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SHINING A LIGHT ON POWER? REFLECTIONS ON BRITISH CRIMINOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF CRITICAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

Steve Tombs and Dave Whyte review the problems facing researchers in the field of criminology and draw worrying conclusions for scholars in other disciplines.

When looking to future research capacity what is at issue is the question of what will be deemed legitimate research into law in the new academic world fostered by corporatisation.¹

... unprofitable research and, in particular, research with a political agenda or theoretical focus has an uncertain future.²

In recent years, the SLSA has been a key site of reflective considerations regarding the nature and trajectory of socio-legal research and teaching, considerations to which the recent pieces by Richard Collier and Lois Bibbings have significantly contributed. With others, we have for four years been working on a series of critical reflections regarding trends in the content of British criminology.³ Within this broader project, our own focus has been upon what the trajectories of criminology mean for the possibilities of researching the illegalities of the powerful, namely states and corporations. This focus both reflects our own research interests and serves as a reasonable yardstick against which to measure the critical pretensions of a discipline – namely, the extent to which it can, or even seeks to, hold a light to power.

Now, British criminology has rarely focused upon corporate or state crime. While there is a range of reasons for this, crucial are the origins and nature of British criminology itself. In a now famous passage, Foucault claimed that ‘the whole content of criminology – with its “garrulous discourse” and “endless repetitions” – is to be explained with reference to its application by the powerful’. The questions asked and the answers reached within criminology have always been subservient to, if not determined by, power.

Yet recent social, political and economic processes have marked a dramatic intensification in this servile relationship, so that the discipline seems to have entered a qualitatively different phase. The key momentum for this intensification has been the emergence to dominance of neo-liberalism, and its subsequent onslaught upon all of the institutions of civil society from which universities have not been insulated: they are increasingly required to behave as economic actors, both in external markets – as competitors for students, research funds, prestige and so on – and through the development of internal markets; further, knowledge is increasingly treated as something to be traded, as a commodity, with a realisable exchange value within some internal or external market. Courses, departments, faculties, and so on become individual cost centres, required to generate a surplus or perish, competing for students (as a resource) at all levels, with academics increasingly required to generate income to meet their wage or salary. The disciplinary whip of the market has been institutionalised through the fact that around 40,000 research staff and upwards of 90 per cent of all new university appointed staff in the UK are on fixed-term contracts.

One effect of the marketisation of the universities and the commodification of research is that certain types of research get organised off the public agenda as academics compete for research grants provided by the state and distributed through

research councils and government departments, generating reliance upon direct funding for specific, pre-ordained research projects often with narrowly defined fields of inquiry and outputs. And so criminology does precious little to explore and demystify some of the key law and order questions of our age: it has had virtually nothing to say, for example, about deaths brought forward by pollution, or the series of medical crimes of the 1990s (including the most notorious serial killer in history, Harold Shipman), or BSE, Foot and Mouth or the ever-present consumer food safety crisis that mundanely exposes consumers to toxins and deadly infection, all social harms within which criminal acts have been, and remain, central. Rather, the discipline is dominated by endless reproduction and multivariate analyses of local and national surveys and statistics on youth offending, burglaries, car crime, shoplifting or graffiti and vandalism.

The increasingly narrow and utilitarian trajectory of British criminology poses problems for the conduct of critical criminology, not least of all work on the illegalities of states and corporations. For example, in the dominant scramble to accumulate state grants, studies of corporate or state crime are increasingly rare – Lauren Snider has recently written an ‘obituary’ for the sociology of corporate crime, highlighting that, in the US, funding for corporate crime research, never that significant, has, to paraphrase, virtually dried up. Research commodification has certainly stacked the odds even higher against criminologists who seek to scrutinise the powerful. But the increasing protection of the powerful from critical scrutiny is not simply an issue of research funding. If company boardrooms, corporate hierarchies and the corridors of government have always been somewhat impenetrable to the researcher, these inner sanctums are likely to be even more tightly sealed from outside scrutiny, not least where the aim is to investigate actual or possible illegality. Nor are securing funding or access discrete elements of the research process – they are mutually reinforcing phases. Thus, large-scale funding from, for example, the Home Office, virtually guarantees access to relevant state institutions. But even if funding and access are secured, then there remains the problem of dissemination or publication of research findings. In what remains a highly secretive state, censorship – use of the Official Secrets Act, or more mundanely vetting by commissioning departments – of research findings in the UK remains a frequent state response to those who produce government-funded work that does not sit comfortably with government or departmental policy. The fury over censorship expressed publicly by more than a handful of government-funded researchers at the 2003 British Criminology Conference is testimony to the current intensification of Home Office control under Blunkett.

Further, the increasing penetration of the private sector into state functions creates another level of obstacles and complexity for the researcher: at the very least, the incursion of private companies into spheres of activity such as prison management and policing means that previously formally accountable public authorities are supplanted by corporations who may deploy the privileges of the corporate veil and the device of ‘commercial confidentiality’. ▶ p3

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SLSA Postgraduate Conference

The SLSA Executive Committee is helping to fund a postgraduate conference at the School of Law, Liverpool John Moores University, 12-13 January 2004. The purpose of the conference is to bring together established academics and postgraduates to discuss the practical issues of engaging with and being involved in socio-legal research. It will also seek to discuss developing and pursuing an academic career in the area. Taking place over two days (afternoon and morning), the conference will have sessions on postgraduate supervision and good practice, motivation and time management, writing up, conferences and giving papers, seeking academic employment and publishing. Speakers include Sally Wheeler (Birkbeck), Dave Cowan (Bristol) and Tony Bradney (Leicester). This conference will complement the postgraduate session of the Glasgow SLSA conference in April.

Accommodation (single hotel rooms in Liverpool city centre) is being booked for the Monday night. The JMU School of Law is close to the city centre in Liverpool's Georgian quarter and is less than a 10-minute walk from bus and rail stations. Lunch and coffee will be provided on Monday and Tuesday and the SLSA is sponsoring a restaurant meal on Monday evening for students and speakers following a wine reception sponsored by the School of Law's journal *The Liverpool Law Review*.

The cost is £30 for residents. The Executive Committee has kept costs low and feels the package represents very good value. Travel expenses will be met by attendees themselves or their own funding. The number of resident attendees is limited to 30 and we expect interest to be high so book early to avoid disappointment. For non-residents a limited number of day places are available at £5 per day. To discuss booking arrangements, conference details or if you have any queries please contact Mike Meehan
e m.a.meehan@livjm.ac.uk t 0151 231 3971
School of Law, Liverpool John Moores University, Myrtle St, Liverpool L7 4DN.

SLSA one-day conferences

All About Eve: Exploring the socio-legal implications of the genomics revolution

On 2 September, 24 socio-legal scholars gathered to present papers and discuss socio-legal issues relating to human genomics. This one-day conference was made possible by the SLSA and organised with the support of the Institute for the Study of Genetics, Biorisks and Society at the University of Nottingham. Twelve research students were awarded SLSA bursaries.

Twelve papers were presented, and speakers ranged from established scholars to PhD students. All were of a high standard covering a range of issues including DNA databases, the Human Genetics Commission, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and 'designer babies'. The atmosphere was both supportive and challenging and some excellent formal and informal discussions took place. It is hoped that the conference has paved the way for future similar meetings and enabled connections to be made between academics that may lead to future collaborations in this area.

If you have an idea for a one-day conference contact Sally Wheeler
e s.wheeler@bbk.ac.uk

SLSA/Hart prizes

The closing date for the SLSA prizes is fast approaching, see page 6 for details of the book and article prizes and the new early career prize.

SLSA subscriptions

Members who have not yet paid their 2003 subscriptions should contact the membership secretary as soon as possible to avoid being dropped from the mailing list.
e mary.seneviratne@ntu.ac.uk

SLSA annual conferences - Future venues

In recent years the SLSA's successful annual conference has been held at Bristol, Aberystwyth and Nottingham and next year will go to Scotland for the first time. It regularly attracts over 300 delegates. The SLSA Executive Committee is inviting expressions of interest from institutions wishing to host one of the next three annual conferences (2005, 2006 and 2007).

Contact: SLSA chair Sally Wheeler
e s.wheeler@bbk.ac.uk

Socio-Legal Research Directory 2004

Don't forget to send in your details for the 2004 SLSA directory. The closing date for entries is **Friday 16 January 2004**. There is a form included with this newsletter or you can email your details to e m.selwood@virgin.net

Newsletter contact details

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e m.selwood@virgin.net. The copy deadline for the spring 2004 issue of the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is **Monday 9 February**.

. . . and SLSA website

w www.ukc.ac.uk/slsa/index.htm

p14 Indeed, the commodification of criminal justice provision itself has meant that academics researching 'crime' and criminal justice are increasingly working directly for private interest, so that there have emerged sub-economies of research on demand, with concomitant conflicts of interest.

And so the rude health in which academic criminology currently finds itself – witness the proliferation of postgraduate and undergraduate courses, the ceaseless torrent of academic texts and journals, the seemingly increasing intrusion by criminologists in public and government-led debates around 'crime, law and order' – mystifies a range of perverse trends in the content of criminology. Of course, criminology is not socio-legal studies. Indeed, as we have indicated, there are peculiarities about (British) criminology that have made it particularly susceptible to the demands of power. Nevertheless, the gradual self-imposed exile of criminologists to the barren intellectual wastelands of 'official' research can offer lessons to socio-legal studies, and other critical social sciences which are intrinsically more capable than criminology of critical self-reflection.

As the neo-liberal hegemonic project gains momentum, the harsher political, social and academic climates for critical work pose fundamental challenges for critical criminologists in particular, and critical social science in general. These are not challenges that we are all equally well-placed to meet. Those academics who enjoy relative privilege – such as permanent contracts, above average salaries, some traces of academic freedom and discretion – have a greater responsibility than others. But let us be clear that these climates pose challenges for those engaged in 'mainstream' work also. The fact that we live within a society that has amassed the highest *per capita* prison population in Western Europe, while at the same time the poverty gap continues to widen at the fastest rate in Western Europe, cannot be disconnected from our enterprise in an academic discipline which provides the intellectual resources to support the government apparatuses overseeing those trends. It is now commonplace to note that criminology is by definition a highly political enterprise. And if criminologists cannot choose to opt out of their political role, clear choices remain as to how we position ourselves in relation to this role. In this atmosphere of orthodoxy, contemporary criminologists should reflect upon the morality of keeping 'their snouts in the state's trough' as opposed to actively disengaging from the snorting huddle around the trough and proactively engaging in the search for alternative means of sustenance. To paraphrase Martin Nicolaus, the choice is to disappear behind the line of truncheons and thus fuel an already out of control juggernaut of criminalisation, or to use research and writing to promote social justice and seek to halt the juggernaut's destructive advance.

Being an academic means engaging in an inherently critical enterprise, one that requires us to ask awkward questions of power and the existent social order. It is time to face up to the realities of this task and resist the rising tide of utility corruption that looms before us both inside and outside the walls of educational institutions. We urge colleagues to join the debate begun in the pages of SLN, and then to begin to develop ways to act upon, and resist, the numbing, cancerous spread of commodification that now threatens the independence, integrity and imagination of our enterprise.

- 1 R Collier (2003) "'Useful knowledge' and the 'new economy': an uncertain future for (critical) socio-legal studies?' SLN 39:4.
- 2 L Bibbings (2003) 'The future of higher education: "sustainable research businesses" and "exploitable knowledge"' SLN 40:1.
- 3 With our best market-orientation to the fore, we should point out the main outcomes of this research thus far, namely: S Tombs and D Whyte (eds) (2003) *Unmasking the Crimes of the Powerful: Scrutinising states and corporations*, Peter Lang, New York/London; P Hillyard, J Sim, S Tombs and D Whyte, 'Leaving a "stain upon the silence": contemporary criminology and the politics of dissent' (forthcoming) *British Journal of Criminology*; and S Tombs and D Whyte, 'Unmasking the crimes of the powerful', *Critical Criminology: an international journal* 11(3). This paper would not have been possible without our collaboration in these projects with Paddy, Joe and many others.

Empirical socio-legal research capacity: announcement of an inquiry

Recent editions of the SLN have contained a number of articles relating to research capacity in socio-legal studies, in particular empirical socio-legal studies. In November 2001, Michael Adler wrote on 'The precarious position of socio-legal studies in the competition for ESRC research studentships' (SLN 35:1). In spring 2003 there was a report by Dave Cowan, Sally Wheeler and Paddy Hillyard on the outcome of the SLSA survey of UK law schools, which asked 'Who is training tomorrow's researchers?' (SLN 39:1). In summer 2002, Sharon Witherspoon, deputy director of the Nuffield Foundation wrote on: 'Research capacity: a crisis in waiting?' (SLN 37:1). Underlying all these pieces was a real concern that there was inadequate investment in and development of young researchers able to carry forward the work of the current generation in empirical socio-legal research.

Over the last 20 years a substantial body of ground-breaking research – for example, on the family, administrative justice, adjudicative processes, regulation, accidents and compensation – has been published. But the generation of scholars who undertook this work is now beginning to contemplate retirement (some more actively than others). It is extremely unclear where the next generation of researchers will come from and therefore how the existing research base can be expanded.

Empirical socio-legal research is important. The knowledge generated by empirical research crucially informs the development of the theory of law and legal practice. In addition, policy-makers both in government and outside, draw on the results of empirical research for their own work. Such research is both fascinating and challenging. It requires individual scholars to have acquired interdisciplinary skills or to be able to work in interdisciplinary teams. In a climate of increasing and conflicting pressures on academics, legal researchers with an interest in empirical investigation may be deterred from making the necessary intellectual investment to acquire new skills. Even those who have the necessary skills and experience may opt for an easier life in order to meet, for example, the demands of the RAE.

So concerned is it with these questions of research capacity that the Nuffield Foundation has recently agreed to fund an inquiry into the issue. The inquiry will be led by Professors Hazel Genn and Sally Wheeler; it will be supported by an Advisory Group chaired by Professor Martin Partington.

The inquiry will involve the following components:

- preparation of a consultation paper, which will be widely circulated to, among others, academics, research funders, the judiciary, users of socio-legal research;
- analysis of responses to the consultation paper;
- a number of regional meetings, to enable the inquiry team to gain first-hand knowledge of issues 'on the ground';
- a survey of existing socio-legal researchers, designed to identify how they were able to develop their careers, which may help to inform future thinking;
- a survey of existing training provision for empirical socio-legal researchers and empirical research capacity in other jurisdictions;
- the production of a report with proposals for addressing the problems identified.

The inquiry will be formally launched at the end of this year, with the intention of producing a report early in 2005. Further details will appear in later editions of the SLN. All those with an interest in the subject matter are encouraged to start discussing them with colleagues. Any preliminary suggestions for issues to be raised in the consultation paper are welcome and should be sent to e.martin.partington@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk.

UNLOCKING PRIVATE PRISON INFORMATION

Despite being the recipients of large sums of public money, privately managed prisons are able to keep vast amounts of information out of the public domain on the basis of 'commercial confidentiality', writes Stephen Nathan

When the Thatcher government first mooted the idea of private prisons in the 1980s, critics raised concerns ranging from the ethical to the operational. One concern was that privatisation would further entrench the prison system's lack of public accountability.

The critics have been proved right.

With the advent of privately managed prisons and the subsequent launch of the private finance initiative (PFI) in 1992 – since when all new prisons have been privately financed, designed, built and run – successive governments have used 'commercial confidentiality' to protect corporate interests and prevent flaws in policy and practice being exposed.

In May 1991, almost 12 months before Wolds, the UK's first privately managed prison – and the first to be run by Group 4 – was due to open, the then prisons minister Angela Rumbold refused to answer a parliamentary question about Group 4's potential profits from the contract. 'The profit level . . . would be regarded as commercially confidential,' she said.¹ This refusal to divulge how much public money was being diverted from service provision into corporate coffers was a foretaste. While some elements of the contract with Group 4 were eventually made available to MPs, the Home Office refused to publish financial, training and security details as well as arrangements between Group 4 and its sub-contractors. One MP even failed to ascertain how much Group 4 would be spending per prisoner per day on food. As for staffing levels 'the number of full time equivalent prison custody officers Group 4 employs is subject to commercial confidentiality . . . and a matter for Group 4 Remand Services Ltd'.² When Alun Michael MP asked for the numbers of chaplains, medical and education staff, the reply was the same.³

Staff at Wolds were not only bound by the Official Secrets Act but also by a term of their employment with the company which stated: 'Both during and after their employment staff are forbidden to disclose any confidential, personal or commercial information obtained or learned during the course of their employment.'⁴

The contract for the second privately managed prison, Blakenhurst in the west Midlands, ran to 73 pages of which the first 26 were headed 'commercial in confidence'. Ironically, while information was kept secret from MPs, anybody in the United States who bothered to search Securities and Exchange Commission filings for Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) could see the full contract.⁵

By 1998 the government's position was that 'details of bids for contracts or the detailed analysis of the breakdown of operating costs made available in confidence by private operators to help the prison service analyse the cost difference between public and private sector operations . . . do have to be treated as commercial in confidence . . .' but the prison service will keep information that has to be treated as commercial in confidence 'to a minimum'.⁶ While that 'minimum' remains undefined, according to Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, the private finance initiative has ratcheted up the government's use of commercial confidentiality to such an extent that 'all you need for commercial confidentiality to be triggered is a pound sign in a document'.⁷

That was particularly apparent when, in October 2002, the Competition Commission published the findings of its examination of the merger between Group 4 Falck and the Wackenhut Corporation, multinationals that owned the UK's

two largest prison companies and held most of the contracts. 'The report was riddled with gaps in information justified by commercial confidentiality . . . related mainly to Group 4's proposed disposal of Wackenhut Corrections Corporation, its possible disposal of its Global Solutions business and references to contract values, revenues and profits . . .'⁸

Meanwhile, reports commissioned by the prison service pay review body in 2001 and 2002 to study pay, employment and job security in private prisons have remained confidential. That information was used to try and drive down public sector wages and conditions.⁹

But when it comes to private prisons it's not just about pound signs. Where is the justification for not disclosing the average number of staff training days,¹⁰ sickness and ethnic minority staffing data,¹¹ or staffing levels?

In June 2001 the then chief inspector of prisons for Scotland, Clive Fairweather, was due to publish his first inspection report on Premier Prisons – which runs Bowhouse prison at Kilmarnock. He had included Premier's staffing levels in the report as he believed this had a bearing on how the establishment was being run. Premier agreed that overall staff figures could be included but detailed deployment had to be withheld. Arguing that ministers might be put in difficulty by Fairweather's analysis, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) ordered that the report be pulped at the printers and the staffing information edited before it could be published.

According to Tony Cameron, the chief executive officer of the SPS, 'there is a great deal of both theory and practical evidence to suggest that commercial confidentiality is an extremely important component of the way in which the market operates . . . commercial confidentiality was more important than public information in this case'.¹² While Cameron has kept that theory and evidence to himself, at a recent Fatal Accident Inquiry at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court it was alleged that inadequate staffing levels at Bowhouse led to suicide watches being missed and this could have been a factor in the death of James Barclay, a prisoner who was found hanging in his cell in January 2002.¹³

Gaps in knowledge also matter to Enver Solomon, senior policy officer with the Prison Reform Trust. 'Prison operators whether public or private are charged with one of the most difficult tasks – that of locking up citizens. They do this on behalf of society and consequently should be held publicly accountable for what they do. In the private sector commercial confidentiality obscures this and makes it impossible to see what is being done in our name,' he says.

Neither the National Audit Office (NAO) nor its overseers, the Public Accounts Committee, have questioned how much information has so far been withheld. Commercial confidentiality received not one word of attention in the NAO's most recent report on PFI prisons.¹⁴ And to date, none of the MPs who, for years, have been stonewalled in their quest for answers to parliamentary questions have challenged the status quo. Only Clive Fairweather has publicly raised concerns about commercial confidentiality and, for his pains, he soon found himself out of a job.

Currently, around nine per cent of the UK's prison population is held in private prisons. The PFI is also being used for secure training centres for children, courts and police complexes. All prisoner escort and electronic monitoring services as well as immigration detention centres are contracted out. The government is expanding corporate involvement to the probation service and elsewhere in the criminal justice system.

Despite this being the era of so-called 'open government' there is nothing on the horizon to suggest that access to information will improve. Instead, defending corporate interests will remain paramount. In the much heralded Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts, due to come into force in June 2003 in Scotland and January 2005 in England and Wales, information deemed to be 'commercially confidential', that could cause 'substantial harm to specified interests' or construed as 'contrary to the public interest' will be exempt.

So FOI applications and commercial confidentiality exemptions could become a growth area for legal challenges. But if recent examples from Australia are any indication, the outcome could take years and still not achieve full disclosure.

Prompted by a series of prisoners' deaths by suicide in the state's (then three) private prisons, a community legal centre applied for the Victoria Government's contracts with the prison companies to be published in full. It took three years before the Court of Appeal of Victoria's Supreme Court rejected the Department of Justice's argument that publishing the financial details of the contracts would hinder competition. The court also held that full disclosure rather than commercial confidentiality was in the public interest. Security details, however, remained confidential.¹⁵

Meanwhile, serious operational problems at Australasian Correctional Management (ACM)-run immigration detention centres in Australia led the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) to re-tender the contract. ACM lost and, in December 2002, the government began negotiations with ACM's then owner, Group 4, to take over.¹⁶ A new contract started in October 2003. Throughout various inquiries and investigations the federal government had kept secret the extent of ACM's problems. So *Business Review Weekly* (BRW) filed a series of FOI requests in an attempt to clarify ACM's performance since 1998 and discover what action the DIMIA had taken.¹⁷ After 16 months the magazine obtained only part of a damning 66-page report commissioned in October 2000 by the DIMIA. This warned of the risk of injuries to staff and detainees if practices were not improved. It also included eight recommendations, regarded by the authors as 'critical to the ongoing effectiveness and efficiency of the functioning of the detention facilities'. A covering letter dated 23 February 2001 from the authors to the DIMIA warned: 'The importance of early commencement on implementation of the recommendations cannot be over-stressed. Should another serious incident occur while the issues covered by the recommendations remain unresolved, the safety of detainees and staff may be at risk and the Department may face serious embarrassment.'

According to BRW, access to the full report was denied as its release would adversely affect the operation of the detention centres. DIMIA also refused to disclose what, if any, action it took in response to the report's recommendations. But BRW not only discovered that the DIMIA had issued ACM with a default notice between 1 March 2001 and 5 September 2002 but also that neither a federal parliamentary human rights sub-committee nor an ongoing human rights commission of inquiry were made aware of this notice.

A letter dated 5 September 2003 from the DIMIA to BRW stated: 'I have taken into account ACM's written objections to release of the document based on its belief that information in this document could be used adversely by another competitor to diminish ACM's business reputation in order to gain an unfair business advantage.'

'It also believes that disclosure of the document by itself, and without further explanation, could adversely impact on its business reputation generally as it believes that disclosure would potentially mislead its customers (past and present) and the public as to its ability to adequately perform its contractual obligations thereby diminishing its potential to successfully compete in this industry.'

'As ACM is still an ongoing business enterprise, I believe its objections are still currently relevant. I do not believe that these objections are diminished by the fact that the document you are seeking is now over a year old or by the fact that ACM will no longer provide detention services at government facilities.'

BRW intends to appeal the DIMIA's decision at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Stephen Nathan (stephennathan@compuserve.com) is a journalist and editor of *Prison Privatisation Report International*. www.psir.org/justice

- 1 *Hansard*, 10 May 1991.
- 2 *Hansard*, 11 and 16 November 1992.
- 3 *Hansard*, 17 November 1992.
- 4 S Nathan (1993) *Wolds Remand Prison, Contracting Out: A first year report*, Prison Reform Trust, April.
- 5 In 1994 the author discovered that, where US companies were involved in operating prisons in the UK, contracts with the government and shareholder agreements between US and UK joint venture companies were filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. CCA was then a joint owner of UK Detention Services Ltd, the contractor managing Blakenhurst. This loophole was, however, subsequently closed. See S Nathan (1994) *Privatisation Fact File No7*, Prison Reform Trust #28, Prison Reform Trust.
- 6 *The Government Reply to the Second Report from the Home Affairs Committee* (1997) Session 1996-97 HC-57, December, Cm3810.
- 7 *File On Four* (2002) BBC Radio 4, 27 January.
- 8 *Group 4 Falck A/S and The Wackenhut Corporation: A report on the merger situation* (2002) Competition Commission, October, reported in *Prison Privatisation Report International* #51 (2002) November, www.psir.org/justice
- 9 *The Employment Framework in Privately Managed Prisons* (2001) MCG Consulting Group, September and *Privately Managed Custodial Services* (2002) DLA-MCG Consulting, September.
- 10 *Hansard*, 18 June 1998.
- 11 *Hansard*, 10 January 2002. This was reiterated by yet another prisons minister, Hilary Benn, in July 2002 (*Hansard*, 23 July 2002) and again more recently when Paul Stinchcombe MP asked the Government how many vacancies there are for prison officers in England and Wales and what the rates of sickness absence are. He was given figures for the public sector prisons but 'information on private sector prisons is considered to be commercial in confidence and is not therefore available'. (*Hansard*, 3 February 2003)
- 12 *Capitalist Punishment* (2003) BBC Radio 4, 8 April.
- 13 'Kilmarnock suicide inquiry' (2002) *Prison Privatisation Report International* #52, December, and 'If you passed you passed: if you failed you passed' (2003) *Prison Privatisation Report International* #56, June, www.psir.org/justice.
- 14 *The Operational Performance of PFI Prisons* (2003) National Audit Office, June.
- 15 'Victoria's contracts published' (1999) *Prison Privatisation Report International* # 32, November, www.psir.org/justice.
- 16 Until 2002 ACM was owned by Wackenhut Corrections Corp (WCC) a 57% owned subsidiary of the US security firm The Wackenhut Corporation (TWC). In June 2002 Group 4 bought TWC. In July 2003 WCC bought out Group 4's stake to become an independent company.
- 17 'Detention centre cover-up' (2003) BRW 25 September-1 October and 'Ruddock's secret report' (2003) BRW 9-15 October, www.BRW.com.au.

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Articles

'Contractual governance' of deviant behaviour – Adam Crawford

'An unsolvable justice problem'? Punishing young people's sexual violence – Julie Brownlie

'Tensions in the regulation of abortion in Britain' – Ellie Lee

'Hegel, human rights, and particularism' – Richard Mullender

'Lethal regulation: state-corporate crime and the United Kingdom Government's new mercenaries' – Dave Whyte

Book Reviews

'Richard W Bauman: *Ideology and community in the first wave of critical legal studies*' – Richard L Abel

'Eric A Posner: *Law and social norms*' – John Armour

'Shoshana Felman: *The juridical unconscious: trials and traumas in the twentieth century*' – Leora Bilsky

The Hart Socio-Legal Book Prizes and the Socio-Legal Article Prize 2004

The Executive Committee of the SLSA wishes to receive nominations for three annual prizes. These are:

- the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize (a book prize, open to all, for the most outstanding piece of socio-legal scholarship published in the 12 months preceding the closing date for nominations);
- the Socio-Legal Article Prize (an article prize, open to all, for the most outstanding piece of socio-legal scholarship published in the 12 months preceding the closing date for nominations); and
- the Hart Socio-Legal Prize for Early Career Academics (a prize for the best book, published in the 12 months preceding the closing date for nominations, emerging from a previously awarded PhD, MPhil, LLB or MA).

The aim of the prizes is to celebrate and promote the work of socio-legal academics. The winners of the prizes are traditionally announced at the dinner during the SLSA Annual Conference which next year is hosted by Glasgow University School of Law from 6–8 April 2004. The value of the prizes will be, for the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize, £250; for the SLSA Article Prize, £100; and, for the Hart Socio-Legal Early Career Prize, £250. On previous occasions, the judges have sometimes exercised the power to divide the whole sum equally between the winners. The rules governing the prizes are as follows.

1. Nominations for each of the prizes can be accepted from any one member of the SLSA, including the author(s) of the nominated publication. Nominations are also welcome from publishers provided a statement is enclosed indicating that the author has consented to the nomination (see note 9, below).
2. The 'Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize' and the 'Socio-Legal Article Prize' are open to all academics. For the 'Hart Socio-Legal Prize for Early Career Academics' (a prize for the best book emerging from a PhD, MPhil, LLB or MA and published in the 12 months preceding the closing date for nominations) authors nominated must be early career academics. By this we mean lecturers in the 'old' university sector; lecturers and senior lecturers in the 'new' university sector; research fellows, research associates, and research assistants in both sectors; and postgraduate students. All

books submitted by early career academics under this scheme will automatically also be considered for the 'Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize'.

3. Nominations must be accompanied by two copies of the publication being nominated. All book nominations must include a clear statement indicating which of the book prizes (the Hart Book Prize/the Prize for Early Career Academics) they wish their work initially to be considered for.
4. The winners of the three competitions will be determined by an SLSA sub-committee, which will include at least one external expert co-opted to the sub-committee for this purpose.
5. The SLSA seeks to encourage both single-authored and collaborative work. Accordingly, both single-authored and co-authored books and articles can be nominated. In the case of co-authored works, it is necessary for all authors to be early career academics, as defined at (2). There is to be no restriction on the number of co-authors permitted.
6. Individual book chapters are eligible for the article prize. Edited collections are not eligible for the other prizes.
7. Eligibility for nomination will be determined, if appropriate, by academic status at the time of publication, not at time of nomination.
8. Books and articles by eligible authors will be considered provided that: (i) they have been published within the 12 months preceding the closing date for nominations; and (ii) they have not been nominated in an earlier SLSA prize competition.
9. The nomination must include (i) a statement of the month and year in which the book/article was published; (ii) a statement showing that the author has consented to the nomination.
10. The prizes will be awarded to the successful candidates at the SLSA's annual conference, and details of the winners will be published in the SLSA newsletter.

Nominations, accompanied by two copies of the relevant publication, should be sent by Friday 19 December 2003 to:

Dave Cowan, Dept of Law, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Bristol BS8 1RJ.

Contact e d.s.cowan@bristol.ac.uk for further information.

... people

PAUL HIRST (1946-2003)

Tributes in national newspapers painted the big picture: Paul Hirst, Professor of Social Theory at Birkbeck College London since 1985, chair and driving force of Charter 88, public intellectual, powerful influence on generations of students from many disciplinary backgrounds, died aged 57 on 17 June 2003. Ben Pimlott in *The Guardian* (20 June) called him 'one of the most inspiring political and social thinkers and teachers of his generation'. And, for his students, over the years, it was a matter of connecting with Paul's thought as it moved from his early Marxism, through many phases, in an exhilarating, determined quest to engage with his times, practically and theoretically. Hirst saw it as important to deal always with issues that mattered for practical politics; theory that could not help in this needed to be discarded or revised without sentimental attachments. But the urgent concern to try to make a difference with research did not mean theoretical rigour was unimportant; it meant treating social and political theory as means to a better future, not ends in themselves.

His substantial contribution to socio-legal studies, however, was virtually ignored in the newspaper obituaries. Pimlott noted that, in the late 1970s, Hirst 'began to take a keen interest in critical legal theory' and wrote a book about it: *Law, Socialism and Democracy* (1986). In fact he wrote much else related to law, including *On Law and Ideology* (1979), which suggested what might be salvaged from Althusserian Marxism for the study of legal ideology but also showed, through a withering critique, why Marxism could not be an adequate foundation for critical legal thought. The essays in *Law, Socialism and Democracy* indicated concepts that he eventually came to see as central for critical legal

theory: democracy, pluralism, association, rights and the limits of punishment. Here and in later writings he debated with liberalism and revisited long-neglected ideas from English guild socialism to explore how new forms of democracy and participation could be fostered. He argued that an important focus should be on organisations and associations as locations for democratic practices that could transform society. Associational democracy became, increasingly in his thinking, a substitute for the discredited directive strategies of state socialism. Though law eventually ceased to be a central focus of his work, all his concerns with possible democratic forms and later with the nature of globalisation and the future of nation states had important legal implications.

Paul Hirst influenced socio-legal thinking in Britain at an important time in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He helped to show clearly why Marxism could not offer a comprehensive social theory and he set out to find fresh resources of sharp, realistic analysis to face a harsh political climate. He taught (refreshingly and unfashionably) that law was important to social science and that socio-legal research could take its place unapologetically alongside other political and social studies; that it could be integrated with them and contribute with them to the development of social theory and the shaping of political strategies. As a pessimist, he was amazingly inspiring; as a high theorist, he was always down to earth. And even the most serious points were laced with plenty of humour and irreverence. When he talked in his classes about 'Emile', 'Max' and 'Charlie Marx' as if they were old friends, the main message was that grand theory was to be taken seriously for what it could say to us here and now. Indeed, if the great social theorists could not somehow be taught as our contemporaries, we should not be bothering with them.

His influence was important in another way. He was a sociologist by training but he never let disciplinary constraints get in the way of

Revising the Statement of Research Ethics

The SLSA's ethics code was last revised in 2000 and, in the short time since, there have been significant changes in the research landscape. Empirically-minded scholars are increasingly aware of the burdens imposed by data protection requirements, funding organisations have become concerned that the research they support is ethically sound and universities have become more anxious about audit, reputation and liability.

The 2000 revision was a declaration of principle. It was hoped that simplification and clarification would make it more usable as a reference, particularly for new researchers and in teaching. It was not intended to have a disciplinary function, because the SLSA has no mechanisms for enforcement. We have heard of a few instances, however, where individual researchers and university departments have adopted the code for various purposes, including as a response to ethics questions in funding applications.

The SLSA executive intends to ask the ethics sub-committee to undertake a review of the code. We are seeking views from the socio-legal community regarding the usefulness of the current format and changes that might be made. We are thinking, for example, of making a stronger statement about the value and values of socio-legal research. Aspects of the latter might include, idealistically perhaps, a commitment to truth and respect for individuals. Are there other values members would wish to see identified in the introduction to the code?

Some, but by no means all of the practical issues raised in the code concern researchers involved in fieldwork. Here, in particular, we enter areas in which there are legal obligations and a wide range of possible views. As regards data protection, for example, there is complex legislation in place. Our inclination is not to over-complicate the code with detailed expositions, or to suggest that it offers comprehensive guidance or that it is an ultimate authority on how to conduct research. Our preference would be to refer readers to sources of material and advice in the short notes that follow the principles in the code. We were thinking of inviting or soliciting the contribution of short articles, to be made available with the code on the website. Do members favour this approach or is there something else, or something more, we should be doing?

following whatever intellectual paths seemed important. In the late 1970s, outside regular Birkbeck classes, he ran a weekly evening seminar on 'Social relations and discourse' which was attended by anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, and students of linguistics, education, psychoanalysis and many other fields. As probably the sole academic lawyer present, I never felt strange in the diverse company. Paul was not interested in labelling people but in finding out whether their interests could mesh with his in some way. His example suggested that sociology could be - if interpreted broadly enough - a great intellectual umbrella under which an indeterminate range of social studies could shelter. He could be sharp and blunt and did not suffer fools gladly but he had unquenchable intellectual curiosity, a passionate commitment to making research mean something morally and politically, and an enthusiasm for bringing all kinds of people together to share ideas and work collectively on problems. The fact that, together with his family, several hundred students, ex-students, colleagues and friends attended his funeral showed that his influence was very wide and will long survive. **Roger Cotterrell**

PHIL SCRATON, professor and director of the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice at Edge Hill University College has been appointed professor in the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Queen's University, Belfast.

ELIZABETH STANLEY, lecturer in critical criminology in the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice, Edge Hill University College has been appointed to a lectureship in the Institute of Criminology at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

DOREEN MCBARNET, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford, has been awarded a three-year professorial fellowship in the first round of the ESRC's new Professorial Fellowship scheme. Her research is entitled 'Regulation, responsibility and the rule of law'.

In addition, there are some issues of principle on which we could take a position, and perhaps should if the code is going to be claimed as a basis for ethical research. The main examples are proxy consent and covert research. The code currently admits the possibility of circumstances where each may be permitted. We perceive that the tide, in the form of standard requirements for informed consent, may be turning against liberality in these areas. This would have particular implications for research involving participants with diminished capacity and for ethnography, where it may not be possible to obtain informed consent from all participants. Should we continue to refer members to arguments in these areas or should we take a position on these issues? If so, what is members' experience or what are their feelings about these issues?

Finally, we are aware that many institutions have set up, or are considering setting up, regimes of research governance, including ethics committees. It would assist us to know how widely available local guidance and support of this kind is. Are you subject to an institutional research regime covering ethical issues? What form does it take?

We would be interested to receive responses to the questions raised here. These should be sent to Andy Boon ☒ School of Law, 4 Little Titchfield Street, University of Westminster, London W1W 7UW or e a.boon@wmin.ac.uk.

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'Joy to the world! A (healthy) child is born! Reconceptualising "harm" in wrongful conception' – Nicolette Priaux
 'Conceptualising access to justice and victims' rights in international sentencing' – Ralph Henham
 'The more the merrier? A new take on legal pluralism' – Emmanuel Melissaris
 "'We are family": the regulation of "female-only" reproduction' – Ingrid Lüttichau
 'IMF conditionality as investment regulation – a theoretical analysis' – Daniel Kalderimis
 'Breath from nowhere: the silent "Foundation" of human rights' – Colin Perrin

On 1 October, **CARL STYCHIN** ceased to be Head of the School of Law, having been elected to be Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences at the University of Reading (which includes School of Law; Business School; School of Sociology, Politics and International Relations; School of Health and Social Care; and the Institute of Education).

LAURENCE LUSTGARTEN has left active academic life to become a commissioner of the newly-created Independent Police Complaints Commission. The commission's address, when it finally moves into its permanent home in December, is ☒ 90 High Holborn. He remains Visiting Professor of Law at Southampton e ll2@soton.ac.uk.

JANE SCOLAR has been promoted to Senior Lecturer at the University of Strathclyde. e jane.scoular@strath.ac.uk

Professor **BRIAN WILLIAMS** has moved to ☒ Community and Criminal Justice Division, Gateway Building 4.61, De Montfort University, Leicester LE1 9BH † 0116 257 7898 e bwilliam@dmu.ac.uk

On 1 September 2003, **FIONA COWNIE** moved to the University of Hull to take up the HK Bevan Chair of Law. Her new contact details are ☒ School of Law, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX † 01482 466345 † 01482 466288 e f.cownie@hull.ac.uk

LEE MARSHALL has moved from the Department of Sociology, UEA, to the Department of Sociology at the University of Bristol.

LORNA FOX has moved from Queen's University Belfast to the Department of Law at the University of Durham. She is also currently visiting at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, researching on the Legal Concept of Home.

Arts and Humanities Research Board news

New AHRB research centre at Kent . . .

The AHRB research centre competition has awarded a five-year centre to a joint proposal from Keele, Kent and Westminster universities. The Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality will be hosted by Kent from 1 June 2004, and directed by Davina Cooper; associate directors at Keele and Westminster respectively are Sally Sheldon and Rosemary Auchmuty. The Centre's mission is to develop and disseminate scholarship in the field, to support postgraduate students and new career entrants, and to bring together national and international scholars, policy-makers and NGO activists through a series of events and activities.

Intellectually, the centre will adopt a critical, interdisciplinary and cross-national perspective to the field of gender, law and sexuality, focusing in particular on developing new work in the areas of governance and regulation, cultural studies, and healthcare and bioethics. For more information contact Davina Cooper [e d.cooper@law.keele.ac.uk](mailto:d.cooper@law.keele.ac.uk).

. . . and grants for SLSA members . . .

Richard Collier of Newcastle Law School has been awarded an AHRB Research Leave Scheme award in connection with the project 'Fatherhood and law: critique and reconceptualisation'. He has also been awarded a University of Newcastle Upon Tyne Internal Research Fellowship (2003-04) and is undertaking research in connection with the British Academy-funded project 'Male lawyers and the negotiation of work and family commitments'.

In May 2003, the AHRB awarded £226,344 over a period of three years to *Dr Werner Menski*, senior lecturer in South Asian Laws at SOAS, for a research project on 'Jaina law and the Jaina community in India and Britain'. The main aim of the research project is to reconstruct the social history of Jaina law and to analyse the modern construction of Jainism as an independent religion on the basis of court cases, biographies, community histories and interviews with contemporary leaders both in India and the UK. [e wm4@soas.ac.uk](mailto:wm4@soas.ac.uk)

Marie-Bénédicte Dembour of Sussex Law School has also received an AHRB research leave award to complete her project 'Human rights without a core? The European Convention in question' started in September 2001 with the support of a part-time, two-year Leverhulme Research Fellowship. It should come to completion in June 2004 with a book which revisits classical critiques of human rights – realism (as opposed to idealism), utilitarianism, Marxism, cultural relativism and feminism. It

traces how the tensions highlighted in these critiques manifest themselves in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Its aims are three-fold: first, to provide a critical discussion of a concept central to contemporary political discourse; second, to conduct a conceptual examination which is strong on theory at the same time as it is directly informed by practice; third, to put into perspective the claim, commonly made, that the success of the European Convention makes it a model for the rest of the world to follow.

Fiona Macmillan at Birkbeck School of Law has received a grant to establish an international research network to consider new directions in copyright law. The core participants in the network are copyright scholars working across a range of different disciplines, including law, economics, politics and political economy, cultural studies and social theory. With input from a range of copyright stakeholders, the network will play a leading role in stimulating international research and debate about the future of the copyright system. The work of the network will be pursued through six interrelated themes, which are: (1) theoretical framework of copyright law; (2) globalisation, convergence and divergence; (3) developments in rights neighbouring on copyright; (4) protection of traditional knowledge and culture; (5) copyright and the new technologies; (6) copyright, corporate power and human rights. Over the course of the next three years, each of these themes will be the subject of a workshop. Birkbeck Law School will also host an annual two-day conference, at which there will be a further opportunity to explore the network themes. The AHRB Copyright Network warmly welcomes the participation of other SLSA members. Anyone wishing to find out more about the network or to express an interest in participating in its activities, should contact Fiona Macmillan [e f.macmillan@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:f.macmillan@bbk.ac.uk) or the network administrator, Valerie Hoare [e v.hoare@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:v.hoare@bbk.ac.uk).

. . . and AHRB grant application deadlines

The AHRB Resource Enhancement Scheme provides awards of up to £300,00 for up to three years and is open to full and part-time members of academic staff in HE institutions. Its aim is to improve the availability and accessibility of research materials and resources. The deadline for the next round of applications is 30 May 2004. Research grants of £5000 to £500,000 are also available for individuals or teams of researchers and the next deadline for these is 28 May 2004. Individuals can also apply to the Research Leave Scheme which funds replacement teaching costs for up to four months. Interested academics should apply by 31 March 2004. For more information see the AHRB website [w www.ahrb.ac.uk](http://www.ahrb.ac.uk).

New globalisation, governance and legal theory unit

The GGLTU, in the Department of Law, Queen Mary, University of London, is a specialist unit aimed at promoting research and teaching focused on the relationship between globalisation (global economic, social and cultural linkages), governance (traditions and institutions by which authority is exercised) and legal theory (interdisciplinary study of the nature and changing forms of law and legal authority). In addition to offering PhD supervision, the members of the GGLTU offer LLB and LLM optional courses such as law and social theory; migration, diasporas and law; and economic approach to law; monopoly, competition and the law; and multinational enterprises and the law. The unit also runs two workshop series entitled 'Non-state actors and international law' (proceedings published in the journal of the same name) and 'International environmental law: globalisation and division', and a regular reading group. [w www.laws.qmul.ac.uk/ggltu/index.html](http://www.laws.qmul.ac.uk/ggltu/index.html) or contact Dr Amanda Perry-Kessaris [e a.j.perry-kessaris@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.perry-kessaris@qmul.ac.uk).

The impact of fixed fees in summary criminal legal aid

A new study will investigate the impact of fixed fees in summary criminal legal aid in Scotland. Cyrus Tata (Strathclyde Law School) and Frank Stephen (Strathclyde Economics) will examine: the impact on spending; changes in working practices; and on the criminal process as a whole. The study will use both quantitative and qualitative methods. [e cyrus.tata@strath.ac.uk](mailto:cyrus.tata@strath.ac.uk)

Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations

In September, Cardiff University launched a new web-based service for academics which allows them to search for the meaning of abbreviations for the titles of English language legal publications. It also provides a range of additional information to assist tracing publications. The index currently holds 12,500 abbreviations for over 7000 publications, mainly law reports and law periodicals. [w www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk).

Biosecurity Law and Regulation Unit

Biosecurity encompasses all policy, laws and regulatory frameworks to manage risks associated with food and agriculture in the broad sense (including fisheries and forestry). The risks mainly come from the introduction into an area or territory of organisms that are harmful to people, animals (both domesticated and wild) and plants (pests, disease organisms or pathogens and invasive species) and also harmful substances such as pesticides and food additives. Biosecurity has become recognised as a necessary umbrella concept for various legal interventions and regulatory activities to reduce these risks as a consequence of globalisation. In particular, the World Trade Organisation through its agreements, especially the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, has provided an enforceable international legal framework for ensuring that measures to protect human, animal and plant life and the environment are consistent with free trade, ie measures should not be disguised protectionism of domestic production.

The University of Greenwich has been active in technical, legal and regulatory issues in biosecurity since 1991. To consolidate and build on this experience, and recognising the need for a dedicated focus of experience and expertise for research and consultancy work, a Biosecurity Law and Regulation Unit has been set up in the Department of Law. The type of work to be done by the unit will include:

- legislative review and drafting;
- institutional support and training for biosecurity law and regulatory programmes;
- risk assessment/risk analysis for phytosanitary affairs and invasive species;
- advice on operational matters such as inspection services and containment and eradication of pests

The foundation year of the unit has seen many developments. Rob Black and Angela Laycock completed the project 'Harmonisation of African phytosanitary legislation' funded by the UK Department for International Development and Opi

Outhwaite began PhD studies on legal issues in biosecurity in developing countries. Other research and consultancy projects involving university members and associates included: development of a database on biosecurity legislation (for the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan); a major review and drafting exercise of biosecurity legislation in Belize (funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB); revision of the Plant Protection Act in the Seychelles (for the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations); and training in pest risk analysis in the Bahamas and in Jamaica (again funded by IDB). A new project on the harmonisation plant protection and pesticides legislation in the Indian Ocean will start early in 2004 (funded by the European Commission).

The main but not exclusive focus of the unit will be on biosecurity in developing countries. However, because of extensive links with UK and European organisations and individuals involved in biosecurity, there is potential for work on the home front as well. There are good links with expertise on genetically modified organisms at the Natural Resources Institute (University of Greenwich) covering scientific (molecular biology) and policy issues.

LLM Biosecurity & Trade

Subject to validation, a new taught programme leading to LLM Biosecurity & Trade will be recruiting students for entry in September 2004. The programme led by the School of Humanities offers lawyers specialist training in the legal and regulatory issues of biosecurity. This programme will consolidate and build on legal and technical teaching on an individual course basis already provided jointly in MA World Trade & Development (Humanities) and MSc Natural Resources (Natural Resources Institute). For further details on the Biosecurity Law and Regulation Unit and/or on the proposed LLM programme, please contact Rob Black [e r.black@gre.ac.uk](mailto:r.black@gre.ac.uk) or visit [w www.gre.ac.uk/~br31/biosec](http://www.gre.ac.uk/~br31/biosec)

Nuffield Foundation small grants scheme

The Nuffield Foundation offers grants of up to £6000 for self-contained research projects in the social sciences, including pilot studies. Their purpose is to cover the cost of research assistance, research materials, data collection and analysis, and travel and subsistence. There are three priorities for funding such awards: projects that develop social science research capacity, particularly through 'new' research careers; self-contained or pilot projects in the Foundation's areas of research or that address its wider objectives; outstanding small projects in the social sciences. There is no closing date for the scheme. More information is available from university research officers, or from the Nuffield Foundation at 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JS [t 020 7580 7434](tel:02075807434) [w www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org).

Scottish Executive Research Agenda

The Scottish Executive Legal Studies Research Agenda 2003-06 was published in September 2003. The agenda covers a range of topics including human rights, family law and legal aid (criminal and civil). Researchers are invited to express interest in two ways: 1. conducting research and 2. supporting research through participation in networks and panels. It is envisaged that these networks may have a range of responsibilities including designing research, advising on methodology, conducting research and assisting with dissemination. A copy of the Research Agenda is available from Anita Morrison, Head of the Legal Studies Research Team at the Scottish Executive [e anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or at the website [w www.scotland.gov.uk/research](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/research).

Children and domestic violence in rural areas: a child-focused assessment of service provision

Helen Stalford, Helen Baker and Fiona Beveridge of the Liverpool Law School, University of Liverpool, were commissioned by Save the Children and the Countryside Agency to carry out this piece of research (March 2001–November 2002) evaluating children's experiences of domestic violence service provision in rural areas.

The research is based on interviews with children affected by domestic violence in rural England as well as a sample of parents and professionals working in different service sectors, including refuges, housing, social services, education and the police.

The report detailing the research findings was launched on 15 September 2003 and identifies in eight chapters the shortcomings of services in addressing children's distinct needs. It includes a chapter on the specific impact of service poverty on the experiences and welfare of teenage boys and includes detailed recommendations for improvement in policy and practice.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of the research, please contact Helen Stalford [e stalford@liv.ac.uk](mailto:stalford@liv.ac.uk) [t 0151 794 2822](tel:01517942822). Alternatively, a copy of the full report is available from the Save the Children office [e orders@plymbridge.com](mailto:orders@plymbridge.com).

Grandparents after divorce

A recent exploratory study, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, and conducted by Cardiff Law School, has investigated the nature of grandparenting in families where the parents have divorced. The researchers spoke to 115 members of all three generations in 44 families drawn from a sample of randomly selected divorcing couples in courts in South Wales and South West England. They explored the nature of the relationship between the three generations; the styles of grandparenting adopted and the norms of behaviour underlying these. The researchers also investigated how far the fact of divorce appeared to affect these elements in the relationship. We found wide variations in grandparenting styles and the closeness of relationships between grandparents and grandchildren.

The research team concluded that courts determining whether to grant grandparents leave to seek a contact order where a resident parent is refusing contact should examine the particular dynamics within the family and should not make stereotyped assumptions as to the nature and quality of the relationship between grandparents and grandchild in any given case.

Full discussion of the study and its findings will be published in *Grandparenting in Divorced Families* by Neil Ferguson *et al* by Policy Press, Bristol in 2004.

ESRC award for Leeds

The Centre for Research on Family, Kinship and Childhood at the University of Leeds has secured an ESRC research award for a project entitled 'Gay and lesbian marriage: an exploration of the meanings and significance of legitimating same sex relationships'. This study will be undertaken by Professor Carol Smart, Dr Jennifer Mason and Beccy Shipman. The project aims to explore the socio-legal, cultural and familial significance of partnership registration, commitment ceremonies and 'full' marriage for lesbians and gay men and their wider kin. The focus will explore issues such as equal rights, legal implications, types of rituals chosen and embeddedness in wider kin networks. This study began in November 2003 and lasts for two and a half years, making it very timely considering the government's recent consultation document on civil partnerships. For more information email Beccy Shipman at [e r.shipman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:e.r.shipman@leeds.ac.uk) www.leeds.ac.uk/family/

The law of evidence in sexual offence trials: baseline study

Michele Burman, Lynn Jamieson and Jan Nicholson have received funding from the Scottish Executive Justice Department for research on the use of sexual history evidence in sexual offence trials in Scotland. The 15-month research project, which is currently underway, will provide a baseline for the future evaluation of the impact of changes to the law of evidence introduced by the Sexual Offences (Procedure and Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2002. This is a retrospective study, utilising written court records and tape recordings of trials, and will investigate the nature of the exam in chief and cross-examination of complainers, in particular the use of ss 274 and 275 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 in respect of the introduction of evidence about the sexual history and character of the complainer. The project will explore the nature of questioning and the level of intervention by the judiciary or prosecution in cases heard in the High and Sheriff courts over a three-year period. It will also examine a range of other factors including delays and duration of sexual offence trials; use of the defence of consent; the extent of self-representation by the accused and the use of special measures such as CCTV and screens. For further information: [e jamieson@afb1.ssc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:e.jamieson@afb1.ssc.ed.ac.uk) [e m.burman@socsci.gla.ac.uk](mailto:e.m.burman@socsci.gla.ac.uk) [e j.nicholson@socsci.gla.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.nicholson@socsci.gla.ac.uk)

ESRC grant for Warwick

Robert Fine of Warwick University has received a one-year ESRC research award which started in October 2003. The grant of £44,241, is funding the appointment of a research assistant, Will Smith, and the project title is 'The elaboration of a paradigm: cosmopolitan and military'. [e sysao@dredd.csv.warwick.ac.uk](mailto:e.sysao@dredd.csv.warwick.ac.uk)

BRASS at Cardiff University

The Centre for Business Relationships Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS) is an ESRC Research Centre established at Cardiff University. It is a joint venture between the Law School, the Business School and the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cardiff. It looks to build upon the track record of these departments to undertake interdisciplinary research into issues of social responsibility, sustainability, and the accountability of business. The following list of research projects is not definitive but offers a guide to work within BRASS. Projects covered by core research centre funding: accounting for taste: contested accountability and regulation in food: foot and mouth research; micro-factory retailing in automotive products; corporate social responsibility; product take back; ethical investment. Examples of other funded projects: ecological footprinting; evaluation of the Corporate Forum for the National Parks Project; technological transformation in food consumption and production systems: sustainable waste management – commercial and industrial waste arisings; Cardiff waste trial survey and evaluation project: feasibility study on methods and indicators to measure the cost-effectiveness of diversity policies in enterprises; human rights and corporations; contaminated land reporting; progressing up the waste hierarchy: emissions trading; trans-disciplinary waste seminar series. www.brass.cardiff.ac.uk

Law and planning on accommodation for gypsies/travellers

Dr Rob Home of the Law Department, Anglia Polytechnic University, has been undertaking a research contract for the Bedfordshire local authorities on their accommodation requirements for gypsies/travellers over the next five years. The investigation involves both analysis of available statistics and interviews with gypsies/travellers in the county to establish local connections and travelling patterns. Since the 1994 Criminal Justice Act, the public and policy debates have been conducted in negative terms, concerned with issues of criminalisation, public order and anti-social behaviour, but recently policy has shifted towards issues of best value, provision of suitable accommodation, equality rights and community cohesion. The year 2003 has seen the publication of three relevant reports: a Home Office consultation paper on unauthorised encampments, the University of Birmingham research study on Local Authority Sites in England (by Pat Niner) and an Institute of Public Policy Research consultation paper. As well as the work of Luke Clements and Rachel Morris at the Cardiff Law School, the Traveller Law Reform Coalition is lobbying for legislative change, particularly to reinstate a statutory local authority duty to provide sites into the forthcoming Housing Bill, and a stronger planning role for regional assemblies.

Rob Home has been researching on gypsies and the planning system for 20 years and is currently investigating the paradox of the 'settled' gypsy in judicial interpretation of the statutory definition and in local planning policies, following recent case law. He expects to present a paper on the subject in the Housing Stream of the SLSA Glasgow 2004 conference, and contribute a chapter to the forthcoming *Feminist Perspectives on Property Law* (edited by Anne Bottomley and Hilary Lim). Contact [e r.home@apu.ac.uk](mailto:e.r.home@apu.ac.uk) or [† 01245 493131](tel:01245493131) x 3349.

Age as an Equality Issue – Legal and policy perspectives (2003) Sandra Fredman and Sarah Spencer (eds), Hart ISBN 1-84113-405-8 £30 239pp

Ageism has recently been thrust onto the equality agenda by the spectre of an aging population and this has led to a range of policies on 'active aging'. Most importantly, legally binding legislation prohibiting age discrimination in employment will need to be in place by 2006. This book looks at ageism in a series of chapters by experts from a wide range of disciplines. It begins by examining the nature of the ageing process and then turns to a detailed analysis of the concept of age equality and goes on critically to assess employment, education, and health.

Governing Sexuality – The changing politics of citizenship and law reform (2003) Carl Stychin, Hart ISBN 1-84113-267-5 £30 172pp

This book explores issues of sexual citizenship and law reform in the UK and continental Europe. Across western and eastern Europe, lesbians and gay men are increasingly making claims for equal status, grounded in the language of rights and citizenship, and using the language of international human rights and European law.

Implicit Dimensions of Contract – Discrete, relational, and network contracts (2003) David Campbell, Hugh Collins and John Wightman (eds), Hart ISBN 1-84113-349-3 £35 396pp

This collection explores the significance of implicit understandings and tacit expectations of the parties to different kinds of contractual agreements. An interdisciplinary and comparative approach is used to investigate how the law comprehends and gives effect to these implicit dimensions of contracts. The significance of this enquiry is found not only in relation to the interpretation of contracts in many different contexts, but in how social practices involved in making contracts should be analysed and comprehended.

International Corporate Law, Vol 2 (2003) Fiona Macmillan (ed), Hart ISBN 1-84113-158-X £52 350pp

The International Corporate Law Series is dedicated to the publication of scholarly writing on issues in the area of international and comparative corporate law. Each volume has two parts, the first contains essays on international and comparative aspects of corporate law and on theoretical perspectives on corporate law. The second contains selected short country reports.

Surrogate Motherhood – International perspectives (2003) Rachel Cook and Shelley Day Sclater (eds), with Felicity Kaganas, Hart ISBN 1-84113-255-1 £35 324pp

A multi-disciplinary collection exploring legal, ethical, social, psychological and practical aspects of surrogate motherhood in Britain and abroad. It highlights the common themes that characterise debates across countries as well as exploring the many differences in policies and practices. Surrogacy raises questions for medical and welfare practitioners and dilemmas for policy makers as well as ethical issues of concern to society as a whole.

Great Expectations: Contracted community policing in New Earswick (2003) Adam Crawford, Stuart Lister and David Wall, Joseph Rowntree Foundation ISBN 1-85935-147-6 £13.95

This report evaluates the implementation and impact of an innovative community policing initiative, whereby a housing association purchased from the local police additional policing to provide reassurance for residents. On the basis of an in-depth three-year study, this report highlights broader lessons for those considering novel ways to address residents' perceptions of security and sense of safety.

Disputing Doctors – The socio-legal dynamics of complaints about medical care (2003) Linda Mulcahy, Open University Press ISBN 0335212441 £19.99 173pp

This book looks at the dynamics of doctor-patient disputes. Reflecting on 15 years of research in the NHS, the author considers the contexts of disputes, the ways parties construct narratives and identities and the extent to which these disputes are resolved. www.mcgraw-hill.co.uk/html/0335212441.html

'Kant's theory of cosmopolitanism and Hegel's critique' (2003) by Robert Fine, in *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, David Rasmussen (ed) 29(6): 609–30 is a reconstruction of Kant's theory of cosmopolitanism and a radical re-reading of Hegel's thoroughly non-nationalistic reading of Kant. **'Classes and nations in recent historical sociology'** (2003) Robert Fine and Daniel Chernilo, in Gerard Delanty and Engin Isin (eds), *Handbook of Historical Sociology*, Sage, pp 235–50 challenges the orthodoxy that the nation state is the characteristic political form of modernity.

There are two new publications from the Department for Constitutional Affairs. **Evaluation of the Impact of the Reforms in the Court of Appeal** (Civil Division) (2003) Joyce Plotnikoff and Richard Wolfson 5/03

This study's overall aim was to describe the impact of the reforms to the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) introduced since the Bowman Report and to assess the extent to which the intentions set out in the Access to Justice Act 1999 have been achieved. It concludes that the most impressive change in the Court of Appeal since the introduction of the new rules is the improvement in processing the court's caseload. The research also identifies and examines aspects of the reforms that have been less successful.

Residence and Contact Disputes in Court, Vol 1 (2003) Carol Smart, Vanessa May, Amanda Wade and Clare Furniss 6/03

This report examines the nature of the disputes over residence and contact that were brought to three county courts in England in the year 2000. It explores how the courts processed these cases and examines how they dealt with allegations of violence and abuse. Finally, it focuses on the issue of how children's welfare was defined and the extent to which their voices were heard in the disputes. All DCA reports are available free of charge: research@dca.gsi.gov.uk.

Youth Offending and Restorative Justice: Implementing Reform in Youth Justice (2003) Adam Crawford and Tim Newburn, Willan Publishing ISBN 1-84392-011-5 £18.99

This book provides an empirically grounded and theoretically informed account of recent changes to the youth justice system in England and Wales, focusing on the attempted introduction of elements of restorative justice into the heart of the criminal justice system through the implementation of referral orders and youth offender panels.

Children and their Families: Contact, rights and welfare (2003) Andrew Bainham, Bridget Lindley, Martin Richards and Liz Trinder (eds), Hart ISBN 1-84113-253-5 £30 pb 430pp

This book is concerned with the regulation of family relationships, in particular the issue of openness and contact in the many different family situations in which it may arise.

Economic and Social Rights under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: A legal perspective (2003) Tamara Hervey and Jeff Kenner (eds), Hart, ISBN 1-84113-095-8 £45 hb 372pp

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU includes, in addition to the traditional 'civil and political rights', many rights of an economic or social nature. These essays by leading scholars consider the significance of the inclusion of such rights.

● SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

University of Glasgow: 6-8 April 2004

Calls for papers and stream information

Closing date for 300-word abstracts is 31 January 2004. Please contact stream organisers for details or informal discussions.

Access to justice stream

Papers on all aspects of access to justice are welcome. The following are only examples of areas in which papers would be welcomed: salaried legal aid services; assessing legal need; legal and advice services and social exclusion; unrepresented litigants; lawyers and legal markets; access to justice, the courts and litigation; tribunals, ombudsmen and other forms of dispute resolution; insurance, conditional fees and commercial approaches to access to justice. Richard Moorhead [e moorheadr@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:moorheadr@cardiff.ac.uk) † 029 2087 5098 Antoinette Samuel [e samuelam@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:samuelam@cardiff.ac.uk) † 029 2087 6027.

Affirmative action stream

Although long-standing affirmative action programmes are under attack in the USA, there is increasing interest in the use of such policies in the UK. Papers from any disciplinary perspective are invited on the justifiability and efficacy of affirmative action policies in redressing all forms of discrimination, particularly in the areas of employment, higher education, the legal profession, the judiciary, political representation, public appointments and dealing with experience in non-UK jurisdictions. Dr Aileen McHarg [e a.mcharg@law.gla.ac.uk](mailto:a.mcharg@law.gla.ac.uk) † 0141 330 5408 Prof Donald Nicolson [e donald.nicolson@strath.ac.uk](mailto:donald.nicolson@strath.ac.uk) † 0141 548 3978

Children and the law stream

Contributions are welcome from colleagues with expertise in law and other relevant disciplines. This stream will include theoretical and empirical work with themed sessions, eg: issues in child protection and the provision of children's services; the role of children in decision-making in law-regulated family matters, including divorce and adoption; policy and practice in relation to children who engage in 'anti-social behaviour'; 10-17-year-olds and the 'new' youth justice processes; issues around identity; theorising and implementing children's rights. Christine Piper at [e christine.piper@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:christine.piper@brunel.ac.uk)

Corporate governance stream

Themes: institutional investors: culture, values, voting, passivity and activism; governance in mutual and non-profit organisations; executive remuneration and its relationship with leadership, incentives and performance; employee profit-sharing; board structure and composition: recruitment and the role of non-executives, employee representation; the impact of indirect ownership of securities on corporate governance; the relationship between corporate governance and 'ethical investment'; the role of auditors; international aspects: convergence, adaptation, regulatory competition. Dr Iain MacNeil [e i.macneil@law.gla.ac.uk](mailto:i.macneil@law.gla.ac.uk)

Family law and family policy stream

We welcome papers on all aspects of family law and family policy, and are also interested in papers that adopt a comparative or international perspective. We are particularly interested in promoting debate on recent proposals for reform, such as the Government's proposals on same-sex partnerships or the Law Society's paper on marital property. Suggested areas include: family law and sexuality; the state and family law: governmental attitudes towards reform; power relations within the family: ownership of property, domestic violence etc. Anne Barlow [e aeb@aber.ac.uk](mailto:aeb@aber.ac.uk) † +44 (0)1970 622718/2 or Rebecca Probert [e rebecca.probert@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.probert@warwick.ac.uk)

Globalisation stream

This stream aims to explore critical issues related to the legal and socio-cultural dimensions of globalisation. Abstracts are invited which seek to analyse and scrutinise the concept of globalisation and its impact on legal, social, cultural and political concepts, eg: analysing the concept of globalisation including theoretical perspectives; globalisation and internationalisation/regionalisation; the impact of globalisation on the evolution of legal notions; globalisation and culture; economic globalisation and multinational corporations; globalisation and technology; globalisation, governance and the nation-state; the globalisation of human rights. Mohamed Wahab [e mohamed_wahab@hotmail.com](mailto:mohamed_wahab@hotmail.com)

Housing stream

Last year's Call for Papers started with the words: 'Housing law is in a state of flux . . .' So, no change there. This year's developments include a new charter and regulatory regime from the Housing Corporation, the Homelessness Act 2002 now in force, and the Housing Bill 2003 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill 2003 making their way through Parliament. Radical reforms to tenancy regimes are being brought in across the British Isles. We would welcome papers which explore the role of law in shaping past, current and future housing provision, in the widest sense. Helen Carr (Law Commission) has offered to organise one session focusing on the comparisons between different approaches to reform of public and private tenancy relations in the UK. Sarah Blandy [e s.blandy@shu.ac.uk](mailto:s.blandy@shu.ac.uk) † 0114 225 4004 and Caroline Hunter [e c.m.hunter@shu.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.hunter@shu.ac.uk) † 0114 225 3516

Information law and cyberspace stream

The huge advances in the extent and nature of the use of IT has resulted in an expansion of all facets of the law in this field. There has been significant development in many areas and an increased scrutiny of the effects of these developments with a focus upon rights, the impact of IT on daily life, business practices, constitutional framework, core values, morality and so forth. Debates surrounding file sharing, internet paedophilia and the development of wi-fi are recent examples of these. Abstracts are welcome within this area as broadly defined, encompassing not only legal analysis, but also placing the relevant law and practice in context. Mark O'Brien [e m.r.obrien@shu.ac.uk](mailto:m.r.obrien@shu.ac.uk)

Law and popular culture stream

Proposals for papers and/or sessions for Glasgow 2004 are invited. An inclusive approach is taken as to what is covered by law and popular culture, to encourage innovative work in all historical and contemporary fields of popular culture. Thematic sessions in the past have included: intellectual property and popular culture; (un)popular cultures? Regulating conduct in the twenty-first century; representations of Harry Potter; Football and the law – commerce, culture and compromise; icons and idols – the love for cinematic law. Abstracts (as Word attachments copied to Steve Greenfield) to Guy Osborn [e g.osborn@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:g.osborn@wmin.ac.uk) † 0207 911 5000 x2567 Steve Greenfield [e greenfs@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:greenfs@wmin.ac.uk) † 0207 911 5000 x2538

Legal profession and ethics stream

The legal profession is now facing its greatest challenges. It has to deal with issues of diversity, gender, values, globalisation and fragmentation. Organisationally it has changed: there are mega-firms, virtual MDPs, limited liability partnerships, and the suggestion that law firms should consider becoming plcs. Restrictive practices are under attack and lawyer-client privilege is threatened. What is the legal profession? What are its values? What do lawyers do? Papers are welcome on these and other aspects of the legal profession and its ethics. Julian Webb [e j.webb01@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:j.webb01@wmin.ac.uk) Andy Boon [e a.boon@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:a.boon@wmin.ac.uk) John Flood [e j.a.flood@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:j.a.flood@wmin.ac.uk)

Public law stream

Themes include: grievance and redress mechanisms; judicial review; tribunal reform; regulation etc. Michael Adler [e michael.adler@ed.ac.uk](mailto:michael.adler@ed.ac.uk) † 0131 650 3931 † 0131 650 3945 Tom Mullen [e t.mullen@law.gla.ac.uk](mailto:t.mullen@law.gla.ac.uk)

Regulation stream

Academics, lawyers and professionals with an interest in regulation are invited to submit papers, for example: the dynamics of regulatory reforms; access to essential services; regulation of utilities; social and economic aspects of regulation; regulation and civil society; transnational regulation; papers on any other aspect of regulation are equally welcome, as are session proposals. Cosmo Graham [e cg78@le.ac.uk](mailto:cg78@le.ac.uk) † 0116 252 2355 or Margit Cohn [e mc118@le.ac.uk](mailto:mc118@le.ac.uk) † 0116 252 2351

Socio-legal methodology stream

This stream invites papers on the methodological issues arising out of attempts to study law, legal institutions and legal behaviour. In particular: the development of quantitative and qualitative methods; problems associated with fieldwork; problems of collecting and analysing data; the epistemological issues of socio-legal research; the interdependence of socio-legal theory and methodology; how the priorities of funding agencies influence the development of socio-legal research. Reza Banakar [e r.banakar@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:r.banakar@westminster.ac.uk)

● **ISLAMIC LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS:
AN ETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACH**

Wolfson College, University of Oxford: 5-6 December 2003

The conference brings together a number of international scholars working on issues relating to Islamic law (*Shari'a, fiqh*, state law) and touching upon human rights concerns. The papers will consider themes including: the terms and scope of debates over how divine justice should be interpreted on earth, legal procedures and what these reveal about the values underlying law, how conditions of modernity affect legal reasoning, and particular human rights related issues such as gender equality and the laws of war. Contact the Administrator ☒ Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UD e tania.boytt@csls.ox.ac.uk

● **21ST ANNUAL LAW AND SOCIETY CONFERENCE:
SOCIETIES AND LAWS: (RE)ACT? (RE)CREATE?
(RE)FORM?**

The Justice Policy Research Centre, University of Newcastle 8-10 December 2003

Streams include: indigenous peoples & the law; critical legal education; socio-legal research – theory and methods; international human rights; legal pluralism; families and law; media, communication & law; terrorism, security & the law; legal services and legal needs; critical perspectives on crime; the environment and the law; new technologies and the law; examining the legal process; gender and law. Angela Melville e angela.melville@newcastle.edu.au w www.newcastle.edu.au/school/law/jprc/index.html or contact

● **5TH LSRC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:
SOCIAL EXCLUSION: A ROLE FOR LAW**

Selwyn College, University of Cambridge: 24-2 March 2004

The conference themes will be: (1) the impact of 'justiciable' problem; (2) forms of legal and integrated services; (3) the impact of legal interventions; (4) the place of legal aid in the legal services market. Those interested in presenting a paper at the conference should submit their proposal via the LSRC website at w www.lsrc.org.uk. Further details of the conference, as well as registration forms, are also posted on the LSRC website. A selection of the papers presented at the conference will be published.

● **ESRC KNOWING FAMILIES SEMINAR SERIES**

Leeds University

- Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches in Family Research (March 2004)
- Visualising Families: Ethnographies of family life (May 2004)

Contact Angela Jackman e a.s.jackman@leeds.ac.uk.

● **CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON FAMILIES AND
RELATIONSHIPS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:
WORK-LIFE BALANCE ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE**

John McIntyre Centre, University of Edinburgh: 30 June-2 July 2004

An international conference for researchers, policy makers and practitioners with an interest in work-life balance. Abstracts (250 words max) invited for the following streams by 15 December 2003.

- Conceptualising families, time and work-life balance
- Equalising gendered caring responsibilities: barriers and obstacles
- Policy and practice arenas: states, labour markets, households and families
- Work-life balance, families, health and well-being

w www.cfr.ac.uk † 0131 651 1939

● **BRITISH SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY CONFERENCE:
CRIMINOLOGY, GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION**

Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth: 6-9 July 2004

Plenary speakers include Prof Philip Stenning, Victoria University, New Zealand; Prof Barbara Hudson, University of Central Lancashire; and Prof Kieran McEvoy, Queen's University Belfast. For information on submission of papers and registration visit the conference website at w www.port.ac.uk/icjs or contact BSC Conference Administrator ☒ Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, Ravelin House, Museum Rd, Portsmouth PO1 2QQ † 02392 843948 e BSCconf2004@port.ac.uk.

● **BRITISH CRIMINOLOGY CONFERENCE:
CRIMINOLOGY, GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION**

Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth: 6-9 July 2004

Email enquiries about the conference should be sent to

e BSCconf2004@port.ac.uk

● **INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO
GENDERED VIOLENCE**

Gender and Violence Inter-Faculty Working Group Bristol University

This ESRC seminar series' primary objective is to increase and disseminate knowledge of gender and violence by bringing together academics, activists, policy makers, practitioners and professionals from a variety of specialisms.

- **Criminalising gendered violence?**(14–15 September 2004)

The central aim of this event is to consider and critique the use of criminalisation as well as other legal and social policy responses to gender violence (widely defined) nationally and internationally. e lois.s.bibbings@bristol.ac.uk or e c.pantazis@bristol.ac.uk

- **Theory, policy and practice: gender violence and violence against women** (date to be confirmed) seeks to link the strands of the series by examining overall developments in the field of gender violence.

e gill.hague@bristol.ac.uk or e ellen.malos@bristol.ac.uk

w www.bris.ac.uk/depts/sps/inter/domvio/iagv.html

● **TOWARDS A SAFER SOCIETY: UNDERSTANDING AND
TACKLING VIOLENCE**

Edinburgh International Conference Centre:

31 August-3 September 2004

Keynote speakers: Dr Bob McGrath, Vermont, USA; Dr Rudiger Muller-Isberner, Haina, Germany; Dr Chris Webster, Toronto, Canada. † +44(0) 1355 244966 f +44(0) 1355 249959

e safersociety@glasconf.demon.co.uk w www.safersociety.gcal.ac.uk

● **INTER-DISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM:
LAW AND SOCIOLOGY**

University College London: 13-14 September 2004

The couveurs are Prof Michael Freeman and Prof Hazel Genn. This follows previous inter-disciplinary colloquia including Law and Science and Law and Geography. Offers of papers are welcome on any aspect of the relationship between the two disciplines. Please send a 100-word abstract to Prof Freeman at ☒ Faculty of Laws, University College London, Bentham House, Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EG e ucltmdf@ucl.ac.uk. The final date for receipt of papers is 29 February 2004.

● **COLLOQUIUM ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL
ARBITRATION, ADR AND AFRICAN STATES**

Central London: 6-7 July 2005

Contact Lauretta Alexander, Colloquium Administrator ☒ School of Law, King's College London, London WC2R 2LS † (+44) (0) 20 7848 2265 f (+44) (0) 20 7848 2465 e l.a.alexander@kcl.ac.uk w www.kcl.ac.uk/law/events/colloquium

And there is an **African Regional Series** of this Colloquium throughout 2004–05

- Abuja, Nigeria (July / August 2004)
- Cairo, Egypt (18–19 December 2004)
- Nairobi, Kenya (March 2004)
- Stellenbosch, South Africa (February 2005)
- Dakar, Senegal (March–April 2005)
- Tunis, Tunisia (December 2005).

Contact Dr Amazu A Asouzu, Lecturer in Law ☒ King's College London, London WC2R 2LS † (+44) (0) 20 7848 1159 f (+44) (0) 20 7848 2465 w www.kcl.ac.uk/law/events/colloquium.