

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER No 95

SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN/WINTER 2021



Credit: University of York/Alex Holland

SLSA YORK 2022

From 6–8 April 2022, we look forward to welcoming socio-legal scholars in person to the SLSA Annual Conference hosted by York Law School, University of York. For those who are not able to travel to York because of restrictions caused by Covid-19 there will be hybrid facilities to allow you to join the conference online.

York Law School is very pleased to invite socio-legal scholars back to York. A lot has happened since we hosted the conference in 2013 – not least a world pandemic! This is reflected both in the availability of hybrid facilities for those who cannot travel to York and many of the calls for papers.

We do look forward to seeing many of you in person in York. It is a gem of a city with its history visible in Roman remains through to Second World War bunkers. We will be offering some opportunities to explore that history in the programme.

York Law School will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2022, having been founded in 2007. We like to think that over those 15 years we have established the Law School as a school that is known for its multidisciplinary approach to law that chimes with the SLSA strap-line – ‘Where law meets the social sciences and humanities’.

The conference will be held in York Law School’s purpose-built home and surrounding buildings on the East Campus of the university. We recognise that for many of us the conference will be the first opportunity to travel to an event for a long time. While that is to be celebrated, we will also ensure that the conference is conducted as safely as possible with Covid safety in mind.

We anticipate a busy conference with both the familiar established 34 streams alongside 10 current topics. We are

moving back to the pre-Covid timetable of a single plenary that will examine the rise (and possible fall) of online courts. As well as papers, we welcome posters – and the best of those will receive prizes. In addition, the annual SLSA book and article prizes will be announced at the conference dinner.

The opportunities for PGRs will continue, with a dedicated programme on the first day. Plus, we will have a virtual session, connected to the conference, on ‘Socio-legal studies in South Asia’, with a focus on early career scholars working at universities in South Asian countries. The session will build on the work of the *Indian Law Review* (a recently launched peer-reviewed journal focused on South Asia) and the Junior Faculty Forum for South Asian Law Teachers (a forum which organises work-in-progress workshops for early career academics at universities in South Asia). The goal will be, firstly, to showcase work done on South Asia by early career scholars in the region and, secondly, to increase dialogue and develop networks between them and the wider South Asian community.

The call for papers for the SLSA Conference 2022 is now open (see pages 14–15). It is due to close on **Friday 7 January 2022**. To view all the streams and themes online and for instructions on how to submit a paper, please visit the [conference website](#).

The York Conference Team

SLSA ETHICS STATEMENT UPDATED

The Research Ethics Subcommittee has updated the SLSA Statement of Principles of Ethical Research Practice.

The aim of the Statement is to encourage the production of ethical socio-legal research. Empirical research is a key aspect of the scholarly work of members of the SLSA, and conducting this research in an ethical manner is essential. Therefore, the Statement emphasises the importance of integrity and quality in conducting research and also the value we attach to collegiality in the socio-legal community. The Statement is not designed to impose a single model of behaviour upon researchers, but to give principles to guide members when making decisions about ethical issues.

The key changes to the document relate to consenting participants and their right to withdraw; the vulnerability of participants; and obligations on the researcher when collecting and storing data. The updated Statement received the approval of the SLSA Board in October 2021 and is now available on the SLSA [website](#).

Download the Socio-Legal Newsletter

Just scan the QR code to access an electronic version of the latest issue.



SLSA policies

The SLSA has published two new policies: the SLSA Policy on Retired Membership; and the SLSA Policy on Freezing Membership. Visit the [policies page](#) to see the full list.

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Westminster; University of York; and
Warwick Law School.

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



SLSA ANNUAL PRIZE 2021 AWARDED TO PROFESSOR CAROLINE HUNTER

The SLSA Board is delighted to announce this year's winner of our prestigious Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community. Helen Carr and Jed Meers explain why they nominated Caroline.

Caroline Hunter has been a leading socio-legal scholar for nearly three decades. She has specialised in housing and homelessness law, drawing from her years in practice at Arden Chambers and from her concern for the socially excluded and the vulnerable. Her work is characterised by its methodological and doctrinal rigour and by intellectual curiosity.



This means she has not been a stranger to controversy. David Blunkett took personal issue with her conclusions on the impact of ASBOs on vulnerable people, and her work with Judy Nixon suggesting that the Dundee Families project led to some positive outcomes for the women involved was attacked by scholars intellectually opposed to state intervention.

Her contributions to socio-legal studies include:

- establishing a template and reputation for funded empirical work;
- bringing the doctrinal and the socio-legal into productive conversation;
- introducing new subjects to socio-legal scholarship, such as mothers abused by their children and most recently property guardians;
- pioneering collaborative work, for instance with housing studies and social policy colleagues at the York Centre for Housing Policy and Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, Sheffield Hallam University;
- international collaborations including teaching housing law at Oñati; and
- trailblazing the incorporation of socio-legal studies into the law curriculum – including widespread writing in edited collections and journals on socio-legally informed pedagogy.

Her work has always been impactful, long before this was recognised as an essential part of research quality.

She has used her long-standing leadership of York Law School to enhance the reputation of socio-legal scholarship, hosting a very successful SLSA Annual Conference in 2013 and due to host a second one in 2022, and supervising a number of PhD candidates in socio-legal studies.

All of these achievements are impressive enough in their own right, however, Caroline's leadership and accomplishments are even more of an inspiration to many following a significant stroke in 2015. Caroline's bravery and the speed with which she returned to her work demonstrated her commitment to socio-legal studies and legal higher education more broadly.

ANTONIA LAYARD CONFERRED AS FELLOW OF AcSS

*We are delighted to announce that former SLSA vice chair Professor Antonia Layard of Oxford University has been conferred the award of fellow of the **Academy of Social Sciences** (AcSS) following her nomination by the SLSA Board.*

New fellows are recognised, after an independent peer-review process, for the excellence and impact of their work and their wider contributions to the social sciences for public benefit.

As a Learned Society Member of the AcSS the SLSA is entitled to nominate individuals for fellowship. The SLSA Board regularly invites members to put forward the names of colleagues who meet the AcSS requirement to be 'a leading figure in their field and have already left a clear mark on it'. The next call will be in the spring issue of the newsletter in March 2022.

SLSA NEW PGR REP

The SLSA Board is delighted to welcome Maddy Millar to its ranks as the new PGR rep. But we'll let Maddy introduce herself ...

Hi, I'm Maddy, a PhD student in the Evidence-Based Justice Lab at the University of Exeter. I have a BSc in Psychology from the University of Exeter, and an MRes in Psychology from the University of Bath. My interests lie in understanding biases in cognition and, more specifically, in uncovering the cognitive processes involved in sub-optimal decision making. My PhD research focuses on the effects of system justification on jury decision making; I am interested in how juries perceive threats to their social system, and how their responses to such threats may result in a failure to engage in critical evidence evaluation as required by the adversarial model. I was interested in becoming a PGR rep for the SLSA because a research community is very important to me and developing connections with other PGRs is a significant part of this. As my work is at the intersection of law and psychology, I am keen to engage with other socio-legal scholars to build networks and feedback to the SLSA, to improve the PGR experience.

Members can contact the PGR reps at [e slsapgprep@gmail.com](mailto:slsapgprep@gmail.com).

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SLSA EVENTS: SUMMER AND AUTUMN 2021

A number of online SLSA-sponsored events took place over the summer and early autumn on a wide range of themes, from decolonisation, through art, law and 'HOMEing', to the practicalities of conducting research during a global pandemic.

Art/Law Network SLSA HOMEing Online Seminar Series

Thanks to the funding provided by the SLSA Seminar Competition and the ESRC Impact Acceleration Fund, the Art/Law Network hosted the **'HOMEing' Online Seminar Series** over the summer of 2021. The series sought to probe contemporary questions around race, the culture industry, precarity and migration, through discussions and interactions between artists, lawyers and academics, as well as outside of the sessions through community-engaged research. We chose the metaphor HOMEing as it refers to the way animals return themselves back to their place of belonging, their home; somewhere aspiring to instil safety, trust and companionship, and yet this commonly is not the case. HOMEing offers us a lens through which we can return to the events of the past and create new opportunities for, and relations of, belonging; new conceptual, actual and creative 'homes' for the future through artists, lawyers and activists coming together to exchange practices and ideas.

We wanted to bring together opportunities for members of the network to submit performances, actions, debates, thoughts, papers, videos or artworks, as participants in the series. It was not an academic series, but one that sought to create the space for members to collaborate and work together, with the aim of creating practical advocacy-driven art/law projects and publications as a result. Over the course of the year we formed three distinct but related streams.

HOMEing: Art, Law and Borders

Art – in its broadest sense – is an important site of inquiry into borders' violence and impact on communities. Further, art practice and analysis provide opportunities to destabilise settled logics of inclusion and exclusion, of enabled and disabled mobilities, of invisibility and hypervisibility. The 'Art, Law, and Borders' stream of seminars responded to these themes and reflected innovative research and voices on the intersections of art, law and borders, encompassing both theory and practice. As part of this series, three roundtable sessions were held online: 'Enabling and Disabling Mobilities' 7 July 2021; 'Borderlands in Theory and the Everyday' 4 August 2021; and 'Art, Law, and the Border(s) in Ireland' 1 September 2021.

Each event attracted rich and diverse papers from a variety of stakeholders, including artists and academics, and those in between. The co-organisers of the event, Dr Sean Mulcahy, Lizzy Willmington and Dr Sophie Doherty, are working towards publishing outputs from the series, including co-authored works, and are planning an edited collection/special issue on 'Art, Law and Borders'.

At HOME? Migrants in Art/Migrant Artists' Rights

In this stream, two collaborative sessions were run with artists, lawyers and academics, highlighting the migrant in art, migrant artists' labour rights, and forms of relief through art and law, for those facing borders, their removal

and detainment. For the first session ('Migrant in Art' 21 July 2021), we invited artists Boyesenfin and Shorsh Saleh, as well as Elaine Ortiz of The Hummingbird Project, Ewan McArthur of Detained Voices and Dijana Rakovic of Counterpoints Arts to speak to the question of the migrant in art and the role of art in healing racial divisions. In the second session ('Value of Art: Artist Showcase' 18 August 2021) we had artists Akila Richards and Helen Knowles introduce their work relating to migrant artists' labour rights.

Members of the group, Lizzy Willmington, Dr Charlie Blake and Dr Lucy Finchett-Maddock, have been engaging with Migrants in Culture and Artists Union England for the further development of a practice-based policy document to support migrant artists' labour rights.

Re-HOMEing: Race, Precarity and Public Space

Research and collaborations led by Mothiur Rahman (New Economy Law), Dr Jeremy Pilcher (New School) and Dr Swastee Ranjan (University of Exeter) were undertaken with communities in Butetown, Cardiff, on connections between public space, precarity and racial heritage, and how the reclamation of public space can bring about new forms of justice, belonging and social change. Adnan Shafi, a member of Butetown Matters and a student of Cardiff Law School, was invited to carry out an experiment in community-engaged and inclusive research in the Cardiff Tiger Bay area, investigating the relationship between race, precarity and public space through the proposed use of space and public money to develop the last green area left in Butetown (Britannia Park) for the purposes of a Military Medical Museum; a use for which the local community was not consulted. His 'podcast-as-research-piece' will be launched and published in the form of an audio documentary, as an article in the magazine *Resurgence and Ecologist* and a podcast (a short trailer for which is linked [here](#)).

The research, seminars and all the collaborations developed as a result of the series have been an exciting start to each group's future projects on the disparate themes under the umbrella of HOMEing.

In addition, we also ran an **Art/Law Network Instagram** takeover, curated by Oğulcan Ekiz (Queen Mary University of London) and Dr Swastee Ranjan (University of Exeter), working on the intersection of art and law, who each took over the social media handle for a week.

We are very grateful to the SLSA for the opportunity to undertake these sessions.

Lucy Finchett-Maddock, Sophie Doherty and Mothiur Rahman

Decolonising the Criminal Question

On 16 and 17 September 2021, a two-day workshop was held on the theme of 'Decolonising the Criminal Question', organised by Ana Aliverti, Anastasia Chamberlen and Henrique Carvalho (University of Warwick, UK), and by Máximo Sozzo (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina). The workshop sought to provide a forum for a critical interdisciplinary investigation into how issues of colonialism and imperialism are (and ought to be) located at the heart of matters of criminal justice, penalty and state power more broadly. In so doing, it also sought to highlight, challenge and address the significant neglect that such centrality has suffered until very recently, apart from notable exceptions, in fields such as criminology, criminal justice and punishment studies.

This work of uprooting colonial legacies and uncovering and scrutinising the coloniality of knowledge

and power, as well as the lasting imperial formations that permeate the penal and crime control fields, is essential to a decolonising project and must inevitably be its starting point. At the same time, the workshop saw these enquiries not only as worthwhile endeavours in themselves, but also as steps towards imagining and devising decolonial practices and futures.

The workshop gathered a number of scholars from around the globe, working in a diversity of disciplines including law, criminology, sociology, politics, anthropology, history and philosophy, and asked them to engage through their contributions and discussions with at least one of three questions which were identified as crucial to this decolonising project:

- How can postcolonial theory, studies and perspectives shed light on contemporary penal governance?
- What are the substantive and methodological contributions such engagement can make to the study of crime, criminalisation and violence in a globalised world, and which can help us critically engage with the recalcitrance of nationalism?
- How can we advance an emancipatory project in criminology, while still recognising it as being, to a large extent, a discipline created from the perspective of the coloniser?

The result was an intense couple of days in which contributions discussed often overlooked historical and contemporary contexts – from Algeria, Nigeria and Ghana to Brazil, Pakistan, Cape Verde and the former Ottoman and Chinese empires. They questioned the colonial and racialised underpinnings of Anglo-American criminology (and even academia itself) and explored Southern and subaltern epistemologies and their potential to challenge mainstream understandings and hegemonies. The papers presented in the workshop will be published as an edited collection, *Decolonising the Criminal Question: Colonial Legacies, Contemporary Problems* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming) co-edited by the organisers.

The full programme of the workshop, with information about the participants and their papers, can be downloaded [here](#). The organisers have also co-authored a paper for *Punishment and Society*, setting the framework for the broader project and an agenda for future research. The paper is available open access and can be accessed [here](#).

This workshop was generously sponsored by the SLSA, the British Society of Criminology, and by several partners at the University of Warwick.

Ana Aliverti, Anastasia Chamberlen and Henrique Carvalho

Doing Socio-legal Research in a Pandemic – one-day conference sponsored by the SLSA

On 21 September 2021, we co-hosted a one-day virtual conference sponsored by the SLSA to explore the impact of the pandemic on how we approach socio-legal research. The event had been widely publicised, and we were delighted to present eight papers split across three panels, with two keynote presentations. Over 140 people had registered for the event, and we had an audience of 40–65 across the entire day, confirming the need for events that support and connect the socio-legal community, given the upheavals of the past two years.

The event was truly global, with speakers from Australia, South Africa, The Netherlands, Colombia, Norway and, of course, the UK.

Our first panel explored issues of inequality and feminism, and common themes of transformative justice and resistance during the pandemic sparked a lively discussion. Our first keynote was delivered by Dr Suhraiya Jivraj who premiered her film *We Were Never Meant to Survive: Legal Racism* (for more details see Suhraiya's article on pages 8–9) and who was joined by filmmakers Maria D'Amico and Kuran Javeri. This powerful film enabled a frank and honest discussion about the ongoing work of decolonisation within the academe. Our second panel explored questions of how to build trust and develop relationships from behind a computer screen and allowed speakers to share their experiences of coordinating research projects when meeting those involved is impossible. The discussion of disembodied relationships and their effects on research applied to those building large research teams as well as those conducting interviews and gathering data. Professor Amanda Perry-Kessaris then delivered our second keynote by drawing together the indeterminacies highlighted in all the papers and offering an alternative, design-based approach to socio-legal problems. The discussion covered the practical application of an experimental approach to different research problems. Finally, our third panel turned to questions of access and accessibility, both to research participants and to inaccessible socio-legal research itself.

While the papers were grouped thematically across panels, common themes emerged from the day. These included resistance and transformative justice, or the desire to recraft society in the wake of the disruption of the pandemic. The indeterminacies of researching in an uncertain context, along with sharing the honest experiences of others, can be uncomfortable but can bring about new insights and deeper understanding. And, finally, there was a consensus that, while the dust is still settling from the Covid-related disruption to socio-legal research, we are seeing the emergence of new research foci and cultures, and of techniques and methodologies more suited to the current landscape.

Given requests for further discussions, the organisers will be in touch with presenters and speakers to gauge interest in follow-up outputs, and would like to thank the SLSA for sponsoring the event. Please visit the [SLSA blog post](#) (coming soon, as we go to press!) about the conference to find links to Suhraiya's film, Amanda's slides, and further resources from our speakers.

Flora Renz and Clare Williams

Future SLSA events

Annual Conferences

- University of York, 6–8 April 2022: [call for papers and posters now open](#)
- University of Ulster, 4–6 April 2023

Other events

- SLSA Postgraduate Conference, 11–12 January 2022: [registration now open](#)
- Seminar: Mental Capacity in the Context of Sexual Relationships and Intimacy, Keele University: 23 May 2022, details tbc
- [LSA Graduate Student and Early Career Workshop](#), 27–30 June & 12 July 2022, hybrid and Lisbon, Portugal (co-sponsored)
- [LSA Global Meeting](#), 13–16 July 2022, hybrid, online and Lisbon, Portugal (co-sponsored)

SLSA SEMINAR COMPETITION

This year's Seminar Competition is now open for applications.

Now in its 15th year, the competition has supported over 40 events with over £85,000. The fund currently stands at £5000. The current maximum award is £1000. Awards can be used to support the delivery of an individual seminar or short conference, or a series of events with relevance to the socio-legal community. Given the ongoing repercussions of the pandemic, the award can also be used to cover IT support for online events.

If you are considering an application, please ensure that your proposal accords with the published guidance. Full details on how to enter are to be found on the [SLSA website](#).

The webpage also includes a complete list of the events that have taken place since the Seminar Competition was first launched in 2007, which gives applicants a flavour of the wide variety of themes and types of events that have benefited from SLSA funding under this scheme. If you have any queries, please contact the subcommittee chair, Flora Renz f.renz@kent.ac.uk. Closing date: **20 December 2021**.

See page 4 for the reports of a recent two-day event – 'Decolonising the Criminal Question' – and a seminar series – Art/Law Network SLSA HOMEing – that were supported by this scheme.

Journal of Law and Society (spring 2022)

Gender diversity on Malaysian corporate boards: a law and social movements perspective – Vivien Chen, Michelle Welsh and May Fong Cheong

Arbitrators vis-à-vis other 'professions': a sociology of professions account of international commercial arbitrators – Joao Ilhao Moreira

Values diversity in the UK Supreme Court: abandoning the 'don't-ask-don't-tell' policy – Kate Malleson

Psychiatric injury and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – John Fanning

Statutory duties and shaping the decision making of an economic regulator: insights from the energy regulation community past and present – Michael Harker and David Reader

Child welfare, Indigenous parents and judicial mediation – Robert Leckey

Labour is labour: what surrogates can learn from the sex work is work movement – Sylvie Taylor

Accountability and offsetting in environmental law enforcement – Ole Pederson

Litigants in person and the rights to a fair trial: an empirical interpretation of effective participation under article 6 ECHR – Grainne McKeever

Book Reviews

Advanced Introduction to Empirical Legal Research by Herbert Kritzer, *Research Handbook on the Sociology of Law* by Jiří Příbáň and *The Routledge Handbook on Law and Society* by Mariana Valverde – Kees Van Den Bos and Lisa Ansens

Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession by Michael Legg and Felicity Bell – Adam Harkens

Justice in a Time of Susterity by Dan Newman – Jacqueline Kingham

SLSA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The SLSA Board has just launched its first comprehensive membership survey.

The survey will improve our understanding of the profile of individuals who identify as socio-legal scholars, including academic staff, research students and independent researchers. It will allow us to map the diversity of our community with reference to characteristics of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, care-giving, religion and disability. Information will also be gathered on the challenges related to discrimination and exclusion faced by scholars at all stages of their career within our community and in wider academia.

Survey findings will make an essential contribution to our work on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). In particular, they will allow us to enhance the ability of all members to participate in the activities of the Association to the extent that they wish and to consider the extent to which the SLSA Board of Trustees and its subcommittees are reflective of the membership.

Information will be used to inform the SLSA's planning for conferences and events, its strategic work on EDI, its interventions on behalf of members in national consultations – for example with the professions, the Law Commission and UKRI – and the running of funding competitions and awards. The survey will also ensure that the Association is compliant with current requirements when making nominations to the Research Excellence Framework and equivalent processes.

The data will be collated anonymously and held and processed subject to the General Data Protection Regulations. We encourage as many SLSA members as possible to complete the survey. The survey is currently open and will run until 5pm on **24 December 2021**. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. You can access the survey [here](#) or just scan the QR code.

SLSA EDI Committee



LATEST OA GUIDANCE

The SLSA Board recognises the importance of open access (OA) issues for SLSA members and has tasked an OA Working Group to keep a watching brief on developments. In 2020, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) conducted an extensive consultation to which the SLSA OA Working Group responded (see [SLN 92 Autumn/Winter 2020](#)). In August 2021, UKRI published an updated **OA policy** for UK researchers. Importantly, the policy now requires immediate OA for peer-reviewed research articles submitted for publication from 1 April 2022 and a new requirement for monographs, book chapters and edited collections published from 1 January 2024 to be made OA within 12 months of publication. See the [UKRI announcement](#) for further details. The OA Working Group will continue following developments and will update members as and when appropriate via the usual SLSA channels. The SLSA [OA webpage](#) draws together various OA resources of use to members, including links to research funders' OA policies, guidance from UK universities and other online resources. Scan the QR code to go straight to our OA page.

SLSA OA Working Group



SLSA GRANT REPORTS

Conflicts and contestation in a public inquiry

Raphael Schlembach, University of Brighton, £1105

There are several ongoing public inquiries commissioned under the Inquiries Act 2005 that receive a huge amount of media attention, including the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, Manchester Arena Inquiry and forthcoming Coronavirus Inquiry. My research focused on the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

It was launched by the Home Office in 2015, with the aim of investigating police infiltration of hundreds of political campaign groups in England and Wales. The undercover policing or 'spycops' scandal generated sufficient public concern over the years to be examined by a judge-led, statutory inquiry. Many questions are being asked. Why were political activists targeted? Did undercover officers act as agents provocateurs? Were sexual relationships with politically engaged members of the public a routine and sanctioned tactic? Did undisclosed deployments into campaigns lead to widespread miscarriages of justice? Why were progressive causes disproportionately targeted?

Though well-resourced, public inquiries can be lengthy processes, especially when matters of national security are concerned. Even with this in mind, the barriers that have prevented an effective inquiry into undercover policing, so far, are formidable. Public evidence sessions only began five years after the inquiry's launch and there appears little point in guessing when we will get to see the final report and recommendations (2024?, 2025?).

In my research, I am particularly interested in the conflicts and contestations that have led to this extraordinary delay and frustration, particularly amongst those who are seeking answers from the police about their operations. During the past year, I had intended to follow evidence hearings as best as possible, ideally sitting in the public gallery in the Royal Courts of Justice. In my fieldwork notes I wanted to capture my impressions of the court process and how issues of privacy and transparency are foregrounded in these interactions, including significant non-verbal communication.

But already before the Covid-19 pandemic, public access to the proceedings looked to be severely restricted. Crucially, the inquiry chair ruled out a live stream, as is now customary, for example in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Observers had to attend in person. Then, in order to comply with social-distancing measures, the inquiry decided to conduct its hearings virtually. Instead of a publicly accessible video feed, a single live stream of the oral evidence was transmitted to a venue in a central London hotel.

And just as England was placed into a renewed lockdown, the chair, in his interpretation of the public health regulations, withdrew attendance rights from members of the public. Although journalists and core participants received exceptions, academic researchers did not. Universities had their own restrictions on conducting off-campus research, and so I was forced to follow the inquiry proceedings via a mixture of audio-only, time-delayed feeds, tweets from those who had gained access to the venue and rolling transcripts streamed to the inquiry's YouTube channel.

This inaccessibility of the supposedly 'public' inquiry has been a major theme in my research findings. Most of the people I speak to accuse the inquiry of unnecessary secrecy and granting anonymity to a large number of former undercover officers. This sentiment was clearly expressed

by Imran Khan QC in an opening statement, representing Stephen Lawrence's mother Doreen in the inquiry:

It is ... a source of great shame and concern that what she was promised has not been delivered. What she expected has not been achieved. What Baroness Lawrence believes is actually happening is a 'secret inquiry', in which officer after officer is hiding behind a pseudonym and screen.

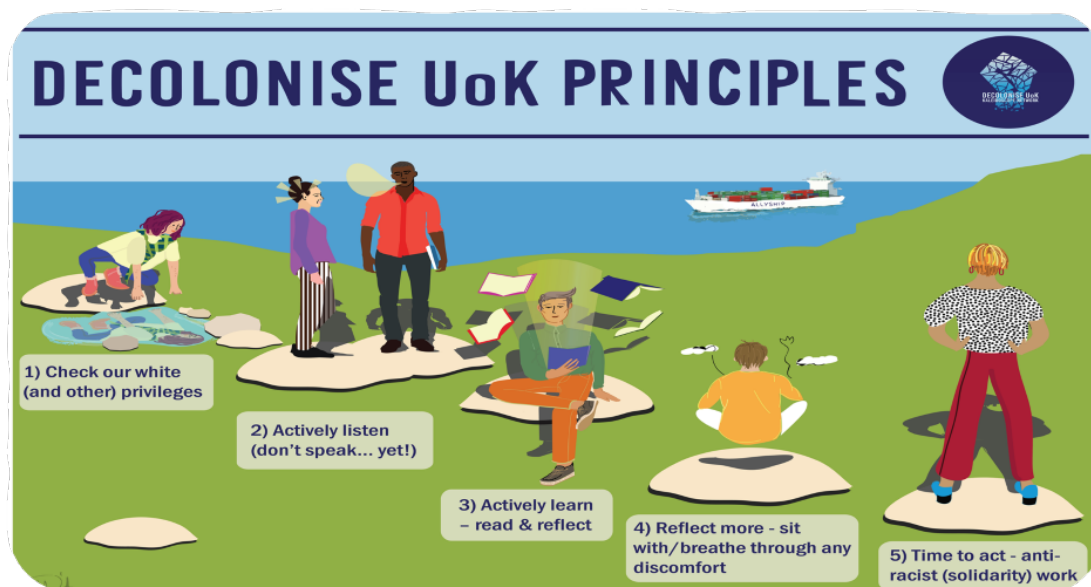
These problems and obstacles are now central to my understanding of the public inquiry. I am currently writing up some of my findings for an article on the importance of studying public inquiries from social-legal and criminological perspectives. Further, I am planning a book on the *Undercover Policing Inquiry*, contracted with Policy Press.

A socio-legal investigation into the journey of bonded labourers from 'slavery' to 'freedom' at the crossroads of labour, law and the state in India

Pankhuri Agarwal, University of Bristol, £2760

Working with a simplistic notion of release from bondage as 'freedom', mainstream anti-trafficking activists focus on rescue. They argue that victims of trafficking are 'free' once removed from their employers. Critics contest this approach and argue that significantly less attention is paid to the role of the state and the NGOs in producing conditions that cause people to remain vulnerable. This research lends empirical and theoretical support to this critical position through a multi-sited ethnography of informal migrant workers, sex workers and law enforcement officers, traversing courtrooms, police stations, district welfare offices, worksites, shelter homes and offices of NGOs, in New Delhi, India. Fieldwork techniques included conversational interviewing, participant observation, and a study of legal case files of 47 (workers) all from oppressed castes and religions. Out of these, 15 were sex workers and 32 were bonded labourers. The workers who participated in the research were from various parts of the country (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Assam) and were rescued from sex work, construction work, brick kiln work, domestic work, manual scavenging work, forced marriage and stone-cutting work in Delhi and the National Capital Region.

The completed thesis corroborates that the authority of law is compromised 'on the ground' and is actively negotiated within the legal space of anti-trafficking efforts. Instead of being instantly transported to 'freedom', the workers end up in protracted legal proceedings, ranging from 2 to 37 years, to seek justice and rights. Their rights are neglected due to a Kafkaesque bureaucracy. Their mobility is restricted due to improper documentation. Their suffering is intensified through an evasive legal system. The result is arbitrary, unjust legal outcomes after an endless wait and dependence on intermediaries. In fact, their journey through the system, with cost and time overruns, has no direct or precise chronology, and often moves in a circular fashion rather than reaching an end. The workers resemble the class of people that Denise Ferreira da Silva (2009) described as 'nobodies'. They continue to struggle to achieve the rights and recognition that would allow them to escape this status. The combination of empirical data, doctrinal analysis and socio-legal theory in this research provide an insight on the harm and limits of the anti-trafficking discourse with reference to India.



Full principles available from **Kaleidoscope Network – Decolonising the University**.

‘WE WERE NEVER MEANT TO SURVIVE’ – RACISM AS LEGAL PANDEMIC

*This short film, coproduced by Suhraiya Jivraj, University of Kent, Kuran Javeri and Maria D’Amico, was previewed during the SLSA Doing Research in a Pandemic one-day conference and features the voices of students of colour and an invitation to engage with the **Decolonise UoK principles**.*

George Floyd’s last words were, ‘I cannot breathe’. But, the truth is that it is we who cannot breathe amid all the ongoing hatred and racism. It is devastating to see that many people survive the global pandemic (COVID-19) only for their lives to end by another human. It is important to end this evil cycle before it puts an end to us. (Asraa Faris, 9 June 2020, **Voices of Youth: Racism, the real global pandemic**)

Racism, the real global pandemic

Quite soon after the Covid-19 pandemic reached the UK, its disproportionate impact on Black and other people of colour became apparent. We watched the viscerally arresting pictures of the first NHS deaths displaying black and brown faces on our news screens whilst hearing ministerial claims that the ‘virus does not discriminate’. Omar Khan, the former Director of the UK’s leading race think-tank, the Runnymede Trust reminded us: ‘racism is a matter of life and death’ which the pandemic has merely exacerbated.

Black Lives Matter protesters in London held up banners stating a self-evident truth for many of us, namely that ‘Racism is the real pandemic’ through inequalities in health, education, housing and employment. It impacts and determines the lives of people of colour from cradle to grave. This is also true for students of colour and research participants from minoritised communities.

The film: *We Were Never Meant to Survive*

In a short film available [here](#), co-produced with filmmaker Kuran Javeri and artist **Maria D’Amico**, we explore what it means to do socio-legal research and teaching, *whilst acknowledging racism as a legal pandemic*. The film draws from various sources, including the voices of students of colour involved in decolonising the university projects, and a collaboration between QMUL, Lancaster, Keele and King’s College London, led by Decolonise UoK between 2018 and 2020. Their stories of (un)belonging focus on intersecting violences emanating from our curriculum, co-optation practices and other aspects of their lives as students in British higher education.

The film is inspired by the words of our students, as well as students from elsewhere. It is also inspired by the work of our ancestors, particularly the words of Audre Lorde: ‘We were never meant to survive’ from her poem ‘A Litany for Survival’ (*The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde* 1978).

How can we do socio-legal research when racism continues as legal pandemic?

The end segment of the film invites teachers, researchers and leaders within higher education to engage with the Decolonise UoK principles as a way to enter into the lifelong process of anti-racist and decolonising pedagogy and research. We ask the audience to take some time to think about their awareness of systemic racism within their workplaces and practices, how it might impact our work and how we can mobilise our positions within our institutions to tackle structural and other intersecting inequalities in tackling racism as a legal pandemic.

The reflection exercise can be accessed [here](#) or be shared on twitter using #LegalRacism. Participants may want to consider any or all the following prompts:

- facilitating participant leadership;
- group publishing to recognise participant contribution;
- really listening to students/participants;
- accessibility of research outputs to marginalised groups;

- space for self-care and wellbeing;
- mitigating risk of co-optation by the institution;
- communities of practice; and
- intersectional anti-racist approaches.

See also the SLSA funded: 'Anti-racist Legal Pedagogy: A Resource' for law school teachers.

A longer version of this piece will be available soon on feminists@law.

Sources and citations

Adebisi, F and Jivraj, S (2021) 'Racism as legal pandemic: reflections on critical teaching of law' in D Cowan and A Mumford (eds) *Pandemic Legacies: Legal responses to Covid-19: Justice and Social Responsibility* Bristol University Press

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Jivraj, S (2021 in press) 'Researching racialised bodies in higher education: from statistics to storytelling' in D Herman and C Parsley (eds) *Interdisciplinarity: Methodological Challenges and the Body of Law* Palgrave Macmillan.

Memon, A R and Jivraj, S (2020) 'Trust, courage and silence: carving out decolonial spaces in higher education through student-staff partnerships' *The Law Teacher* 475–488

We would also like to acknowledge the words of Eve Tuck and K Wayne Yang: 'Decolonization is not a metaphor' (2012) *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education and Society* 1(1): 1–40. For enquiries and further info see also: **Hoopoe Empowerment** and [@suhraiyaajivraj](https://twitter.com/suhraiyaajivraj).

Suhraiya Jivraj

SENTENCING COUNCIL: STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Sentencing Council is launching a new strategy that will shape its work for the next five years.

The **strategy** follows a public consultation – to mark the organisation's 10th anniversary – which asked what the Council's objectives should be for the coming years and how it should balance its priorities within the resources it has at its disposal. The consultation received 36 responses, including from legal professionals, academics, government departments, the Justice Select Committee and the Magistrates Association.

The strategy identifies five objectives that will be the Council's main priorities and the actions it will take to achieve them. Developing and revising guidelines will continue to be the core of the Council's work. It will build on the evidence that underpins the guidelines, work to improve understanding of effectiveness of sentencing and extend its efforts to strengthen public confidence by providing more opportunities for people to find out about sentencing and how it works. Consistent with one very strong message received from consultees, the Council has also made a commitment to place equality and diversity at the heart of all its work.

Alongside the strategy, the Council has published a **response to the consultation**, which sets out the Council's thinking and the rationale behind the five objectives.

The Sentencing Council also has two open consultations at the moment: on **terrorism offences** and **miscellaneous amendments to sentencing guidelines**.

ESRC postdoctoral fellowships

Applications are open for this scheme which aims to support successful candidates develop publications, networks, and research and professional skills. Applicants must have already completed their PhD at a research organisation that is part of a Doctoral Training Partnership. Proposals can be from a single discipline or be interdisciplinary, but social sciences must make up at least 50 per cent of the fellow's activities. Fellows' programmes or activities should reflect their prior knowledge and experience and be designed to support their longer-term research career aspirations. The closing date is **23 March 2022**. See the **UKRI website** for details.

SOCIO-LEGAL TRAJECTORIES IN GERMANY AND THE UK

Dr Christian Boulanger, Dr Naomi Creutzfeldt and Dr Jen Hendry are leading a two-year comparative research project (2021–2023) that is exploring socio-legal trajectories in the formation and development of the non-doctrinal study of law over the past 60 years.

The research project, housed at the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory (mpilhl), will examine the contours and cultures in the field of law and society in Germany and the UK. The team may be interested in adding more countries and contexts to the mix as their fieldwork progresses.

The research employs comparative and empirical methods alongside self-reflective socio-legal theory to undertake a comprehensive and critical mapping of a disputed and ever-evolving terrain over the past 60 years. It will collect comparative data on the institutional landscape and history, academic biographies and identities, and enrich understanding of key actors and events in the development of the non-doctrinal study of law in the last decades.

As part of the data collection stage of the study, the researchers are conducting a survey of socio-legal scholars to help them identify the complex stories that make up socio-legal studies. Retired scholars, or those who have left academia, are welcome to participate by contributing information on their research/teaching activities during their active careers.

The survey is available **here** and should take about 15 minutes to complete. Further information is also available on the **project website** and the **SLSA blog**.

Law Teacher of the Year Award 2022: nominations open

Nominations are now open for this annual Oxford University Press award. The competition is open to all law teachers in the UK who teach law students on a degree programme. The judging panel is looking for a teacher who 'inspires, goes above and beyond, and has that star quality'. See **website** for full details. Closing date: **17 December 2021**.

Regulating gambling-like mechanics in video games ('loot boxes') with probability disclosure obligations

Almost half the world's population plays video games, making the industry, in the UK, larger than the music and movie industries combined. However, very little legal research and regulatory attention has been paid to this sector. One controversial issue that has garnered attention is gambling-like mechanics in video games, commonly known as 'loot boxes'. These are bought by players using real-world money to receive randomised rewards. Most of the time, the player will receive a reward that is perceived to be worth less than the purchase price of the loot box, but, rarely, the player will receive a valuable reward. Many players are known to purchase multiple loot boxes to try to obtain, or chase after, the rare rewards. These mechanics are therefore considered conceptually and psychologically akin to gambling. Indeed, empirical research has found that **loot box spending is positively correlated with problem gambling severity**. Loot boxes are frequently implemented in video games played by both adults and children: **approximately 60 per cent of the highest-grossing mobile games in the UK contained loot boxes and more than 90 per cent of those games are deemed suitable for children aged 12+ to play**.

Concerns have been raised as to potential consumer protection issues (particularly in relation to children and other vulnerable players) and whether loot boxes legally constitute gambling in the UK: in fact, the vast majority do not. Such is also the case in most other countries; therefore, **loot boxes generally cannot be regulated using existing gambling laws**. The UK government is presently considering how to regulate loot boxes after closing a **public consultation** in late 2020. Other governments, ranging from **Spain** to **Singapore**, have also launched consultations and are making similar policy decisions.

One consumer protection measure that has been suggested to reduce potential harms is requiring companies to disclose the probabilities of obtaining randomised rewards and thereby enhance transparency,

such that consumers can make more informed purchasing decisions. The UK government and other policymakers across the world are considering adopting this measure. However, whether such a measure is effective is not yet known.

Leon Y Xiao, an LLM student and a postgraduate student member of the SLSA, and his co-authors, Laura L Henderson, Yuhang Yang and Philip W S Newall, contributed empirical evidence on this issue to the aforementioned public consultations using socio-legal research methods. Leon presented his research at the SLSA 2021 Conference in Cardiff on the IT law and cyberspace stream, and Cambridge University Press has subsequently published his research after peer-review in *Behavioural Public Policy*.

China is presently the only country to have adopted probability disclosures as law. By examining whether and how the 100 highest-grossing Chinese iPhone games complied with the law, Leon and his colleagues found that 95.6 per cent of games containing loot boxes made probability disclosures; however, only 18.7 per cent made reasonably prominent disclosures that were easy for players to find and access.

The researchers argued that companies chose to comply with the law suboptimally because the law was drafted in such a way that allowed companies discretion as to how they should do so. Indeed, some companies arguably tried to actively hide probability disclosures away in order to technically comply with the law but also reduce the likelihood of players benefiting from this consumer protection measure. The researchers recommended that policymakers should require uniform and prominent disclosure to maximise the consumer protection effects of this measure.

Looking into the future, the team are examining whether industry self-regulation requiring loot box probability disclosures is just as effective as the Chinese legal requirement. Preliminary results suggest that companies are statistically significantly more likely to comply with legal regulation than with unenforceable self-regulation, thus casting doubt on the effectiveness of the self-regulation option, which that industry exhorts in the loot-box context and in other domains for obvious reasons.

Leon Y Xiao, City and Queen Mary, University of London

SLSA membership benefits

Benefits of SLSA membership include:

- three hard-copy newsletters per year;
- discounted one-day and SLSA Annual Conference fees;
- weekly ebulletin;
- eligibility for grants (research and fieldwork);
- eligibility for Seminar Competition;
- eligibility for SLSA prizes;
- members' priority in newsletter publications pages;
- discounted student membership (with first year free);
- free annual Postgraduate Conference;
- student bursaries for SLSA Annual Conference;
- discounts on selected books, plus special online discounts from Hart 20%, Palgrave 20%, Bristol University Press/Policy Press 25%, Combined Academic Publishers 30% and Edward Elgar 25%;
- special membership category for retired members;

... and much more.

Visit [w website](#) for details.

Social and Legal Studies volume 30(6)

- Categorising the gendered harms to caregivers during humanitarian emergencies: an analysis of law and practice during Ebola – Sharifah Sekalala
- Beyond carceral expansion: survivors' experiences of using specialised courts for violence against women in Ecuador – Silvana Tapia Tapia
- Juridical message in the shadow of the carceral: prison discipline, additional days and the feasibility of penal communication – Netanel Dagan
- 'Let me tell you': transitional justice, victimhood and dealing with a contested past – Cheryl Lawther
- The culture of emergency in Italy and Spain: state antiterrorism – Gemma Ubasart-González
- Multiple discrimination: from perceptions and experiences to proposals for anti-discrimination policies – M^a Ángeles Cea D'Ancona and Miguel S Valles Martínez

Update on ebook/etextbook campaign

Thank you again to all the SLSA members who signed a petition organised by the ebook SOS Campaign. The organisers of the campaign were very impressed with the number of academic lawyers who responded to their request for signatures!

The ebook SOS campaign is now part of an initiative which is also supported by Sconul, Jisc, the library and information association (CILIP), Research Libraries UK (RLUK) and Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC). These organisations have issued a **Joint statement on access to e-book and e-textbook content**. That webpage also contains links to more detailed information from Sconul and Jisc.

If there are any further developments in relation to ebook/etextbook access, I will publish another update!

Fiona Cownie

Mutinies for Equality: Contemporary developments in law and gender in India (2021) Tanja Herklotz and Siddharth Peter de Souza (eds), Cambridge University Press £85 302pp

Mutinies for Equality studies recent transformations in the area of law and gender in modern India. It tackles legal and social developments with regard to family life, sexuality, motherhood, surrogacy, erotic labour, sexual harassment in the workplace and violence against women, among others. It analyses reform efforts towards women's rights and LGBTIQ rights and attempts to situate where a reform has taken place, by whom it was brought about, and what impact it has had on society. It engages with protagonists who shape the debate around law and gender and locates their efforts into a socio-political context, thereby showing that the discourses around law and gender are closely connected to broader debates around legal pluralism, secularism and religion, identity, culture, nationalism and family. The book offers compelling evidence that the drivers of change are emerging from beyond the traditional institutions of courts and parliament, and that to understand the everyday implications of gender-based reform, it is important to look beyond these institutional sources.

Problematizing Law, Rights, and Childhood in Israel/Palestine (2021) Hedi Viterbo, Cambridge University Press £85hb 356pp

Bridging disciplinary divides, and drawing on hundreds of previously unexamined sources, this book radically challenges our picture of law, human rights and childhood, both in and beyond the Israel/Palestine context. Hedi Viterbo reveals how Israel has used international law and children's rights to hone and legitimise its violence against Palestinians. He exposes and explains the human rights community's complicity in this situation. And he examines how, and to what effect, both the state and its critics manufacture, shape and weaponise the categories 'child' and 'adult.'

Lawyers in 21st-Century Societies Volume 2: Comparisons and theories (2022) Richard L Abel, Hilary Sommerlad, Ole Hammerslev and Ulrike Schultz (eds), Hart £171 704pp

This book presents an invaluable collection of essays by eminent scholars from a wide variety of disciplines on the main issues currently confronting legal professions across the world. It does this through a comparative analysis of the data provided by the reports on 46 countries in its companion Volume 1 (Hart 2020). Together these volumes build on the seminal collection *Lawyers in Society* by Richard Abel and Philip S C Lewis 1988.

Publish a themed volume in the 'Proceedings of the British Academy' series: call for proposals

The British Academy (BA) is inviting proposals for themed volumes to be published in the 'Proceedings' series published by Oxford University Press. Conferences will often provide a valuable basis for an edited volume, however, themed volumes do not necessarily need to derive from a conference event. The exception to this rule are BA conferences, which will automatically lead to a Proceedings volume. Volumes should fit within the discipline of the humanities and social sciences and proposals should focus on an area of research that is advancing rapidly and will be of general enough interest for the Academy's wide readership. Forthcoming submission deadlines are: **23 February** and **27 July 2022**. See [w website](#) for details.

Doing Sociolegal Research in Design Mode (2021) Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Routledge £44.99 154pp

This book is the first to explore what design can do for socio-legal research. Written by an experienced socio-legal researcher with formal training in graphic design, the book is primarily focused on what the socio-legal research community can take from design, but it also offers lessons to designers, especially those who work with law.

Access to Justice for Vulnerable and Energy-Poor Consumers: Just energy? (2021) Naomi Creutzfeldt, Chris Gill, Marine Cornelis and Rachel McPherson, Hart £76.50 336pp

How do ordinary people access justice? This book offers a novel socio-legal approach to access to justice, alternative dispute resolution, vulnerability and energy poverty. It poses an access to justice challenge and rethinks it through a lens that accommodates all affected people, especially those who are currently falling through the system. It raises broader questions about alternative dispute resolution, the need for reform to include more collective approaches, a stronger recognition of the needs of vulnerable people, and a stronger emphasis on delivering social justice. The authors use energy poverty as a site of vulnerability and examine the barriers to justice facing this excluded group. The book assembles the findings of an interdisciplinary research project studying access to justice and its barriers in the UK, Italy, France, Bulgaria and Spain (Catalonia), providing theoretical and empirical insights which shed new light on these issues and sets out new directions of inquiry for research, policy and practice.

Women and the Judiciary in the Asia-Pacific (2021) Melissa Crouch (ed), Cambridge University Press £85 229pp

Courts can play an important role in addressing issues of inequality, discrimination and gender injustice for women. The feminisation of the judiciary – both in its thin meaning of women's entrance into the profession, as well as its thicker forms of realising gender justice – is a core part of the agenda for gender equality. This volume acknowledges both the diversity of meanings of the feminisation of the judiciary, as well as the complexity of the social and cultural realisation of gender equality. Containing original empirical studies, this book demonstrates the past and present challenges women face to entering the judiciary and progressing their career, as well as when and why they advocate for women's issues while on the bench. From stories of pioneering women to sector-wide institutional studies of the gender composition of the judiciary, this book reflects on the feminisation of the judiciary in the Asia-Pacific.

Performing Copyright: Law, theatre and authorship

(2021) Luke McDonagh, Bloomsbury £76.50 233pp

Based on empirical research, this innovative book explores issues of performativity and authorship in the theatre world under copyright law and addresses several inter-connected questions: who is the author and first owner of a dramatic work? Who gets the credit and the licensing rights? What rights do the performers of the work have? Given the nature of theatre as a medium reliant on the re-use of prior existing works, tropes, themes and plots, what happens if an allegation of copyright infringement is made against a playwright? Furthermore, who possesses moral rights over the work? To evaluate these questions in the context of theatre, the book examines the history of the dramatic work; the notions of authorship and joint authorship under copyright law; the notion of copyright infringement in the context of theatre; and the way moral rights of attribution and integrity work in the context of theatre. It concludes with a comment on how law should respond to the theatrical context and how theatre should respond to law.

Gender and Careers in the Legal Academy (2021) Ulrike Schultz, Gisela Shaw, Margaret Thornton and Rosemary Auchmuty, Bloomsbury £108 592pp

In the past 15 years there has been a marked increase in the international scholarship relating to women in law. The lives and careers of women in legal practice and the judiciary have been extensively documented and critiqued, but the central conundrum remains: does the presence of women make a difference? What has been largely overlooked in the literature is the position of women in the legal academy, although central to the changing culture. To remedy the oversight, an international network of scholars embarked on a comparative study, which resulted in this path-breaking book. The contributors uncover fascinating accounts of the careers of the academic pioneers as well as exploring broader theoretical issues relating to gender and culture. The provocative question as to whether the presence of women makes a difference informs each contribution.

Modern Studies in Property Law, vol 11 (2021) Sue Farran, Russell Hewitson and Adam Ramshaw (eds) Bloomsbury £108 368pp

What are the contemporary challenges faced by property law? This collection brings together the research and perspectives of an international body of academics and practitioners to consider these challenges and how even familiar topics must develop to meet new demands and developments. As with previous books in the Modern Studies in Property Law series, this volume adopts a broad approach to topics encompassed by 'property law' in the firm belief that the boundaries that divide are shadowy at best and constantly moving in the endeavour to keep up with what is 'modern'.

Lawyers, Networks and Progressive Social Change:

Lawyers changing lives (2021) Jacqueline Kinghan, Bloomsbury, £58.50 224pp

Written by a lawyer who works at the intersection between legal education and practice in access to justice and human rights, this book locates, describes and defines a collective identity for social justice lawyering in the UK. The book takes a reflexive ethnographic approach to capture the stories of 35 lawyers working to positively transform law and policy in the UK over the last 50 years. It also draws on a wealth of primary sources including case reports, historic campaign materials and media analysis alongside wider ethnographic interviews with academics, students and lawyers and participant observation at social justice conferences, workshops and events.

Queering Asylum in Europe: Legal and social experiences of seeking international protection on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity

(2021) C Danisi, M Dustin, N Ferreira and N Held, Springer £44.99hb/£34.99sb or free ebook 487pp

This two-volume open-access book published by Springer offers a theoretically and empirically grounded portrayal of the experiences of people claiming international protection in Europe on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). It shows how European asylum systems might and should treat asylum claims based on people's SOGI in a fairer, more humane way. Through a combined comparative, interdisciplinary (socio-legal), human rights, feminist, queer and intersectional approach, this book examines not only the legal experiences of people claiming asylum on grounds of their SOGI, but also their social experiences outside the asylum decision-making framework. The authors analyse how SOGI-related claims are adjudicated in different European frameworks (European Union, Council of Europe, Germany, Italy and UK) and offer detailed recommendations to adequately address the intersectional experiences of individuals seeking asylum. See [w website](#) for details and to download the ebook.

The Spaces of Mental Capacity Law: Moving beyond binaries (2021) Beverley Clough, Routledge £120 208pp

This book explores the conceptual spaces and socio-legal context which mental capacity laws inhabit. It will be seen that these norms are created and reproduced through the binaries that pervade mental capacity laws in liberal legal jurisdictions – such as capacity/incapacity; autonomy/paternalism; empowerment/protection; carer/cared-for; disabled/non-disabled; public/private. Whilst on one level the book demonstrates the pervasive reach of laws questioning individuals' mental capacity, within and beyond the medical context with which it is most commonly associated, at a deeper and perhaps more important level it challenges the underlying norms and assumptions underpinning the very idea of mental capacity, and reflects outwards on the transformative potential of these realisations for other areas of law. In doing so, whilst the book offers lessons for mental capacity law scholarship in terms of reform efforts at both domestic and international levels, it also offers ways to develop our understandings of a range of linked legal, policy and theoretical concepts. In so doing, it offers new critical vantage points for both legal critique and conceptual change beyond mental capacity law.

Tackling Terrorism in Britain: Threats, responses, and challenges twenty years after 9/11 (2022) Steven Greer, Routledge £120hb/£36.99pb 226pp

In September 2001, the world witnessed the horrific events of 9/11. A great deal has happened on the counterterrorist front in the 20 years since. While the terrorist threat has greatly diminished in Northern Ireland, the events of 9/11 and their aftermath have ushered in a new phase for the rest of the UK with some familiar, but also many novel, characteristics. This ambitious study takes stock of counterterrorism in Britain in this anniversary year. Assessing current challenges, and closely mirroring the 'four Ps' of the official CONTEST counterterrorist strategy – *protect, prepare, prevent and pursue* – it seeks to summarise and grasp the essence of domestic law and policy, without being burdened by excessive technical detail. It also provides a rigorous, context-aware, illuminating, yet concise, accessible, and policy-relevant analysis of this important and controversial subject, grounded in relevant social science, policy studies and legal scholarship.

Constitutional Imaginaries: A theory of European societal constitutionalism (2022) Jiří Příbáň, Routledge £120hb/£33.29eb 176pp

Constitutional imaginaries invite constitutional and political theorists, philosophers and sociologists to rethink the concept of constitution as the normative legal limitation and control of political power. They show that political constitutions include societal forces impossible to contain by legal norms and political institutions. The constitution of society as one polity defined by the unity of topos-ethnos-nomos, that is the unity of territory, people and their laws, informed the rise of modern nations and nationalisms as much as constitutional democratic statehood and its liberal and republican regimes. However, the imaginary of polity as one nation living on a given territory under the constitutional rule of law is challenged by the process of European integration and its imaginaries informed by transnational legal and societal pluralism, administrative governance, economic performativity and democratically mobilised polity. This book discusses the sociology of imagined communities and the philosophy of modern social imaginaries in the context of transnational European constitutionalism and its recent theories, most notably the theory of societal constitutions. It offers a new approach to the legal constitutions as societal power formations evolving at national, European and global levels.

Criminal Justice Responses to Maternal Filicide: Judging the failed mother (2021) Emma Milne, Emerald £70 200pp

Analysis of criminal cases reveals that women suspected of killing their newborn children are some of the most vulnerable in our society and that infanticide is not just a historical issue but one that has modern implications. While women are less likely to commit violent crime, maternal infant homicide is an enduring form of offending that needs to be understood in a wider social context. In *Criminal Justice Responses to Maternal Filicide*, the author provides a comprehensive analysis of conviction outcomes through court transcripts of 15 criminal cases in England and Wales during 2010 to 2019. Drawing on feminist theories of responsibilisation and 'gendered harm', she critically reflects on the gendered nature of criminal justice's responses to suspected infanticide.

The Queer Outside in Law: Recognising LGBTIQ People in the United Kingdom (2021) Senthurun Raj and Peter Dunne (eds), Palgrave Macmillan, Socio-Legal Studies Series £89.99 277pp

This book contributes to current debates about 'queer outsides' and 'queer outsiders' that emerge from tensions in legal reforms aimed at improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people in the UK. LGBTIQ people have moved from being situated as 'outlaws' – through prohibitions on homosexuality or cross-dressing – to respectable 'in laws' – through the emerging acceptance of same-sex families and self-identified genders. From the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in the Sexual Offences Act 1967, to the provision of a bureaucratic mechanism to amend legal sex in the Gender Recognition Act 2004, bringing LGBTIQ people 'inside' the law has prompted enormous activist and academic commentary on the desirability of inclusion-focused legal and social reforms. Canvassing an array of current socio-legal debates on colonialism, refugee law, legal gender recognition, intersex autonomy and transgender equality, the contributing authors explore 'queer outsiders' who remain beyond the law's reach and outline the ways in which these outsiders might seek to 'come within' and/or 'stay outside' law.

Revisiting Sexual Consent and the Law: report of a workshop hosted by Queen's University Belfast

This workshop was organised by Eithne Dowds, Queen's University Belfast, and based on the findings of her 2019 SLSA-funded research project entitled 'Perceptions of sexual consent in Northern Ireland: rape, responsibilisation and reasonable belief'. It is available free to download.

Inheritance: Interdisciplinary Perspectives: call for book chapters

Chapter proposals are invited for this collection edited by Suzanne Lenon, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Lethbridge, Canada, and Daniel Monk, Department of Law, Birkbeck, University of London. Please see **announcement** for details. Closing date for submissions: **15 January 2022**.

Handbook on Cyber Hate, the Modern Cyber-Evil Anne Wagner (ed): call for papers

Abstracts are invited for this edited collection, to be published by Springer. See **announcement** for details. Closing date for submission of abstracts: **22 June 2022**.

NILQ: call for papers, commentaries and notes

The *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly* (NILQ) is an online peer-reviewed journal currently open for submissions. It was relaunched over the summer with a new design, a new website, a new international editorial board and an extensive open access online archive of over 700 articles dating from 1999 to 2021. See **w website** for details.

Journal of Law and Society (winter 2021)

The politics of the production of knowledge on trauma: the Grenfell Tower Inquiry – Natalie Ohana

Tower block refurbishment, flats and understandings of ownership – Susan Bright

Public participation in the climate crisis – Maria Lee and Chiara Armeni

A tale of many justices: how universal jurisdiction is creating a transnational judicial space – Sandrine Lefranc

Feminist judging in lower courts – Rosemary Hunter, Sharyn Roach Anleu and Kathy Mack

Selecting a lawyer: the practical arrangement of police station legal assistance – Yvonne Daly and Vicky Conway

'Victims not wrongdoers': the legal consciousness of rejected asylum seekers in Norway – Hanna Bver Haddeland

Belonging beyond the binary – Damian Gonzalez

'Ten thousand times more malignant than her mate': destabilising gendered assumptions underlying the defences of provocation and loss of control through a reading of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* – Barbara Hughes-Moore

Book reviews

Women, Film, and the Law: Cinematic representations of female incarceration by Suzanne Bouclin – Stefan Machura

Interactional Justice: The Role of Emotions in the Performance of Loyalty by Lisa Flower, *Judging and Emotion: A Socio-legal Analysis* by Sharyn Roach Anleu and Kathy Mack and *Law and the Passions: Why emotion matters for justice* by Julia J A Shaw – Stina Bergman Blix

Scottish Feminist Judgments: (Re)Creating Law from the Outside in by Sharon Cowan, Chloe Kennedy and Vanessa Munro – Arlie Loughnan

SLSA 2022 CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

The 2022 call for papers and posters is now open and will close at 6pm on 7 January 2022.

If you wish to present a paper at the conference, please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words on one of the current topics or streams. Abstracts must be submitted via OxfordAbstracts. In line with the SLSA's ethos, papers may be interdisciplinary in nature and submissions from outside of law are welcome. Similarly, papers concerning socio-legal issues beyond the UK are also welcome. If you have any queries about whether your paper is suitable for a particular current topic or stream, please contact the relevant convenors listed below. Full details of individual streams are available on the website [www.SLSA 2022](https://www.slsa-2022.york.ac.uk). If you have any queries, please contact slsa-2022@york.ac.uk.

Current topics

A current topic is a one-off grouping for the purposes of a single conference which reflects a current topic of debate or an issue of emerging importance.

Constitutionalism in developing democracies

Moohyung Cho [e moohyungcho@ewha.ac.kr](mailto:moohyungcho@ewha.ac.kr) and Nauman Reayat [e nauman381a@gmail.com](mailto:nauman381a@gmail.com)

COVID-19: Governance and the rule of law

Dave Cowan [e d.s.cowan@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:d.s.cowan@bristol.ac.uk), Robert Dingwall [e robert.dingwall@ntlworld.com](mailto:robert.dingwall@ntlworld.com) and Ann Mumford [e ann.mumford@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:ann.mumford@kcl.ac.uk)

Feminism and abolition: where next?

Molly Ackhurst [e m.ackhurst@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:m.ackhurst@bbk.ac.uk) and Nic Shall [e nic.shall@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:nic.shall@bristol.ac.uk)

Judicial activism in times of crisis

Agnieszka Kubal [e a.kubal@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.kubal@ucl.ac.uk), Birgit Apitzsch [e birgit.apitzsch@sofi.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:birgit.apitzsch@sofi.uni-goettingen.de) and Marcin Mrowicki [e m.mrowicki@uw.edu.pl](mailto:m.mrowicki@uw.edu.pl)

Jurisprudence of the future: law, justice and science fiction

Alex Green [e alex.green@york.ac.uk](mailto:alex.green@york.ac.uk) and Mitchel Travis [e m.travis@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.travis@leeds.ac.uk)

Law, time and socio-legal studies

Kathryn McNeilly [e k.mcneilly@qub.ac.uk](mailto:k.mcneilly@qub.ac.uk)

Lawyers as citizens: re-imagining the socio-legal law school

T T Arvind [e t.t.arvind@york.ac.uk](mailto:t.t.arvind@york.ac.uk)

Socio-legal trajectories: webs of relationships

Naomi Creutzfeld [e n.creutzfeldt@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:n.creutzfeldt@westminster.ac.uk), Jen Hendry [e j.hendry@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.hendry@leeds.ac.uk) and Christian Boulanger [e boulanger@lhl.mpg.de](mailto:boulanger@lhl.mpg.de)

The digital turn in socio-legal studies

Andra Le Roux-Kemp [e alerouxkemp@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:alerouxkemp@lincoln.ac.uk)

Uncovering silenced voices: a socio-legal approach

Veronika FikFak [e veronika.fikfak@jur.ku.dk](mailto:veronika.fikfak@jur.ku.dk)

Conference streams

Administrative justice

Chris Gill [e chris.gill@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:chris.gill@glasgow.ac.uk)

Art, culture and heritage

Janet Ulph [e ju13@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:ju13@leicester.ac.uk) and Sophie Vigneron [e s.vigneron@kent.ac.uk](mailto:s.vigneron@kent.ac.uk)

Banking and finance

Alison Lui [e a.lui@ljamu.ac.uk](mailto:a.lui@ljamu.ac.uk) and Daniele D'Alvia [e d.dalvia@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:d.dalvia@qmul.ac.uk)

Children's rights

Naomi Lotte [e naomi.lotte@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.lotte@nottingham.ac.uk) and Ruth Brittle [e ruth.brittle@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.brittle@ntu.ac.uk)

Civil justice and alternative dispute resolution

Masood Ahmed [e masood.ahmed@le.ac.uk](mailto:masood.ahmed@le.ac.uk)

Criminal law and criminal justice

Kirsty Welsh [e kirsty.welsh@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:kirsty.welsh@ntu.ac.uk) and Samantha Pegg [e samantha.pegg@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:samantha.pegg@ntu.ac.uk)

Empire, colonialism and law

Raza Saeed [e raza.saeed@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:raza.saeed@warwick.ac.uk)

Environmental law

Amy Lawton [e alawton@ed.ac.uk](mailto:alawton@ed.ac.uk) and Ben Mayfield [e b.mayfield@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:b.mayfield@lancaster.ac.uk)

Equality and human rights law

David Barrett [e d.barett@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:d.barett@exeter.ac.uk)

Exploring legal borderlands

Ioannis Kampourakis [e ioannis.kampourakis@csls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ioannis.kampourakis@csls.ox.ac.uk)

Family law and policy

Annika Newnham [e a.newnham@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.newnham@reading.ac.uk) and Rachel Treloar [e r.treloar@keele.ac.uk](mailto:r.treloar@keele.ac.uk)

Gender, sexuality and law

Flora Renz [e f.renz@kent.ac.uk](mailto:f.renz@kent.ac.uk) and Nora Honkala [e n.a.honkala@reading.ac.uk](mailto:n.a.honkala@reading.ac.uk)

Graphic justice: law, comics, and related visual media

Angus Nurse [e angus.nurse@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:angus.nurse@ntu.ac.uk) and Thomas Giddens [e t.giddens@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:t.giddens@dundee.ac.uk)

Indigenous rights

Sarah Sargent [e sarah.sargent@buckingham.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.sargent@buckingham.ac.uk) and Aliza Organick [e organick@law.unm.edu](mailto:organick@law.unm.edu)

IT law and cyberspace

Mark O'Brien [e mark.obrien@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:mark.obrien@brookes.ac.uk) and Brian H Simpson [e brian.h.simpson@gmail.com](mailto:brian.h.simpson@gmail.com)

Intellectual property

Jasem Tarawneh [e jasem.tarawneh@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jasem.tarawneh@manchester.ac.uk) and Smita Kheria [e smita.kheria@ed.ac.uk](mailto:smita.kheria@ed.ac.uk)

International economic law in context

Mervyn Martin [e m.martin@tees.ac.uk](mailto:m.martin@tees.ac.uk) and Maryam Shadman Pajouh [e m.shadmanpajouh@tees.ac.uk](mailto:m.shadmanpajouh@tees.ac.uk)

Interrogating the corporation

Colin R Moore [e c.r.moore@essex.ac.uk](mailto:c.r.moore@essex.ac.uk), Johanna Hoekstra [e jhoeks@essex.ac.uk](mailto:jhoeks@essex.ac.uk) and Renginee Pillay [e r.pillay@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:r.pillay@greenwich.ac.uk)

Labour law and society

Margaret Downie [e m.downie@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:m.downie@rgu.ac.uk) and Sarah Arnell [e s.arnell@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:s.arnell@rgu.ac.uk)

Law and emotion

Emma Jones [e emma.j.jones@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:emma.j.jones@sheffield.ac.uk) and John Stannard [e j.stannard@qub.ac.uk](mailto:j.stannard@qub.ac.uk)

Law, culture and the humanities

Julia J A Shaw e jshaw@dmu.ac.uk and
David Gurnham e d.gurnham@soton.ac.uk

Lawyers and the legal professions

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John Flood e j.flood@griffith.edu.au

Legal education

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Fiona Cownie e f.cownie@keele.ac.uk

Managing and protecting people on the move

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Peter Bartlett e peter.bartlett@nottingham.ac.uk and
Amanda Keeling e a.keeling@leeds.ac.uk

Property, people, power and place

Jill Dickinson e jill.dickinson@shu.ac.uk and
Emily Walsh e emily.walsh@port.ac.uk

Sentencing and punishment

Gavin Dingwall e gdingwall@dmu.ac.uk and
Tim Hillier e thillier@dmu.ac.uk

Sexual offences and offending

Siobhan Weare e s.weare@lancaster.ac.uk,
Eithne Dowds e e.dowds@qub.ac.uk and
Susan Leahy e susan.leahy@ul.ie

Social rights, citizenship and the welfare state

Jackie Gulland e jackie.gulland@ed.ac.uk,
Jed Meers e jed.meers@york.ac.uk and
Mark Simpson e m.simpson@ulster.ac.uk

Socio-legal jurisprudence

Adrienne Barnett e adrienne.barnett@brunel.ac.uk and
Tom Webb e t.webb@lancaster.ac.uk

Transnational organized crime

Mary Young e mary.young@uwe.ac.uk and
Simon Sneddon e simon.sneddon@northampton.ac.uk

● **WOMEN IN REFUGEE LAW NETWORK**

30 November 2021: online from Universities of the West of
England and Sussex

See [w website](#) for details.

● **LOOKING BEYOND INTERNALISATION: EUROPEAN MINORITY RIGHTS IN QUESTION**

1 December 2021: online and in-person, SCHRR, University of
Sussex, Brighton

Speaker: Elizabeth Craig, Sussex Law School. See [w website](#)
for details.

● **CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO MATERNAL FILICIDE: JUDGING THE FAILED MOTHER**

2 December 2021: Hybrid - Durham University Law School

Book launch for Dr Emma Milne's book of the same title. See
[w website](#) for details.

● **A FEMINIST REVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

3 December 2021: online and University of Liverpool

See [announcement](#) for details.

● **CRIMINALISING COERCIVE CONTROL: CHALLENGES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S NEW DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENCE**

16 December 2021: online

Organisers: Dr Ronagh McQuigg, Queen's University Belfast,
and Professor Vanessa Bettinson, Dr Montfort University,
Leicester. Please see [announcement](#) for full details.

● **SLSA POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE**

11–12 January 2022, online

Registration is now open. See [w webpage](#) for full details.

● **CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE RULE OF LAW CONFERENCE**

31 March–1 April 2022: UCL Centre for Law and the
Environment

Please see [announcement](#) for further details.

● **SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022: CALL FOR PAPERS**

6–8 April 2022: University of York

See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: 7 January 2022.

● **MENTAL CAPACITY IN THE CONTEXT OF SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS AND INTIMACY**

23 May 2022: Keele Hall, Keele University

Further details will be announced in due course. This is an
SLSA-sponsored event under our [Seminar Scheme](#).

● **23RD INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLES FOR THE SEMIOTICS OF LAW: CALL FOR PAPERS**

24–27 May 2023: online from Rome

Theme: Global semiotics and everyday legal claims –
intercultural use of law, interreligious dialogue and translation
ethics. See [announcement](#). Closing date: 6 January 2023.

● **SCOTLIN EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM: CALL FOR PAPERS**

1–2 June 2022: Venue: University of Edinburgh, Scotland

See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 10 January 2022.

● **W G HART WORKSHOP 2022: CALL FOR PAPERS**

9–10 June 2022: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Theme: Responding to the crises: law, alternative economies and
activism. See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 31 January 2022.

● **LSA GLOBAL MEETING 2022, HYBRID ONLINE AND LISBON, PORTUGAL**

13–16 July 2022: ISCTE University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal

Theme: 'Rage, Reckoning, and Remedy'. Please visit
[w website](#) for details. The SLSA is a co-sponsor of this event.

Social and Legal Studies volume 30(4)

Audit as accountability: technical authority and
expertise in the governance of private financing
for development – Celine Tan

The governance of complaints in UK higher education:
critically examining 'remedies' for staff sexual
misconduct – Anna Bull and Tiffany Page

'They are here without chains, but with invisible
chains': understandings of modern slavery
within the New South Wales settlement sector –
Keren David and Michael Salter

Why women judges really matter: the impact of
women judges on property law outcomes in
Kenya – Martha Gayoye

Collective dissent as legal consciousness in
contemporary British theatre – Debbie De
Girolamo

The struggle for the human right to a good life for
everyone: Oscar Correas's legacy for the Crítica
Jurídica Movement in Latin America – Mauro
Cristeche and Cesar Villena

Review of the field

On the Sociology of Law in Economic Relations –
Iagê Miola and Sol Picciotto

SLSA Conference York 2022

Call for Papers now OPEN : Closing Friday 7th Jan 2022



HOSTED BY:
YORK LAW SCHOOL,
UNIVERSITY OF YORK, UK



Wednesday 6th April | to | Friday 8th April
2022

Learn more and submit a paper at:
slsa2022.co.uk/site