am conducting my doctoral research at KCL on sex-work policy and sex-worker and feminist activism in England and Wales and New South Wales in Australia. It was my doctoral supervisor, Dr Prabha Kotiswaran, who first introduced me to Joanne's work in the area of feminist legal scholarship. Joanne's extensive writing in this area is very relevant to my research topic. I find her premise that feminist legal scholarship should contribute to transformative change particularly inspiring as I would like my own research to contribute to sex workers' rights, health, safety and general empowerment. Joanne gave me very useful literature recommendations in the areas of critical legal theory, feminist legal theory and legal consciousness studies. Furthermore, she challenged me in a very constructive way on my theoretical framework, which encouraged me to rethink several aspects of it. Apart from her academic input, it was interesting to hear more about academia in the field of socio-legal studies in general and learn about how to situate feminist scholarship within it.

Joanne was not only a fantastic conference buddy because of her extensive knowledge, but also because of her enthusiasm for my research project and general encouragement. The buddy-up scheme contributed to making the SLSA conference a very positive and valuable experience for me and I would really encourage academics and PhD students to take part in it. I would like to thank the organisers of the buddy-up scheme as well as my buddy and sincerely hope that this scheme will run again next year.

SLSA admin address

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

SLSA online

The SLSA website contains comprehensive information about the SLSA and is also home to the SLSA online directory. The news section is updated weekly and these updates are circulated to members via a weekly ebulletin. To request the inclusion of a news item and for any queries, contact Marie Selwood [e marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com).

You can also follow the SLSA on social media. The SLSA's social media officer is Jen Hendry [e j.hendry@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.hendry@leeds.ac.uk).

- website [w www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk)
- Twitter [w https://twitter.com/SLSA_UK](https://twitter.com/SLSA_UK)
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SLSA POSTGRADUATE POSTER COMPETITION: THE JUDGES' POINT OF VIEW

The SLSA Postgraduate Poster Competition was inaugurated at the Annual Conference held at the University of York in 2013. This year it ran for the third time and received a good number of entries. Here, the judges reflect on what makes a winning poster.

In judging the poster competition, we are looking for posters that successfully balance form and content. That is, they must be both visually attractive and describe in sufficient detail a compelling socio-legal project. It is also important that both their content and their appearance are comprehensible.

Graphs, charts and flow diagrams can be a very useful way of presenting data and information, although it is essential to ensure that the form of visual representation chosen is appropriate for the type of data that you have. Posters with difficult-to-follow graphs or diagrams which do not illuminate the research are not visually effective. Another common failing is for posters to include too much small text that is laborious to read.

In terms of content, it is important to be clear about what questions the research is addressing and how it is doing so. The content should not be too general – we want to know what contribution to knowledge the project is making. At the same time, don't assume expert knowledge of the field among those judging (and more generally viewing) the poster. Make sure that key concepts and abbreviations are fully explained.

This year's winning poster, by Eva Klambauer from King's College London, described a socio-legal research project with interesting research questions, a well-designed methodology and a clear theoretical frame. It conveyed quite a lot of information in an imaginative way that captured the reader's attention and helped them to understand the various components of the project.

Winners and other entries from the past three years can be found on the SLSA website at [w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/annual-conference](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/annual-conference).

Charlotte Bendall, Rosemary Hunter and Sally Wheeler

SLSA membership benefits

Benefits of SLSA membership include:

- three 16-page newsletters per year;
 - personal profile in the SLSA online directory;
 - discounted SLSA conference fees;
 - weekly ebulletin;
 - eligibility for grants schemes, seminar competition, prizes, training bursaries and mentorship scheme;
 - 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 [w www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk) for details.

SLSA SEMINARS 2015

This year five awards were made out of a field of 18 and £9513 of the £10,000 fund was allocated.

Symposium on law and compassion, 1 July 2015, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Dermot Feenan and Daniel Bedford, University of Portsmouth, £3000

This symposium will provide a forum for presentations and discussion on the relationships between law and compassion, focusing on the conceptual and theoretical approaches to compassion and the relationship of compassion to litigation, judging and regulation, with particular concern to learn from critical interdisciplinary and socio-legal approaches. See www.port.ac.uk/school-of-law/school-events/symposium-on-law-and-compassion.html.

Appointing judges in an age of diversity, 6–7 November 2015, University of Birmingham

Graham Gee and Erika Rackley, University of Birmingham, £2215

This workshop will bring together judges, officials, practitioners and academics to reflect on the Judicial Appointments Commission's first 10 years – its successes and failures; past and future challenges; the prospects for faster progress on diversity and obstacles to this – as well as judicial appointments more generally. www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/law/news/2015/03/cfp-appointing-judges-diversity.aspx

Climate change, resilience and austerity, 15 September 2015, University of Warwick

Celene Tan and John McEldowney, University of Warwick, £2400

This workshop will critically analyse sustainable development and how this concept is ambiguously translated in many countries of the world and how environmental concerns have been considered by the rules and institutions of international economic law. Environmental exploitation and resource protection is part of economic globalization. Both will be substantially influenced by climate change and the workshop will explore the inevitable tensions and conflicts likely to arise as a consequence, especially in the face of austerity-driven economies. Further details, including confirmed speakers, are available at www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#June05_19.

Law's metaphors, 25 September, School of Law, University of Southampton

David Gurnham, University of Southampton, £1022

This seminar will focus on how metaphor connects law to its social and cultural neighbours and the metaphorical nature of this connection. Speakers will address three themes: first, metaphors in law, legal practice and education that perform a constructive or constitutive function; second, law (and the courts) as metaphor for matters of social concern; and third, metaphors for law in academic and other commentary that serve as a means for critical engagement with law. Uniting all papers is a concern to rethink critically how metaphor is and may be deployed in law and what implications it has. The papers will form part of a collection in the 2016 special issue of the *Journal of Law and Society*, which is also supporting this event. Contact David Gurnham [e d.gurnham@soton.ac.uk](mailto:d.gurnham@soton.ac.uk) for details and booking.

Lost in translation? From science to regulation, 19 January 2016, Birmingham Law School

Aleksandra Cavoski, University of Birmingham, £876

Details to be announced via the SLSA ebulletin and website.

For more information, visit www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#winners2015. The closing date for the next round of applications will be **11 December 2015**.

SLSA GRANTS 2016

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

The Research Grants Scheme has been running since 1999 and to date has funded 99 socio-legal research projects. The scheme aims to support work for which other funding sources would not be appropriate and to encourage socio-legal research initiatives in a practical way.

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

The deadline for applications is **31 October 2015**. Individual awards are up to a maximum of £3000. Decisions will be made no later than **31 January 2016**. The Research Grants Committee takes the following elements into consideration:

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

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

Fieldwork funding for PhD students

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

Applications are now invited for the fieldwork scheme for the year 2016. Applications to the scheme are considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA, wherever they live. Funding will only be made available to students who have completed their first year of study by the time the grant is to be taken up. Applications must be made using the PhD Fieldwork Application Package available on the SLSA website where you will also find examples of previous awards made under the general grant scheme. Closing date: **31 October 2015**.

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

See pages 6–9 for summaries from this year's successful applicants plus Sarah Lambie's final report on her 'Transforming justice project'.

SLSA GRANTS 2015

This year the SLSA Grants Sub-committee awarded four PhD Fieldwork Grants and seven Research Grants. Grantholders' project summaries follow, then Sarah Lamb reports her findings.

Research Grants

Sharing information about unsafe transportation:
mapping international networks

Ashley Savage, Northumbria University, and Richard Hyde, University of Nottingham, £1292

Regulators of air, rail and sea transportation play an essential role in ensuring the safety of the public. This role becomes ever more critical when the transportation crosses jurisdictional boundaries. How can the regulator engage with counterparts to ensure that the risks to individuals or the environment are addressed and deliberate wrongdoing sanctioned? One method is to act cooperatively with other regulatory bodies through the sharing of information. Regardless of the mode of transportation, the effectiveness of the regulatory response is dependent on networks and the information sharing that goes on within. These networks involve international and supranational organisations, national regulators, transportation operators and their insurers, employees and consumers creating opportunities and challenges.

This project, conducted by Ashley Savage, Northumbria University, and Richard Hyde, University of Nottingham, seeks to build upon the findings of a paper in 2013 which identified that UK transportation regulators were sharing information obtained from whistleblowers with different regulators and agencies across the globe. It has three key objectives:

- 1 What is the legal framework (national/supranational (particularly EU) and international (eg through treaties or international organisations)) that governs the sharing of information between transportation regulators?
- 2 What are the policies and procedures that govern the sharing of information between transportation regulators?
- 3 How is information shared in practice between transportation regulators?

Using empirical data obtained using freedom of information requests and a number of semi-structured interviews, the project will critically analyse the nature and extent of information sharing between the regulators of air, rail and sea transportation. It will consider what policies and protocols are adopted to govern information sharing and how the goals of information sharing (to ensure safe transportation) are balanced with moral and ethical norms governing privacy and data sharing.

Managing without a retirement age in universities:
a comparative picture

Alysia Blackham, Cambridge University, £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'. This raises serious questions for universities which 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.

In this context, my research will investigate the implications of the abolition of the DRA at the organisational level, focusing on the higher education sector. Drawing on legal doctrinal analysis and organisational case studies of universities in the USA and the UK, this study will explore the issues (if any) that are arising in UK universities following the abolition of the DRA, and identify strategies that universities can use to manage their workforces without mandatory retirement. This research will extend and develop existing research into mandatory retirement in the USA; reveal new insights into contemporary legal developments in the UK and the impact of law and legal change on organisational practice; and, by using a comparative, mixed-method research approach, adopt an innovative methodological approach to investigating legal problems.

Wilful ignorance? Exploring the Irish state's failure to protect children from sexual abuse in the period 1950–1990

Sinéad Ring, Kent University, £1765.80

This study will investigate the Irish State's engagement with child sexual abuse from 1950–1990. The frame of the project is complicity; how to talk about the blame, if any, to be attributed to state actors who turned a blind eye to abuse. It will explore how child abuse was understood by the Irish state, as evidenced by a range of documentary sources relating to policy formation and implementation, legislative initiatives, social work, medical and legal texts and reports of inquiries. Feminist critiques of criminal law will be employed to investigate tensions between perceptions of child sexual abuse as constituting a 'real harm' and the proper object of criminal law, and perceptions of it as a matter of morality to be dealt with by the Catholic church. Particular attention will be paid to evidence of deference by the police to the church.

The research builds on my doctorate, part of which documented and explored victims' testimony to Irish courts on how their contemporaneous attempts to report were frustrated by figures of state authority: police officers, social workers and teachers. The courts have erased these stories and have blamed the delay in reporting solely on individual defendants. This narrative of ignorance persists, despite the findings of tribunals of inquiry that suggest otherwise (Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Sexual Abuse (2009); Report of the Commission of Investigation into the Dublin Archdiocese (2011)) and a public apology by the Taoiseach to victims of child abuse. This study interrogates the narrative of ignorance by locating it in the context of state actors' understanding of sexual abuse. The insights gained from this research will illuminate both the Irish state's relationship to its past and the enforcement of criminal law on sexual abuse.

VPSs in Northern Ireland: a new voice for crime victims in sentencing?

Luke Moffett, Queen's University Belfast, £1884

The vast majority of victimological research in Northern Ireland concentrates on political violence, there has been very little academic research on crime victims. Since the 1980s Northern Ireland criminal judges have used victim reports (victim impact statements (VPSs)) from medical professionals and statements from victims to inform sentencing decisions. In England and Wales, VPSs were only introduced in 2001 as part of the Victims'

Charter. The current changes in Northern Ireland mirror those occurring in England and Wales following *Perkins and Others v R* [2013] EWCA Crim 323, which found that VPSs are a 'right' and a form of evidence to be heard in open court, but exclude victims' opinions on the sentence. Following this judgment, impact statements in Northern Ireland will now also be termed VPSs, adopting the points in the *Perkins* case, ie victims can now personally present their views in open court, but can also be cross-examined (as proposed under Part 4 of the Northern Ireland Justice Bill 2014).

Northern Ireland is an important case study, given its near 30-year experience of using victim impact statements in the common law, and will allow consideration of whether the move to VPSs on a statutory footing will substantively change victims' role in criminal proceedings. Of particular interest is the socio-legal context in Northern Ireland, where a Victim Charter will be introduced as part of the Justice Bill 2014, almost a reverse engineering of the England and Wales experience.

This project involves desktop research of sentencing decisions and interviews in Northern Ireland with judges, legal practitioners and victim support staff to examine judges' and practitioners' perceptions of victims' roles or 'voices' in criminal proceedings. In particular, it will examine whether the reforms in Northern Ireland to VPSs have improved victims' procedural role in shaping sentencing decisions. In addition, the impact of VPSs will be examined in light of their effect on judicial decision-making in sentencing, and the influence of regional law and jurisprudence towards acknowledging procedural rights of crime victims.

Judicial review in the lower criminal courts: a workgroup analysis

Richard Young, Birmingham University, £1604.20

Judicial review (JR) is the primary mechanism by which the executive is held accountable to law, and this procedure has been the subject of extensive doctrinal and empirical analysis. By contrast, the use of JR as a mechanism to review the legality of magistrates' decision-making has been largely overlooked in the academic literature. Drawing on workgroup theory,¹ a recent study presented some fragmentary evidence that firms of defence lawyers may refrain from bringing JR so as to avoid damaging ongoing relations within their local court.² Recent cuts to legal aid raise questions as to whether firms of defence solicitors are now so tied into their local court workgroup that challenges by way of JR are increasingly unlikely, thus placing the rule of law in jeopardy. A fruitful way to examine workgroups is to focus on challenges to their boundaries, as this is when usually unspoken norms (the 'feel for the game' in Bourdieu's terms) may come to the surface. This study will accordingly focus on defence solicitors who have in the past five years actually pursued JR against the decisions of the lower courts to the point of obtaining a reported High Court decision, rather than just threatening to do so or initiating proceedings as a negotiating tactic. Their pursuit of judicial review to this end point will enable me to explore with them whether this made any difference to lower court behaviour, either in the form of changes to comply with the guidance of the senior judiciary, or in the form of retaliation for 'daring' to challenge the lower court's norms and authority. They will also be asked to assess whether defence solicitors are less likely to pursue JR in future because of the changing funding landscape and its implications for their level of dependency on the local court workgroup.

1 J Eisenstein and H Jacob (1977), *Felony Justice*, Little, Brown

2 R Young (2013) 'Exploring the boundaries of the criminal courtroom workgroup' 42(3) *Common Law World Review* 203-39

Access to welfare benefits for EU/EEA Roma migrants in the UK after the 2014 benefit reforms

Egle Dagilyte, Buckinghamshire New University, £1724

This project is a pilot study designed to collect initial evidence – via interviews/focus groups with EU/European Economic Area (EEA) Roma migrants and a survey of NGOs which advise them – on the effects of the recent legal changes to the welfare benefits regime on migrants' lives, as well as to assess whether the practical application of these changes by the UK authorities may breach the EU free movement law. This research aims to fill the gap in information about EU/EEA Roma migrants' experiences in claiming the income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit before and after the legal changes to welfare benefits in 2014.

To carry out the study, I am collaborating with Professor Margaret Greenfields, the director of the Institute of Diversity Research, Inclusivity, Communities and Society at Buckinghamshire New University, Roma Community Care in Derby [w www.romacommunitycare.org](http://www.romacommunitycare.org) and the Roma Support Group in London [w www.romasupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk).

The impact of this research will result in enhanced knowledge of the topic for agencies such as: the Citizens Advice Bureau; specialist NGOs working with Roma and European migrants; legal and social work professionals; policy practitioners; European agencies (eg the European Academic Network on Romani Studies, the Council of Europe, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Roma Affairs). The research will also provide data for a better-informed debate on the UK's EU membership. In addition, a journal article, a report and at least one conference presentation at the SLSA and/or Social Policy Association annual conferences will result, as well as wider dissemination via academic and policy blogs and via social media.

Further information about this research project is available at [w http://bit.ly/1zJlSEG](http://bit.ly/1zJlSEG).

Transitional justice in Tolima, Columbia

Sandra Brunnegger, Cambridge University, £2000

This research project will generate data relating to transitional justice arrangements as these affect Colombia's centre-west department of Tolima. The research's account of Colombia's transitional justice arrangements will be informed by an appreciation of recent Colombian history. The research in particular will focus on the adopted Justice and Peace Law (Ley de Justicia y Paz) which lays down a legal framework for a peace process in which paramilitaries systematically disarm and confess their crimes. This legal framework has become the subject of contestation between different actors including alleged former perpetrators and victims. The proposed research will disentangle the underlying complexities, dynamics and impact of the Justice and Peace Law in Tolima, in particular by illuminating subjective understandings of justice. In describing how the law plays out on the ground, the project involves a re-orientation of study away from the law as text and toward an exploration of quotidian notions of justice.

@SLSA_UK prize

The prize for our 1500th Twitter follower went to Andrew HR @andhr83 of Sheffield Business School. He won a copy of Caroline Hunter (ed), *Integrating Socio-Legal Studies into the Law Curriculum* from Palgrave Macmillan's Socio-Legal Studies series. We're now on the way to our 2000th follower who will also receive a book of their choice from the series, see the website for all 11 titles published so far [w www.palgrave.com/series/palgrave-macmillan-socio-legal-studies/PMSLS](http://www.palgrave.com/series/palgrave-macmillan-socio-legal-studies/PMSLS).

Fieldwork Grants

Coupling the disparate: the justice–reconciliation nexus in Israel and Palestine and its integration in civil society peacebuilding

Rimona Afana, Ulster University, £1900

This study examines the junction between justice and reconciliation in relation to the Palestine–Israel impasse, and the impact this sensitive interplay has upon building peace, with particular focus on civil society programmes.

The absence of peace as a political project evidences the potential of peace as a grassroots, social endeavour. This understanding reorients focus from the abortive peace process to the realm of emotions, motivations and trauma experienced by those caught amid the conflict. Beyond the imperative to reach a political settlement, which has been the focus of numerous studies and diplomatic efforts, the scars left behind by conflict point to the need to account for past abuses and to repair the frail social fabric. Seeing peace as contingent on melding reconciliation and justice, this hypothesis-generating study turns on the core of the conflict via a direct inquiry into the needs, values and aspirations of Palestinians and Israelis. The interface between justice and reconciliation evidences synergies, but also tensions and trade-offs. These will be explored by engaging with interviewees' views and with literature on conflict resolution, social psychology, international law and transitional justice, using a grounded-theory-inspired approach.

Introducing a practical edge to this research, a set of best practices is being developed for the use of justice and reconciliation in grassroots ventures aimed at fostering peaceful, just coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. The study aims to contribute to theory and praxis by:

- 1 illuminating the role of transitional justice mechanisms in settings of active conflict, settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing and belligerent occupation;
- 2 empirically investigating how Israelis and Palestinians make sense of the interface between reconciliation and justice, and of its potential to transform inter- and intra-group relations;
- 3 hypothesizing the optimal implementation of these findings on justice and reconciliation within civil society peacebuilding engaged with the Palestinian–Israeli conflict.

Practical (Peruvian) approaches to non-retrogression in socio-economic rights

Ben Warwick, Durham University, £1870

On paper, international human rights law imposes strict conditions on countries that wish to reduce their level of protection for socio-economic rights. In practice, however, during the recent financial and economic crises, there has been little enforcement of this legal obligation not to take 'backwards steps' in rights protection. In seeking to understand this failure, the English-language scholarship has tended to focus on crisis-affected countries such as Spain, Ireland and the UK. This (at best) has left the Global South experiences of the crises marginalised.

In seeking to understand the failure of the international human rights system to effectively regulate backwards movement in socio-economic rights protections, Peru is an especially interesting example. In a context of increased social conflict and a strong emphasis on economic success, the Peruvian Constitutional Court invoked the principle of 'retrogression', noting the obligation of the state to progressively improve rights protection and not to reduce protections. This example is under-acknowledged in English literature and the implications have not been explored.

This research seeks to unpack the Peruvian illustration in a number of dimensions. The court, in adopting the principle, noted the work of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, but seems to have misinterpreted its meaning. This relationship between national and international will be probed further. In addition there are possible lessons from a reconciliation of the (international) conceptual notions of the non-retrogression doctrine with on-the-ground meaning(s) of it. Interviews with policy and advocacy actors will seek to better understand the social implications of the judgment and associated regulatory frameworks.

The aim is to draw from the case study of Peru to uncover the range of the practical challenges that are experienced in using the doctrine of non-retrogression in a national context. As the UN committee continues to shape the international version of the doctrine, a fuller understanding of these national difficulties can help improve the international 'non-retrogression' regime.

Women's organisations and the emergence of domestic violence legislation in the MENA region: an examination of Egypt and Lebanon

Stephanie Chaban, Ulster University, £1917

The overall aim of this research is to examine the role of women's organisations in the emergence of domestic violence (DV) legislation in the Middle East/North-Africa (MENA) region, additionally looking at the role that the international community or international norms might play in this activism. The question this research aims to answer is: how do women's organisations in Egypt and Lebanon accept, reject, or reinterpret international norms to address DV through domestic legislation?

This research will look at one state that has succeeded in passing DV legislation (Lebanon, 2014) and one that has draft legislation (Egypt) that has yet to pass. The research will delve into how women's organisations engage with the state as they agitate for addressing DV in plural legal settings where religious institutions, civil society and other non-state actors are significant players, as are transnational or regional women's networks and international donors. Finally, the research anticipates drawing out best practices and/or concerns in the effort to address DV in the MENA region. The research will contribute to a current gap in the literature on addressing DV through legislative means in the MENA region, while also interrogating interactions with international norms.

This is a qualitative study. The research process will involve three months in each of the case study sites (Cairo, Egypt, and Beirut, Lebanon) for a total of six months. Representatives from women's organisations who work on DV legal reform in the respective case study settings, in addition to members of the committees or coalitions they have formed, state representatives and representatives from international donors/organisations will be interviewed.

Exploring legal and transitional justice needs and preferences of male victims of conflict-related SGBV

Philip Schulz, Ulster University, £2000

Conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against men is committed more frequently than popularly assumed. However, despite emerging accounts of male-directed SGBV throughout various conflicts globally, the growing scholarly attention has not yet translated into concrete policy measures to support male victims, including legal protection. Throughout the literature and the policy discourse, there is a

dearth of attention to legal responses and transitional justice mechanisms for male victims of sexual violence. In addition, the limited existing work is almost exclusively occupied with judicial accountability and retributive justice, thereby marginalising semi- or non-judicial alternative transitional justice measures.

Against this backdrop, this research project aims to explore gender-specific legal and transitional justice needs and preferences of male victims of conflict-related SGBV. The project applies a victim-centred approach, by consulting male victims and survivors of sexual violence on their views about what form of justice they want for themselves and their families and communities.

Oftentimes, assumptions are made that transitional justice mechanisms employed for female victims of sexual crimes can be expected to function for male survivors, too. Such arguments, however, are yet to be verified through empirically grounded consultations with victims about their perspectives on justice.

This research therefore aims to integrate victims' voices into debates regarding transitional justice, something which is crucial when designing and implementing such mechanisms. By doing so, the research envisages identifying obstacles for male victims of SGBV in accessing justice, and aims to explore whether existing legal frameworks are adequate to address conflict-related crimes of sexual violence directed against men. New empirical data is expected to make legal responses to SGBV against men more sensitive to victims' needs. Findings deriving from the research will not only constitute valuable theoretical, academic contributions, but will likewise help to inform and guide policy discourse and decisions regarding responses to SGBV.

Final report

Transforming Justice? Exploring non-state, community-based safety and accountability strategies for addressing interpersonal violence

Sarah Lambie, Birkbeck College, University of London, £1070

In recent years, 'restorative' and 'transformative' justice approaches have gained much interest among community groups, policy makers and state officials who are seeking alternatives to imprisonment and other forms of state punishment. Much of the existing scholarship on alternatives, however, has focused on formal state policies and practices that seek to integrate restorative approaches within existing criminal justice systems, such as victim-offender mediation, family group conferencing and sentencing circles. Less research has been conducted on informal and grassroots approaches that operate independently from the state.

Yet in many contexts, particularly in urban centres in the USA, Canada and the UK, non-state, community-based justice initiatives are becoming more widespread, particularly in over-criminalised and migrant communities. In these contexts, local organisers are developing innovative strategies for responding to violence that do not rely on prisons or police. Many of these initiatives work under broadly shared principles of transformative justice, which challenge conventional assumptions about how to best prevent, intervene in and respond to violence.

The SLSA generously provided £1070 towards the costs of a pilot research trip to New York, Oakland, Seattle and Portland to interview community organisers who are currently engaged in grassroots transformative justice initiatives. From February to March 2013, I conducted 15 one-to-one and group interviews with community organisers based in all four cities. Interviewees were invited to share their experiences of using transformative

justice models, describe specific techniques and strategies of anti-violence initiatives, and reflect on the successes and challenges of engaging in such work.

Many of these initiatives emerged in direct response to failings in the conventional criminal justice system, either because survivors of violence felt they could not engage the criminal justice system, or because the system was not meeting the needs of the community at large. Many projects were led by survivors of violence and organisers working in the anti-violence voluntary sector who wanted to increase the options available to other survivors of violence and to expand community capacity to break cycles of violence.

Interviewees described a wide range of strategies and projects, largely grouped around four key areas of work.

- 1 Prioritising survivor safety** Interviewees described setting up various kinds of support groups for survivors of violence, developing peer-based safety plans, creating 'safe spaces' for people to seek community assistance and providing resources for survivors to heal from harm. Much of this work focused on building community capacity for survivor support and increasing everyday skills for preventing violence.
- 2 Working with people who cause harm** Organisers expressed a strong commitment to develop meaningful and effective accountability strategies that enable people who commit harm to recognise the impact of their actions, take steps to address the underlying issues and to develop capacity to end patterns of violence.
- 3 Building accountable communities** Organisers described efforts to develop 'cultures of community accountability' that move beyond individual models of responsibility and instead foster more collective practices of accountability and healing for situations of harm and violence.
- 4 Transforming institutions/systems of oppression** Interviewees discussed the need to remain attentive to broader social conditions which enable violence and focus energies on identifying and challenging structural and systemic issues that contribute to violence.

While organisers demonstrated a strong commitment to transformative justice principles, many emphasised the challenges of the work. These included: the difficulties of confronting structural problems with grassroots resources, balancing immediate needs with long-term change, maintaining sustainability in processes that tended to be highly labour intensive and emotionally fraught; setting realistic goals and expectations for what communities could achieve; and developing alternatives to practices of isolation, punishment and exclusion.

As a pilot study, the interviews provided key insights into how grassroots transformative justice initiatives are working in practice and demonstrated the need for further research. Follow-up research is planned to conduct more interviews and to undertake comparative analysis of similar practices across the US, Canada and UK.

people . . .

Four SLSA nominees have been appointed fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences. They are Professor **RICHARD COLLIER** (Newcastle University), Professor **MARTIN PARTINGTON** (Bristol University), Professor **HILARY SOMMERLAD** (Birmingham University) and Professor **STEPHEN WHITTLE** (Manchester Metropolitan University).

GETHIN REES has moved from Southampton to take up a post as lecturer in sociology at the University of Newcastle.

DR VALENTINA VADI has been appointed professor of international economic law at Lancaster University Law School.

DR MIKE VARNEY, University of Hull, was named law teacher of the year at the LawCareers.Net training and recruitment awards.

THE JOURNAL OF LAW AND SOCIETY: THE FIRST 40 YEARS

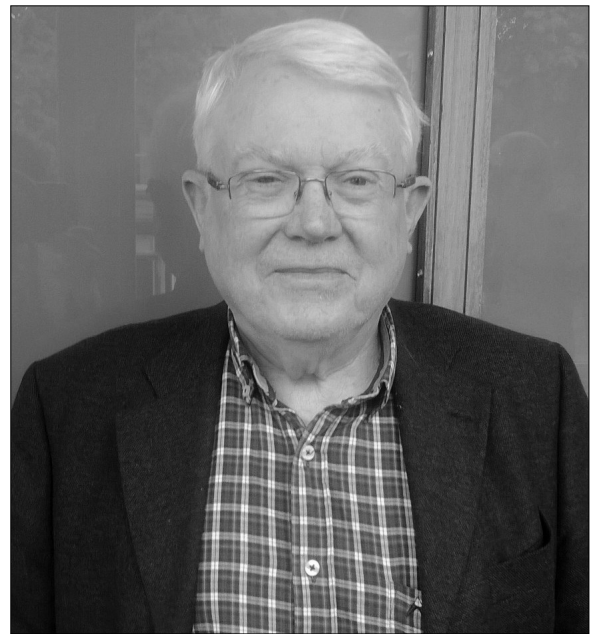
Reflections and perspectives: a conversation with Phil Thomas, the founder and editor of the Journal of Law and Society (JLS), by Christos Boukalas and Lydia Hayes.

The JLS is a highly regarded academic journal; some think it the most prestigious place to publish socio-legal scholarship aimed at a wide UK and international audience. Now 40 years old, the journal is 'part of the furniture' in the academic landscape of law and society. However, the JLS was founded as a radical challenge to the doctrinal orthodoxy of UK law schools. Its editor, Phil Thomas, remains passionately committed to continuing to publish scholarship in this tradition. When the JLS was established in 1974, the idea behind it was to create a focal point around which the socio-legal community in the UK could organise. The journal continues to play a key role in nurturing and supporting original scholarship and, as the decades have passed, its international reputation and readership has expanded markedly. Alongside his work as editor of the journal, Phil's personal research interests now lie in developing early career research and encouraging young scholars to realise their ambitions.

Deeply committed to the transformative potential of socio-legal thinking, Phil is keenly aware of the limitations of academic publishing and the power of the mainstream media; a resource he thinks academics should try to harness in order to pursue public engagement and social change. 'Presenting a challenge to the legal and social policy orthodoxy is a very important function of academics,' he asserts, 'especially since heightened career pressures in recent years enhance the risk that academic voices are constrained or restricted.' Phil's own legal education was traditional and rather staid – white, male (mainly Oxford-educated) professors passed their wisdom down to white, male (often private-school-educated) students. As was typical of the lives of the few youngsters who made it to university from the valley towns and villages of South Wales, Phil was a grammar-school boy. He claims to have presented as an average undergraduate student who found much of the curriculum boring. However, after completing a rather more inspiring LLM, he ventured to Yale in the USA in order to escape the looming prospect of having to settle down to legal practice. From Yale, Phil decided that he would like to see for himself the political changes taking place in Tanzania and Zambia in the 1960s, an experience which, he says, 'just blew my mind. East Africa in the 1960s was a hotbed for socialist thinking . . . I loved it and learned so much about the law in action, the law as a vehicle for popular engagement and as an expression of social change.'

On his return to Cardiff, Phil was aware of colleagues regarding him as 'different' on account of his exposure to radical African politics and he was determined to promote a new style of legal thinking and scholarship. It was a consequence of this ambition that the JLS was founded in 1974. Socio-legal studies in the UK developed in oppositional contrast to the doctrinal certainties, orthodoxy and establishment line perpetuated by traditional law schools. Phil's hope was to develop the JLS as an alternative and exciting academic platform to meet the publishing needs of progressive socio-legal academics, and his agenda was always to seek out the cream of this new wave of scholarship.

Forty years on, Phil is perhaps the longest-serving, most experienced law journal editor still working within the academic community today. He acts as a conduit between the JLS's production team and the editorial board. His great talent,



Phil Thomas, founder and editor of the JLS and winner of the SLSA Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community in 2012

as chair of the editorial board, is to manage and coordinate its collective decision-making. All new submissions are subject to Phil's initial overview: 'JLS is open to articles from around the world, addressing all areas of law and taking a wide range of theoretical approaches. I'm happy to have empirical material within it, but data alone won't do. An article has to be theoretically based. Personally, I like social policy and I am always on the lookout for work which is fresh, clearly written, and engaging. Sometimes I can tell straight away that an article is not for us and so I reject it at the point of entry, but otherwise, if it looks interesting, I decide who on the editorial board is best suited to read each.'

A large part of the reason why Phil has been so committed to keeping the journal anchored at Cardiff University is to foster the collegiality and connectivity that defines the spirit of the editorial board: 'Being at the same institution means that members of the board know each other, they meet in the corridors; they know one another's work and support each other.' That said, the JLS is not an inhouse journal for Cardiff Law School, far from it. As Phil explains: 'Anyone from Cardiff

Journal of Law and Society (autumn 2015)

Articles

- 'Am I free now?' Overseas domestic workers in slavery – Virginia Mantouvalou
- Romalpa and contractual innovation – James Davey and Cliona Kelly
- Professional minimalism? The ethical consciousness of commercial lawyers – Richard Moorhead and Victoria Hinchly
- Implementation in international business self-regulation: the importance of sequences and their linkages – Tony Porter and Karsten Ronit
- Karl Polanyi and the problem of corporate social responsibility – Lilian Moncrieff

Book reviews

- Russell Sandberg, *Religion, Law and Society* – Anthony Bradney
- Erwin Chemerinsky, *The Case against the Supreme Court* – Brian Christopher Jones

knows we tend to be harder on our own colleagues than anyone else!' To bolster its independence and editorial excellence the editorial board works closely with a team of advisory experts. 'The membership of the advisory board is extremely strong,' says Phil. 'This formidable team of experts reads and reviews the work submitted to us. It is they who provide us with recommendations and pass judgement.'

Phil is keen to stress that the success of the JLS should not put people off submitting their work. Self-censorship, he feels, can have a very negative impact on academic careers. 'People tell me that they worry that the JLS is too hard to get into and I say to them, "What are you frightened of? Start at the top – what's the worst that we can do, hang you?" Even if you are unsuccessful you will get a polite letter saying no thank you with some constructive comments which hopefully will help you in the future. When we reject papers, we always seek to provide constructive comments for the author to improve the paper. All the submissions are reviewed anonymously; the only person who knows the author is the editor. Neither the board nor our expert advisers know whether the author is a young or an established scholar, or whether they come from a Russell Group university or not. They make their judgements based only on what they see in the text. Right now, we are increasingly receiving articles from abroad, and articles authored by women. From the UK we mainly receive articles from the top universities, but no one should feel frightened. Have a go!'

Phil is continuously restless about the direction of the journal: 'I always want to see more critical bite in its content. I would like JLS to continue to be a vehicle for scholarship which has something special to say about the issues of the moment or the emerging issues.' For Phil right now that means his eyes are peeled, looking for work which is critically engaged with contemporary concerns about democracy and democratic processes, with the importance of participation, constitutional development, federalism, and so on. 'I want the JLS to be publishing work about the growing gap between rich and poor within society and the myriad different ways in which it affects

people, not only financially – the consequences are wide and varied. I am also keenly aware of the urgency of human rights, changes to the structure and composition of the judiciary, access to justice and the diminution of legal aid, issues around the secret and corporate state, and the changes and pressures on legal education and the university. Unfortunately, we are not short of issues, I wish we were . . . I want to publish socio-legal work that addresses contemporary pressing matters, and not necessarily cutting-edge reflections on some importantly obscure jurisprudence!'

A longer version of this interview can be found at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291467-6478>.

JLS special issue

The JLS invites expressions of interest concerning the guest editorship of the JLS special issue (spring 2017). Readers are invited to contact the editor with their proposal by **4 September 2015**. Send a list of authors, agreed and those yet to be confirmed, and working titles of each contribution. Prepare one page explaining the purpose and range of the collection. The material must be 'socio legal', fit the character of the JLS, and have current relevance and appeal to the journal's international and diverse readership. The issue must also be both thematic and coherent. The issue is 75,000 words, inclusive of footnotes, and normally carries between 8 to 10 papers. The deadline for completed copy is November 2016. The JLS may provide funds to support a meeting for the authors. The issue will also appear simultaneously as a book published by Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford. A decision on the 2017 publication will be taken in September 2015 thereby allowing the editor one year to produce the copy. Contact Philip Thomas, JLS Editor ✉ Cardiff Law School, Cardiff University, Cardiff CF10 3AX e thomaspa@cardiff.ac.uk.

The special issue for 2016 is titled *Law's Metaphors*, edited by David Gurnham (Southampton University and see page 5 for details of the associated seminar).

OPEN ACCESS AT NORTHUMBRIA

Northumbria University is proud to host a new open access (OA) journal. The International Journal of Gender Sexuality and Law (IJGSL) forms part of a 'stable' of new OA journals being launched by the Law School, overseen by Chris Ashford.

The IJGSL will be published alongside the *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education*, which moved to the OA platform last year, and the *International Journal of Mental Health and Capacity Law (IJMHCL)*.

The IJGSL is a new inclusive international journal publishing high quality theoretical and empirical research. The journal aims to advance the knowledge of legal discourses in gender and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, heterosexual and queer sexualities. It also aims to be an inclusive space for radical and progressive academic debate from a range of disciplines, including but not limited to law, sociology, criminology, history, geography, psychology, media, cultural studies, sexuality and gender studies. The journal welcomes scholarship of an interdisciplinary nature. Content takes the form of substantive peer-reviewed articles, or reviews, in the form of books, films or web materials. In addition, the journal will also include additional content such as interviews or short comment pieces in response to recent developments. It is expected that the majority of content will be by academic writers, although the

board may invite non-academic writers to provide material from time to time. It is anticipated that the journal will find an international audience (reflected in the editorial board) from a range of disciplines exploring gender, sexuality and law although a range of 'core' disciplines can be identified consisting of law, criminology, sociology, media/cultural studies (again reflected in the board and emphasised in the editorial assistant geographical distribution) with a clear emphasis on law.

The IJMHCL is an international peer-reviewed OA journal devoted to the intersection between law, mental health and mental capacity. The editor-in-chief Kris Gledhill invites submissions of articles of up to 12,000 words and also shorter articles, practice points, case notes and research reports.

For details of all three journals, see www.northumbriajournals.co.uk. Any queries regarding IJGSL or the broader OA project should be directed to IJGSL editor-in-chief and OA lead, Chris Ashford e chris.ashford@northumbria.ac.uk.

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.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/open-access#SLSA. If you would like a member of the SLSA's OA sub-committee to visit your institution to give a presentation on OA, please contact Rosemary Hunter e rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk.

FIRST 100 YEARS: CELEBRATING THE PAST, CHANGING THE FUTURE FOR WOMEN IN LAW

Founder of the First 100 Years project Dana Denis-Smith outlines its aims and objectives and reports on its launch at the House of Lords.

As Prime Minister in the late 1940s Clement Attlee oversaw many of Britain's most progressive reforms around workers' rights, families and the law. The fair wages resolution, universal family allowances and legal aid all entered British society during Attlee's time in government, so it was perfectly fitting that his portrait should oversee the official launch of the First 100 Years project at the House of Lords on 12 March 2015, in the room that bears his name.

Nearly 100 people stepped inside from a bright day in modern London to the calm tradition of the Attlee Room – where cucumber sandwiches and cream teas were served and friends, colleagues and new contacts created a true metropolitan buzz – to witness the launch of this new, pioneering project that will be taking a vitally important look at the history of women in the law.

I started the First 100 Years project with a clear objective: to chart and celebrate the journey of women in the legal profession from 1919 to the present day. This five-year project has been timed to mark the centenary of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act which falls in 2019.

The launch attracted top names from across the legal profession, academia and the FTSE 100. Clifford Chance, Linklaters, Herbert Smith, Thomson Reuters, BT, M&S, Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank, KPMG, Oxford University, the LSE, QMUL, the Law Society, the Bar Council, the Inner Temple and 39 Essex Street were all on the guest list, and clearly excited to be at the Palace of Westminster to see the First 100 Years make its first official public appearance. Speakers included Baroness Cohen, the Labour peer and lawyer who graduated from Cambridge in 1962, and Madeleine Heggs who started her own legal practice 60 years ago.

The only women working in the law in the post-First World War years were the daughters of men who owned family firms. Some fathers would insist their daughters worked in the firm rather than go off to university, which was seen as an unnecessary expense. But despite these initial introductions to the legal profession, women were still terribly under-represented in the law as modern Britain emerged from the aftermath of the Second World War.

In the first year of the project 2014–2015, run as a foundation year to gather support from all corners of the profession, we have already achieved much. We have a strong following on social media with a number of supporters and some great fans. The next stage is building a digital museum, creating content, making videos and sharing information. And for 2019 we will be campaigning to erect a monument to skilled women in the office, so people everywhere can see us.

At our official launch, as the party that joined us for a tour of Parliament was sitting in the No Lobby in the House of Commons, Big Ben chimed six. As the sound of the bell rang through the chamber, it felt as if you could reach out and touch a hundred years of history and that projects like the First 100 Years are ringing in a new, positive and progressive future for women in the workplace everywhere. Its legacy will be a deep understanding of the past combined with a celebration of today so as to ensure a strong and equal future for all women in the profession.



The first women KCs in 1949: Helena Normanton (centre front) and Rose Heilbron (on her left)

Here are five things you can do to help spread the word about the First 100 Years project.

- 1 Tell us a story. We're looking to hear from members of the profession about women who inspired their careers, as well as building a comprehensive timeline of women's rise in the profession by discovering law-firm heritage, including any early pioneers or firsts for women. You can nominate yourself or someone you know. The project is also searching for biographies, photographs and stories of inspirational women across the last 95 years. Email your stories and comments to yourstory@first100years.org.uk.
- 2 Follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook or for more information visit the website at www.first100years.org.uk.
- 3 Write for us. We regularly update our blog page and we're always looking for views on women in the profession or why you think this project is important, please email us at yourstory@first100years.org.uk.
- 4 Become a corporate champion. We'd love to hear from you if you can devote a few hours a week or a month to the project. A First 100 Years corporate champion will be a true advocate of the project. Ideally a member of senior management within an industry-related organisation who will proactively engage with their personal and professional network of contacts to share the project's news, speak about the project at industry meetings, act as a contributor to our website, attend our events, suggest interviewees or carry out interviews on our behalf and participate in half-yearly planning meetings, as part of a steering committee. For more information, you are welcome to contact Gisele Lambert g.lambert@obelisksupport.co.uk.
- 5 Shout about it. Tell people about the project, encourage them to follow us on social media, visit the website or contact us for further information.

INNOVATION AND THE APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE POLICING

The N8 Policing Research Partnership

This exciting new five-year programme of research and knowledge exchange will pioneer an innovative collaboration between police forces and universities in the north of England.

The overall project aim is to build research coproduction capacity and test mechanisms for exploiting the knowledge and expertise of the higher education (HE) sector in order to strengthen the evidence base on which police policy, practice and training are developed and so support innovation and the professionalisation of policing. It intends to build a regional policing research platform with national impact and international significance.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is supporting the programme with a £3m grant through its Catalyst Fund. In excess of £4m will be contributed by university and policing partners.

The programme has been developed by the N8 Policing Research Partnership (PRP) – see www.n8prp.org.uk – an established collaboration between the N8 universities of Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York. The project director is Adam Crawford (Leeds) and the deputy directors are Sandra Walklate (Liverpool) and Nicole Westmarland (Durham).

The policing partners that are contributing to the initiative include police forces and offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, and Your Homes Newcastle. The collaboration is also supported in its work by the College of Policing and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

This project will enhance the impact of HE research in the policing sector through the development and testing of mechanisms of knowledge exchange. By mobilising human and data resources within the partnership the project will:

- develop and strengthen the research evidence base;
- demonstrate the value of research coproduction by tackling frontline problems;
- enhance the capacity of policing partners to undertake and utilise research;
- improve the scope and robustness of the data available to inform practice;
- open up new avenues for data analysis, visualisation and data exploitation;
- build a culture change in the police that is appreciative of the role and value of research evidence; and
- foster change among participating universities by enhancing pathways to impact across the sector.

Nine interconnected and mutually supportive activity strands (each N8 institution leads on a strand, apart from Leeds, which is leading on two) are planned to deliver project goals by providing a robust and sustainable platform for HE-police collaboration. The programme will provide mechanisms to bring researchers and practitioners together to design and undertake research that focuses specifically on new and emerging challenges for policing. Key project delivery mechanisms include:

- a **policing innovation forum** to stimulate knowledge exchange and drive innovations in research coproduction;
- **people and knowledge exchange platforms** that promote staff mobility;
- **citizen engagement** procedures to assess public reception of new technologies, policing practices and innovations; and
- a **data analytics** capability and support service to facilitate the analysis of crime and policing data.

The N8 PRP builds upon the experiences of an ESRC-funded knowledge exchange pilot project between the University of Leeds and West Yorkshire Police, exploring different models of knowledge exchange and research coproduction across a number of core policing issues.

For further information, see www.n8prp.org.uk/news-events/news/major-funding-announced-for-n8-policing-research-partnership, or contact Clare Johnson, N8 PRP project manager, c.e.johnson@leeds.ac.uk

Adam Crawford, University of Leeds

VISUAL COMMUNICATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

In March 2015 Amanda Perry-Kessaris ran a full day workshop at Kent University for PhD students on visual communication of social science research for Kent Graduate School.

The aim was to attune students to the potential of visual materials at all stages of the research process, from conceptualisation, to data collection and analysis, to dissemination and impact promotion. Attendees specialised in disciplines ranging from business to anthropology and conservation. The day was split into blocks of seeing, creating, interpreting and showing, and covered topics such as typography, images, objects and data visualisation.

Some of the day was spent exploring and enhancing the communicative capacity resources collected by students. They were asked to bring one quotation and up to five images that were relevant to their research. During the course of the day, students re-set their quotations using simple adjustments of scale, alignment and weight; and cropped, crumpled, and collaged their chosen images.



Other activities focused on the ways in which fixed visual cues can be repurposed to provoke and facilitate communication. For example, students were asked to throw a set of story cubes and tell the story of their PhD using whatever images came up.

Additional materials, such as a wide selection of graphic design books and bespoke prints, were used to give an insight into the exciting and constantly changing visual landscape upon which social science researchers can draw.

For more information on similar activities, see www.econosociolegal.blogspot.co.uk and [@aperrykessaris](https://twitter.com/aperrykessaris).

Making Rights a Reality? (2014) Lisa Vanhala, Cambridge University Press £22.99 312pp

This book explores the way in which disability activists in the UK and Canada have transformed their aspirations into legal claims in their quest for equality. It unpacks shifting conceptualisations of the political identity of disability and the role of a rights discourse in these dynamics. In doing so, it delves into the diffusion of disability rights among grassroots organisations and the traditional disability charities. The book draws on a wealth of primary sources including court records and campaign documents and encompasses interviews with more than 60 activists and legal experts. While showing that the disability rights movement has had a significant impact on equality jurisprudence in two countries, the book also demonstrates that the act of mobilising rights can have consequences, both intended and unintended, for social movements themselves.

Culture and International Economic Law (2015) Valentina Vadi and Bruno De Witte (eds), Routledge £85 258pp

Globalisation and international economic governance offer unprecedented opportunities for cultural exchange. Foreign direct investments can promote cultural diversity and provide the funds needed to locate, recover and preserve cultural heritage. Nonetheless, globalisation and international economic governance can also jeopardise cultural diversity and determine the erosion of the cultural wealth of nations. Has an international economic culture emerged that emphasises productivity and economic development at the expense of the common wealth? This book explores the 'clash of cultures' between international law and international cultural law and asks whether states can promote economic development without infringing their cultural wealth.

Normativity in Legal Sociology: Methodological reflections on law and regulation in late modernity (2014) Reza Banakar, Springer £90 292pp

The field of socio-legal research has encountered three foundational challenges over the last three decades – it has been criticised for paying insufficient attention to legal doctrine, for failing to develop a sound theoretical foundation and for not keeping pace with the effects of the increasing globalisation and internationalisation of law, state and society. This book engages with these three challenges from a methodological standpoint. It addresses the first two challenges by demonstrating that legal sociology has much to say about justice as a kind of social experience and it has always engaged theoretically with forms of normativity, albeit on its own empirical terms rather than on legal theory's analytical terms. It explores the third challenge, which was posed by the changing nature of society, by highlighting the move from the industrial relations of early modernity to the post-industrial conditions of late modernity dominated by information technology. It asks if socio-legal research has sufficiently reconsidered its theoretical premises regarding the relationship between law, state and society to grasp the new social and cultural forms of organisation specific to the twenty-first century's global societies.

Crime, Reason and History: A critical introduction to criminal law (2014) Alan Norrie, Cambridge University Press £32.99 424pp

Many books seek to explain the general principles of the criminal law. This one stands out and alone as a book that critically and concisely analyses these principles and comes up with a different viewpoint: that the law is shaped by social history and therefore systematically structured around conflicting elements. Updated extensively to include two new chapters on loss of control and self-defence and with an extended treatment of offence and defence, this new edition combines challenging and sophisticated analysis with accessibility.

Graphic Justice: Intersections of comics and law (2015) Thomas Giddens (eds) Routledge £80 258

Establishing the medium of graphic fiction as a critical resource for interdisciplinary legal studies, this collection is the first to address the intersection of comics and law. Whether in its representations of lawyers, their treatment of justice, law and social order, or their investment in the protection of the innocent and the punishment of the guilty, graphic fiction explores human life in all its social, moral and legal complexity. In the context of a now well-established interest in cultural legal studies, this book showcases the critical potential of comics and graphic fiction as a resource for interdisciplinary legal studies and legal theory. A 20 per cent discount is available on this book: enter code FLR40 at checkout (offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount and only applies to books purchased via the Routledge website).

Legal Lifewriting: Marginalised subjects and sources (2015) Linda Mulcahy and David Sugarman, Wiley-Blackwell £19.99 200pp

This book provides the first sustained treatment of the implications of life-writing on legal biography, autobiography and the visual history of law in society through a focus on neglected sources and on those usually marginalised or ignored in legal biography and legal history, such as women and minorities. It draws on a range of sources and disciplinary approaches including legal history, life-writing, sociology, history, art history, feminism and post-colonialism, seeking to build a bridge-head between them. It challenges the methodologies employed in conventional accounts of legal lives and aims to ignite debate about the nature of the relationship between socio-legal studies and legal history. Finally, it aims to enlarge the fields of legal biography, legal history, history and socio-legal studies, and to foster a closer and more interdisciplinary dialogue between these disciplines.

European Union Health Law: Themes and implications (2015) Tamara Hervey and Jean McHale, Cambridge £99.99

A contextual analysis of the internal logics of EU health law through four themes: consumerism; (human) rights; interactions between equality, solidarity and competition; and risk. Leading authors in the emergent field explain the interactions and implications of EU health law through thematic reinterpretation of the law in context in key substantive areas, such as the regulation of health research, access of patients to high quality care, health care professional regulation, organisation and funding of health care services, and public health. This book offers a fresh perspective and thorough understanding of EU health law through individual and collective or systemic perspectives, and covers health law both within the EU and globally. Essential reading for anyone interested in health law in any EU member state or in global health law.

Transparency in the Court of Protection: Report on a roundtable (2015) Cardiff Law School

This report describes concerns about the current legal framework for transparency in the Court of Protection raised at a roundtable meeting attended by judges, journalists, lawyers, civil servants and academics. It makes recommendations for future reforms to enhance the protection of privacy for litigants while clarifying and simplifying the legal framework for media access to the court. The report is available to download here: [w http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/wccop/category/public](http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/wccop/category/public).

Truth, Denial and Transition: Northern Ireland and the contested past (2015) Cheryl Lawther, Routledge £29.99 216pp

This book makes a unique and timely contribution to the transitional justice field. In contrast to the focus on truth and those societies where truth recovery has been central to dealing with the aftermath of human rights violations, comparatively little scholarly attention has been paid to those jurisdictions whose

transition from violent conflict has been marked by the absence or rejection of a formal truth process. It draws upon the case study of Northern Ireland where, despite a lengthy debate, the question of establishing a formal truth recovery process remains hotly contested. The strongest and most vocal opposition has been from unionist political elites, loyalist ex-combatants and members of the security forces. Based on empirical research, their opposition is unpicked and interrogated at length throughout this book. Critically exploring notions of national imagination and blamelessness, the politics of victimhood and the tension between traditions of sacrifice and the fear of betrayal, this book is the first substantive effort to concentrate on the opponents of truth recovery rather than its advocates.

Subversive Property: Law and the production of spaces of belonging (2015) Sarah Keenan, Routledge £26.99 192pp

This book explores the relationship between space, subjectivity and property in order to invert conventional socio-legal understandings of property. The author demonstrates that new political possibilities for property may be unveiled by thinking about it in terms of space and belonging, rather than exclusion. Drawing on feminist and critical race theory, this book shifts focus away from the propertied subject and on to the broader spaces in and through which the propertied subject is located. Using case studies, such as analyses of compulsory leases under Australia's Northern Territory Intervention and lesbian asylum cases from a range of jurisdictions, the author argues that these spaces consist of networks of relations that revolve around belonging: not just belonging between subject and object, as property is traditionally understood, but also the less explored relation of belonging between the part and the whole. This book therefore offers a conceptually useful way of analysing a wide range of socio-legal issues.

Women, Land and Justice in Tanzania (2015) Helen Dancer, James Currey £45 xxiii+191pp

Recent decades have seen a wave of land law reforms across Africa, in the context of a 'land rush' and land-grabbing. But how has this been enacted on the ground and, in particular, how have women experienced this? This book seeks to reorientate current debates on women's land rights towards a focus on the law in action. Drawing on the author's ethnographic research in the Arusha region of Tanzania, it explores how the country's land law reforms have impacted on women's legal claims to land. Centring on cases involving women litigants, the book considers the extent to which women are realising their interests in land through land courts and follows the progression of women's claims to land – from their social origins through processes of dispute resolution to judgment. The book explores three central issues. Firstly, it considers the nature of women's claims to land and the extent to which the social issues raised are addressed by Tanzania's current laws and legal system. Secondly, it examines how agency and power relations between actors engaged in legal processes affect women's access to justice. Thirdly, it explores Tanzanian concepts of justice and rights and how women's claims have been judged by land courts in practice. A 25 per cent discount is available to SLSA members until **31 December 2015** enter code 15828 at checkout at www.boydellandbrewer.com.

The Sexual Constitution of Political Authority (2015) Alcardo Zanghellini, Routledge £80 206pp

While there is no shortage of studies addressing the state's regulation of the sexual, research into the ways in which the sexual governs the state and its attributes is still in its infancy. This book argues that there are good reasons to suppose that our understandings of state power quiver with erotic undercurrents. The book maintains, more specifically, that the relationship between ideas of political authority and male same-sex desire is especially fraught. Through a series of case studies where a statesman's same-sex desire was put on trial (either literally or

metaphorically) as a problem for the good exercise of public powers, the book shows the resilience and adaptability of cultural beliefs in the incompatibility between public office and male same-sex desire. Some of the case studies analysed are familiar ground for both political/constitutional history and the history of sexuality. The author argues, however, that only by systematically reading questions of institutional politics and questions of sexuality through each other will we have access to the most interesting insights that a study of these trials can generate. Whether they involve obscure public officials or iconic rulers such as Hadrian and James I, these compelling fragments of queer history reveal that the disavowal of male same-sex desire has been, and partly remains, central to mainstream understandings of political authority.

From Civil Partnership to Same-Sex Marriage: Interdisciplinary reflections (2015) Nicola Barker and Daniel Monk (eds), Routledge £80 255pp

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 are important legal, social and historical landmarks, rich in symbolic, material and cultural meanings. While fiercely opposed by many, within mainstream narratives they are often represented as a victory in a legal reform process that commenced with the decriminalisation of homosexuality. Yet at the same time, for others they represent a problematic and ambivalent political engagement with the institution of marriage. Consequently, understood or labelled as 'revolutionary', 'progressive' and 'conservative', these legal reforms provide a space for thinking about issues that arguably affect everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or relationship status. This collection brings together scholars and commentators from a range of backgrounds, generations and disciplines to reflect on the first 10 years of civil partnerships and the introduction of same-sex marriage. Rather than rehearsing the arguments for and against relationship recognition, the essays ask original questions, draw on a variety of methods and collectively provide a detailed and reflective snapshot of a critical moment, a history of the present, as well as providing a foundation for innovative ways of thinking about and engaging with the possibilities and experiences arising from the new reality of relationship recognition for gays and lesbians.

Journals

The *Environmental Law Review* has recently changed ownership and been acquired by Sage Publications. The editor-in-chief is Christopher P Rodgers, Newcastle University. Please see the website for further details and how to submit a paper. www.uk.sagepub.com/journals/Journal202318.

Cyber-privacy or Cyber-surveillance? Legal Responses to Fear in Cyberspace is a special issue of the journal *Information and Communications Technology Law*. All the articles derive from papers presented within the 'Information technology law and cyberspace' stream at the SLSA Annual Conference and share common concerns around the issues of privacy, surveillance and fear within a digitally connected world and the law's response to such issues. See www.tandfonline.com/toc/cict20/23/3.

The *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly* is a peer-reviewed journal published by Queen's University Belfast. The editor invites submissions of articles of up to 12,000 words using OSCOLA style. This is an open call with no closing date. Please email submissions in Word format to e.s.wheeler@qub.ac.uk.

The *Family Justice Research Bulletin* is a Ministry of Justice publication and includes a summary of the findings of research relevant to family justice, updates on the progress of ongoing and forthcoming projects and information about research events and news. See www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398781/family-justice-research-bulletin-jan-2015.

● **JUDICIAL IMAGES NETWORK: PUBLIC LECTURE**

1 July 2015: London School of Economics

Please see website for details:

www/http://judicialimages.org/events/public-lecture.html.

● **SYMPOSIUM ON LAW AND COMPASSION**

1 July 2015: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Organised by the School of Law, Portsmouth University. Please see website www.port.ac.uk/school-of-law/school-events/symposium-on-law-and-compassion.html. This is one of the winners of the 2015 SLSA seminar competition. More details are on page 5.

● **IN WHOSE BEST INTERESTS? DETERMINING BEST INTERESTS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

2 July 2015: University of Worcester

Speaker: Alex Ruck-Keene. See www.slsa.ac.uk/images/2015spring/Medico_Legal_conference_-_Call_for_papers_120115.pdf. Contact e.dobson@worchester.ac.uk.

● **15TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY**

5–9 July 2015: Perth, Western Australia

Details available at www.aic.gov.au/events/aic%20upcoming%20events/2015/wsv.html.

● **COMMUNITY OF RESTORATIVE RESEARCHERS: INAUGURAL CONFERENCE**

7 July 2015: School of Law, University of Leeds

Please visit website to register for this free event

www/www.law.leeds.ac.uk/events/2015/community-of-restorative-researchers-inaugural-conference.

● **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN REFUGEE LAW**

7 July 2015: Lancaster House Hotel, Lancaster

Organised by Lancaster University Law School. Contact

g.firth@lancaster.ac.uk for details and to book your place.

● **RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE EU**

8 July 2015: British Academy, Carlton House Terrace, London

Chair: Aidan O'Neill QC. Please see website for details:

www.britac.ac.uk/events/2015/Racial_Discrimination_and_Criminal_Justice.cfm.

● **HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH STUDENTS CONFERENCE**

8 July 2015: Essex Business School, University of Essex, Colchester

Please see website to register www/http://store.london.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=5&deptid=179&catid=66&prodid=901.

● **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS SYMPOSIUM**

8 July 2015: University of Lancaster

Please see website for registration

www/www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/law/event/5271.

● **CRIME, JUSTICE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

8–9 July 2015: Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

Please see website for details www/http://crimejusticeconference.com.

● **DATA LINKAGE: ETHICAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS**

9 July 2015: The Shard, 32 London Bridge Street, London

Organised by the National Centre for Research Methods and the International Journal of Social Research Methods. Free event but please register at www/http://store.southampton.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=5&deptid=8&catid=23&prodid=655.

● **THE RACE RELATIONS ACT @ 50**

9–10 July 2015: British Academy, Carlton House Terrace, London

Please see website for details: www.britac.ac.uk/events/2015/The_Race_Relations_Act_at_50.cfm.

● **THE FUTURE OF REGISTERED PARTNERSHIPS: A JOINT DURHAM/CAMBRIDGE FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE**

10–11 July 2015: Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge

Please see website for details www/www.family2015.info.

● **GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER SCHOOL**

9–11 July 2015: National University of Ireland, Galway

Theme: Belonging. Please visit website for further details

www/www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=418.

● **OPENING DOORS AND REMOVING GLASS CEILINGS: WIDENING PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS**

10 July 2015: City Law School, London

Keynote speaker: Paul Johnston (Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission). Please see website for details

www/http://dmtrk.com/t/O4Y-3DDBK-FE4YKZ0QCC/cr.aspx.

● **CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

1–3 September 2015: University of Manchester

Abstracts are invited for this workshop at the Manchester Centre for Political Theory. There is a limited number of bursaries for graduate students presenting their work. www/www.mancept.com/mancept-workshops.

● **SOCIETY OF LEGAL SCHOLARS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

1–4 September 2015: University of York

Theme: 'Law's subjects: subject to law' – chosen to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. www/www.slsconference.uk

● **ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

7–10 September 2015: Exeter University

Please see website for details www/www.rss.org.uk/RSS/Events/RSS_Conference/2015_Conference/RSS/Events/Conference/2015_conference.aspx?hkey=2a432b6b-6baf-4bc3-baa4-063221c13ab8.

● **FIRST WOMEN LAWYERS IN ENGLAND, WALES AND THE EMPIRE SYMPOSIA: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

9 September 2015: St Mary's University, Twickenham, London

This is the first of a series of symposia examining the entry of women to the legal profession through the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919. Call closes: 30 June 2015. Contact Judith Bourne e.judith.bourne@stmarys.ac.uk.

● **THE MENTAL CAPACITY ACT 2005: 10 YEARS ON**

9–10 September 2015: Liverpool Maritime Museum

Organised by the University of Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice. Please see website for details www/http://payments.liv.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&deptid=38&catid=16&prodid=830.

● **ANTI-DEMOCRATIC IDEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL LAW UNDER FASCIST NATIONAL SOCIALIST AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES**

10–11 September 2015: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Convenor: Dr Stephen Skinner, Centre for European Legal Studies, University of Essex. Please see website for details:

www/www.events.sas.ac.uk/events/view/17584.

● **FROM SCOLDS TO TROLLS: SOCIAL AND LEGAL RESPONSES TO VISIBLE AND AUDIBLE WOMEN**

15 September 2015: Centre for Law and Society, University of Lancaster

Keynote speaker: Professor Feona Attwood. Please see website for details www/www.lancaster.ac.uk/arts-and-social-sciences/news-and-events/forthcoming-events/5192.

● **INTERNATIONAL LAW IN CONTEXT: WORKSHOP 1 – CLIMATE CHANGE, RESILIENCE AND AUSTERITY**

15 September 2015: University of Warwick

This is one of the winners of the 2015 SLSA seminar competition. More details are on page 5. www/www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#June05_19

● **DOES THE EU NEED BRITAIN? DOES BRITAIN NEED THE EU?**

16 September 2015: British Academy, London

Speaker: Helen Wallace, British Academy. See www/www.britac.ac.uk/events/2015/Does_the_European_Union_Need_Britain.cfm.

- **ADRIFT IN THE EUROPEAN CRISIS: INTERROGATING THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEGAL REFORMS ON ECONOMIC RIGHTS, LONDON: CALL FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION**

17 September 2015: University of Westminster, London

Contact Ioannis Glinavos e i.glinavos@westminster.ac.uk for details. Call closes: 1 August 2015.

- **FROM SODOMY LAWS TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: COUPLING, QUESTIONS OF 'NATURE', AND THE STATE, 1786–2015**

24–25 September 2015: Birkbeck, University of London

Keynote speaker: Robert Aldrich, University of Sydney. Convenors: Sean Brady (Birkbeck, University of London) and Mark Seymour (University of Otago). Please visit website for further details w <https://sodomylawssamesexmarriage.wordpress.com>.

- **A JURISPRUDENCE OF COMPLEXITY? RETHINKING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAW AND SOCIETY**

24–25 September 2015: University of Lancaster

Speakers include: J B Ruhl (Vanderbilt), Sionaidh Douglas-Scott (Oxford) and Sylvia Walby (Lancaster). This is a Centre for Law and Society conference. Please see website for details w www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/law/event/5272.

- **ISSUES OF FACT: THE PATHOLOGIES OF FACT AND THE FICTITIOUS IN LAW AND THE HUMANITIES**

24–26 September 2015: Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society, Leiden, The Netherlands

Contact e issuesoffact@gmail.com for details.

- **LAW'S METAPHORS**

25 September 2015: School of Law, University of Southampton

Please see webpage for details w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#May22_10. This is one of the winners of the 2015 SLSA seminar competition. More details are on page 5.

- **LEGAL LIFEWITING: MARGINALISED SUBJECTS AND SOURCES**

20 October 2015: New Academic Building, LSE, London

A workshop to discuss a new book edited by Linda Mulcahy and David Sugarman. This is a Legal Biography Project event. Please contact Bradley Barlow e b.barlow@lse.ac.uk.

- **UK IVR ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

23–24 October 2015: School of Law, Queen's University Belfast

Keynote speakers: Saskia Sassen (Columbia University); Maeve Cooke (UCD); and George Letsas (UCL). Conference of the Association of Legal and Social Philosophy. Please see the call for abstracts at w www.law.qmul.ac.uk/docs/research/151708.pdf. Closing date: 1 July 2015.

- **APPOINTING JUDGES IN AN AGE OF DIVERSITY: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE JAC'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

6–7 November 2015: University of Birmingham

Please see website for details w www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/law/news/2015/03/cfp-appointing-judges-diversity.aspx. This is one of the winners of the 2015 SLSA seminar competition. More details are on page 5.

- **MEDICO-LEGAL SYMPOSIUM**

13–14 November 2015: Edinburgh University

This symposium aims to provide up-to-date information on the theory and practice of neurolaw including sleep disorders and neuroimaging. The symposium would be of interest to all professionals involved in forensic aspects in this area. For further details, please contact Lisa Wood e lwood2901@gmail.com or John Rumbold e neurolaw_UK@yahoo.co.uk.

- **JUSTICE CONNECTIONS SYMPOSIUM 4**

20 November 2015: University of Canberra, Australia

Please see website for further details w <https://bos1.onestopsecure.com/Canberra/OneStopWeb/VW6/createbooking?e=FBGL014>.

- **SECURITY AND RULE OF LAW: THE CHANGING FACE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

25–27 November 2015: Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology annual conference. w www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/ccpr/anzsoc-2015.cfm

- **INSIDE OUT: CALL FOR PAPERS**

30 November–3 December 2015: Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

Please visit website for details of the Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand annual conference w www.aomevents.com/LSAANZ2015. Call closes: 26 June 2015.

- **AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND LAW AND HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

10–12 December 2015: University of Adelaide, Australia

Theme: Legal reform and innovation. Please see website for details w <http://law.adelaide.edu.au/anzlhs/>.

- **LOST IN TRANSLATION? FROM SCIENCE TO REGULATION**

19 January 2016: Birmingham Law School

This is one of the winners of the 2015 SLSA seminar competition. Details to be announced via the SLSA ebulletin and website in due course.

- **HUMAN RIGHTS, HOUSING AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

26 February 2016: University of Coimbra, Portugal

Please see webpage w www.slsa.ac.uk/images/2015spring/Coimbra_Call_2016_.pdf for details. Call closes: 1 January 2016.

- **JUSTICE AND PENAL REFORM: RE-SHAPING THE PENAL LANDSCAPE: CALL FOR PAPERS**

16–18 March 2016: Keble College, Oxford

See website for details w www.howardleague.org/justice-and-penal-reform. Call closes: 21 September 2015.

- **W G HART WORKSHOP 2016**

30 June 2016: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Contact Belinda Crothers e belinda.crothers@sas.ac.uk.

Newsletter advertising

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

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Patrick McAuslan: an appreciation – Ambreena Manji

Property and empire: from colonialism to globalisation and back – a previously unpublished article in memory of the author – Patrick McAuslan

'Spacing' minority relations: investigating the tribal areas of Pakistan using a spatio-historical method of analysis – Sabrina Gilani

Roberto Esposito and the biopolitics of property rights – Matthew Stone

How UK climate change policy has been made sustainable – David Campbell

In your face: piercing the veil of ignorance about niqab-wearing women – Natasha Bakht

Troubling times for young people and families with troubles: responding to truancy, rioting and families struggling with adversity – Raymond Arthur

STREAMS AND THEMES

The success of the streams and themes format means that some convenors are keen to give their streams and themes a life beyond the Annual Conference. The newsletter is delighted to give space for this to happen and now there is also a dedicated area of the website available for convenors' use.

The autumn newsletter will as usual carry the call for papers for next year's Annual Conference. In the meantime, if you are a convenor and would like to disseminate information about your stream via the website, please contact our webmaster Jed Meers to find out how you can set up a stream or theme page [e jed.meers@york.ac.uk](mailto:jed.meers@york.ac.uk).

Banking and finance

This year's 'Banking and finance' stream was excellently attended and had lots of lively and interesting discussion on topics ranging from the origins and history of banks to the innovative issue of virtual money and elaborate tax schemes. The stream ran over the entire day on 1 April 2015 and had a record number of presenters and audience members in attendance. As usual with the stream there is a lot of interest around hot topics such as regulatory reform, tax issues, corporate governance, executive remuneration and bitcoins, but it was also wonderful to see the debate encompass both the political, social and even neuroscience elements of this diverse legal topic. All of the presenters came to the conference with highly engaging papers which pave the way for future research.

A special thanks to Ngozi Okoye for stepping in to chair the first session and to all the presenters who continue to support the stream. We shall see you all in Lancaster in 2016.

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Exploring legal borderlands

We hosted a new theme on the topic of 'Exploring legal borderlands: empirical and interdisciplinary approaches' at SLSA 2015. Our call for papers was very broad and aimed at exploring the uncertainties and interactivity of legal borderlands. We defined legal borderlands as including, but not limited to: the division between the formal and informal, law and non-law, and jurisdictional boundaries. Recognising that legal borders are often not clearly defined or static, we invited papers that examine social practices which fall within the grey areas, as well as papers which trace the development of norms and concepts within or across legal borderlands, or which trace the movement of the borders themselves through social agency. We aimed to showcase empirical and interdisciplinary methods of socio-legal research.

This approach led to a great deal of interest in our theme and we received many more abstracts than we were expecting. We decided to hold five sessions (15 papers) grouped into themes that developed from the submissions: property; legal consciousness; methods and actors; administration; and corporate banking. In a sixth session, we also hosted Kirsten McConnachie's author-meets-reader session. Kirsten was a joint winner of the 2015 Hart-SLSA Prize for Early Career Academics for her book *Governing Refugees: Justice, order and legal pluralism* (Routledge 2014). It was also a great pleasure to have Professor Julio Faundez as discussant for the book.

Overall, our theme sessions were very well-attended. They provided space for the presentation of a broad range of current empirical and theoretical research and triggered various discussions that engaged with our concept of legal borderlands.

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Criminal law and criminal justice

The stream this year enjoyed teaming up with other streams for some joint sessions. One such session and our opener was with the 'Mental health and capacity' stream where papers considering the issue of insanity provided some interesting discourse and drew upon the diverse disciplines of the delegates. Many thanks to Louise Kennefick and Leon McRae for starting the stream on such a strong footing with their thoughtful papers.

After travel delays, the stream also successfully paired up with the 'Sentencing and punishment' stream to hear about and contribute to the Law Commission's exercise to codify sentencing procedure in England and Wales <http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/news/sentencing.htm>. The current complexities of the system were outlined and ambitious proposals for simplifying or at least making the process more accessible and consistent were presented to the audience. For SLSA members that are interested in contributing to the project, any comments or thoughts as to how sentencing procedure could be codified and complexity be reduced may be sent to [e sentencing@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sentencing@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk).

The stream also had a number of focused criminal law and criminal justice sessions with presenters sharing some new and exciting research projects and many with a strong empirical element. As always the convenors were pleased to welcome presenters with a range of experience and at different stages in their career. It is our hope that, through the process of presenting and networking, the delegates of this stream have developed some exciting ideas for their future research.

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Gender, sexuality and law stream

A total of 18 papers were presented in the 'Gender, sexuality and law' (GSL) stream at Warwick and the stream featured new and familiar faces. As in previous years, there was also a mixture of experienced senior academics and PhD students presenting and interacting as part of the vibrant dialogue that often characterises GSL at the SLSA.

A number of themes emerged through the stream this year, comprising: queer kinship and the law of intimate relationships; crime; constructing gender and the body; GSL history; rights; and sex, legitimacy and governance. Papers also once again drew upon a mixture of empirical, archive-based and theoretical methodologies.

The stream organisers are looking forward to organising the next stream in Lancaster. Any queries regarding the stream should be directed to Chris Ashford or Alex Dymock.

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Information

Having previously convened a stream at the York conference we knew that there was a real interest among academics in the increasingly important role that information is playing in law and society generally. Four very successful panels in Warwick confirmed this. Topics discussed ranged from the European regime governing the international sharing of fingerprint profiles, the protections afforded to whistleblowers and the Solicitors Regulation Authority's method of disclosing equality data. Despite this diversity, the participants and audience members were able to identify common themes in the different papers and engage in productive discussions regarding the perils and possibilities of information.

The first panel examined sharing of forensic bioinformation in Europe, focusing on the Prüm Council Decision. The second panel examined whistleblowing and the ways in which

whistleblowers are let down by organisations that fail to either address the issues of concern or protect their workers from dismissal or detriment. The position of vulnerable workers, both economic migrants and those within the health service, was considered. The third panel featured discussions of domestic violence disclosure, information sharing by accountants and the ways that law firms can be encouraged to improve diversity outcomes through disclosure of information. The final panel included consideration of attitudes to sharing information, the strange opacity of judicial information and the decision of the Supreme Court in *Catt*.

All in all, the panels were highly successful, and we would hope to convene panels on similar topics in future.

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Sexual offences and offending

This year's 'Sexual offences and offending' stream contained six fascinating and challenging papers across three sessions. The first session, framed around criminal justice responses to pre-teen and teenage women, featured two papers analysing the ways that this group are not usually represented as harmed parties, but are instead blamed and in some cases labelled as exemplars of the permissive society. Drawing on Stan Cohen's concept of 'states of denial', Maureen O'Hara analysed the way the authorities in Rochdale and Rotherham denied the harm done to young women in order to deny their own responsibility, while Kirsteen Mackay analysed the media reporting of pre-teen mothers, demonstrating how the reporting shamed the mother and failed to recognise the sexual crime that resulted in the child in the first place. In the second session, Nicolle Zeegers compared the effects of the differing regulatory regimes around sex work in The Netherlands and Sweden, arguing that its liberalisation has not resulted in greater agency for the women involved in comparison to countries where prostitution is criminalised. The third panel, broadly framed around legal and criminal justice responses to rape, featured a paper by Louise Ellison and Vanessa Munro presenting preliminary evidence from a quantitative study demonstrating that those with psychosocial disabilities are more discriminated against by criminal justice personnel than other sexual assault victims. Joanne Conaghan set out a strong case for enabling civil litigation against the police following unsuccessful rape investigations, using either tort or human rights law, and Siobhan Weare reiterated the arguments for gender-neutral sexual offences, with a strong emphasis on the impact upon men and women coerced into sex by a female partner. Audience members engaged with all the papers, resulting in a high level of debate and discussion.

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Registering registration

We came with inklings and openings, and we left with glimpses of linkages and opportunities. We had asked for methodological, substantive and personal musings on registration as a tool of governance and law and, at the end of three sessions and nine papers, we have only just started opening up registration's possibilities. The papers ranged across registration of land, birth, marriage and death, and the register as governance of secret surveillance and medical expertise. Discussions roamed more widely, touching on many other ways in which registration appears; transforming, fixing and flattening. Perhaps modernity's ultimate representative of public transparency, of speed and certainty, papers reflected on the ways the register in history had also acted (or failed) out of public sight. However, we saw contemporary registration emerging to act in politics, making people and places available to law by wiping clean the inaccessible, reducing the complex,

and hiding the messy intricacies of lived existence. We explored both the historic and contemporary register overpromising, excluding and ritualising, creating and mirroring value, evidencing or generating validity. We sought resistance to the register and to registration and also saw acts of registration opening possibilities and engaging with identity and meaning. We skirted around ground we will need to retrace, touching on registration's boundaries with bureaucracy and listing, on the act of registration itself, and on erasure from the register. We have started putting together a network, but we have only just begun an exciting journey. We would love you to join us; look out for updates via the SLSA website, and contact us at the emails below.

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Labour law

Michael Jefferson of the University of Sheffield's School of Law launched a 'Labour law' stream some years ago. The stream has run every year since with around 10 presenters across three or four sessions. Problems have been remarkably few, except for difficulties with what is now the UKVI (Visas and Immigration) and the snow at the de Montfort Annual conference, which reduced the first session to one speaker. Some speakers have been almost ever-present, which is a boon to organisers, and some – and I would instance here overseas speakers – have shone a welcome light on how the UK government does things.

Because Michael has become the honorary secretary to another law subject association, he has found difficulty in attending all of each of the most recent conferences (the two associations' conferences normally overlap) and he had hoped he had found a successor, temporary or permanent, in the figure of Sam Middlemiss (Robert Gordon University) who came onboard when the conference went to Aberdeen. He thanks Sam for his help in the last couple of years. Sam, however, is retiring. Kindly he has suggested a colleague, Margaret Downie, also at Robert Gordon University, who will take over as chair after a handover period.

His tip, which may be obvious, is that it is too difficult to be in two places at once, the chair of one stream and speaking at the same time in another stream! This is, however, more than counterbalanced by the assistance over the years from colleagues in the SLSA who helped by smoothing the organisational glitches occasioned by having to be in two places at the same time.

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Refugee law and policy

The 'Refugee law and policy' theme met for the first time at the SLSA Annual Conference in Warwick. It is clear from the response to the call for papers that a broad and fascinating range of research is being conducted in this topical area of law and policy. Sixteen papers were presented over two days, covering a variety of issues, including global refugee law regimes, historical perspectives, procedural issues and problems of legal interpretation. Speakers came from both practice and academia and the papers of every session prompted long and fruitful discussions. The level of PhD student participation was particularly pleasing.

I would like to thank all presenters, session chairs and participants for helping to launch 'Refugee law and policy' in such a successful way and hope that it will become a regular feature of future SLSA conferences.

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SLSA Annual Conference 2016
School of Law, Lancaster University
5th—7th April 2016



Lancaster University Law School are delighted to host the SLSA Annual Conference 2016 in our beautiful 360-acre parkland campus just outside of the historic city of Lancaster. We look forward to welcoming you!

For more information please contact the organisers Tom Webb (t.webb@lancaster.ac.uk) and Ben Mayfield (b.mayfield@lancaster.ac.uk).