

# Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER

No 103

**SLSA**

SUMMER 2024

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

[www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk) @slsa\_uk

## PORTSMOUTH WELCOMES SLSA IN 2024!

*Having previously been preparing to host the 2020 conference that Covid-19 cancelled, Portsmouth University finally got the opportunity to welcome delegates in person and online from 26 to 28 March.*

With 615 delegates, in-person and online, SLSA 2024 demonstrated the attraction of the Annual Conference for researchers from the UK and around the world. Forty-seven fee bursaries were awarded, enabling even more delegates to participate in person or remotely. There were 560 papers delivered across 37 streams and current topics, plus an extremely competitive poster presentation which we had the privilege to judge. The busy programme was, as ever, managed admirably by Stream Convenors.

The Tuesday plenary session, 'Shaping the Future of Legal Education: Integrating Socio-legal Approaches in the Changing Landscape', chaired by Professor Caroline Strevens, was co-sponsored by the Association of Law Teachers. Four expert speakers (Professor Chris Ashford, Dr Emma Jones, Dr Suhraiya Jivraj and Professor Foluke Adebisi) explored the current position and future of socio-legal approaches in legal education. At the same event, we also launched 'Socio-legal Studies in the Law Curriculum', a project that will examine socio-legal education's current position in law schools.

The Wednesday plenary, 'Migrant Scholars: The Past Present, and Future of Socio-legal Studies', sponsored by the *Modern Law Review*, was developed with the support of the Council for At Risk Academics (CARA). At this plenary, three CARA Fellows (Dr Iryna Prypkhan, Dr Amanullah Ahmadzai and Dr Abdul Saboor Matin) spoke about their intellectual and professional experiences in moving to the UK, their sense of socio-legal studies in a global context and how scholarship in their home countries compares to their experiences of scholarship in Britain. Both plenaries can be viewed on the [SLSA YouTube Channel](#).

Delegates were able to unwind and connect on both evenings at a lively drinks reception on Tuesday and grand Gala Dinner on Wednesday, which also served as a platform to honour the best in socio-legal scholarship with announcements of our book, article and impact prize-winners (see page 6 for details). And Professor Rosemary Hunter, winner of the 2023 Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community and former SLSA Chair, shared her insights on the current challenges faced by the sector, adding a thought-provoking note to the gathering.

Running a conference, particularly a hybrid conference, is a significant endeavour, and we are grateful to the colleagues who assisted us with this task – particularly Panos Kapotas and Juliet Brook – and our team of student conference assistants who, as ever, did their university proud. We would also like to thank colleagues from Ulster, notably Mark Simpson, for answering our numerous questions.

We look forward to seeing you all in Liverpool in 2025.

**Emily Walsh & Dan Bedford**  
on behalf of the SLSA 2024 organising team

## SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES IN THE LAW CURRICULUM

*The SLSA and the ALT are collaborating with the University of Portsmouth Law School in undertaking this survey into the current position of socio-legal education in UK law schools.*

The purpose of the survey is to understand how best to support the members of both learned societies in the design and delivery of their teaching.

The ALT aims to further the advancement, development, study, understanding, use and reform of the educational aspects of law and its teaching. The SLSA is dedicated to promoting education in socio-legal studies, emphasising the development of a socially conscious generation of legal professionals who are well-equipped to address real-world challenges.

Further details are available in the [project information sheet](#). We invite you to contribute to this important discourse and aid in shaping the future of socio-legal education: [take the survey](#).

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#### Disclaimer

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### Newsletter sponsorship

The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is sponsored by a consortium of law schools and journals. We are very grateful for this essential support for our community. If your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, contact SLSA Chair, John Harrington: e [harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk).



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## SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE: SLSA/ALT/SLS JOINT STATEMENT

*In early June, the heads of the three UK learned societies in law wrote a joint letter to the Chair of the Committee of the Heads of University Law Schools to express concerns about the impact of funding cuts on conference attendance budgets for law school staff in the UK.*

Dear Professor Carey

We write to express our urgent concern at the impact of funding cuts in UK universities, on the health of our field, its international standing, and on the careers of legal academics at all career stages. In particular, we note a growing trend to refuse or limit support for conference attendance by staff members.

The three learned societies in law – SLSA, SLS, and ALT – which we currently lead, each organizes a major annual conference. These are vibrant, inclusive and intellectually stimulating moments of mutual exchange and support.

Conferences enable the presentation of new work and ideas in a supportive environment. They provide formal and informal mentoring and feedback. They sustain community horizontally through new and renewed encounters, and vertically through thematic streams.

Conferences bring together postgraduate researchers and early career scholars, with experienced law teachers and researchers with specific early career sessions. Advice and support from editors of journals and book series, directors of research and teaching, REF-panellists, and

reviewers for research funders, is invaluable and only available in the general conference setting.

Conferences marry the professional, the intellectual and the social. Plenaries allow the legal academic community to take stock of developments within the field as a whole, as regards regulation, the professions, international context and so on. Open calls for papers and panels showcase cutting edge developments in scholarship and methods.

Our executive boards and annual conference organizing teams work tirelessly to ensure the relevance and liveliness of conferences. Each of us has kept increases in fees for membership and conference attendance at below the level of inflation. Our bursary schemes have been greatly expanded to help colleagues otherwise impeded from joining us.

Smaller scale events are also vital to the community and to individual careers. Each of us organizes very successful events in this format. But they perform different functions to larger encounters and are not a substitute for them.

We appreciate the considerable constraints now being placed on heads of law schools. We support them in their work to secure the best conditions for academics working on law at all stages of their careers.

We urge them to recognize the essential contribution made by conferences to our community of research and teaching. We ask them to review and challenge allocation decisions which deny support for attendance at annual conferences.

Our learned societies are keen to work with heads of schools in supporting individual academics and the community as a whole.

Kind regards

**Professor John Harrington, Chair, Socio-Legal Studies Association**  
**Dr Emma Jones, Chair, Association of Law Teachers**  
**Professor Paula Giliker, President, Society of Legal Scholars**

## BUILDING LINKS: SLSA AND LEGAL PUBLISHING

*SLSA Chair, Professor John Harrington, introduces a new initiative to expand the SLSA's links with the socio-legal publishing world.*

Publication is the lifeblood of socio-legal studies. The SLSA actively collaborates with journals and book publishers to secure the health of our discipline and to promote inclusivity and access to scholarship for our membership around the world. To this end, we are launching an initiative to deepen and widen our engagement with journals and publishers.

The SLSA benefits from the generosity and long-standing support of both the *Journal of Law and Society* (JLS) and *Social and Legal Studies*. Both consistently contribute to our Annual Conference Bursary Fund, with *Social and Legal Studies* also providing funding for the SLSA International Collaboration awards, targeted at partnerships with Global South institutions. *Modern Law Review* has sponsored conference plenaries and streams in recent years, including our 'Migrant Scholars' event with the Council for At Risk Academics at Portsmouth 2024.

We are delighted to welcome major law publishers to our Annual Conference each year to promote their recent publications, but also, importantly, to meet with current and future authors to discuss proposals and new ideas.

Hart Publishing has been supporting our book and article prizes for many years, while the *International Journal of Law in Context* has pledged to donate to our bursary

fund from next year. This fund is growing more and more important for our community given the considerable financial challenges currently faced by our community and the wider sector.

In spring 2024, in **Socio-Legal Newsletter 102**, we showcased 30 years of the *Journal of Social Security Law* and 50 years of the JLS. This launched a new regular slot in the newsletter, allowing the range of journals welcoming work in socio-legal studies to present themselves to SLSA members. In this issue, our featured journal is the *Entertainment and Sports Law Journal*, an open access journal published by the University of Westminster (see page 13).

Our Publisher Liaison officer, Raza Saeed has been engaging with publishers to renew their discount schemes, and currently members can benefit from discounts of up to 30 per cent for online purchases from the law collections of Combined Academic Press, Bristol University Press/Policy Press, Edward Elgar, Hart and Routledge (see the **SLSA membership benefits page** for details). Do look out for further announcements in the weekly ebulletin.

Finally, our Open Access group, led by Simon Flacks, actively contributes to REF and UKRI consultations, representing our values in a time of great change in how publications are funded and accessed.

The SLSA is keen to expand this cohort of partnerships with journals and publishers that regularly feature socio-legal work. If you publish, edit, or serve on the advisory board of a journal or book series and are interested in helping to develop these links, which are essential to the health of socio-legal studies, do contact Raza at **e [publisher@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:publisher@slsa.ac.uk)**.



## EDI STRATEGY

*The SLSA is committed to the values of equality, diversity and inclusion and aspires to embed these values in everything we do.*

Please see the SLSA's **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Survey Report** (2022) and follow-up **Strategic Response Document** (2024) (also published below), as well as its Annual Reports for descriptions of our ongoing EDI interventions and initiatives that seek to address disadvantage within the socio-legal community.

The SLSA seeks to lead the development of best practice in our EDI work and looks forward to actively engaging with other bodies and organisations to identify initiatives that can help us realise our goals. We welcome dialogue, suggestions, and feedback from our members as we celebrate our diversity and strengths as an association and continue to work together to construct a more welcoming, inclusive, diverse and equal socio-legal community.

Please do contact SLSA EDI Leads: **e Beverley Clough** and **e Arwen Joyce**.

## EDI STRATEGIC RESPONSE DOCUMENT

*The SLSA conducted an EDI survey at the end of 2021 and published the results in a report in March 2022. A number of issues were raised by the survey, which the Board, with the leadership and advice of the EDI Committee, is seeking to address.*

This Strategic Response Document reports on the issues raised in the survey and the progress made so far to address them.

### 1 Ensure SLSA membership records are accurate and up to date.

The SLSA Membership Secretary is working on this, and much progress has been made to improve the accuracy of our membership records. For example, steps are being taken to identify and delete duplicate membership records and to ensure that PGR members are transitioned to full membership once their PhD is complete.

### 2 Collect and monitor data on who applies for and receives SLSA funding or who enters for an SLSA prize.

Starting in January 2024, a link to a confidential and voluntary data collection form is sent to all members who: apply for funding through one of the SLSA's funding schemes; nominate someone or are nominated for a book or article prize; or act as conference stream convenors. The form will not be connected to, or have any bearing on, the outcome of an application for funding, prize nomination or stream convenor application, but collecting this data will help the SLSA monitor and progress EDI issues.

### 3 Help members build connections with groups beyond legal academia, eg, academics from other disciplines, activist groups and legal practitioners.

The SLSA's Learned Societies Initiative was launched at the Ulster conference in 2023 with a roundtable on interdisciplinarity. The panel reflected on the challenges of interdisciplinary working and the role of learned societies in supporting and encouraging colleagues to collaborate across traditional boundaries. In addition, the PGR Reps to the SLSA Board have expanded their recruitment efforts to include PGRs in other potentially relevant departments beyond law (eg sociology, criminology, psychology, history).

### 4 Collect views from and increase support for precariously employed members.

In late 2023, the Precarity Rep to the SLSA Board conducted a membership survey to build a picture of the challenges precarious colleagues face and to identify ways the SLSA can better support them. A report on the results of the survey was published in 2023. One initiative following the survey has been to ringfence funding for precariously employed members and to update the text of application packages for the next funding round to make this clear. Heads of Law Schools and other interested bodies like the Academy of Social Science, UKRI and UCU were provided with a copy of the report. The report authors filmed a short summary of the report for the **SLSA's YouTube channel** and a blog post written by a precariously employed member was published on the **SLSA Blog** in 2023.

### 5 Create a pilot mentoring scheme.

Both the EDI Survey and the Precarity Survey highlighted the need to improve community inclusion and diversity by creating opportunities for connection and channels for the transfer of knowledge from more established socio-legal scholars to those in earlier stages of their careers or those wishing to return following career breaks. To that end, the Board launched a pilot mentoring scheme that paired 10 mentees with senior academics in 2023 and concluded at the 2024 conference. Feedback is being collected from scheme participants and will inform how the scheme is structured going forward.

*The EDI Committee*

## SLSA BOARD NEWS

*The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 27 March 2024 at the University of Portsmouth and online.*

Board member Sabrina Germain stood down after three years as a trustee and two new trustees were elected by the membership: Andra le Roux-Kemp, University of Lincoln, and Alex Powell, Oxford Brookes University. The next Board meeting will be held in **September 2024** at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London, and online.

Lara MacLachlan, who has been one of our two PGR Reps for the past two years, stepped down at the SLSA Board meeting in May to concentrate on completing her PhD. Lara has been an invaluable member of the Board and carried out her role with dedication and efficiency. Lara's replacement will be appointed over the summer.

Marie Fox and Helen Stalford from the University of Liverpool have also joined the Board in their role as SLSA 2024 conference organisers.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

*As many people renew their annual membership on 1 July each year, this is a good time to check that your details are up to date and that you are paying the correct amount.*

Full membership is £50 per annum and student membership is £25. These amounts have been held fixed again this year. Members can pay by bank transfer, standing order or Paypal. We are very grateful to members for this support, which enables SLSA to support the whole socio-legal community. Your prompt payment saves us time in administration and is much appreciated. See **w website** for details.

# SLSA FUNDING SCHEMES: HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

*Good news! SLSA has raised the maximum limits for awards across its funding schemes to reflect rising costs and enable applicants to be more ambitious with their plans. As these schemes reopen (see page 8), it seems an opportune moment to offer some advice on submitting a good quality application so as to maximise your chance of winning an award.\**

This article applies to the SLSA schemes that open for applications at the end of June each year. These are:

- Research Grants
- Fieldwork Grants
- Seminar Competition and
- International Collaboration Fund.

Prospective applicants should note that the advice outlined below is necessarily general in order to be relevant to all SLSA schemes. Each scheme has its own specific guidance and its own criteria, so the first thing to do is to make sure that you are applying to the correct funding stream (ie the stream that best fits with your proposed project).

Please make sure you read the guidance for your preferred funding stream and follow it to the letter. Every year we unfortunately receive a small number of applications that are incorrectly targeted or do not meet the award criteria.

Reading and following the guidance carefully will ensure that you don't apply for activities which are ineligible. For example, the research grant fund doesn't support conferences – that's what the Seminar Competition is for. And make sure you don't budget for costs that your chosen fund doesn't cover – eg teaching buy-out or overheads. The funding can only be used for specified activities, clearly stated in the guidance for each scheme.

The window for applications is only open for four months, so start early to give yourself plenty of time to produce a polished and fully thought-out application.

There are several criteria which you should be thinking about when drafting your application. Some apply more to one scheme than to others, but all are worth considering.

## **Titles, aims, objectives and themes**

The title of your project should be succinct, to the point and engaging. Just tell us what your work is about.

For research projects, your aims and objectives should be clearly set out and well planned. This section can be quite short, but be specific, explaining your overall aim along with three or four research objectives. Being clear and concise is the key here as this section is the first part of your application that reviewers see; it should give them a definite idea of what your project will do.

For the seminar scheme, decide what type of event you are organising and its theme: is it socio-legal? Who will be participating? Is it for colleagues in the wider academic world, or for a different audience – eg practitioners, or an outreach event for a specific community or non-academic organisation?

For the international scheme, talk through your aims and objectives with your potential international partners to narrow down options and agree on a tight proposal.

Remember that, depending on the scheme, the maximum awards are between £1500 to £3000, so don't overestimate what you can achieve.

## **Originality, innovativeness and importance**

For all schemes. This is your opportunity to show how your use of SLSA funding enhances socio-legal research and scholarship. This is where background work, knowing your stuff and addressing these criteria with supporting evidence will really count. Explain why your event or project is important. Refer to the existing literature, and tell us how you will add to it.

## **Methods**

For research projects, you need to provide details of your methodology which must be socio-legal (albeit in a broad sense). It must also be practical, appropriate and ethical. How will you collect and analyse your data? Will you be conducting a survey? For interviews, how will they be structured? Who are your interviewees? What ethical issues do you need to think about and how will you address them? Are you doing archival research? Tell us where and what you hope to find there?

## **Costing/budget**

The best applications are those which are fully costed and provide as much detail as possible. For example, you may need to include travel, subsistence and accommodation. You may need to pay for interview transcription or research assistance. It's important to think about your methods, so refer back to those for clarity. Be as accurate as possible, but if it's not possible to get exact costs, then sensible estimates are acceptable. Check the specific guidance for the scheme you are applying for to make sure that what you are asking for is eligible.

## **Outcomes, results and impact**

Whatever your project or event, it needs to have a purpose. Make sure that you clearly set out what you intend the outcomes to be. Will it be a traditional article, or chapter in an edited collection? Will you be presenting a paper at a future SLSA Annual Conference? Are you planning to launch a website, or write a series of blogs? Have you looked at audiovisual and multi-media options? There are numerous ways in which you can spread the word about your work, so let us know what your plans are.

## **EDI and precarity**

The SLSA is committed to the values of equality, diversity and inclusivity and strives to ensure these principles are reflected in its policy, practice and governance. You should take this into consideration when putting together your application. See the SLSA [EDI page](#).

The SLSA Board has ring-fenced a proportion of each funding pot for applicants in precarious employment. All application forms have a voluntary declaration section for those wishing to be considered for this targeted funding.

## **General**

If you've never applied for funding before, ask someone to look over your first draft and give you feedback. Take advice from colleagues who have been successful in the past or from your supervisor if you are applying for a Fieldwork Grant.

Visit the SLSA website to see the full list of [projects](#) and [events](#) that have been funded over the years under these schemes. And trawl through the [SLN online archive](#) where you can find details of all past successful projects including a wealth of detail on methodologies, outcomes and impact. Queries about this scheme should be sent to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk) in the first instance.

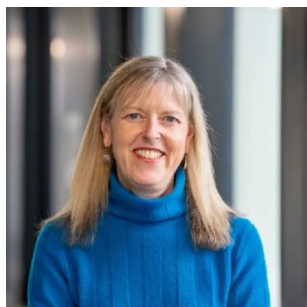
*Rebecca Moosavian & Marie Selwood*

\* This guidance draws with thanks on earlier articles by John Flood, Dermot Feenan and Jess Guth.

# SLSA PRIZEWINNERS: THE FULL HOUSE!

*The SLSA is proud to award a range of prizes for excellence in socio-legal research and publishing. An anonymous donor supports the prestigious Annual Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community; Hart Publishing sponsors our Book Prize and Prize for Early Career Academics; and the Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize is sponsored by a private benefactor. The other prizes are funded by the SLSA membership.*

We were delighted to recognise outstanding achievement among the socio-legal community in scholarship, impact and leadership at the conference in Portsmouth where we celebrated with our prizewinners at a wonderful SLSA Gala Dinner on 27 March 2024.



## Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community 2023

Professor Rosemary Hunter, former SLSA Chair: **read Rosie Harding's nomination statement.**



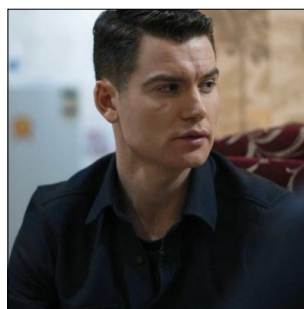
## SLSA Article Prize 2024

Fatima Ahdash, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar, for **'Countering terrorism in the family courts: a dangerous development'** (2023) *Modern Law Review* 86(5): 1197–1231.



## Hart-SLSA Book Prize 2024

Oreva Olakpe, Toronto University, for ***South-South Migrations and the Law from Below: Case Studies on China and Nigeria*** (2023) Hart Publishing.



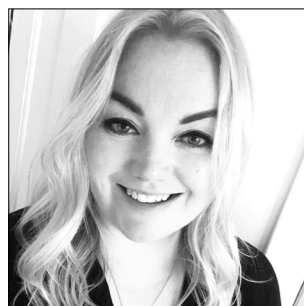
## SLSA Impact Prize 2024

Seán Columb, University of Liverpool, **'Exposing the organ trade: seeking truth in violence'**.



## Hart-SLSA Prize for Early Career Academics 2024

Jess Smith, University of Lincoln, for ***Law, Registration, and the State: Making Identities through Space, Place, and Movement*** (2023) Routledge.



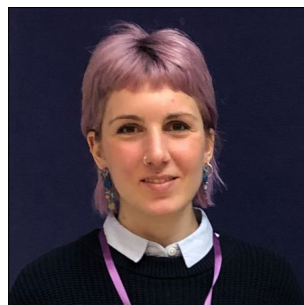
## SLSA Poster Prize 2024 Winner

Chloe Atkins, York St John University, for **'Navigating domestic violence and the family courts: reading risk and hearing harm'**.



## SLSA Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize 2024

Başak Ertür, Goldsmiths University of London, for ***Spectacles and Specters: A Performative Theory of Political Trials*** (2022) Fordham University Press.



## SLSA Poster Prize 2024 Runner-up

Irene Sacchetti, Nottingham Trent University, for **'The first "climate refugee": Teitiota v New Zealand ... a step forward or backward?'**



# CALLS FOR SLSA PRIZES ARE OPEN!

## Annual Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community 2024

To date, this prize, which was inaugurated in 2011, has been awarded to 13 exceptional socio-legal scholars. The winner of this prestigious annual award receives £500 and lifetime membership of the Association.

SLSA members are warmly invited to submit nominations for this year's prize. Nominators should simply state in 100 words why the person they are nominating would be a worthy recipient of the prize. Last year the winner was former SLSA Chair, Professor Rosemary Hunter.

Visit the [w prizewinners' page](#) to find out why the previous winners' names were put forward. Nominations should be sent to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk) by Monday 2 September 2024. The winner will be announced in the autumn/winter 2024 issue of the *Socio-Legal Newsletter*.

## SLSA book and article prizes 2025

Nominations are now open for this year's book and article prizes. All nominees and nominators must be SLSA members. 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 7 October 2024. Publications published in the 12 months up to 30 September 2024 are eligible.

The first three prizes are generously sponsored by Hart Publishing. For the Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize, the same rules apply 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. Shortlists will be published in the spring issue of the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* and winners will be announced at next year's SLSA Gala Dinner in Liverpool on 16 April 2025.

Full details can be found on the SLSA [w prizes page](#) 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). Closing date: 31 October 2024.

## SLSA Impact Prize 2025

This annual prize worth £250 is awarded to recognise and celebrate excellence in non-academic impact arising from socio-legal research. All current SLSA members, including PGR members, are eligible to nominate themselves or others using the SLSA Impact Prize Nomination Form. Nominees must be based at a UK higher education institution and must be SLSA members.

The deadline for nominations is 31 October 2024, and the shortlist and winners will be announced at the SLSA Gala Dinner in Liverpool on 16 April 2025.

See [w website](#) for details.

## SLSA CALENDAR

### 2024

#### July

- 5 **SLSA 2025:** call for Current Topics opens  
**SLSA 2025:** call for Stream Convenors opens

- 12 Final weekly ebuletin of summer term

#### August

Additional summer ebuletins if needed: please send your news to [e marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com)

#### September

- 2 **SLSA Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community:** closing date

- 6 First weekly ebuletin of autumn term

- 20 SLSA 2025 call for Current Topics: closing date

SLSA 2025 call for Stream Convenors: closing date

- 27 **SLSA 2025:** call for papers opens

- tbc SLSA Board meeting

#### October

- 7 **SLSA book and article prizes:** closing date

- 21 SLN 104 copy deadline

- 31 **SLSA Research Grants and Fieldwork Grants:** closing date

**SLSA International Collaboration Funding Scheme:** closing date

**SLSA Impact Prize:** closing date

**SLSA Seminar Competition:** closing date

#### November

- 25 SLN 104 publication

- tbc SLSA PGR Conference 2025: applications open

#### December

- 13 Final weekly ebuletin of autumn term

### 2025

#### January

- 10 SLSA 2025 call for papers: closing date

- 27 SLN 105 copy deadline

- tbc SLSA PGR Conference 2025

- tbc SLSA Board meeting

#### March

- 3 SLN 105 publication

#### April

- 15–17 SLSA 2025, University of Liverpool

- 16 SLSA AGM 2025

SLSA prizewinners announcement at Gala Dinner in Liverpool

#### May

- tbc SLSA Board meeting

- 20 SLN 106 copy deadline

#### June

- 23 SLN 105 publication

### 2026

- tbc SLSA 2026, University of Sussex

# FUNDING SCHEMES OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

## SLSA Research and Fieldwork Grants

At its May 2024 meeting the SLSA Board agreed to raise the maximum amount to be awarded to £3000 for research grants and to £1500 for fieldwork grants to reflect the rising costs of research and increase the effectiveness of individual awards.

Please visit the [w website](#) for details and use either the Research Grant application package or Fieldwork Grant application package as appropriate. Queries about this scheme should be sent to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk) in the first instance. Closing date: **31 October 2024**.

## SLSA Seminar Competition

This year's Seminar Competition is now open for applications. Awards can be used to support the delivery of either an individual seminar or short conference, or a

series of events. The Board has also raised the maximum award for this scheme to £3000. There are no restrictions concerning the subject matter, provided that applicants can show relevance to the socio-legal community. See the [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **31 October 2024** – note this has been brought forward from previous years for administrative purposes.

## SLSA International Collaboration Funding Scheme

This scheme, which was launched in 2023, aims to support SLSA members to undertake international collaborative activities that are specifically aimed at building connections with socio-legal scholars and socio-legal communities beyond the UK. The Board has raised the maximum award for this scheme to £2500. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **31 October 2024**.

See page 5 for general advice about applying for SLSA funding schemes.

**Note:** queries about all the above schemes should be sent to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk) in the first instance.

# WHAT SLSA FUNDING SUPPORTS

*This autumn marks the 25th anniversary of the SLSA Grants Scheme. The scheme has so far funded nearly 200 projects, and this year the total awarded since its launch in July 1999 will top £250,000.*

Below we present news of four completed projects and round up the summaries of this year's cohort of Research Grant projects. This year's Fieldwork Grant summaries will be published in SLN 104 in the autumn.

## End of project reports

### Research Grants

#### Pushing back: copyright law and film archives

Melanie Stockton-Brown, Bournemouth University, £1500

Melanie produced a zine of the results of her archival research entitled '**Pushing Back: FIAF & Copyright**'. She will also be contributing an article about her research to the [SLSA Blog](#).

#### The emotion work of restorative justice facilitators: a study of restorative conferences

Tania Nascimento, University of Strathclyde, £976

I am very grateful for the SLSA fieldwork grant for my PhD research on the work of restorative justice (RJ) facilitators in England. Without it, I would have not been able to complete my research and obtain unique, valuable data. My empirical work consisted of narrative interviews and focus groups with RJ facilitators as well as ethnographic observations, which included shadowing and observation of preparation, conferences and follow-up meetings with victims and offenders. This required significant travelling across England and a financial investment that I could not otherwise have afforded.

Staying in the field for a continuous period of time proved to be a challenge. The meetings and conferences I had planned to observe were often cancelled, sometimes on the day, when I was already on the train, for different reasons (eg the offender had been moved to a closed prison last minute). However, the days were never wasted, and

facilitators often insisted on having lunch with me and talking about cases. Their kindness was unparalleled.

Ethnography has taught me a few valuable lessons. One of them is that almost everything that happens in the field is an opportunity for self-reflexivity and to connect with participants. It has become apparent that the time I have spent with facilitators outside meetings/conferences has provided me with more data than 'onsite observations'. Spending time with facilitators either in hotels, restaurants, or sometimes in their own homes, has made them open up about their emotions, feelings of nervousness, as well as concerns about cases and their role in general. During these long conversations (and friendly banter) I got to know my participants very well – their private lives, professional challenges, and their vision of the world. Like Arlie Hochschild, I believe that ethnography involves building meaningful relationships with people, and I see empathy as paramount for gaining trust and access to a person's thoughts and feelings.

I am now at the writing-up stage, trying to piece together all the valuable data I have collected, and intend to submit my thesis by December 2024.

#### The women and children of IS and their journeys back home: imagining justice in the UK and beyond

Atoosa Khatiri, University of York, £1000

The aim of my thesis is to undertake a socio-legal study into the women and children affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) and to gain a holistic understanding of what justice looks like in this context for the various stakeholders involved. The research project has now moved into the writing-up stage. The fieldwork resulted in 23 interviews with 25 participants, both in-person and online.

I was able to undertake interviews with a range of stakeholders, including lawyers, policy and counter-terrorism experts, civil servants within the relevant government departments, representatives and advocates of the women and families of IS including from North American and European countries, advocates from local communities directly impacted by IS, human rights activists, and de-radicalisation mentors.

I was not, as planned, able to interview any women associated with IS themselves. This was due to various practical and ethical reasons. I have gathered rich data from a diverse range of people connected to this issue, and



I will be utilising existing data (largely available through media sources and grey literature) to address any gaps in stakeholder perspectives.

The Fieldwork Grant enabled me to conduct interviews in person with participants in the UK, which were key to making valuable connections and the snowball recruitment of participants. However, there were more online interviews than anticipated (due to participant preference or participants being outside of the UK). I therefore plan to use the remaining funds to allow for two or three trips to present my preliminary findings in person to participants and/or other relevant stakeholders in the UK.

### **Unravelling the paradox: investigating contrasts in administrative and criminal sanctions in the Dutch social security system**

**Paulien de Winter, Utrecht University, £1500**

In various countries, including the UK, the Netherlands and Germany, enforcement in social security has steadily intensified. Beneficiaries are now subject to stringent obligations, and the sanctions for non-compliance have become increasingly severe. Within the Dutch system, cases of fraud under €50,000 are subject to administrative sanctions imposed by municipalities and cases of fraud exceeding €50,000 are handled through criminal proceedings by the court. Paradoxically, the common belief held by municipal enforcers is that administrative sanctions tend to be more severe than criminal sanctions when imposed. The research question is therefore: what disparities emerge in the imposition of administrative and criminal sanctions for similar cases of fraud within social security law in the Netherlands? Due to the inherent challenge of comparing court rulings (as not all rulings are publicly available) with decisions made by municipalities (where nationwide statistics are not available), an innovative research design has been adopted. A selection of court rulings will be presented to municipal enforcers, who will be asked to indicate the sanctions they would impose, thereby creating an experimental survey-based experiment. The results of this research will be presented in a paper and a factsheet.

### **Impact Grant**

#### **From the University to the Grand Chamber: how can academic work on asylum and immigration have greater impact in the ECtHR?**

**Maja Grundler, Royal Holloway, University of London, £1500**

The workshop, which took place on 9 May 2024 at Royal Holloway College, brought together legal academics working on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) with practitioners who have worked at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to discuss how practitioners use academic work, how academics and practitioners can work more closely together, and how academic work can have real impact in the ECtHR's courtrooms.

The workshop focused on legal academic work pertaining to asylum and immigration, giving academics the opportunity to showcase research which could have a practical impact on the protection of migrants under the ECHR. The event consisted of two roundtables with academic speakers from different Council of Europe member states and two practitioner discussants – Judge Emeritus Dr Françoise Tulkens, who has been Section President and Vice President of the ECtHR, and Sue Willman, who leads Deighton Pierce Glynn Solicitors' international human rights work and is Assistant Director

and Supervising Solicitor at King's College London's Legal Clinic.

The first roundtable considered practicalities of taking cases, and academic arguments, to the ECtHR, dealing with established procedures and evidence but also showcasing new ideas in this area. The second roundtable focused on substantive legal academic arguments and how these might develop impact at the ECtHR. The exchange between speakers, discussants and the audience (consisting of academics and practitioners in the field) showed that academic work is relevant and useful for the ECtHR. It provided practical ideas on turning research into practice and highlighted the need for collaboration and coordination between academics and practitioners.

### **Current Research Grant project summaries**

#### **Exploring gender diverse children's participation in clinical decision-making**

**Hannah Hirst, Sheffield University, £1500**

This small-scale study supported by Gendered Intelligence (GI) develops arguments raised in my PhD thesis and applies them in an empirical context. It has two main aims: (1) to examine the extent to which gender diverse children participated in clinical decisions about puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones, and (2) to explore how their participation in clinical decision-making about hormonal therapy might be enhanced if treatment becomes available via the NHS. These aims will be achieved by completing body-mapping and recording video testimony with children who identify as gender diverse and have engaged with at least one health professional when accessing gender affirmative hormones through the NHS. Anonymised data from this pilot project and subsequent research will inform the findings of a journal article published in a leading children's rights journal, a child friendly blog published on the GI website and a report shared with key stakeholders in the area.

#### **Law in universities, law in society: exploring students' perspectives on LLB degree design and the role of academic legal education in England and Wales**

**Cameron Giles, London South Bank University, and Yue Ang, Brunel University, £1155.80**

As the relevance of the qualifying law degree (QLD) diminishes due to changes in routes to qualification, the structure, content and purpose of LLB law degrees is increasingly interrogable. With modularisation, the construction of a law degree is, in one sense, shaped by those designing and delivering courses. However, we suggest a key hidden designer of law degrees is, ultimately, students, who make choices regarding institutions, courses and – increasingly, post-QLD – modules. This project employs focus groups at a mix of institutions, where participants will be asked to (re-)design a degree curriculum from the bottom up, to provide a fresh perspective on the role and design of the LLB.

We will use the model curricula students produce to discuss their reasoning and motivations as curriculum designers and consider the broader implications of this reasoning in relation to modular components and credit-weighting. We will be sharing our analysis of the data collected at a hybrid workshop event at completion of the project, which will bring together those involved or interested in curriculum design to discuss the implications of our findings. We hope that this, as well as a paper at the SLSA 2025 Annual Conference, can inform those (re-)designing LLB courses.

## **SQE-mish? The future of sexual offences in legal education**

**Allison Holmes, Kent University, £1279.56**

This project evaluates how changes to professional legal qualification, introduced by the Solicitors' Regulatory Authority, have impacted on the teaching of sexual offences, which have been excluded from the 'functioning legal knowledge' assessed by the SQE. By focusing on this, the project examines how entrants to careers in the criminal justice system (law students) first encounter the elements of sexual offences within the legal pedagogy. The study takes a mixed-methods approach via a quantitative survey of module convenors (or those with a key decision-making role as to the content of core LLB criminal modules), followed by semi-structured interviews with participants who opt in after the initial survey. These will provide critical contextual reasoning for the decision-making process. The project will help develop an indication of key benefits and challenges for the teaching of sexual offences that will be used to formulate proposals for developing resources for teaching these subjects, thereby contributing to a wider debate concerning the role of socio-legal education in the teaching of sexual offences and identifying potential areas for the development of best practice by establishing networks of knowledge with academics working in the area. If interested in learning more or taking part, contact [e a.m.holmes@kent.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.holmes@kent.ac.uk).

## **Towards an abolitionist feminist framework in former Yugoslavia**

**Jana Kujundžić, Northumbria University, £1500**

This project seeks to initiate the development of a theory and practice of abolition feminism tailored to the unique context of ex-Yugoslavia, aiming to address historical legacies and current challenges around cases of gendered violence. As part of this project, meetings with academics

and organisers interested in feminist abolition have culminated in organising a four-day summer school on feminist abolition in Novi Sad, Serbia, in June 2024. As feminist abolition is a process, the school's goal is to open a dialogue about imagining and creating a society that is not based on criminal policies, prisons and the police, but on radically different principles of building relationships. The summer school is envisioned as a place of coming together and of collaborative work. Participants will actively work on knowledge production and a publication intended for further dissemination will be produced. Participant observation and creative methods will be used to capture the data. Alongside the summer school publication intended for wider dissemination, at least one academic paper will be written stemming from this project. Furthermore, a guest-editing application will be made to the open-access journal *Feral Feminisms* on the topic of feminist abolition in Former Yugoslavia.

## **The legal somatics of bioart and bodily aesthetics**

**Joshua Shaw, Kent University, £961.40**

The project is studying how the aesthetics of the human corpse and body parts are used to challenge and reconstruct norms within the common law around medical practices. To begin, I am looking to examples of 'willing' one's carcasse away for dissection or experiments in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, which was done by some without statutory authority leading up to and concurrent to the introduction of the UK's Anatomy Act 1832. Re-reading representations of these disposals in the context of efforts to legalise and improve the practice of anatomy, and drawing out their aesthetic dimensions, the study is reconsidering the narratives usually told about body donations. Whilst this is a project of socio-legal theory, I am relying on archival research, including physical records from archives in London, to inform my analysis. I am planning to write a peer-reviewed publication this summer based upon this archival research and see it eventually forming part of a larger book project.

## **Enhancing government responsiveness by overcoming legal challenges of AI-driven chatbots in the public sector**

**Pardis Tehrani, Sunderland University, £1500**

Generative (artificial intelligence) AI is a 'system that generates text, images, audio, video or other media in response to user prompts' (Alan Turing Institute). The proposed AI chatbots are equipped with a higher level of intelligence and capabilities creating a richer and more expressive digital communication channel between citizens and government. Public sectors have realised that using more sophisticated AI applications improves governments' function and services to citizens. This research addresses two objectives: a) what potential legal risks and challenges are associated with using AI chatbots in the public sector? How can legal issues, including data protection, accountability and mitigating human bias, be effectively addressed in the deployment of chatbots within the public sector? b) Can chatbots enhance government accessibility and responsiveness by efficiently handling a large volume of public queries?

This study adopts a mixed-method approach. For the first objective, a doctrinal analysis and indepth interviews will be conducted. For the second, users will be surveyed to collect data to gauge how the implementation of chatbots enhances accessibility of government-provided information. Ethical considerations will be addressed throughout the process, ensuring informed consent, participant privacy and fair treatment. The results will be published as a research article.

### *Journal of Law and Society* Volume 51(2) summer 2024

#### **Articles**

Trauma-informed lawyering in the context of civil claims for sexual violence – Nikki Godden-Rasul

'Authoritarian liquid transgressions': the case of P&O Ferries – Ioannis Katsaroumpas

Environmental public hearings, intersectionality and women's voices: criticalities and scrutiny from Gujarat, India – Gita Gill

'There is just nothing to hold on to in this case.' Legal technicalities and the use of psychological reports in Chilean domestic violence procedures – Ignacio Riquelme

The familiarisation of terrorism and the securitisation of the family: gendered narratives of infantilisation and demonisation – Fatima Ahdash

#### **Book reviews**

*The Bodyguards of Lies: Lawyers' Power and Professional Responsibility* (Bloomsbury, 2022) by Christopher Whelan – Avrom Sherr

*Placing Property: A Legal Geography of Property Rights in Land* (Palgrave, 2023) by Amanda Byer – Sandy Kedar

*Feminist Theory and International Law: Posthuman Perspectives* (Routledge, 2023) by Emily Jones – Jannice Käll

# SLSA SEMINARS

**The juridification of justice: potentials and limitations: 18–19 April 2024**

**Nora Jaber, University of Exeter, £1000**

In April 2024, Exeter Law School hosted a two-day interdisciplinary workshop, organised by Dr Nora Jaber (Exeter) and Dr Tor Krever (Cambridge), exploring questions of, and linkages between, law and social justice. The event – at Reed Hall, a beautiful Italianate mansion built in 1867, now incorporated within the University of Exeter site – launched the ‘Juridification of Justice’ collaborative network for scholars whose work interrogates how and why struggles for social justice have come to be mediated and articulated through the law.

Questions the workshop engaged with include: what forces or world-transformations undergird and explain the growing prominence of the ‘juridification of justice’ today? Has the meaning of justice – always a contested concept – come to be associated with legal justice, and to what effect? In what ways might battles over legal rights and questions of legality support or preclude the achievement of more meaningful and sustainable forms of justice?

The workshop brought together 15 scholars from universities across the UK, the USA and Ireland. In four panels over two days, papers addressed these questions and opened new ones. Papers ranged from context-specific explorations of the juridification of justice in Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bosnia and Herzegovina, to broader theoretical questions around resistance, capital accumulation, counter-legality and processes of racialisation. Panels were left deliberately untitled to avoid imposing any particular structure or topic, beyond a connection with the overall theme of the workshop. This allowed for rich and dynamic discussions among all participants following the paper presentations.

The final session of the workshop was left for an open discussion among all participants, dedicated to identifying common themes and locating synergies among participants’ work, and thinking about next steps. What emerged from that is a strong interest in continuing the

discussion and expanding the activities of the network, particularly in/on the Global South.

Given the success of the workshop and the broader interest in continuing and expanding the network, the organisers are currently working toward arranging future events. To learn about future activities of the network, contact [e n.jaber3@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:n.jaber3@exeter.ac.uk) and [e tkk24@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tkk24@cam.ac.uk) and/or follow [@noratjaber](https://twitter.com/noratjaber) and [@tor\\_krever](https://twitter.com/tor_krever) on X.

## SLSA SEMINARS 2024

*All these events taking place this year are funded by the **SLSA Seminar Competition**.*

- Róisín Á Costello, Trinity College Dublin, £1000: ‘Representing minority language voices in court’: **dates tbc**
- Neil Graffin, Open University, & Sarah Craig, University of Ulster, £800: ‘Contemporary challenges to migration’: **17 May 2024**
- Nora Jaber, University of Exeter, £1000: ‘The juridification of justice: potentials and limitations’: **18–19 April 2024**
- Jaime Lindsey, University of Reading, ‘Law’s role in shaping and responding to disability and motherhood’: **dates tbc**
- Colin M Luoma, Brunel University, £985.58: ‘Climate change mitigation and human rights’: **dates tbc**
- Catherine O’Rourke, Henry Jones, Vera Piovesan & Ranime Djouider, Durham University, £980: ‘Law and global justice: research centres without a research field?’: **25–26 April 2024**
- Andrea Maria Pelliconi, City University of London, £999.85: ‘Climate change and migration: new challenges, legal responses, and policy solutions’: **19 June 2024**
- Sahar Shar, University of Bristol, £996: ‘Calculating climate reparations: legal perspectives’: **dates tbc**

## SLSA YouTube Channel: latest

Edited by Andra le Roux-Kemp, the **SLSA YouTube** channel showcases outstanding socio-legal research and impact, as well as developments in legal education and information for SLSA members. Latest posts include:

- **Marcelo Carvalho Loureiro** – awarded an SLSA Fieldwork Grant in 2020 – discusses the fieldwork he completed using his SLSA grant.
- **Silvana Tapia Tapia**, winner of the Hart-SLSA Book Prize 2023, talks about her book *Feminism, Violence Against Women and Law Reform: Decolonial Lessons from Ecuador ...*
- and **discusses it** with SLSA Trustee Kay Lalor.
- **Lizzie Seal and Esmorie Miller** – Research Grant Winners 2021 – share their research findings.
- **Tanzil Chowdhury and Kathryn McNeilly** – winners of a 2022 Seminar Competition award – discuss the workshop they organised: ‘New directions in law and time scholarship’.
- **Sharon Thompson** – winner of the Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize 2023 for *Quiet Revolutionaries: The Married Women’s Association and Family Law* – is in conversation with SLSA Trustee Alex Green.
- **Rachel Dunn** – winner of an SLSA Impact Grant 2022 – discusses her impact work on ‘Re-imagining secure care for children’.
- **Jaime Lindsey** – winner of the Hart-SLSA Early Career Prize 2023 – discusses her book *Reimagining the Court of Protection: Access to Justice in Mental Capacity Law* with SLSA Trustee Elisabeth Griffiths.
- **Hannah Wishart and Kat Langley** – winners of a SLSA Seminar Competition 2023 – discuss the one-day conference they hosted: ‘Prevent, surveil and protect: the fight against terrorism’.
- **Kay Lalor** – winner of an SLSA Impact Grant 2022 with Zainab Naqvi – discusses their impact work.
- **Natalie Ohana** – winner of the Socio-Legal Article Prize 2023 – discusses her article with SLSA Trustee Richard Craven.



## PGR WRITING GROUP 2023-2024

*The SLSA launched a tri-annual writing group on a pilot basis for the academic year 2024–2025, running three sessions across the year managed by the SLSA PGR Reps and aimed at PGRs conducting socio-legal research. Feedback from each session was overwhelmingly positive, and we aim to continue running these sessions for the next academic year, with occasional tweaks to the format. We hope to see you there!*

The aim of the writing groups was to provide a space for PGRs to write in a supportive and friendly environment and build the SLSA PGR community. Instead of giving feedback or guidance on writing, we simply aimed to foster a safe and supportive space for PGRs to write together. While many universities run writing groups locally, many PGRs are in departments where there is little to no socio-legal community and may feel isolated within their own departments. The writing groups allowed PGRs from related disciplines to come together, support each other, share ideas and strengthen interdisciplinary collaborations. The writing groups were the brainchild of previous SLSA PGR Rep Maddy Millar, and we thank her for this excellent initiative!

The sessions were run online in the interest of inclusivity. All three sessions were structured in the shut-up-and-write format, with four sessions each consisting of 25-minute writing blocks with five-minute breaks. All sessions started with attendees introducing themselves so as to build community, as well as briefly explaining their goals for the session so that we could hold each other accountable. At the end, there was a period for reflections.

The first session ran on 24 October 2023, followed by a session on 19 February 2024, and the final session on 17 May 2024. Given the SLSA's internationalisation strategy, we experimented with timings to attempt to include socio-legal PGRs from VSR (the Dutch and Flemish Law and Society Association) and LSAANZ (Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand) and were delighted to welcome one member from each organisation.

All participants across the sessions reflected that the structured writing group allowed them to make significant progress on their writing projects and goals for the day, and writing in community contributed to increased levels of productivity. Attendees also appreciated getting to know other members of the socio-legal PGR community as well as their research projects and facilitating cross-collaboration among members working on similar themes and/or with similar research interests. We are delighted that the pilot project has been successful!

We will be continuing the writing groups in the next academic year, retaining the three sessions format. To further our international collaborations, we are deliberating changes to the format, with portions of some sessions dedicated to invited senior academics speaking with attendees about the practice of writing, publishing tips, information on journals, etc.

Any further feedback you may have for future sessions is very welcome; you can reach your PGR Reps by simply emailing [slsapgprep@gmail.com](mailto:slsapgprep@gmail.com). We hope to see you at a future writing group.

*Lara MacLachlan and Mini Saxena, SLSA PGR Reps*

## *people . . .*

Longstanding SLSA member and previous winner of the SLSA Article Prize (2016) **Professor LYNETTE CHUA**, National University of Singapore, has been awarded the prestigious Law and Society Association International Prize 2024 for her ethnographic research on legal mobilization for LGBTQ+ communities in countries such as Singapore, Taiwan, Mainland China, Vietnam and Myanmar, involving 'highly sensitive and controversial subject matter', that 'required gaining the trust of brave activists who placed their wellbeing in her hands', according to one nominator.

Many congratulations to the following SLSA nominees who were elected as Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences earlier this year: Professor RUTH DUKES, University of Glasgow; Professor MARIE FOX, University of Liverpool; Professor AMBREENA MANJI, Cardiff University; Professor GRÁINNE McKEEVER, Ulster University; Professor DANIEL MONK, Birkbeck, University of London; Professor THÉRÈSE MURPHY, Queen's University Belfast; Professor FERNANDA PIRIE, University of Oxford; Professor SHARIFAH SEKALALA, University of Warwick; and Professor MARK WALTERS, University of Sussex. The Academy's distinguished Fellowship comprises 1500 leading social scientists from academia, the public, private and third sectors. Fellows' expertise covers the breadth of the social sciences, and their practice and research addresses some of the major challenges facing communities, society, places and economies.

See the complete list of current AcSS Fellows on the [AcSS website](#).

## *Social and Legal Studies*

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- Documenting the document: the forensic hospital report and its knowledge moves – Tyler J King & Joshua D M Shaw
- Following the money: understanding forum shopping and the 'justice marketplace' in Sierra Leone – Simeon Koroma
- Gendered and racialised epistemological injustice in FGM-safeguarding – Natasha Carver, Saffron Karlsen, Magda Mogilnicka & Christina Pantazis
- Violence, misrecognition, and place: legal envelopment and colonial governmentality in the Upper Skeena River, British Columbia, 1888 – Matthew P Unger
- Coercion, control and criminal responsibility: exploring professional responses to offending and suicidality in the context of domestically abusive relationships – Vanessa E Munro, Vanessa Bettinson & Mandy Burton
- Efficiency over accuracy?: Exploring front-line practitioners' experiences and opinions on the 'guilty plea system' – Caitlin Nash, Rachel Dioso-Villa & Louise Porter
- Breaking through the legal binary: media labelling of Dominic Ongwen as a victim-perpetrator – Izabela Stejlja, Jessica Trisko Darden & Amanda Wintersieck

## AHRC Mission: a pilot responsive mode funding opportunity

Mission is a pilot large grants funding opportunity. It aims to transform arts and humanities research agendas, research leadership and research teams, at scale, through a pilot approach to team convening. Projects between £2 million and £3 million will be funded. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **18 July 2024**.

## AHRC Catalyst Award: round four open for applications

Applications are invited for these awards to support researchers without prior experience of leading a significant research project to accelerate their trajectory as independent researchers, to unlock their potential, and to build leadership and convenor experience. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **30 July 2024**.

## Nuffield Foundation Research, Development and Analysis Fund

This fund is currently open for applications to fund research projects that inform the design and operation of social policy and practice across the Foundation's three core areas of education, welfare and justice. Grants of up to £750,000 are available. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **16 September 2024**.

## BA Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects

The 2025 round of this scheme is open for applications. The scheme provides UK-based researchers, active in any discipline within the humanities or the social sciences, with the opportunity to develop and lead international and interdisciplinary research projects related to the theme of 'Just transitions'. See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: **18 September 2024**.

## MoJ: consultation on limitation law in child sexual abuse cases

This Ministry of Justice (MoJ) consultation seeks views on options for the reform of the law of limitation in child sexual abuse cases in England and Wales. Specifically, it considers the recommendation by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse on limitation law. It also examines the law of limitation in child sexual abuse cases in other jurisdictions examined by the Inquiry and seeks views on options, other than removal of the limitation period, for reform of limitation law in child sexual abuse cases. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **10 July 2024**.

### DIDI HERMAN ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY: GUIDANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT WITH PUBLICATION WRITING, RESEARCH AND REF

I am an interdisciplinary, socio-legal Emerita Professor, ex-Law School head, and REF Submission coordinator/writer (retired in 2021). I now provide independent guidance to departments and individual academics. I work with law schools, including REF2029 preparation, and with individuals as a developmental editor for work-in-progress. I also provide mentorship for academics at all levels of seniority. For further details see: [Didi Herman Academic Consultancy](#).

Advertisement

## SLSA JOURNALS INITIATIVE

### Entertainment and Sports Law Journal

*ESLJ is an open access, refereed journal, published by the University of Westminster Press (UWP). Guy Osborn, one of the editors, charts its development and invites socio-legal submissions.*

The **ESLJ** has an extremely wide reach, with articles from the journal having been downloaded more than 1 million times, and is abstracted via EBSCO and in Hein Online. The editors are keen to receive new submissions and are happy to discuss with interested prospective authors.

The journal was first published over 20 years ago with Frank Cass Publishers, and was originally known as the *Entertainment Law Journal*. It eventually found its home at **UWP** after a period at the Warwick online journals project – we were early adopters of the open access model. The founding editors wanted to build on momentum in the area, both in terms of the increasing breadth of research in the field, and the emergence of more and more taught degrees – the University of Westminster for example, in many ways the home of the **ESLJ**, ran the first Entertainment Law option on an LLB in the UK in 1992, and created the first postgraduate LLM Entertainment Law degree in 1999. Sport was added to the journal title largely as a reflection of the amount of sport-related papers we were receiving at that time, but the journal's coverage has in fact always been eclectic as our 'About' section notes:

The *Entertainment and Sports Law Journal* is a refereed, online, open access journal. It is located within a dynamic and rapidly expanding area of legal theory and practice. Whilst focused within legal study, the areas it encompasses are necessarily interdisciplinary. Entertainment Law, Media Law, Sports Law, IP Law, Licensing Law – these are all subjects that are taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level at increasing numbers of Law Schools in the UK and beyond. Areas that are of interest to the Journal include the ways in which the law and regulatory frameworks operate in the following industries: music, sport, film, theatre and literature, art, gaming, the night time economy and the Internet and social media.

The very first volume, for example, included **David Miers** on gambling, **Lee Marshall** on the napster wars, **Raymond Schneider** on celebrity photographs and copyright, **Paul Chatterton** on governing nightlife, **Tom Lewis** on art and human rights and **Lindsay Gregg** on blasphemy in music contracts. We've had special issues on themes such as **Celebrity Big Brother** and have a series of **themed collections** which draw together articles from across issues and volumes on related themes. In addition to longer articles we also have Interventions (which are shorter, often policy-related although could also be in case note form etc) and have published interviews and are open to other creative ideas.

The current editorial team are Steve Greenfield (Westminster), Mark James (MMU), Ashley Lowerson (Northumbria) and Guy Osborn (Westminster). We would love to have more submissions from socio-legal scholars and are happy to talk to interested authors, contact details [here](#). If you have a piece ready that you would like to be considered for inclusion please see our author guidelines [here](#).

Guy Osborn • [g.osborn@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:g.osborn@westminster.ac.uk)

## Books

### Membership discounts renewed

Don't forget that SLSA members are entitled to discounts from the following publishers when purchasing books online from their websites.

- 30 per cent discount from **Combined Academic Publishers**
- 25 per cent discount from **Bristol University Press/Policy Press**
- 25 per cent discount from **Edward Elgar**
- 20 per cent discount from **Hart Publishing**
- 20 per cent discount from **Routledge**.

See the [w website](#) for a full list of all current membership benefits.

### **Religion, Crime and Law: A Critical Overview: call for chapter proposals**

The editors, Abby Day and Russell Sandberg, invite chapter proposals for this edited collection to be published by Wiley. See [announcement](#) for full details. Closing date: 31 July 2024.

**Access to Justice, Digitalization and Vulnerability** (2024) Naomi Creutzfeldt, Arabella Kyprianides, Ben Bradford & Jonathan Jackson, Bristol University Press £80 283pp

The pandemic significantly impacted people's engagement with the administrative justice system. In the post-pandemic era, tribunals, ombuds, advice services and NGOs face the challenge of maintaining trust in the justice system's fairness, efficacy and inclusivity. Examining individual journeys to seek justice in housing and special educational needs and disabilities, this book sheds light on how these institutions have adapted to remote service provision, uncovers insights for digitalization and offers recommendations for improving pathways to justice.

**Out of Place: Fieldwork and Positionality in Law and Society** (2024) Lynette J Chua & Mark Fathi Massoud (eds) Cambridge University Press £95hb 240pp

*Out of Place* tells a new history of the field of law and society through the experiences and fieldwork of successful writers from populations historically marginalised by academia. Encouraging collective and transparent self-reflection on positionality, scholars from around the world share how their out-of-place positionalities influenced their research questions, data collection, analysis and writing in law and society and record how they conducted fieldwork, how their privileges and disadvantages impacted their training and research, and what they learned about the law in the process. Also available Open Access on Cambridge Core.

**Non-human Rights: Critical Perspectives** (2024) Alexis Alvarez-Nakagawa & Costas Douzinas (eds), Edward Elgar £105hb/£25eb 274pp

Non-human entities, including animals, mountains, rainforests, eco-systems, artificial intelligence and robots, are beginning to be considered the subjects of rights in different parts of the world. This innovative book provides a critical outlook on this emerging trend at the crossroad of two of the main concerns of the 21st century: climate change and automation.

**Intersections of Law and Memory: Influencing Perceptions of the Past** (2024) Mirosław Michał Sadowski, Routledge £130 326pp

This book elaborates a new framework for considering and understanding the relationship between law and memory. As the field of memory studies has grown, this

book takes a step back from established transitional justice narratives, returning to the core sociological, philosophical and legal theoretical issues that underpin this field. It proposes a new approach to the relationship between law and collective memory based on a conception of 'legal institutions of memory' and elaborates the functioning of such institutions through a range of examples that move from the work of international tribunals and truth commissions to more explicit memory legislation.

**The Subjects and Subjectivities of International Criminal Law – A Critical Introduction** (2024) Emily Haslam, Hart £27.99 200pp

This book provides a critical introduction to the core elements of international criminal law (ICL), provoking thought on what ICL is, or could be, by contrasting the practice of widely recognised state-based actors and institutions, such as the International Criminal Court, with practices associated with non-state actors, in particular citizens' tribunals. The author explores the principles and institutions of ICL alongside alternative visions of it put forward by citizens' tribunals and encourages reflection on its multiple meanings and usages to provoke consideration of what it means to deploy ICL today.

**Law, Migration and the Construction of Whiteness: Mobility within the European Union** (2024) Dagmar Rita Myslinska, Routledge £135hb/£35.00eb 260pp

This book interrogates the history, wording, omissions, assumptions and applications of laws, policies and discourses pertinent to mobility and equality, to argue that the parameters of Central and Eastern European nationals' status within the EU have been closely circumscribed, in line with the entrenched historical positioning of the west as superior to the east. By addressing fractures within a construct of whiteness based on ethnicity, class and migrant status, the book also provides a theoretically nuanced understanding of contemporary European racism.

**Research Handbook on Family Justice Systems** (2023) Mavis Maclean & Rachel Treloar (eds), Edward Elgar £180hb/£48eb 446pp

Bringing together research from a range of jurisdictions on family law, this book addresses the aims and boundaries of family justice systems. Delineating the common purpose of family law to achieve fairness for groups of people who live or have lived together, the book is concerned with the rules referred to as 'family law', but also with the institutions comprising the operating system.

### SLSA membership benefits

- Three hard-copy newsletters per year and/or an e-version
  - discounted SLSA conference fees
  - a weekly term-time ebulletin
  - eligibility for research, fieldwork and impact grants
  - eligibility for Seminar Competition
  - eligibility for SLSA prizes
  - eligibility for international collaboration funding
  - members' priority in newsletter publications pages
  - discounted student membership (first year free)
  - free annual Postgraduate Conference
  - student bursaries for SLSA Annual Conference
  - discounts on books bought online from selected publishers
  - special membership category for retired members
- ... and much more. Visit [w website](#) for details.



- **EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ADVANCED GRANT WEBINAR**  
5 July 2024: online from the British Academy  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW'S FILMY IMAGINATIONS ABOUT THE SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY OF QUEERNESS**  
8 July 2024: Edinburgh Law School  
Speaker: Swethaa Ballakrishnen. See [w website](#) for details.
- **ROUNDTABLE ON FORCED SCAM LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
9 July 2024: online Interpol event  
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **LEVERHULME SEMINAR 3: THE SHADOW EFFECT OF THE RULES OF EVIDENCE ON ADR**  
10 July 2024: Northumbria Law School, Newcastle  
Speaker: Henry Zhuohao Wang, Florida State University.  
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **LAW IN AN AGE OF PERMACRISIS**  
16–17 July 2024: Keele University  
International Roundtables for the Semiotics of Law Annual Roundtable 2024. See [w website](#) for details.
- **INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ETHICS CONFERENCE**  
17–19 July 2024: University of Amsterdam, Netherlands  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW AND ECONOMICS 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**  
18–19 July 2024: University of Hamburg, Germany  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **IS THERE HOPE FOR EQUALITY LAW?**  
26–28 July 2024: National Law School of India, Bangalore  
11th Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-discrimination Conference. See [w website](#) for details.
- **WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY 2024: SAFI ROUNDTABLE ON WOMEN IN LEGAL PHILOSOPHY**  
1–8 August 2024: La Sapienza, Rome  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **SOCIETY OF LEGAL SCHOLARS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
3–5 September 2024: University of Bristol  
Theme: Learning from others: lessons for legal scholars?  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW CONFERENCE 2024**  
3–6 September 2024: Bangor University, Wales  
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **SOCIAL HIERARCHIES IN CATASTROPHIC TIMES**  
3–7 September 2024: Kochi, Kerala, India  
Theme: International law, critique, and structural change.  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **FÉMINISME, DROIT ET CITOYENNETÉ II/FEMINISM, LAW AND CITIZENSHIP II**  
8–10 September 2024: University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris  
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **TRANSPORT: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH EVIDENCE AND POLITICAL/PUBLIC ACTION**  
10 September 2024: AcSS online event  
See [w website](#) for details. This event is part of the Election 24 Project: ideas for change based on social science evidence.
- **CONSENT: 5<sup>TH</sup> SAFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
10–12 September 2024: University of Glasgow  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **CRITICAL LEGAL CONFERENCE 2024: SPECULATION(S)**  
16–18 September 2024: Lund, Sweden  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **EMPIRICAL RESEARCH METHODS IN ADVANCING LEGAL KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE**  
17 September 2024: Northumbria Law School  
See [w announcement](#) for details.
- **HUMAN RIGHTS IN MIGRATION SOCIETIES**  
18–20 September 2024: Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany  
Theme: Exploring the intersection of human rights and migration in law, politics, and everyday life.  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **EPISTOLARY INTERNATIONAL LAW WORKSHOP**  
26 September 2024: LSE, London  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR LEGAL HISTORY**  
24–26 October 2024: San Francisco, USA  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **(RE-)DRAWING BORDERS: WHEN AND WHERE WAS THE UNITED KINGDOM?**  
12–14 December 2024: Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **ASIAN LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**  
13–14 December 2024: Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea  
Theme: Whose law, whose voices? Constructing legal stories in Asia. A junior scholars' workshop will be held on 12 December 2024. See [w website](#) for details.
- **COMMISSION ON LEGAL PLURALISM: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LEGAL PLURALISM?: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
13–15 January 2025: Jakarta, Indonesia  
See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 5 July 2024.
- **SWISS NETWORK FOR LAW AND SOCIETY CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
10–12 February 2025: Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland  
See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: 30 September 2024.

### *Social and Legal Studies* Volume 33(4) August 2024

Legal change and legal mobilisation: what does strategic litigation mean for workers and trade unions? – Ruth Dukes & Eleanor Kirk

Unionising sex workers and other feminists – Katie Cruz

Lawyers as constructive ideologists of corporate capitalism: the legal framing of software – Sol Picciotto

Judicial production of racial injustice in *Taiwo v Olaigbe*: decolonising the incomplete story on race and contracting – Asta Zokaityte & Will Robinson Mbioh

The revolving door of im/migration: Canadian refugee protection and the production of migrant workers – Azar Masoumi

Removals of 'dangerous' mobile EU citizens: public order and security as a police paradigm – Jukka Könönen

The politics of policing hate: boundary work, social inequalities, and legitimacy – Randi Solhjell & Henning Kaiser Klatran

Resilience-building in adversarial trials: witnesses, special measures and the principle of orality – Samantha Fairclough



# SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

15 – 17 APRIL 2025



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