

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER No 53 SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION AUTUMN/WINTER 2007

SUPPORTING EMPIRICAL RESEARCH ON LAW AND JUSTICE

The idea of an Empirical Legal Research Support Network emerged last year from the findings of the Nuffield Inquiry. Martin Partington reports on the story so far and future plans.

The key finding of the Nuffield Inquiry into Empirical Research on Law, *Law in the Real World*,¹ was that there is currently a lack of capacity within the research community. The report made a number of proposals for investment in capacity building. Since then a small implementation group has been taking these ideas forward with a wide range of people. A report on progress will be published by the Nuffield Foundation early in the New Year.

In the course of attending the public meetings, held as part of the consultation process leading to the report, I was struck by the number of people who expressed interest in doing empirical research on law, but who said they lacked the confidence and/or skills to take their ideas forward.

I thought there would be merit in creating a network to support such people which, if it enabled new researchers to start work, could begin to make a contribution to addressing the capacity problem. A preliminary open meeting was held at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in March 2007 to which anyone who thought the idea worth pursuing was welcome. In the event some 150 registered an interest in the idea and around 80 attended the meeting.

My initial thinking was that any network should:

- cover the whole range of empirical research on law, including criminal law and justice, as well as civil and administrative justice (which was the primary focus of the Nuffield Inquiry);
- embrace a wide range of disciplines, including *all* those who are researching law and legal institutions, whatever their primary discipline;
- extend to supporting those working outside the universities.

The only requirement would be that those involved in the network either carried out or were interested in carrying out empirical research into the operation of law and law-related institutions.

In September I met the SLSA Executive to brief them in more detail about the idea. As a result, a small working party has been established² which is looking to refine the initial aims of the network and also to explore how the facilities available on the SLSA website might be used or adapted to support the activities of the network.

In thinking about this in more detail, the objectives of the network have been further refined. The working group now sees the network offering the following services:

- *Connecting people.* Using the SLSA website to establish effective communications between groups of empirical researchers that may, in the past, have worked in isolation from each other (notably criminal justice researchers and civil justice researchers); establishing a blog or discussion forum for empirical researchers to seek colleagues' advice

and guidance; and promoting stronger links between those working in academic research departments and those working in private research companies/consultancies.

- *Bringing new people in.* Supporting the provision of empirical research training modules (for example, building on the post-graduate conferences, and the sessions planned for next year's SLSA conference); assisting in the development of empirical research training programmes (for example, experienced researchers acting as consultants to those wanting to develop training courses); identifying and publicising empirical research training courses available in the UK and abroad.
- *Creating a one-stop opportunity shop.* Making use of the SLSA website to advertise activities designed to promote the capacity of researchers to undertake empirical research into law and the justice system; developing the use of the website to advertise empirical research and funding opportunities.

Creating a good website will be central to the delivery of these ideas. The Working Party plans to report to the January meeting of the SLSA Executive.

Two other initiatives are underway. First, in conjunction with the new Ministry of Justice, there will be a half-day conference in London on 18 December 2007 to consider the implications of the creation of the new Ministry for doing empirical research on law and justice issues. Details have been widely circulated, including on the SLSA website. Anyone interested in further information, please contact Marc Mason.³

Second, the *Journal of Law and Society* is sponsoring a special issue containing a number of papers on research methodologies that were initially presented to the Hart Workshop in 2005. The special issue will appear in 2008.

Initial responses from people interested in the idea of the network have contained other suggestions. In particular, a number of people have offered to put on a workshops or seminars or training on some aspect of developing research skills. I hope that these initiatives can be taken forward in 2008. As soon as the proposed website is up and running, it can be used to advertise these and other events and activities. Further information about the Network will be circulated as widely as possible when available.

1. Hazel Genn, Martin Partington and Sally Wheeler (2006) *Law in the Real World: Improving our understanding of how law works*, Nuffield Foundation. See also Linda Mulcahy (2007) 'A crisis in socio-legal studies?', *SLN* 51:1,3 and Sharon Witherspoon (2007) 'Not a crisis - but arresting a slow decline', *SLN* 52:1
2. On the Working Party with Martin Partington are Fiona Beveridge, Caroline Hunter, Sally Wheeler, Robert Dingwall, Bronwen Morgan, Marc Mason, Marie Selwood and Nick Jackson.
3. m.mason@ucl.ac.uk

Also in this issue . . .

- SLSA Annual Conference Manchester 2008: full details of the call for papers (p 14)
- SLSA Postgraduate Conference Hull 2008: full details (p 14)
- Two forthcoming SLSA one-day conferences (p14)
- Reports from the Socio-Legal Meeting in Berlin (pp 3-5)
- SLSA seminar competition (pp 8, 14)

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SLSA subscriptions reminder

SLSA subscriptions were due for renewal on **1 July 2007**. The rates have been frozen again for the seventh year running - free for students for one year (thereafter £10) and £30 for non-students. Queries should be sent to Lisa Glennon e l.glennon@qub.ac.uk. Visit www.slsa.ac.uk for full details.

Discounts from Hart for SLSA members

SLSA members can claim a 20 per cent discount on three new titles from Hart Publishing if they return the Hart flyer in this issue of the *Socio-Legal Newsletter*.

... newsletter sponsors ... newsletter sponsors ...

Newsletter sponsorship

The SLSA is delighted to announce that from this issue onwards the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is being sponsored by a consortium of law schools interested in promoting socio-legal studies in the UK. If you think that your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, please contact SLSA chair Sally Wheeler e s.wheeler@qub.ac.uk.



THE BERLIN MEGA-MEETING: COUNTER-TREND TO THE NUFFIELD INQUIRY FINDINGS?

Bronwen Morgan, the SLSA's liaison member for the International Socio-Legal Meeting in Berlin last July, analyses the event from a personal perspective.

Recent *Socio-Legal Newsletters* have featured extensive and constructive discussion about the findings of the Nuffield Inquiry into Empirical Socio-Legal Studies. As everyone knows, the inquiry findings take as a starting point the declining long-term health of empirically grounded socio-legal research in the UK. Yet in July this year, 264 UK scholars – a number not much less than the average attendance at our own annual meetings – were present in Berlin at the largest gathering of socio-legal scholars internationally that has taken place to date. Does this suggest that socio-legal studies is in ruder health than we thought? I will come back to the compatibility of these two points after giving my personal perspective on the Berlin meeting itself – acquired as the liaison member for the SLSA Executive during the two-year collaborative planning process for the meeting.

The meeting was at once the annual meeting of the US-based Law and Society Association (LSA) and the Research Committee on the Sociology of Law (RCSL) and a co-sponsored collaborative project with four other associations: the SLSA, the Japanese Association of Sociology of Law, the Vereinigung Fur Rechtssoziologie and the Sociology of Law Section of the German Sociological Association. There were 2377 attendees from 72 countries, including a significant number from the developing world. There were 872 registrants from the US and Canada, 753 from the EU, 30 from non-EU Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, 126 from Asia, 81 from Australia and New Zealand, 77 from Latin America, 67 from the Middle East including Turkey, and 29 from Africa. In terms of individual countries, the largest contingents (50 or more) came from the US, the UK, Germany, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Japan and Italy.

The organisation of the event was outstanding. It took place at Humboldt University in Berlin and included numerous tours to the legal, architectural and historical highlights of the city. From Wednesday to Saturday, more than 40 parallel sessions in each timeslot took place from 8.15am to 6.30pm. Additional special events included an evening 'group plenary', giving four perspectives on constitutionalism from across the globe, and a Saturday film screening of seven socio-legal 'classics' from several continents. Some 2500 packed lunches were distributed in the daily half-hour lunch break, rain or shine. The sun (mostly) shone into a large green internal courtyard strewn with deck chairs and there was even a tent offering head-and-shoulder massages! All in all, it was very convivial.

Such a large meeting could have been simply overwhelming, and perhaps for many it was. But the general feedback seems to be that it was a successful, stimulating and exciting occasion. From my personal perspective there were two features of the meeting which contributed to making it intellectually exciting. First was the strikingly large number of postgraduate students: 479, again from a bewildering range of countries. You can get a sense of what they gained from the event from the reports (p 5) by those who received an SLSA bursary.

Secondly, there were a large number of smaller groupings, clusters and umbrella frameworks that existed inside the giant structure of the meeting: International Research Collaboratives (IRCs) were the result of an initiative from the Programme Committee for proposals to organise transnational research projects; and Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs), analogous to SLSA 'streams' but arguably less obviously based on legal academic curricular categories, were more open-ended,

focused on themes that grouped together panels. The strands of connected panels organised by IRCs, CRNs and other groupings had, at least those that I attended, very high quality papers and impressive attendance, with people spilling out into the corridors at 8.15am panels on topics as dry as 'New governance and regulation'. There was also a very positive balance within the groupings between structured research and an openness to new members and growth. I witnessed many occasions in which younger scholars came up and talked to panel members afterwards, establishing contacts for future networking and collaborative research. These structures seem an excellent way to balance breadth and depth within such a large international meeting. Notwithstanding the cost (both financial and ecological) of such large events, they are probably one of the most efficient ways to bring face to face a wide network of people from different cultural social and national backgrounds further to develop projects put together through technology and the internet. (See the article by Amy Maguire on p 4.)

To return, then, to the question of whether or not Berlin suggests a vitality in socio-legal studies that belies the Nuffield Inquiry findings. The answer for me has two facets: the old chestnut of empirical vs theoretical socio-legal work; and the question of transnational vs local. Regarding the first, did Berlin reflect a vigorous interest in socio-legal scholarship *albeit one not necessarily grounded in primary empirical research*? My own very anecdotal impression was that, although social theory was in the top five most popular topics (25 panels), the four most popular topics for panels (gender, 43; economy and society, 36; legal profession, 28; human rights, 27) consistently featured work that *blended* theory and empirical research (whether primary or secondary) in just the way that those tired of this dichotomy would insist is common. Perhaps the Nuffield Inquiry cast its net too narrowly in defining the kind of research it sees as on the decline?

But another view might be that the pessimistic basis for the Nuffield Inquiry is true of research on locally embedded UK issues, but that the field is nonetheless expanding rapidly – in a different, more international and transnational direction. If one aggregates panels on globalisation (21), law and development (19), law and transitions to democracy (14) and transnationalism (12), Berlin had 70 out of some 600 – almost one-sixth – of the programme devoted to transnational issues. Of course, given the nature of the meeting, this may not be surprising, and others may disagree with this diagnosis. But the still considerable majority of research rooted more locally or nationally could also benefit from a comparative dialogue with analogous research in other jurisdictions. The perceptible move by the UK research councils to larger-scale team-based collaborative research has not thus far had a strong response from socio-legal studies, but the framework of 'mega-meetings' could help support the development of such teams, particularly cross-nationally.

In short, the juxtaposition of the Berlin meeting with the Nuffield Inquiry findings raises issues and questions worthy of further debate in our organisation. In Berlin, a meeting of representatives from some 35 different national socio-legal associations discussed the possible formation of some kind of World Consortium structure that would help support the internationalisation of socio-legal studies. The meeting produced a thin consensus only, on very loose coordination that would support basic networking and information transfer. There was considerable hesitation regarding any directions that would depend on co-funding or formalised structures. There was, however, enthusiasm for holding more regionally based international socio-legal meetings of a smaller scale than Berlin, especially in developing nations. SLSA supported the thin consensus for now. While this article is my own personal take on the related issues, the Executive Committee would welcome further contributions to the newsletter on these topics from members.

A NEW COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK - AND ITS FIRST MEETING

Amy Maguire of the University of Newcastle, Australia, describes the positive experience of setting up a new CRN and its participation in Berlin 2007.

Having never attended an LSA meeting before, I can only imagine what words might have popped into my head to describe the Berlin conference, had I attended alone. Vast, exciting and overwhelming may all have come to mind. Yet having participated in Berlin as part of a new Collaborative Research Network (CRN) on Collective Human Rights, I found that the conference – despite its sheer scale – did not overwhelm. Rather it provided both the opportunity to achieve depth of engagement with new research colleagues and the chance to explore the breadth of interest available beyond the network's activities.

I first learned of the possibility of developing a CRN through Bronwen Morgan when we met at the SLSA conference in Stirling in April 2006. Paddy Hillyard and Bronwen provided valuable support throughout the development of the network and its participation in Berlin. I felt that there was a clear need to develop a collaborative opportunity for scholars with a socio-legal orientation to explore the specific area of collective human rights, particularly as the socio-legal perspective is lacking in so much international legal analysis.

Our network developed from an initial small group of scholars who met at the Oñati Institute in June 2006 to a final number of more than 30, from nearly as many countries. Membership has grown to this current level through outreach on my part at conferences, listing on the LSA website, the channelling of paper submissions by conference organisers, and finally – and most importantly – with recruiting new members who were engaged by our activities in Berlin. We are truly international, with members from the Pacific, Asia, South America, North America, Africa and Europe.

In Berlin our five panel sessions included 16 paper presentations, covering a wide range of areas related to collective human rights, including the theory of collective rights, self-determination, indigenous peoples, women, migrants and asylum seekers, and emerging issues. All sessions were well-attended and provoked stimulating debates which network members will continue to engage with in the future. Our final meeting was held in a roundtable session, which provided an extremely productive opportunity to explore the range of ideas that had emerged in our discussions and to propose means of working together in the future. We are currently developing plans for a collaborative publication and for a workshop to be held in 2009.

There was general agreement between network members that participating in Berlin under the umbrella of the network provided an excellent opportunity to sustain thematic discussions across the four days of the conference, and to build working relationships which will hopefully benefit all members in years to come. In each session, not only were we able to bring together complementary papers and generate fruitful debate, but we also connected with other conference participants, some of whom have since joined the network. Having six sessions scattered throughout the programme also enabled members to explore the range of other opportunities provided not only by the very rich programme but by our presence in the beautiful and exciting city of Berlin.

New members are always welcome – please contact
 e amymaguire1@gmail.com.

BUILDING DIALOGUE IN SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES

This was the theme of the Graduate Student Activities, chosen to be a very expansive and encompassing introduction to several issues encountered within the socio-legal fields. Helen Carr and Morag McDermont attended the event.

A range of speakers from the countries represented in Berlin had been invited to present a short 10-minute account of their current research interests. It was noteworthy that three overarching themes emerged from the presentations.

- That dialogue - across national and regional traditions of socio-legal scholarship - that brings methodological and theoretical assumptions into contrasting relief, allows us to re-evaluate our own forms of inquiry.
- That the intellectual exchanges among socio-legal scholars, legal practitioners, and political actors allow us to study the ways our knowledge grows, the means by which it most affects those we study, and the ethical modes in which we should create and disseminate our scholarship.
- And that dialogue about law that spans jurisdictions - exemplified by this conference - aids our knowledge of the globalising social contexts in which legal doctrine now develops and the contemporary ways in which law is mobilised.

It is impossible to do justice to the breadth of work and the subjects that were touched upon that afternoon. Below is a brief list of some of the thoughts, statements and ideas presented by the speakers to give a flavour of the day. Some are contradictory, all were designed to provoke.

thoughts and themes

... beware 'indigenous authenticity' ... avoid the paradigm of law as imperfect but perfectible ... think about law's impact and effects ... be conscious of the status of law as prestige ... question the meaning of law ... note the value of ethnography and fieldwork as bridgebuilders ... focus on experience of law, a 'bottom up' approach ... note law's pluralistic practices ... challenge the assumptions of state power ... note informal and intuitive law ... question your standpoint ... ethical perspectives, why are we doing research and for whom are we doing it? ... law's flawed consumers ... ethics of research ... think comparatively and transnationally ... exceptionalism ... it's not enough to think, there is a need for recursive thinking ... different or the same? ... methodological positioning can be broadly categorised as empirical, socio-legal or critical ... suspend methodological commitment ... responding to the demand for positioning is a form of policing by the state ... be open to a variety of approaches ... choose a topic you care about ... passion ... rigour with your starting assumptions ... read the literature ... think small but with global implications ... identify your puzzle - be reflexive and investigate all the cultural implications and meanings ... can Italy have slow food and fast trials? ... labelling ... where is race? ... find a methodology which allows you to trace the answer ... journeys ... spatial methodology ... historicisation ... white men making themselves white men through violence ... ask the race question and the colonisation question - research is a gendered project ... note the hazard of disciplinary cultures ... what is necessary and relevant in law can be presentism in history ... standards of proof ... oral/written sources ... different levels of trust ...

Student bursaries

The SLSA awarded bursaries to seven student members to help them attend the meeting. They were: Maki Tanaka, SLSA pg rep, Oxford; Fortune Ihua-Maduenyi, University of Leicester; Stephanie Fehr, Humboldt University Berlin; Mohammad Alramahi, University of Manchester; Guan H Tang, University of Edinburgh; Aseel Al-Ramahi, LSE; Sung Soo Hong, LSE. Highlights from some of their reports appear opposite.

THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

The SLSA sponsored seven postgraduate students to attend the International Socio-Legal Meeting in Berlin. Space does not allow us to include full reports from them all, but we can provide brief accounts of the highlights.

Maki Tanaka, SLSA pg rep, University of Oxford

On the first day of the conference, I presented a chapter of my ongoing doctoral thesis entitled 'The expert of self in the process of global governance: the role of persons with disabilities in the drafting of the Disability Rights Convention' to the panel Discourse and the Construction of Meaning in Global Norm-Making. This presentation is an attempt to locate a place for expressive knowledge and subjective understandings in international institutions for global governance. Drawing on governmentality literature, this presentation explains the rise and fall of different types of expertise in international lawmaking in terms of the shifting logics and practices of global governance and, in particular, the emergence of persons with disabilities as self-experts in the Convention-drafting process.

It was a pleasure to participate in this multicultural panel. Panellists with diverse backgrounds made presentations on a variety of topics such as: the emergence of *lex mercatoria* through everyday corporate deals; the domestic implementation of anti-corruption norms propagated by international financial institutions and international NGOs; the diffusion of public law concerning anti-terrorism without regard to domestic social contexts; and the role of persons with disabilities in the drafting of the Disability Rights Convention. The apparently dissimilar presentations, however, had at least one thing in common. All of them dealt with intersections between different contexts and scales of norm-making, such as the intersection between the local and the global or between everyday routines and transnational interactions. I benefited from the insights of the co-panellists in different processes of norm-making as well as from the helpful comments of the moderator.

I found the CRN panel sessions generally well organised and well attended. However, I had an impression that some panellists were somewhat inward-looking, assuming that the audience had attended previous CRN panels and were therefore familiar with the key issues. In contrast, those sessions arranged through keywords tended to include papers with diverse topics and divergent theoretical frameworks. In some cases, those panels were difficult to follow without the meeting of minds among participants. In other cases, they stimulated intriguing cross-thematic and cross-disciplinary dialogues.

Overall, I enjoyed the GSA, and was grateful to the coordinators for their efforts to bring us together, as well as to the panellists for their insights in research and professional development.

Fortune Ihua-Maduenyi, University of Leicester

The GSA workshop began with opening remarks from the convenor, Jon Goldberg-Hiller, and from Malcolm Feeley (President of the LSA) who emphasised that the future of socio-legal research is comparative and collaborative. Students were encouraged to network and keep in touch. In the panel discussions, Chris Andersen (University of Alberta, Canada) noted that law is 'imperfect but perfectible' while Eve Darian-Smith (University of California) explained that 'building dialogue' is the concept of actually communicating. Despite the problem of long-term linguistic barriers, we can all understand what law means irrespective of our national jurisdictions and, therefore, dialogue in the future will entail developing a methodology on how we as a group talk about law. Morag McDermont (University of Bristol) discussed building dialogue with practitioners working in front-line housing services. She emphasised that dialogue should be people's experience of law. As researchers we need to find a balance to engage in the practitioners' agenda, maintain our critical distance as academics, and build a dialogue that brings these elements together. Overall, the workshop provided an opportunity to recognise the relevance of building dialogue and of networking while appreciating the methodological and theoretical framework of research.

Stephie Fehr, Humboldt University Berlin

The GSA presentations were entertaining and provided me with valuable ideas on the conduct of empirical research, an area I have not so far experienced but hope to in the future. After the presentations, Toni Williams (University of Kent) led an interesting discussion on the problems and highlights encountered in socio-legal research. This not only gave me practical insights, but also helped me to decide the perspective for my PhD thesis. Some of the issues were covered in enough detail that, for example, I now feel better prepared to conduct research interviews. Another useful aspect was networking with other students from diverse backgrounds, not only to hear about their ideas on socio-legal research, but also to establish links for the future. And the catering was phenomenal – plenty of chocolate, fruit and vegetarian sandwiches!

Mohammad Alramahi, University of Manchester

As a participant, my paper ('To what extent ICANN-accredited registrars are guilty?') was warmly received by the cyber law stream and I received very useful comments through an interesting debate during and after the session. The advice and new ideas were later incorporated into my research and presented at another conference a few weeks later. The GSA was particularly useful in providing me with further dimensions on legal research and also gave me the chance to meet some interesting academics, contributing to my skills enhancement. The international nature of the event with a variety of scholars from different legal backgrounds was a bonus. Participants were able to increase their knowledge and competence in a specific area and translate this new understanding into a quality submission for publication and research. Membership of the SLSA offers students many advantages, keeps them up-to-date with other events and gives them the opportunity to apply for grants. I highly recommend it!

Aseel Al-Ramahi, LSE

The GSA afternoon was truly fantastic. I enjoyed it very much. The 'building dialogue' theme was explored by a number of academics from many different angles. I found the diversity of the panel, in their backgrounds, geographical origins and opinions, inspiring. They presented their own snapshots on the theme – some I agreed with fully but others I found challenging and even controversial. This resulted in intense discussions during the breaks. I then had the pleasure of attending a group session chaired by John Flood. I was extremely pleased to meet him and to challenge him on a number of issues outlined in his paper. The group had a good mix of students resulting in heated and lively discussion. I met a number of graduates from all over the world and was able to give advice to some at an earlier stage of their careers and gain valuable lessons from others further along. I have kept in touch with many of them, exchanging ideas and thoughts on our common interests. One thing that stood out for me was the egalitarian nature of the conference with the literature omitting the titles of speakers and participants. As a young academic, I found that very refreshing.

Sung Soo Hong, LSE

Socio-legal scholars are often intellectually isolated. Usually there are few people interested in socio-legal studies in any given institution and we tend to face difficulties in communicating with black-letter lawyers. An international conference is an excellent opportunity for us to share our thoughts with those who understand our research and are interested in our research. This was my main reason for looking forward to this conference and it was my first opportunity to go to this type of event. I was surprised at the number of sessions and participants! For me, the most attractive theme was regulation, which is closely related to my PhD research. On the one hand, there were general discussions about regulation and on the other, case studies were presented which applied regulatory theories to concrete spheres demonstrating that most activities of the state and the law could be examined through the lens of regulatory scholarship. In addition, a small number of papers were devoted to dealing with regulation in local contexts, an area of study that seems to have received relatively little attention compared to the considerable number of discussions which addressed regulation in 'global contexts'.

Kent Law School anniversary

Kent Law School is celebrating '40 years of Critical Legal Education at Kent'. The festivities began with a reception in May and continue with an academic symposium (February 2008) addressing changes in legal education and research over the last 40 years and reflecting on Kent's contribution. Former members of staff, plus former students who are now academics, and other interested parties are all invited. There are plans for a commemorative text containing the papers from the symposium. There will also be an alumni reception in London next June 2008.

Researchers in residence

Researchers in Residence (funded by the UK Research Councils and the Wellcome Trust) is a UK-wide scheme partnering early stage post-doctoral researchers and PhD students with secondary schools. The researcher spends between 14–24 hours doing a 'residency' in their partner school, running interactive activities and projects, giving talks and facilitating discussions with the pupils. The projects benefit all parties: school students are given the opportunity to engage with contemporary research and researchers while researchers have the opportunity to develop valuable skills, such as communication and team-working. www.researchersinresidence.ac.uk/rir

RCSL TRAVEL GRANTS 2008

The Research Committee on Sociology of Law is offering travel subsidies to two graduate students from 'C' countries who submit proposals for its Milan-Como meeting (see p 13 and <http://users.unimi.it/RCSL2008>) and to one graduate student from a 'C' country submitting a paper proposal for the International Sociological Association (ISA) Barcelona meeting (www.isa-sociology.org/barcelona_2008). Applicants should send a cv and one-page statement of current research interests to Luigi Cominelli luigi.cominelli@unimi.it by **15 March 2008**. The full list of 'C' Countries is available at www.isa-sociology.org/table_c.htm#cat_c.

Journal of Law & Society Winter 2007

Beyond legalism: towards a thicker understanding of transitional justice – Kieran McEvoy

The regulation of xenotransplantation in the UK after UKXIRA: legal and ethical issues – Marie Fox, Sheila McLean & Laura Williamson

Robust and raring to go? – Judges' perceptions of child witnesses – Fiona Raitt

In the interests of clients or commerce? Legal aid, supply, demand, and 'Ethical indeterminacy' in criminal defence work – Cyrus Tata

Ordinary folk and cottaging: law, morality and public sex – Paul Johnson

Health and safety at home: private and public responsibility for unsatisfactory housing conditions – Roger Burridge & David Ormandy

Inheritance tax law in socio-political context – Ann Mumford
From a civil libertarian to a sanitarian – Larry Gostin

Reviews

Tom Campbell, 'Rights: a critical introduction' – Costas Douzinas

Roger Cotterrell, *Law, Culture and Society* – Pierre Guibentif

Oren Gross & Fionnuala Ni Aolain, *Law in Times of Crisis* – Adrian Hunt

Michael B. Likosky, *Law, Infrastructure and Human Rights* – Steven Vaughan

Jack Anderson, *The Legality of Boxing: A punch drunk love?* – Steve Redhead

British Academy conference support

The British Academy recently announced a new scheme for supporting the dissemination of advanced research through conferences. Conference convenors may apply for any combination of the following: (a) financial assistance, whether for bringing key speakers to the UK (or other location if the event is to be held abroad), or for a wider range of expenses; (b) use of the British Academy as a venue; (c) organisational assistance from the Academy's conference team; (d) subsequent publication of proceedings by the Academy. Please note that applications will not be entertained for (d) alone.

This scheme also provides an opportunity for a conference to be adopted into the Academy's own events diary. The Academy welcomes applications for conferences held in collaboration with other organisations. Applications will not be considered for less than £1000. The maximum award is £20,000. Conferences attracting the higher levels of support should be at least partly aimed at disseminating the results of research to a broader public, and the Academy particularly welcomes applications that show how public interest might be engaged in the topics discussed. Applicants should be aware that while the Academy expects to make awards across the full spectrum of the eligible cost range, it is likely that relatively few awards will be made at the upper end.

Details and application form can be found at www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/confs.html. Closing dates: **15 January, 15 April, 15 October 2008**.

Kent Law Clinic

The Kent Law Clinic recently featured on the shortlist for the *Times Higher Education Supplement Award 2007* for Outstanding contribution to the Local Community. The Kent Law Clinic led by director John Fitzpatrick, provides a free legal service to the community as an integrated part of the law school curriculum. Individual students, supervised by legally qualified academic staff, take personal responsibility for clients' cases from interviewing to advocacy. The main casework areas are employment, housing, contract, welfare benefits and family. Its biggest case so far was earlier this year when the clinic acted for 27 former employees of supermarket giant Tesco. Since 1992 it has dealt with more than 7000 queries and the amount of compensation gained for its clients this year exceeds £1m.

BA report on peer review

The British Academy recently published *Peer Review: The challenges for the humanities and social sciences*. The report was produced in response to concerns about the peer review process which has been showing signs of strain in recent years in an effort to keep pace with changes in academia due to the expansion of print and electronic journals and a growth in research specialisation. The practice and role of peer review is poorly understood in some fields, exacerbated by the diversity that humanities and social sciences cover. Training, therefore, is imperative, says the academy. To address the main concerns, the academy is recommending that postgraduates and junior postdoctoral researchers receive formal training in how to become a competent reviewer and the expectations of that role in academic life. The importance of peer review, although time-consuming and costly, should be encouraged by institutions, supported by them in resource allocation and recognised as an integral part of the academic profession. It advances humanities and social sciences by facilitating high quality research and publication. The academy also recommends that care should be taken to ensure that metrics (that is, measures of academic performance) reflect the distinctive nature of humanities and social sciences research and are not based on existing forms of citation measures. The full report is available from www.britac.ac.uk/reports.

Dispute resolution and avoidance in education

Neville Harris, Professor of Law at the University of Manchester, and Sheila Riddell, Professor of Inclusion and Diversity at the University of Edinburgh, have been awarded a grant of just over £300,000 by the ESRC for this project. The project aims to assess the role and effectiveness of early and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in one of the most conflict-producing areas of educational provision and decision-making – special educational needs (SEN) in England or additional support needs (ASN) in Scotland.

Its comparative approach will extend to the different statutory and judicial frameworks and legal and policy cultures in England and Scotland. It will have a strong empirical focus, looking at the factors that influence settlement of disputes without recourse to the formal processes of an appeal to a statutory tribunal. It will consider the 'justice' – procedural and substantive – inherent in the cases that are resolved in this way. It aims not only to assess the effectiveness and inherent fairness of the approaches to dispute resolution and avoidance that are being adopted in each jurisdiction but also to gauge the extent to which the underlying policy objectives to them are realisable.

The research will complement other work, and contribute to the debate on the role and implications of ADR/mediation, extrapolating from the ASN/SEN experience, with its combination of formal (tribunal) and flexible processes involving ADR for resolving disagreements, to the wider context of citizen-state dispute resolution. The project will run from early 2008 for nearly two years.

UK-Africa academic partnerships

In an initiative developed by the British Academy's Africa Panel, two awards of up to £10,000 a year for up to three years are available to support the development of ongoing links between UK and African research centres or institutions, within the humanities and social sciences. The link would be built around a specific research theme of mutual interest. This could be carried forward through visits, workshops, seminars and lecture programmes, collaborative research and publications. The programme might form part of either institution's training programme, will ideally involve participation from more than one African institution, and might also involve more than one participant institution in the UK. The scheme is intended to foster UK-Africa links, with an emphasis on helping scholars in the UK and Africa develop research skills and produce a joint research outcome. Priority will be given to projects with a training element. The scheme is intended to benefit early career scholars from both the UK and Africa, and projects will be highly regarded where they include junior academics from both sides. Visits might be undertaken for staff exchange, supplying teaching elements to courses and developing joint curricula. Workshops and seminars should form an integral part of the programme, and involve both staff and postgraduate students. It is expected that each programme should produce papers or some other joint research outcome designed for publication. Closing date: **4 February 2008**. Decisions will be announced in mid-July 2008.

www.britac.ac.uk

Adam Podgórecki prize: call for nominations

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Law (RCSL) established this prize in 2005 to honour the memory and lifetime achievement of the late Adam Podgórecki, who was a founding member of the RCSL and the International Sociological Association (ISA) and a leading figure for many years in the international law and society community. Among other things, he worked tirelessly for the independent status of socio-legal research against the pull of the large disciplines of sociology on one side and law on the other.

The prize is awarded annually by a committee chosen by the president of the RCSL. Every other year the prize is given to a distinguished scholar in recognition of his or her contribution to the field. In alternate years, the prize is given to a younger scholar, to reward promising work in the sociology of law and allied disciplines. In 2008, the prize will be awarded for an outstanding published study by an emerging socio-legal scholar. The study may be in the form of a book, an article or a series of articles.

Nominations of emerging socio-legal scholars are invited for the 2008 Podgórecki Prize. Candidates are eligible if they have published one or more significant works within 10 years of their doctorate. Nominations require support from at least two members of the RCSL. The members of the 2008 Podgórecki Prize Committee are: Rosemary Hunter (chair), Pierre Guibentif and Teresa Picontó-Novales. Closing date: **30 March 2008**.
www.http://rsl.iscte.pt/rsl_apodgpr

Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice: call for papers

The editors of the *Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice*, a Canadian journal that publishes biannually, invite unsolicited articles and book reviews from British socio-legal scholars which examine and evaluate the content of posited rules in an historical, cultural or social context. The editors especially encourage submissions which cross the boundaries of disciplines that are concerned with justice. Articles are welcome throughout the year and follow a double-blind editorial process. The journal also follows an exclusivity practice. Journal articles are indexed in over 15 indices, including the *CSA Sociological Abstracts*, *Wilson Web*, *Index to Legal Periodicals*, *Current Law Journal Content* and *Ulrich's Periodical Directory*. The *WYAJ* is available electronically and marketed in hard cover throughout the world. It was recently ranked as one of the leading human rights journals in North America. For further information, see our www.uwindsor.ca/wyaj.

Social and Legal Studies 16(4)

- Masculinity in the dock: legal responses to male violence and female retaliation in England and Wales 1900-1965 – Anette Ballinger
- 'Not in our name'? On responsibility and its disavowal – Dr Scott Veitch
- Understanding disadvantage partly though an epistemology of ignorance – Dermot Feenan
- Security and migration law in the less Brave New World – Catherine Dauvergne
- Contributions to a post-sovereigntist understanding of law: Foucault, law as governance, and legal pluralism – Kevin Walby
- Utilitarianism and the Painful Orient – Piyel Haldar
- The demon drink and the demonised woman: socio-sexual stereotypes and responsibility attribution in rape trials involving intoxicants – Emily Finch and Vanessa Munro

Society of Legal Scholars

Professor Sarah Worthington has been elected president of the Society of Legal Scholars, the 2800-strong body for legal academics and jurists in the UK and Ireland. Worthington is a Pro-Director and Professor of Law at the LSE, and a practising barrister. She has been a consultant to the UK Law Commission, and participated as a member of working groups of the Bank of England Financial Markets Law Committee and the UK Company Law Review. She succeeds Professor Celia Wells OBE, of the University of Durham. Commenting on her appointment, Worthington said: 'It is a privilege to lead a society dedicated to advancing legal education and scholarship in the UK and Ireland. The key ambitions for my term as president are to forge better links between the academy and the practising profession, and to broaden the reach of legal scholarship.'

www.legalscholars.ac.uk

Journal of Law and Society Special Issue 2008: Children, Family Responsibilities and the State

Edited by Craig Lind & Heather Keating

Introduction: responsible parents and a responsible State – Craig Lind & Heather Keating

Adoption support and the negotiation of ambivalence in family policy and children's services – Barry Luckock

Making and breaking family life: adoption, the state and human rights – Sonia Harris-Short

The state as parent: the reluctant parent? The problems of parents of last resort – Judith Masson

Child maltreatment in diverse households: challenges to child care law, theory and practice – Julia Brophy

Perspectives on parenting responsibility: contextualising values and practices – Val Gillies

Holding parents to account: tough on children, tough on the causes of children? – Laurence Koffman

Youth crime: whose responsibility? – Alex Newbury

Governing parenting: is there a case for a policy review and statement of parenting rights and responsibilities? – Clem Henricson

The 'Change for Children' agenda in England: towards the 'Preventive-Surveillance State' – Nigel Parton

Children's participation in research processes:

SLSA seminar

This interdisciplinary three-day seminar organised by the Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law (CSCFL) took place in September 2007 in the Rendall Building at the University of Liverpool and was attended by academics, policy-makers, NGO representatives, practitioners and young people from across the UK, Ireland, Europe and as far away as New Zealand. Including members of the Centre, the overall attendance at the seminar was 70.

The feedback from participants and contributors was overwhelmingly positive in terms of the quality of the content, the time allowed for as well as the level of discussion and debate – and last but not least the Scouse hospitality. The seminar was made possible by major funding from the Socio-Legal Studies Association, plus additional sponsorship from the Children's Society, Shipshape Ventures, Save the Children England and Priority Research.

Further information about the seminar is available on the CSCFL website: www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/cscfl.

The workshop was motivated by an identifiable need to discuss the practical, ethical, social and legal implications of conducting research involving children and young people. While a number of national and international events have focused on the methodological issues relating to research involving children and young people, these have almost all adopted a theoretical approach. This tendency is reflected in the now vast 'sociology of childhood' literature. The key, and we believe, innovative purpose of the Liverpool SLSA Seminar workshop was to explore the conflict between the 'new sociology of childhood', with its emphasis on children as 'social actors' and the increasing emphasis on 'child

protection' and risk assessment. The workshop aimed to explore the tension between participation and protection in the UK, which has been referred to as 'the protective invasion of the child's autonomy' (Lyon, 2007). We were particularly interested in exploring how and, indeed, whether this tension is addressed in the design and implementation of research involving children and young people and to make comparisons with child-focused work being done internationally, across a range of disciplines and sectors. A comment of those conducting research involving children and young people on other continents, for example, has been – and this was repeated at the Liverpool seminar by those who had conducted research overseas quite recently – that they do not think they could have done their work with children and young people if they had had to operate within the constraints imposed on such work within the UK.

The aim of this workshop was thus to gain a practical, socio-legal perspective on how theory and practice should combine in such work and in the process, to challenge some of the established protocols that are routinely applied to research involving children and young people within the UK, to explore new, more innovative techniques of engaging young people in research, and to consider the true impact of such approaches on law, policy-making, and the participation experience of children and young people.

The event benefited considerably from the work of the Conference rapporteurs or summarisers: Professor Malcolm Hill, from Glasgow University; Dr Mike Gallagher from Edinburgh University; and Bill Badham from the National Youth Agency. Their summaries can be found on the centre's website at www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/cscfl

Mike Jones and Professor Christina M Lyon (Co-Directors of the CSCFL)

FLJS conference on income support

In October 2007, the Foundation for Law, Justice and Society (FLJS), in association with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies Oxford, hosted a keynote address by Amitai Etzioni on guaranteed basic income (GBI). Professor Etzioni argued for a guaranteed basic income for all 'as a reflection of our basic humanity'. A basic income, he went on to say, would mitigate the dependence of the disempowered and foster a stakeholder society of mutual respect. The lecture was followed by a two-day conference on

income support and pension. Speakers included: John Adams, FLJS chair; Professor Peter Edelman, speaking about the idea that welfare causes dependency; Dalmer Hoskins, on American welfare; Avia Spivak, on ageing; and Professors Lucy Williams and Charles Mills on feminist and racial critiques of social contract theory. The conference was concluded with an assessment of the feasibility of GBI by the sociologist Michael Opielka, and Professor Charles Murray's proposal for GBI as a replacement for the welfare state. e phil.dines@fljs.org

Phil Dines

Sport governance workshop at Chester

In July 2007, the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences and the Chester Centre for Research into Sport and Society at the University of Chester hosted the second annual workshop of the Association for the Study of Sport and the EU (Sport&EU) entitled 'The EU and the governance of sport: policy and perspectives'. The event was organised and sponsored jointly by the Centre for the Study of International Governance (CSIG) at Loughborough University, Sport&EU and the University of Chester.

The workshop had a truly international flavour, bringing together 20 academics and practitioners from six different European countries with the aim of assessing the role and possible contribution of the EU to the governance of sport. The timing of the debate could not have been better – four days after the workshop the European Commission adopted its *White Paper on Sport*, which features a section on governance issues.

Alex Phillips, Head of Professional Football Services at UEFA, was guest speaker. In his opening speech, he launched the debate by explaining UEFA's perspective on a democratic and transparent governance structure for European football, stressing that governing bodies have a duty of care for all levels of sport, not only the professional side. He also recognised the responsibility of these bodies to ensure proper representation and consultation among stakeholders.

Two themes dominated: the application of EU law to sport; and the dilemmas of sport governance and sport policy in a global and commercial environment. In the legal department, Alfonso Rincón (CEU-San Pablo University, Spain) drew attention to the contradictions of the European Court of Justice in the handling of sport-related cases, analysing the extent to which the so-called sporting exception could be recognised in the case law of the court. He also argued that several u-turns by the court in this respect might have had negative consequences for public authorities and sport governing bodies due to a lack of clarity in the criteria guiding the application of European law to the sports sector. Alexandre Mestre (PLMJ law firm, Portugal), on the other hand, focused on the application of competition policy to sport, advocating for clearer guidelines to facilitate governing bodies' regulation of sport.

The extent to which the EU can help to raise governance standards in sport focused much of the delegates' attention. Roberto Branco Martins (Asser Institute, Netherlands) explored the possibilities of collective bargaining between the employers and employees in the football sector under the umbrella of the European Commission. He suggested that the social dialogue could deal with issues such as the transfer system, match calendar, nationality quotas or player release for national team duty. The debates identified two problems for the social dialogue to work effectively: first, the representativeness of the social partners, especially in the employers' side (who represents the employers – is it clubs, leagues or federations?); second, the extent to which social dialogue could be used to regulate on issues beyond its remit without giving due consideration to third parties (for example, doping regulations, match calendar or release of players to national teams).

It was evident in the discussions that the study of sport and sport policy in the EU needs to deal necessarily with a multiplicity of actors and venues. This is due to the nature of sport and the EU as multi-level, international and multidimensional systems of governance. So far, much of the academic research has focused on the EU level. In this regard, Borja García (Loughborough University) considered the evolution of the relationship between UEFA and the European institutions from confrontation in the 1990s to co-operation for the good of the game nowadays. García argued that the involvement of the EU in sport represents both a challenge and an opportunity for sport governing bodies. The EU has

facilitated the transformation of the traditional vertical channels of authority in the governance of football, but it is also providing tools for UEFA to manage the new demands of stakeholders in the regulation of the game.

Simona Kustec-Lipicer (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) complemented the Brussels-centric focus of the workshop with her paper on multi-level governance and the Slovenian contribution to the European Commission *White Paper on Sport*. Despite the intervention of EU institutions, sport remains a competence of Member States and, as such, research needs to deal with systematic comparison not only across countries, but also among different sports, as well as in relation to supranational levels and their policy processes.

It is necessary not to treat sport as a single homogeneous entity. To that extent, despite being relatively football-centric, the workshop provided a wide range of views clearly stressing both the differences and the interconnections of the professional and grassroots levels. James O'Gorman (Staffordshire University) explored the possible over-regulation of grassroots football by the English FA. The solidarity principle between professional and grassroots sport, which is supposed to underpin the European Model of Sport, was identified as another challenge for sport governance and public policies.

One of the most interesting points of the workshop was the contribution of football supporters' organisations, which tend to be sidelined in these debates. Dave Boyle (Supporters Direct) and Steven Powell (Football Supporters Federation of England and Wales) contemplated the growth of EU policy on sport as an opportunity for supporters to become increasingly involved in debates surrounding the future of professional football. It remains to be seen, though, the feasibility of extending this participation throughout Europe as the engagement of civil society differs quite a lot across the continent and football is another example of this.

The conclusions of the workshop illustrate the maturity of sport as a research area within European and even international studies. Richard Parrish (Edge Hill University) highlighted the seriousness of the academic work and the advance of the discipline. The study of sport and the EU has gone from a mere recompilation of EU sport-related decisions to open debates about governance, regulation, civil society participation or Europeanisation. Delegates stressed the need for further comprehensive research and agreed that the governance of sport in Europe is both a crowded and complicated environment and that rigorous research is needed to inform policy choices which are often based on personal beliefs or ideology.

www.sportandeu.com/workshop

Borja García

people . . .

In July, the British Academy elected 48 new scholars into the fellowship for their academic achievements. **PROFESSOR GENEVRA RICHARDSON** (King's College London) became an Ordinary Fellow and **PROFESSOR PETER CANE** (Australian National University) was elected a Corresponding Fellow.

LISA WEBLEY has been made a reader at the University of Westminster, School of Law. Also at Westminster, **CEDRIC C GILSON** recently completed his PhD (*Resources for Mediating the Incommensurability of Science and Law in Legal Contexts*) and has been elected visiting fellow there from 1 October for a period of five years.

SALLY RAMAGE has been appointed editor of the *Criminal Lawyer Journal*, Tottel Publishing.

DR LAURENCE ETHERINGTON has moved from Nottingham Law School to take up the post of lecturer and director of professional liaison at York Law School. e lme503@york.ac.uk

Kent Law School has welcomed the following new staff: **KATE BEDFORD**, research fellow at the AHRC CentreLGS; **PROFESSORS TONI WILLIAMS** and **IAIN RAMSEY** from Osgoode Hall; **DR BRENNAN BHANDHAR** from Reading; and **SIMONE GLANERT** and **ALEX MAGAISA** in their first academic posts.

Correction: In the 'People' column of *SLN* 52:2, we printed **DAVID NELKEN'S** email address incorrectly. We apologise for the inconvenience caused. If you would like to contact him please email e sen4144@iperbole.bologna.it.

The Edinburgh Europa Institute

Introduction

The Europa Institute is one of the world's foremost centres for research and advanced study on European integration. Founded in 1968, it brings together over 40 experts on the EU, among them leading scholars on EU politics, policy and law. They work with a growing community of early career, postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers. Masters programmes are offered in law (LLM in European law), in politics/international relations (MSc in international and European politics), and across the two subject areas (MSc in European politics and law). In addition to engaging in research and delivering teaching programmes, members of the Europa Institute are also actively engaged in public policy and knowledge transfer activities with public bodies and organisations based at the subnational, national, European and international levels.

A brief history

The Europa Institute was established as the Centre of European Governmental Studies, with the generous support of Captain Harold Salvesen, in the (then) Faculty of Law in 1968. The moving force behind it was Professor J D B Mitchell, the first holder of the Salvesen Chair of European Institutions at the University of Edinburgh. The Institute is the longest-established specialist institute of its kind in the UK, and one of the oldest in Europe.

Although Mitchell was a legal scholar, his vision of the study of European integration was interdisciplinary, connecting law, economics and political science. Today, the Europa Institute has a centre of gravity in law and politics, with an interdisciplinary reach into economics, geography and sociology. Based administratively in the School of Law, it shares facilities and resources with the School of Social and Political Studies. From 2008, the Institute will be housed in its own building: a historic Georgian townhouse close to the two schools and the other facilities of the University of Edinburgh, such as its renowned library.

Research and publication

Members of the Institute bring together a rich diversity of interests and approaches which combine in four main research focuses:

- core aspects of the laws and policies of the EU;

- the EU's identity and place in the wider world;
- the multi-level nature of the EU;
- the EU as an emerging polity.

In recent years, members of the Institute have obtained research funding from the ESRC, the AHRC, the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, the James Madison Trust, and the EU. They have published monographs with a range of university and other academic presses, including Oxford and Cambridge, and articles in the leading EU studies, law and politics journals, including *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Common Market Law Review*, *European Law Review*, *European Law Journal*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, and the *European Journal of Political Research*.

Seminars, conferences and public engagement

The Institute runs a rich programme of events for both university audiences and for the wider public, taking advantage of its location in Scotland's capital, close to the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government. Each year it offers Town & Gown lectures which attract a wide audience, and in 2006 it presented these lectures as a series questioning the 'constitutional future' of the EU named after Professor Sir Neil MacCormick, a distinguished member of the Institute, and former MEP and member of the Convention on the Future of Europe which drafted the Constitutional Treaty. In 2007, it held a series of seminars primarily for academic audiences marking the Treaty of Rome's 50th Anniversary. In January 2008, marking the beginning of its 40th anniversary year, the Institute will inaugurate a series of anniversary events by holding a major public conference, supported by the European Parliament DG for Information (as part of the wider anniversary of the Treaty of Rome celebrations) on The Treaty of Rome, the European Parliament and the Regions and Substate Nations of the European Union, with keynote speaker Giuliano Amato, Italian Minister of the Interior and former vice-president of the Convention on the Future of Europe. In September 2008, the Institute is delighted to be hosting the Annual Research Conference of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies.

Contact

For further information about the Europa Institute, its activities and its staff and students contact its co-directors: Drew Scott [e andrew.scott@ed.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.scott@ed.ac.uk) and Jo Shaw [e jo.shaw@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jo.shaw@ed.ac.uk) or visit [w www.law.ed.ac.uk/europa](http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/europa).

Courses

Warwick: LLM in international and comparative criminal justice

Globally, criminal justice reform has an evolving international and comparative focus, with a number of jurisdictions choosing reform not only of individual criminal justice practices, but of whole systems in the light of comparative analysis. This new programme will examine a range of criminal law and process issues from a comparative perspective, as well as the broader internationalisation of criminal justice that is developing in response to the growing body of international human rights norms regarding criminal procedure and the increasing degree of international cooperation in crime and security measures. The programme will engage students in critical analysis of the criminal trial and pre-trial procedure as well as the substantive criminal law. It will analyse international criminal law, but also international agreements and policies on crime and security in areas such as extradition, terrorism and anti-corruption measures, as well as in other key offence areas. The programme will run from October 2008. Contact Sarah Prestleton [e s.e.prestleton@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.prestleton@warwick.ac.uk). [w www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law).

Birmingham: LLM in international human rights

Birmingham City University has now added a January entry point for its LLM in international human rights. In addition to the academic law and human rights modules, all students undertake at least one practical human rights project. Students now have as an alternative to a formal master's dissertation the option of an internship, either in the US criminal justice system or in an NGO elsewhere. Students may study either full-time or part-time. Enquiries: David Hartley [e david.hartley@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:david.hartley@bcu.ac.uk). Application forms: [e lhds@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:lhds@bcu.ac.uk) or online via [w www.bcu.ac.uk/lhds](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/lhds).

JLS now on Heinonline

The *Journal of Law and Society* is now available on Heinonline subject to a five-year time lag from the current volume. This means that all issues are available from the first one in 1974 up to 2001. This will make access much easier for those institutions subscribing to Hein, and will enable student reading lists to be hyperlinked directly to relevant journal articles. The editorial board is very pleased with the new arrangement and anticipates a further increase in the readership and influence of the journal. [w http://heinonline.org](http://heinonline.org)

Liquid Society and its Law (2007) Jiri Priban (ed), Ashgate £55 240pp This collection of essays brings together Zygmunt Bauman and a number of internationally distinguished legal scholars who examine the influence of Bauman's recent works on social theory of law and socio-legal studies. Contributors focus on the concept of 'liquid society' and its adoption by legal scholars. The volume opens with Bauman's analysis of fears and policing in 'liquid society' and continues by examining the social and legal theoretical context and implications of Bauman's theory.

Law and Ethnic Plurality: Socio-legal perspectives (2007) Prakash Shah (ed), Brill, €85 viii+240pp The large-scale establishment of ethnic minorities and diasporic communities in Europe has attracted the attention of social science scholars for a number of decades now. However, legal interest in this field has remained relatively underdeveloped, and few scholars have addressed emerging legal issues to any significant degree. This collection of contributions by leading writers in the field of ethnic migration and diaspora studies therefore provides some important interdisciplinary perspectives of how ethnic/diasporic minorities in British and European contexts interact with the official legal system. This volume makes a significant contribution in assessing the role of law in current debates on the integration of ethnic and religious minorities of migrant origin in the EU.

Modern Studies in Property Law, Vol 4 (2007) Elizabeth Cooke (ed), Hart Publishing £55/€82.50 340pp This is a refereed and revised selection of papers from the sixth biennial conference at the University of Reading held in March 2006, and is the fourth in the series 'Modern Studies in Property Law'. It covers a broad range of topics of immediate importance, not only in UK domestic law but also on a worldwide scale. The Reading conference has become well-known as a unique opportunity for property lawyers to meet and confer both formally and informally.

Cases, Materials and Text on National, Supranational and International Non-Discrimination Law (2007) Dagmar Schiek, Lisa Waddington and Mark Bell (eds), Hart Publishing £40 1118pp This casebook, the result of the collaborative efforts of a panel of experts from various EU Member States, is the latest in the Ius Commune Casebook series developed at the Universities of Maastricht and Leuven. It provides a comprehensive and skilfully designed resource and in common with earlier books in the series, presents cases and other materials (legislative materials, international and European materials, excerpts from books or articles). As non-discrimination law is a comparatively new subject, the chapters search for and develop its concepts on the basis of a wide variety of young and often still emerging case law and legislation. The result is a comprehensive textbook with materials from a wide variety of EU Member States.

Law and Politics at the Perimeter: Re-evaluating key debates in feminist theory (2007) Vanessa Munro, Hart Publishing £22.50/€34 196pp Feminist critique has made a significant impact both in terms of informing our theoretical approach to law and politics as social phenomena, and in terms of encouraging the development of increased opportunities and protection for individual women. Despite its successes, however, feminist thought has suffered from internal disagreements and schisms. Whilst united by their commitment to highlight and undermine gender-based discrimination, disparate feminist theorists have disagreed over a range of issues central to that project. Set against this backdrop, this is a critical re-appraisal of contemporary feminist legal and political theory. It re-visits key feminist debates over the origins of patriarchy, as well as over the role of liberalism and the rule of law in its creation and perpetuation. It re-evaluates feminist calls for the dislocation of legal reform strategies and rights-based claims. And it draws upon the work of 'mainstream' analytical jurists, as well as philosophers like Foucault and Wittgenstein, to re-cast the terrain around key concepts of power, identity and equality within feminist political theory.

Rethinking Miscarriages of Justice: Beyond the tip of the iceberg (2007) Michael Naughton, Palgrave Macmillan £45 248pp This book provides a much-needed critical appraisal of a fundamental aspect of the legal system, radically re-assessing the notion of miscarriages of justice. Drawing on Foucauldian theory and zemiological paradigms, it uncovers the limits of the criminal justice process and questions the dominant discourse that views miscarriages of justice as rare and exceptional cases of wrongful imprisonment. Arguing that the criminal justice process itself causes miscarriages of justice and can prevent the overturning of convictions, it interprets error as the norm – a mundane feature that is an inbuilt part of the legal system. Further, by redefining the term 'miscarriage of justice' it shows how it can be applied to thousands of cases per year. Extending previous analyses of the forms of harm that miscarriages of justice cause, this study explores the impact on a range of victims – direct and indirect – and their wider effect on society as a whole. Previous attempts to reform the system to prevent miscarriages of justice and their consequences have proved unsuccessful. This book provides an explanation of why they have failed and provides a new perspective on how to prevent 'mistakes' occurring.

The Use and Impact of Dispersal Orders: Sticking plasters and wake-up calls (2007) Adam Crawford and Stuart Lister, Joseph Rowntree Foundation/The Policy Press £14.95 The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 gives the police powers in designated areas to disperse groups of two or more where their presence or behaviour has resulted, or is likely to result, in a member of the public being harassed, intimidated, alarmed or distressed. The powers are controversial due to the discretion they accord to police and the infringements of individual's rights they entail. This study explores the implementation and impact of dispersal orders and highlights implications for policy. It draws on extensive sources of data, including: interviews with policy-makers and practitioners involved in implementing schemes across the UK; two detailed city-wide reviews; and two in-depth case studies. It explores the manner in which dispersal orders were experienced and interpreted by adults and young people and considers their implications for local social relations. It assesses the balance between enforcement and preventive approaches to local problems and the growing salience of public perceptions in policing. A free pdf version can be downloaded from: www.jrf.org.uk

Legal Symbolism: On law, time and European identity (2007) Jiri Priban, Ashgate £55 226pp This book contributes to the field of systems theory of law in the context of European legal and political integration and constitution-making. It puts recent European legislative efforts and policies, especially the EU enlargement process, in the context of legal theory and philosophy, showing that the system of positive law has a symbolic meaning, reflecting as it does the semantics of political identity, democratic power and moral values as well as the complex relations between law, politics and morality.

The Transformation of Citizenship in the European Union (2007) Jo Shaw, Cambridge University Press £25.99pb/£65hb This book examines the electoral rights granted to those who do not have the nationality of the state in which they reside within the EU and its Member States. It looks at the rights of EU citizens to vote and stand in European Parliament elections and local elections wherever they live in the EU, and at cases where Member States of the Union also choose to grant electoral rights to other non-nationals from countries outside the EU. The EU's electoral rights are among the most important rights first granted to EU citizens by the EU treaties in the 1990s. Putting these rights into their broader context, the book provides important insights into the development of the EU now that the Constitutional Treaty has been rejected in referendums in France and the Netherlands, and into issues which are still sensitive for national sovereignty such as immigration, nationality and naturalisation.

Parenting after Partnering: Containing conflict after separation (2007) Mavis Maclean (ed) Hart Publishing £45/€70hb £22/€33pb 248pp Relationships between adult partners following divorce or separation can be fragile, and the issues which have divided the parents are often hard to disentangle from the ongoing relationships between parents and children. There is a small group who have ongoing difficulty and who need professional help and legal intervention to make arrangements for ongoing parenting. This volume brings together a wealth of new empirical research – from the USA, Australia and central, north-western and southern Europe – on the nature and importance of children's relationships with parents after parental separation, on the kinds of conflicts which develop, and on the range of professional interventions which support parents and children through these difficult times.

TV Futures: Digital television policy in Australia (2007) Andrew T Kenyon (ed) Melbourne University Press AU\$49.95 In *TV Futures* leading researchers examine television and its digital future in terms of platforms and audiences, copyright law and media regulation – issues which are increasingly intertwined and demand interdisciplinary engagement. It offers accessible analyses for readers from across the fields of law, media studies and cultural research from an outstanding team of authors. Full details plus Chapter 1 at www.law.unimelb.edu.au/cmcl.

Paths to International Justice: Social and legal perspectives (2007) Marie-Bénédicte Dembour and Tobias Kelly (eds) Cambridge £25.99pb/£65hb This volume focuses on the everyday social relationships through which international justice is produced. Using case studies from the International Criminal Court, the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Women's Convention Committee and elsewhere, it explores international justice as a process that takes place at the intersection of the often contradictory practices of applicants, lawyers, bureaucrats, victims, accused persons and others. With a sensitivity to broader institutional and political inequalities, the contributors ask how and why international justice is mobilised, understood and abandoned by concrete social actors, and to what effect.

The New Corporate Accountability: Corporate social responsibility and the law (2007) Doreen McBarnet, Aurora Voiculescu and Tom Campbell (eds) Cambridge £75 The adoption by companies of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies is routinely characterised as voluntary. But if CSR is self-governance by business, it is self-governance that has received a firm push from external social and market forces, from forces of social accountability. Law is also playing a more significant role than the image of CSR suggests, and this legal accountability is set to increase. Legal intervention should not, however, be seen as making social accountability redundant. Wider ethical standards and social and market forces are also necessary to make legal regulation effective.

Equal Opportunities International, special issue call for papers: 'Equality and same-sex partnerships: A happy marriage?' For full details of how to submit contact Jackie Jones (guest editor) jackie.jones@uwe.ac.uk. Deadline: 1 April 2008.

International Journal of Law in the Built Environment: call for papers. Due to be launched in 2009, the *International Journal of Law in the Built Environment* provides a vehicle for the development of high-quality legal scholarship in the context of the design, management and use of the built environment. Articles may address legal educational issues, doctrinal, theoretical or other forms of legal scholarship, or deal with empirical and socio-legal investigations within a built environment context. In keeping with the journal's international scope articles drawing comparisons between two or more jurisdictions and those offering theoretical cross-jurisdictional legal perspectives are particularly welcome. Submissions should be sent to Paul Chynoweth p.chynoweth@salford.ac.uk. More information can be found at: www.emeraldinsight.com/ijlbe.htm.

● **ENQUIRY, EVIDENCE AND FACTS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE**

British Academy, London: 13-14 December 2007

A two-day conference convened by Professor William Twining, UCL, Professor Mary Morgan, LSE, Professor Philip Dawid, UCL, and Professor Trisha Greenhalgh, UCL. The aims of the conference are to debate the different theoretical, methodological and practical approaches to the study of evidence and the way that facts are acquired and used across different fields. www.britac.ac.uk [t 020 7969 5246](tel:02079695246) [e events@britac.ac.uk](mailto:events@britac.ac.uk)

● **UKCLE: LEARNING IN LAW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008**

University of Warwick, Coventry: 3-4 January 2008

Theme: '(Dis)integration . . . designs on the law curriculum'. The focus of this conference is curriculum design and development. To encourage innovation and create opportunities to explore new synergies, the conference sessions will be generated around the following keywords: integration; evolution; creativity; experience; community; critique; engagement; value(s). www.ukcle.ac.uk

● **PSA WOMEN & POLITICS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008: call**

University of Surrey: 16 February 2008

Theme: 'Gender, equality and politics – European futures'. 2007 is the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, it is thus important to consider the impact of current developments in gender relations and policies across Europe. This conference looks to explore the impact of current social, political and economic trends on gender hierarchies and norms in Europe. The aim of the conference is to assess current and future trends in European gender research. It aims at taking stock of current achievements in the field and provides an opportunity for scholars to exchange ideas and engage in lively debates about the future of feminism in Europe. Further details at www.surrey.ac.uk/politics/gender-conference/index.htm.

● **WORKSHOP: MEASURING EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS**

Centre for Health Economics, York: 20-22 February 2008

Workshop Presenters: Rowena Jacobs, Peter C Smith and Andrew Street. Three-day workshop providing an introduction to the use of techniques for measuring the relative efficiency of public sector organisations. The two measurement tools concentrated on will be Stochastic Frontier Analysis (SFA) and Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA). The workshop will introduce participants to computer software with which they will be able to apply the techniques to data during practical sessions. Throughout the workshop there will be a strong focus on the policy interest in these techniques. Full details: www.york.ac.uk/inst/che/training/measurecourse.htm. Enquiries should be addressed to Gillian Robinson, workshop administrator, gmr8@york.ac.uk [t +1904 321436](tel:+1904321436).

● **JUSTICE, MEDIA AND PUBLIC: COMPARATIVE AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES**

Keele University: 28-29 February 2008

This workshop proposes to adopt a historical and comparative methodology to map different incarnations of 'the public' and 'public confidence' across different eras and different jurisdictions. The event is endorsed by the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (Judiciary and the Media Working Group). The workshop's format will consist of academic paper sessions combined with practitioner-led roundtable discussions. www.keele.ac.uk/research/lpj

● **ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE: GLOBAL JUSTICE**

University of Nottingham: 27-29 March 2008

On-line booking is available at www.alsp08.co.uk. Possible panels include: human rights; global ethics; cosmopolitanism and nationalism; historical perspectives on global justice; the ethics of climate change; indigenous rights and the 'new colonialism'; cultural relativism; global governance; war and justice; global poverty. Enquiries [e alsp08@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alsp08@nottingham.ac.uk).

- **RE-DESCRIBING THE SACRED/SECULAR DIVIDE: THE LEGAL STORY**

University at Buffalo, SUNY: 27-29 March 2008

Scholars of law, humanities, and the social sciences will examine contemporary relations between law and religion in society and culture. Topics will include the nature of modern religion under the rule of law, the impact of secularisation on religion and its relation to law, and the affect of legal regulation of religion on the experience of religious practices, places, and objects.

www <http://law.buffalo.edu/baldycenter/events.htm>. Events co-ordinator: Ellen Kausner e ekausner@buffalo.edu.

- **MPSA POLITICAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE**

Chicago Palmer House Hilton: 3-6 April 2008

The MPSA has 65 different sections including all the standard political science subfields, as well as several sections on policy and public administration, six area studies sections (eg Canadian Politics, European Politics) and several sections on political theory. There is also an interdisciplinary flavour to some of the sections, including Politics and History, Politics and Religion, Political Anthropology, Economic Policy and Political Sociology.

www www.indiana.edu/~mpsac/conference.

- **PRIVATE LAWYERS AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST: THE EVOLVING ROLE OF PRO BONO IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION**

University at Buffalo, SUNY: 25-26 April 2008

Conference Organiser: Robert Granfield (Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY). The legal profession's commitment to the expansion of pro bono has achieved significant gains in recent years. This workshop will explore the evolving role of pro bono, the relationship between pro bono ideals and pro bono in practice, and the opportunities and limitations of pro bono in expanding access to justice. www <http://law.buffalo.edu/baldycenter/probono07.htm>. Events co-ordinator: Ellen Kausner e ekausner@buffalo.edu

- **LEGAL SERVICES RESEARCH CENTRE CONFERENCE**

18-20 June 2008: Royal Naval Academy, Greenwich

The theme of this international conference is 'Reaching further: new approaches to the delivery of legal services'. The conference will provide a platform for the interchange of ideas between researchers and policy-makers working in access to justice and related social science and social policy fields. Information on submission and themes at www www.lsrc.org.uk/conferences.htm.

- **DOCTORAL TRAINING IN LEGAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES IN EU AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Sheffield: 27-28 June 2008

For more information contact Tamara Hervey

e t.hervey@sheffield.ac.uk.

- **7TH INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE FOR THE SEMIOTICS OF LAW: Call**

Université du Littoral, Côte d'Opale (France): 1-4 July 2008

Co-organisers: Sophie Cacciaguidi-Fahy and Anne Wagner. Theme: 'The promise of legal semiotics'. This event aims to investigate the work of those who have theorised law and semiotics in ways that have helped to change, improve our understanding of the law, its institutions, traditions and processes; and to further the growth of the study of semiotics in the law. It is hoped that this Roundtable will provide opportunities to reflect on the key concepts of the past, so as to understand better what the future holds for the study of law and semiotics. www www.univ-littoral.fr/irsl2008

- **RCSL ANNUAL MEETING: LAW AND JUSTICE IN A RISK SOCIETY**

Milan and Como, Italy: 9-12 July 2008

The 2008 annual meeting of the Research Committee on Sociology of Law will be hosted jointly by the University of Milano, the University of Milano-Bicocca, the University of Como-Insubria and Milan's Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale. The theme will be 'Law and justice in the risk society'. Besides panels organised by the RCSL Working Groups, the following workshops will take place: ecology; commons; European integration; market economies, enterprises and work; health and assistance; identities and religion; media and the internet; legal systems and their risks; war, terrorism and social control; law and family; law and biomedical technologies; law and anthropology. Individual contributions on socio-legal topics are also welcome for ad hoc sessions of research in progress. The languages of the meeting will be English, French and Spanish. Abstracts and panel proposals must be submitted by 15 February 2008 using the forms at www <http://users.unimi.it/RCSL2008> or www <http://rcl.iscte.pt>. Enquires, proposals for new themes or ad hoc panels should be addressed to e vincenzo.ferrari@unimi.it or e luigi.cominelli@unimi.it.

- **INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES, LONDON: EVENTS 2008**

Wednesday 30 January 2008 6pm to 7pm

Dawn Oliver, Professor of Constitutional Law, University College London: 'The UK constitution in transition: from where to where?'

Wednesday 20 February 2008, 6pm to 7pm

Anthony Bradley, Professor Emeritus of Constitutional Law, University of Edinburgh; Barrister, Cloisters; former Legal Advisor to the House of Lords Constitution Committee: 'Relations between executive, judiciary and Parliament: an evolving saga?'

Monday 10 March 2008, 6pm to 7pm

Keith Ewing, Professor of Public Law, King's College London: 'Constitutional reform – judges and parliament'.

Venue for all events: IALS ☒ Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR. To attend, RSVP Belinda Crothers e ials.events@sas.ac.uk. Admission free – all welcome. For information about other IALS events, see www www.sas.ac.uk/events/list/ials_events.

- **ASSOCIATION OF LAW TEACHERS EVENTS**

Lord Upjohn Lecture, Inns of Court Law School: 7 December 2007

Speaker: Mr Geoffrey Vos QC, Chair of the Bar Council. Title: 'An accessible legal profession working in the public interest: dream or reality?' Followed by drinks and a buffet. Admission free.

43rd Annual Conference, Oxford: 16-18 March 2008

Contact Amanda Fancourt t 0247 652 2394

e amanda.fancourt@warwick.ac.uk for further details.

- **PHD-IN-PROGRESS SEMINARS**

University of Manchester, School of Law

The School of Law at the University of Manchester has recently begun holding fortnightly PiP (PhD-in-Progress) research seminars in which postgraduate research students can present their work in a friendly and informal environment. Seminars normally take place on Mondays or Wednesdays at the School of Law. The main aim of the seminars is to provide a forum for early feedback on ongoing research and for discussion of novel, controversial and thought-provoking ideas resulting in regular interaction between research students and perhaps the setting up of stream-style seminars according to areas of interest. Students from other UK universities are warmly invited to participate, both as speakers or participants. Budget travel expenses within the UK and, if necessary, basic accommodation will be paid for those presenting. All enquiries to the organiser of the seminars Mohammed Alramahi e m.aramahi@manchester.ac.uk.

- **UKCLE E-LEARNING SEMINAR SERIES 2007/08**

The aim of this series is to provide four one-day seminars delivering stimulating and challenging presentations and encouraging dialogue on four key themes. The focus is on emerging technologies and how e-learning can be embedded and integrated within the law curriculum. The seminars are free-standing with discounts for attendance at more than one. The first took place in November 2007. The three remaining seminar themes are: e-assessment (Bristol, 31 January 2008); mobile learning (Glasgow Caledonian University, 26 March 2008); simulation learning (Warwick, 18 September 2008). Selected papers will be available as a peer-reviewed publication shortly after the last seminar. www www.ukcle.ac.uk.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

University of Manchester: 18-20 March

Conference website: www.law.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/events/SLSA2008/index.html

Next year's SLSA annual conference is being hosted by the Centre for Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Manchester. The call for papers is now open. Last year we successfully used a combination of streams and keywords and the same system will be used this year. Participants are welcome to submit via either method. The closing date for abstracts is **1 February 2008**.

Keywords

The keywords are: **governance; poverty and welfare; space – real and virtual; vulnerability; participation; identities; trust; histories; resistance; and change.**

Streams and organisers

Administrative law: Robert Thomas

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Criminal justice: Daniele Alge

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Criminology: Toby Seddon e toby.seddon@manchester.ac.uk

Diversity and judging: Dermot Feenan

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Education law: Neville Harris

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Environmental law: Carolyn Abbot

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European Law: Naomi Salmon e njs@aber.ac.uk

Family and child law: Penny Booth e p.j.booth@staffs.ac.uk

Gender, Sexuality and Law: Chris Ashford

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Information technology law and cyberspace: Mark O'Brien

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Intellectual property: Jasem Tarawneh

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Labour law: Nicole Busby e n.e.busby@stir.ac.uk and Grace

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Law and economics: Frank Stephen

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Law and literature: Julia Shaw e jshaw@dmu.ac.uk

Law, race, religion and human rights: Fernne Brennan

e joash@essex.ac.uk and Sharon Hanson

e sharon.hanson@canterbury.ac.uk

Legal education: Tony Bradney e a.bradney@law.keele.ac.uk

Maths, statistics and scientific legal methodologies: Dennis

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Medical law and ethics: Glenys Williams e gnw@aber.ac.uk

and Sarah Devaney e sarah.devaney@manchester.ac.uk

Mental health and mental capacity: Peter Bartlett

e peter.bartlett@nottingham.ac.uk

Regulation, governance and corporate social responsibility:

David Williamson e dave.williamson@manchester.ac.uk

Sexual offences and offending: Phil Rumney

e phil.rumney@uwe.ac.uk

Socio-legal theory and method: Reza Banakar

e r.banakar@westminster.ac.uk

Sports law: Ben Livings e ben.livings@sunderland.ac.uk and

John O'Leary e j.o'leary@anglia.ac.uk

Transitional justice: Louise Mallinder

e l.mallinder@qub.ac.uk and Kirsten McConnachie

e k.mcconnachie@qub.ac.uk

POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE 2008

University of Hull 23-24 January

Every year the SLSA runs a conference for postgraduate students. This year the conference is being hosted by the School of Law at the University of Hull. It is open to both members and non-members of the SLSA, and is **free**. The conference will be run principally through small group workshops. Sessions will be led by socio-legal academics from the SLSA, some of whom are beginning their careers in socio-legal studies and others with an established research and publication record.

The conference is very informal, and one of its main aims is to encourage networking between postgraduate research students with similar interests, theoretical or methodological approaches. There will be plenty of opportunities for discussions with other postgraduates, as well as with the facilitators. Everyone attending will be invited to submit a synopsis of their research interests. These will be distributed to all students attending the conference, so as to facilitate the networking process. The workshop topics will include:

- giving a conference paper
- getting published
- time management
- managing your supervisor
- academic job-hunting
- presenting your work
- academic networking
- socio-legal studies as an academic discipline.

Full details at www.slsa.ac.uk and follow link for students.

SLSA seminar competition

The SLSA is inviting applications for its second annual seminar competition. The competition fund is £5000, lead applicants must be SLSA members and seminars must be relevant to the socio-legal community. Closing date: **31 January 2008**. Details at www.slsa.ac.uk and follow the link for seminars.

SLSA annual conference 2009

The SLSA is delighted to announce that De Montfort University will be hosting our 2009 conference. DMU has excellent conference facilities located in the centre of the city of Leicester. The conference organiser is Professor Trevor Buck e tbuck@dmu.ac.uk.

Student bursaries

The SLSA is keen to encourage student members to attend our annual conference. The *Journal of Law and Society* and *Social and Legal Studies* have again contributed to the bursary fund. Application form and further details are at www.slsa.ac.uk and follow link for students.

SLSA one-day conferences

The SLSA is planning two one-day conferences. The first is entitled 'Justice, power and law: in pursuit of development' on **10 December 2007** at Birkbeck, London. Full details are on the SLSA website at www.slsa.ac.uk and follow the events link.

The second is a Grant-Writing Workshop, also to be held at Birkbeck, on **6 February 2008**. Full details will be published on the website and bulletin board when available.

If you are interested in organising a one-day conference with the support of the SLSA, please contact the SLSA chair or any member of the Executive Committee (see p 2).

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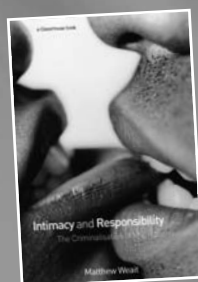
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A comparative socio-legal examination of three recent controversies in four countries, this book provides a foundation for finding answers to many of the questions surrounding the universality of human rights values.

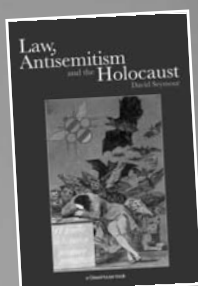
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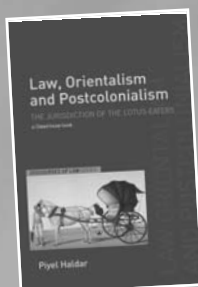
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Law, Antisemitism and the Holocaust David Seymour

This book examines the connections between legal rights as an expression of modern political emancipation and the emergence and development of the social phenomenon of antisemitism. Addressing, amongst others, the topic of the Holocaust and its impact upon critical forms of thought and public life, this volume discusses the relationship between law and antisemitism.

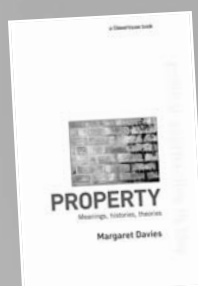
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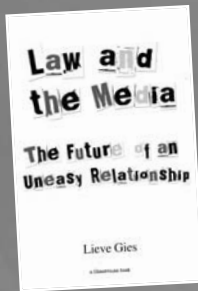
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Law and Irresponsibility On the Legitimation of Human Suffering Scott Veitch

The law is often thought to be primarily concerned with organising responsibility by creating and imposing various obligations. This book offers a contrasting view - namely that legal institutions, through their practices, concepts and categories, in fact deflect responsibility, instead promoting an irresponsibility of sorts. This stance challenges the conventional way in which the law and its bodies have been consistently viewed.

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