

19 September 2019, IALS, Russell Square, London, Conference Room A

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| **Present**  Rosie Harding, Antonia Layard, Ed Kirton-Darling, Jess Mant, Rebecca Moosavian, Rachael Blakey, Tahir Abass, Marie Selwood,  Amanda Keeling, Tom Webb, Emily Walsh, Daniel Bedford, Philip Bremner, John Harrington, Diamond Ashiagbor  By Skype: Vanessa Munro, Smita Kheria |  |
| **1. Apologies**  Naomi Creutzfeldt, Neil Graffin, Colin Moore, Flora Renz, Roxanna Dehaghani, Jed Meers. |  |
| **2. Approval of minutes**  Agreed. |  |
| **3. Officer Reports**  **3.1 Chair’s report**  Scheduling of exec meetings. A possible change of meeting times and venues was discussed to save money on trains and accommodation. Exec agreed that London IALS should continue but meeting times should change to 12 noon to 3.30pm  Action: all future exec meetings to be held 12-3.30pm  Exec agreed to nominate Dierdre McCann for the FAcSS.  Action: VM to make nomination.  Charity status. Lawyers are finalising the application for charity status  TW suggested the SLSA should have a set policy for excluding members, including the right to make representations and a right to appeal like other similar groups.  Action: TW & EKD draft a policy to go on SLSA website.  New Streams. SLSA currently has 34 streams. DB confirmed that Portsmouth has put a limit on ‘current topics’ at 6 max. Papers that do not fit in a stream should be redeployed to a more fitting stream where possible. Two new streams discussed and accepted by exec: (1) Environmental Law and (2) Refugee Law – a wider title than submitted by the convenors.  Action: DB & EW to make arrangements to include these two streams in the Portsmouth call for papers.  RH to notify stream convenors  Joint event on the judiciary. RH confirmed the SLS had been in touch re: holding a joint event about being a judge in Coventry on 21 March 2020 with the Judicial Appointments Committee. Financial contribution would be modest. Support expressed for SLSA involvement – benefits for SLSA members and widening participation. AL offered to lead for the SLSA, and RM offered to help.  Action: AL and RM to liaise with SLS re: this event.  RH to notify Rebecca Probert.  **3.2 Vice-chair (AL)**  AL is working on the wording for calls for papers in future conferences to ensure they are broad and inclusive, especially re: disabilities.  SQE reforms. AL and EKD are working on a future research project about these reforms in light of the absence of informed, evidence-based analysis in the debate. Discussed flawed methods of SQE pilot in March – student success was highly variable and disadvantaged certain student groups. The proposed project would use surveys to get data from university staff and students about their thoughts and experience of the process. It would also highlight the SLSA’s research expertise. Exec members who wish to be involved should contact AL, but all exec members should actively contribute to drafts and ideas as they are circulated.  Action: all exec members to feed back on project when information is circulated.  **3.3. Treasurer (VM)**  VM confirmed 3 matters:   1. Last year’s accounts are about to be signed off by the auditor (Linda Mulcahy). 2. VM is in the process of arranging the account transfer from Lloyd’s to the Co-op, though there are still a number of documents to sort. 3. The bottom line of the Co-op account is depleted. It is currently £30K but would usually be in the region of £50K. But there is £13K in the Lloyd’s account that will be transferred.   A donation of profits from the Leeds conference is expected to paid to the SLSA soon. AK noted that this will be in the region of £35K.  RH: Overall, the buffer is not bad but the shift to charity status and work on the members database is costly so we will need to budget accordingly for 2019-20. However, once the SLSA has charity status it will benefit financially from the Gift Aid of members in the longer term.  Exec discussed and agreed moderate cuts to various grants and awards. These awards are among the most important work the SLSA does and the decision is not taken lightly, but it was noted that the funding wrapper was doubled after a series of particularly high donations from conference hosts. RH stressed that these apply for 2019-20 only, and will be reassessed by the Exec in the September 2020 meeting for the 2020/21 academic year.  Action: Adjust funding pots as follows:  Seminar fund > down by £2,500 to a total of £7,500 for this year’s competitions.  Fieldwork fund> down by £2,500 to a total of £7,500 for this year’s competitions.  Grants/other fund> down by £5,000 to a total of £10,000 for this year’s competitions.  The total ‘pot’ for grants and awards for 2019-20 is therefore £25,000.  MS noted that savings could be made on the production costs of the printed newsletter.  Action: MS to get alternative quotes for newsletter print and production costs.  VM: Bloomsbury/Hart stopped paying the £250 annual book prize, as the former treasurer did not request it from them. Offered vouchers as an alternative prize. Exec agreed with DA’s point that a money prize is better and we should look for another sponsor.  Action: VM to get back to Bloomsbury to reject voucher offer.  Update: Bloomsbury have agreed to continue to provide cash sponsorship.  **3.4. Membership (MH)**  MH chased all SLSA members for outstanding subs and cleared out old profiles (about a third were out of date). Fee reminders will be sent more regularly in future. Work will also be done to make renewals clearer. MS will change the membership email from a G-mail account.  Currently we have 671 members – 199 of these are PGRs. RH suggested a recruitment push. JMa confirmed we have 4,000 followers on Twitter so a social media push re: the benefits of membership (conference, grants and prizes etc.) may help.  Action: JMa to liaise with FR to undertake social media push for membership recruitment.  Newsletter editor’s report discussed. MS noted that the three year sponsorship cycle for the SLSA newsletter has now finished. All current sponsors to be invited to renew sponsorship.  Action: MS and RH to liaise on drafting and sending invite letter.  **3.7. PG Student Representative (TA and RB)**  Portsmouth PGR conference planning in progress. Portsmouth HoS will give a talk and a wellbeing workshop is planned.  **3.8. Webmaster (JM)**  JM is stepping down soon as webmaster. MS confirmed that though Lewis helps with the site, we do need someone like Jed who can liaise with Lewis re: the more technical aspects, e.g. Joomla, the tech that underpins the SLSA site. JMa volunteered to take over the blog editor role from JM. It was agreed RH will ask Jed if he might consider continuing to cover the technical aspects until after the Portsmouth conference when DB will have more time and can take over.  Action: JMa to take over as blog editor; RH to seek cover for role until after Portsmouth Conference; DB to act as webmaster thereafter.  **3.10. Social Media (JMa)**  JMa noted error on her report – SLSA has 4,000 Twitter followers, not 4 million. Twitter has been a useful way of getting people to contribute to the SLSA blog. MS noted that Nicole Busby’s forthcoming event in October needs to be highlighted via social media.  Action: JMa to Tweet about the forthcoming Busby event. | NG  VM  TW/EKD  DB/EW  RH  AL/RM  RH  All  MS  VM  VM  JMa/FR  RH and MS  JMa  RH/DB  JMa |
| **4. Conferences**  **4.1. a. Portsmouth (EW/DB)**  A minimum £17K profit projected for the Portsmouth conference with £8K contingency anticipated as a donation to the SLSA. Costs for wine reception and gala dinner are quite high. Exec agreed to cut drinks reception package to 1 prosecco and 2 glasses of wine per person.  Creche facilities discussed. Pop-up service will cost £1300 for 3 children, £2085 for 6. Exec agreed that SLSA will cover the majority of this cost, though a modest contribution from parents (around £50 per day in Leeds) will ensure those who register for the service use it.  The issue of capacity for conference dinner and high number of heavily subsidised early PGR registrations was discussed. It was agreed that it was important to find a solution to the challenge in a fair way that includes PGRs but remains economically viable? This was difficult for the Leeds team.  It was agreed that to avoid an early rush of PGR registrations, PG students would be excluded from the Early/Standard/Late pricing structure, with one flat, still subsidised rate applying for PGRs throughout the registration period.  Action: EW/DB to model figures and run past RH and VM for chair’s action.  Conference dates: Call for papers opens on 16th October, closes 10th January. RH confirmed the dates all look fine.  Planned plenary will be on gender and queer rights.  **4.2. Postgraduate Conference (SK)**  SK confirmed that PGR conference is going well. Conference venue, rooms and dinner are booked for 8-9 January at Edinburgh’s new law school. Draft schedule of talks circulated.  2 volunteer speakers needed to talk from exec. DA offered to present a session on research ethics. JH offered but could only do 1 day. RM offered if they are really stuck, but better to have a more experienced speaker.  Action: potential volunteers to email SK to offer to present.  **4.3 One Day Conferences (RH)**  The SLSA Sponsored ‘Rich Law/Poor Law’ one day conference organised by Dave Cowan, Ann Munford and Katie Bales at IALS in January 2019 was a successful event, but made a loss of £800. The short lead time and small market for this event may have contributed. This should be bourne in mind for future sponsorship of one day conferences.  Impact conference at IALS was successful and had very good feedback. It cost the SLSA only £840. DB and PB are to write a piece for the Socio-Legal Newsletter.  Action: DB and PB to write newsletter piece. | EW/DB/RH /VM  DA/RM/other  DB/PB |
| **5. Prizes and Competitions**  **5.1. Book and article prizes (RH)**  Deadline for submissions on 7th October. RH will chair article prize. AL will chair book prize sub-committee.  A reminder was given that **all** exec members are required to read nominations for the article prize, except members of the book prize sub-committee, who can choose whether or not to participate.  **5.2. Contributions to the socio-legal community (RH)**  Two nominees for this prize were discussed by exec: Robert Dingwall and Rosemary Hunter. Following discussion the exec decided to award the prize to Professor Robert Dingwall in light of the duration and extent of his contribution to the Socio-Legal Community, and that he received a higher number of nominations.  Action: RH to notify prizewinner and nominees.  **5.4. Seminar (JH)**  Closing date for applications is in December 2019. The scheme guidance has been updated for 2019 and will be uploaded to the website.  **5.5. Research Training and Mentoring Awards (RH)**  Margaret Downey, RGU, attended quantitative training & will write a piece for the SLSA Newsletter.  Action: MS to follow up with Margaret for the newsletter copy. | RH  MS |
| **7. Mentoring scheme**  The Mentoring Scheme that ran from 2015-2019 was reviewed. In the four years of operation, only 4 applications made, 2 awards given in that time. There has not been a great deal of take-up of this scheme, and the aims/objectives of it are not clear. Applicants were not clear about what the scheme was intended to fund. It is not clear that this is the best way for the SLSA to facilitate the development of mentoring relationships. Mentoring tends to arise informally, organically & such relationships are best facilitated through accessible and welcoming conferences etc.  Action: exec agreed to withdraw the SLSA mentoring scheme. |  |
| **8. SLSA ethics statement**  AK, TA and RD are working on this and will submit a report to be discussed in depth at the January 2020 exec meeting.  Action: AK, TA & RD to submit ethics report before January | RD/AK/TA |
| **9. Open access & plan S**  JH introduced the revised guidance on open access. MS will the SLSA webpage with this revised information.  UKRI will be consulting on open access policy in the near future. It is all up for discussion after REF 2021. JH explained that we need to think about whether & how we engage with this, and the values we will represent.  RH & exec agreed that SLSA should respond to the consultation and provide views as a society in the same way we do re: REF. Open access may impact on SLSA bursaries etc. that are funded by journals. Most of the SLSA sponsorship from socio-legal journals is used to support PGR students.  Action: JH/TW/AL to take a lead in drafting response to consultation. All members of exec should contribute by reading drafts and offering views on this important issue.  Action: JH/TW/AL to write a short piece for the SLSA Newsletter to invite members’ views and experiences of open access that could be included in the response. | JH/AL/TW/All  JH/TW/AL |
| **10. Any other business**  RH reminded exec members to send reports to NG in in good time before meetings so everyone has time to read, and we can more fruitfully spend the limited exec time discussing issues, rather than going over the content of written reports.  DA: the Equality and Diversity sub-committee’s first meeting will be arranged before the next exec meeting in order to tidy up the policy.  Action: DA to take forward E&D sub-committee actions  NG to add to January meeting Agenda  CM was unable to attend the meeting, so the Data Protection Policy will also need to be discussed at the January meeting.  Action: NG to add to January meeting Agenda | All  NG  DA  NG  NG |