

# Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER

No 42



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2004

## RESEARCHING (SOCIO) LEGAL ACADEMICS

*In a recent research project, Fiona Cownie found that a surprisingly large number of academics interviewed laid claim to being socio-legal in their outlook.*

### Exploring the tribe of academic lawyers

For the last three or four years, I have been engaged in a long-term project to explore the culture of law schools and the professional identities of legal academics. This involved talking to 54 legal academics in seven different institutions about a range of subjects, from the aspects of their job that they like most, to the way in which they choose their work clothes. Studying legal academics might seem a strange, even frivolous, piece of research, even within the socio-legal community. Actually, it is neither of those things. Studying legal academics not only adds to our knowledge of the academic profession in general: it also increases our knowledge about the discipline of law and its future development. From the point of view of socio-legal studies, this project had a particular role to play in uncovering the extent to which a socio-legal or 'law in context' approach has permeated the culture of academic law.

### Becher, and academic lawyers as 'alien'

I first became interested in the culture of disciplines when I read a book by Tony Becher, entitled *Academic Tribes and Territories* (Becher, 1989). Becher was fascinated by the fact that particular groups of academics organise their professional lives in ways which are intimately related to the intellectual tasks in which they are engaged. He gathered data from interviews with academics in 12 different disciplines (including law) and explored a range of issues to throw light on disciplinary differences. The topics he covered included career patterns, criteria for professional recognition, forms and rates of publication, the structure of personal networks and so on. His book (now in its second edition, Becher and Trowler, 2001) is a rich source of information about the different ways in which academics belonging to different disciplines think, how they organise their careers and their views of themselves and the other inhabitants of the 'academic territory'. I loved the book and found it fascinating. But when I came to the data on law, I was in turn impressed and frustrated. Impressed by the extent to which Becher had penetrated certain aspects of the discipline, but frustrated because his characterisation of law was, in my view, so partial. 'In academic law,' he wrote, 'the centre of the subject is a body of rules,' and the concern of academic lawyers is 'mainly with ordering a corpus of knowledge: it is a largely descriptive pursuit' (Becher, 1989, p 8). Although he also referred to the discipline leaving open 'the possibility of a critical, ideological function', the general impression given was of the whole discipline of law being essentially doctrinal. Added to that was the pen picture he drew of academic lawyers, as a result of asking the members of other academic tribes to comment on their idea of an academic lawyer.

The predominant notion of academic lawyers is that they are not really academic – one respondent described them as 'arcane, distant and alien – an appendage to the university world'. Their personal qualities are dubious: they are variously represented as vociferous, untrustworthy, immoral, narrow, arrogant and conservative, though kinder eyes see them as impressive and intelligent. Their scholarly activities are thought to be unexciting and uncreative, comprising a series of intellectual puzzles scattered among 'large areas of description' (Becher, 1989, p 30).

The negative picture of academic lawyers found in Becher's book, which failed to uncover the existence of socio-legal academics and did not appear to go far towards acknowledging that at least some academic lawyers, of whatever persuasion, could engage in work which was creative, imaginative and intellectually stimulating, or that they could be persons of integrity, spurred me on to carry out some detailed qualitative investigation of contemporary law schools and their inhabitants – not just to explore the extent to which Becher's pen-portrait was accurate, but also to find out as much as I could about the discipline of law and where it might be going in the future.

### We're all socio-legal now

During the interviews I carried out, one of the early areas I explored with my respondents was the approach which they adopted when teaching and researching law. Asked to place themselves on a scale ranging from doctrinal at one end through law in context/socio-legal studies to critical legal studies and feminist approaches to law at the other, my respondents fell neatly into two halves – those describing their approach as doctrinal and those describing it as socio-legal/CLS. This in itself was quite surprising, given that members of the socio-legal community can sometimes feel marginalised by the apparently overwhelming influence of black-letter law in their law schools.

It rapidly became apparent that the socio-legal approach may be even more widespread than my initial data suggested. This is because, on exploring the subject further with the respondents, it appears that there is, in fact, a large overlap between the approach of some legal academics who described themselves as adopting a doctrinal approach and that of many socio-legal academics. Many socio-legal respondents emphasised that, in order to be a good socio-legal lawyer, it is imperative to have a good grasp of the law: ▶ p3

### SLSA annual conferences

#### Glasgow 6–8 April 2004

There's still time to book for Glasgow – see pp 13–14 or the conference website [www.law.gla.ac.uk/slsa2004/](http://www.law.gla.ac.uk/slsa2004/).

#### Liverpool 2005

We are delighted to announce that the University of Liverpool will be hosting next year's conference. The organiser is Helen Stalford – [e stalford@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:stalford@liverpool.ac.uk) – and she will be assisted by an SLSA sub-committee consisting of Tony Bradney, Lois Bibbings and Helen Carr. A conference website will be set up in the near future. Look out for details on the SLSA website [www.kent.ac.uk/slsa/index.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/slsa/index.htm) and in the newsletter.

## SLSA Executive Committee 2003–2004

### CHAIR

Sally Wheeler  
Department of Law, Birkbeck College  
e s.wheeler@bbk.ac.uk

### VICE-CHAIR

Dave Cowan  
Department of Law, University of Bristol  
e d.s.cowan@bristol.ac.uk

### SECRETARY

John Flood  
School of Law, University of Westminster  
e j.a.flood@wmin.ac.uk

### TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mary Seneviratne  
Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent  
University  
e mary.seneviratne@ntu.ac.uk

### RECRUITMENT SECRETARY

Lois Bibbings  
Department of Law, University of Bristol  
e lois.s.bibbings@bristol.ac.uk

### WEBMASTER

Nick Jackson  
University of Kent  
e n.s.r.jackson@ukc.ac.uk

### 2004 CONFERENCE ORGANISER

Tom Mullen  
University of Glasgow  
e t.mullen@law.gla.ac.uk

### 2005 CONFERENCE ORGANISER

Helen Stalford  
University of Liverpool  
stalford@liverpool.ac.uk

### SLSA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Anne Barlow  
Department of Law, University of Wales,  
Aberystwyth  
e aeb@aber.ac.uk

Andy Boon  
School of Law, University of Westminster  
e boona@wmin.ac.uk

Anthony Bradney  
Faculty of Law, University of Leicester  
e ney@leicester.ac.uk

Helen Carr  
School of Law, London Metropolitan  
University  
e helen.carr@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk

Richard Collier  
Newcastle Law School, University of  
Newcastle  
e richard.collier@newcastle.ac.uk

Alison Dunn  
University of Newcastle  
e dunn@ncl.ac.uk

Hazel Genn  
University College London  
e h.genn@ucl.ac.uk

Anne Griffiths  
Faculty of Law, University of Edinburgh  
e anne.griffiths@ed.ac.uk

Lisa Glennon  
Queen's University Belfast  
e l.glennon@qub.ac.uk

Paddy Hillyard  
School of Social & Community Services,  
Ulster University  
e p.hillyard@ulster.ac.uk

Morag McDermont (*pg rep*)  
University of the West of England  
e morag.mcdermont@uwe.ac.uk

Michael Meehan  
Liverpool John Moores University  
e m.a.meehan@livjm.ac.uk

Marie Selwood (*newsletter/directory editor*)  
e m.selwood@tiscali.co.uk

Philip Thomas  
Cardiff Law School  
e thomaspa@cardiff.ac.uk

Lisa Webley (*email network administrator*)  
School of Law, University of Westminster  
e webleyl@westminster.ac.uk

*slsa news . . . slsa news . . . slsa news . . . slsa news . . . slsa news*

## Postgraduate members

### SLSA PG Conference 2004

The conference took place (13–14 January) at the School of Law, Liverpool John Moores University. Sixteen students from 11 universities attended to hear talks from eight speakers, including five SLSA Executive members. The topics discussed included motivation, postgraduate supervision, giving conference papers, research ethics, getting published and surviving your viva.

The first day's session was followed by a wine reception sponsored by the JMU School of Law journal the *Liverpool Law Review*. The SLSA then sponsored a meal at a local restaurant for attendees and speakers.

Overall feedback was very positive and the conference organiser would like to thank the SLSA, the JMU School of Law and the editorial board of the *Liverpool Law Review* for their support. In particular I would like to thank the speakers who very willingly gave their time to support the event. Thanks are due too to the students who made it a stimulating and informal event.

As most of the attendees were not previously student members of the SLSA, the conference promoted awareness of the SLSA's work and of our Glasgow conference. The students all expressed an interest in both. Morag McDermont, the SLSA pg representative, took soundings from the attendees on a possible postgraduate stream at Glasgow (see below) and an email discussion forum is being set up to receive feedback e m.a.meehan@livjm.ac.uk

**Mike Meehan**

### Glasgow 2004 pg stream

In response to participants' suggestions at the postgraduate conference, postgraduates wishing to present a paper about their research were encouraged to submit an abstract to the most appropriate subject stream. There will also be a separate postgraduate stream. Alternatively, postgraduates

can display a poster with details of their research in the conference exhibition hall and be available for informal discussion of their research during conference breaktimes. If you are interested in this option, please contact me (see below) to arrange exhibition space. Posters should be no more than A0 in size. Finally, all postgraduates are invited to an informal meeting in the first workshop session of the conference. The aim of this session will be to report back from the Liverpool pg conference and discuss the format for next year's event. We could also discuss pgs' experience of research methodology training and what the SLSA could be doing to support pgs in this area. I will circulate a paper nearer the time of the conference, so again, please get in touch if you can attend this session. Members of the SLSA Executive will also be at this meeting. e morag.mcdermont@uwe.ac.uk

**Morag McDermont**

### SLSA anniversary student offer

The first issue of the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* was published in spring 1989 and edited by Nancy Drucker. To celebrate this 15th anniversary we are offering students their first year's membership of the SLSA absolutely free – a saving of £10. Benefits of membership include: 3 issues per year of the newsletter; an entry in the *SLSA Directory*; discounts on journals; email network; student bursaries; one-day conferences and seminars; and a dedicated pg conference. New student members would also qualify for the members' discounted annual conference fee saving an additional £10. Contact SLSA membership secretary Mary Seneviratne e mary.seneviratne@ntu.ac.uk

### Newsletter contact details

Marie Selwood, Editor ✉ *Socio-Legal Newsletter*, 33 Baddlesmere Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2LB † 01227 770189 e m.selwood@tiscali.co.uk. The deadline for the next issue is **Monday 14 June**.

## SLSA website

[www.kent.ac.uk/slsa/index.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/slsa/index.htm)

The SLSA's website has been redesigned and extensively updated. The new site is to be officially launched at the annual conference. Hosted by Kent University, the webmaster is Nick Jackson who will be assisted by Marie Selwood as the first point of contact for members. A major new feature of the website will be a bulletin board which members will be able to use for discussion and to advertise jobs and events. e m.selwood@tiscali.co.uk

## Call for nominations for SLSA Executive Committee

There are a number of opportunities for members of the SLSA to join the Executive Committee. Nominations can be made at any time prior to the AGM at the annual conference.

The Executive Committee is a group of volunteers working for the benefit of the socio-legal community. Responsibilities include organising activities (workshops, conferences etc) and responding to various consultations. There is a standing committee on the ethical code and a sub-committee on the website (to be relaunched shortly). There is also a need for a new pg representative. There are three committee meetings a year. Members are elected at the AGM for a term of three years in the first instance and may be re-elected for a further term.

Nominations must be in writing, by at least two members and signed by the nominee indicating their willingness to serve. Send to John Flood, Honorary Secretary ✉ School of Law, University of Westminster, 4 Little Titchfield Street, London W1W 7UW e j.a.flood@westminster.ac.uk. For an informal discussion contact any member of the Executive (see above) or Dave Cowan e d.s.cowan@bris.ac.uk

**p1** ◀ [Researching (socio) legal academics, Fiona Cownie]

I mean, it is terribly important to me that people know the law, that they have an accurate knowledge of the black-letter law. (*principal lecturer, mid-career, female, new university*)

Well, instinctively, I'm a critical lawyer, but I don't think you can be a critical lawyer unless you've got a firm grasp of the black-letter; that's crucial. (*senior lecturer, mid-career, male, new university*)

Equally, the majority of the doctrinal lawyers emphasised that they did not concentrate solely on legal rules. They also thought it was important to introduce contextual issues (social, political, economic and so forth) into their teaching and research:

[My approach is] predominantly black-letter, but law can only be understood in the context in which it exists. So, bearing in mind that I teach contract, there are a lot of relevant economic points and a lot of purely policy decisions . . . so I'm quite law in context, really. (*professor, experienced, male, new university*)

I regard myself as a little island of hard-nosed black-letter commercial law in a sea of legal theory. Having said that, because my subject is competition law, it is uniquely grounded in economics, and . . . there are black-letter competition lawyers out there who complain that my approach is too heavily economics-based and too heavily theory-based. But I think of myself as a black-letter lawyer. (*reader, mid-career, male, new university*)

Put comments like these together and the final picture which emerged from my project was that, in contemporary law schools, the socio-legal approach may actually be more influential than the doctrinal.

These data throw up many questions, most of which I do not have the space to address here, but which I explore in the book which reports the results of the project and analyses the culture of contemporary law schools and the professional identities of academic lawyers (Cownie, 2004). One matter is worthy of comment, however, and that is the way in which some legal academics, despite doing all the things which would bring them within the definition of socio-legal found in the SLSA's Ethical Statement and in the definition used by the ESRC in the report on socio-legal studies which it published in 1994, still fail to describe themselves as 'socio-legal'. Obviously, reluctance to describe oneself as socio-legal can stem from a number of sources, including the belief that it might not be as 'acceptable' as describing oneself as 'black-letter', but the main reason given by my respondents was the belief that socio-legal work can only be empirical – for many respondents, any other way of looking at law was classed as 'doctrinal'. The result of this exclusive association of socio-legal with empirical in the minds of many academic lawyers is that the socio-legal community is arguably a lot larger than it might appear on the basis of other measures, such as membership of the SLSA.

In times when the socio-legal community, as much as any other part of the academy, is beset by the pressures of the QAA, the RAE and many other forms of audit, it seemed particularly pertinent to share this particular aspect of my research, if only to affirm, in a small way, the increasing importance of socio-legal studies within the discipline of law.

**References**

- T Becher (1989) *Academic Tribes and Territories: Intellectual enquiry and the culture of disciplines*, SRHE & Open University Press, Milton Keynes  
 T Becher and P Trowler (2001) (2nd edn) *Academic Tribes and Territories: intellectual enquiry and the culture of disciplines*, SRHE & Open University Press, Buckingham  
 F Cownie (2004) *Legal Academics: Culture and identities*, Hart, Oxford  
 ESRC (1994) *Review of Socio-Legal Studies: Final Report*, ESRC, Swindon

**Nuffield Inquiry on Empirical Research in Law – progress report**

The inquiry, which was announced in the last edition of the SLSA Newsletter, was formally launched on 1 December 2003 at a reception hosted by the Nuffield Foundation. The principal speakers, Lord Filkin, Minister at the Department of Constitutional Affairs, and Dame Brenda Hale both warmly welcomed the initiative. Lord Filkin stressed the importance of evidence to underpin policy making. Dame Brenda expressed the view that good legal scholarship often depended on good empirical research; she also hoped that the judiciary would take increasing note of empirical research.

Since then, the inquiry has made good progress.

- It has established its own website  
 www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/genn/empirical/index.shtml.
- The Advisory Group has met for its first meeting.
- Drafting of the consultation paper is well under way supplemented by a great deal of background research and data collection.
- The inquiry has accepted an invitation to present the consultation paper to the Annual Conference of the SLSA in Glasgow (6–8 April, see pp 13–14).
- A series of regional meetings to be held around the country in May–June is being arranged (see below and inquiry website).
- Responses to the consultation paper will be sought by the end of June 2004.

The inquiry is particularly anxious to hear about the barriers faced by those who may wish to undertake empirical research in law and legal process and to receive suggestions for how they might be overcome. Comments to e h.genn@ucl.ac.uk or e martin.partington@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk.

The following regional meetings have been arranged. In most cases they will be held in the afternoon, preceded by an informal lunch. Publicity and further details will be available from the seminar convenors or organisers, as listed below.

**Martin Partington**

Date	University	Area	Contacts
6.05.04	Birmingham	The Midlands	<b>Convenor:</b> Prof Sally Lloyd-Bostock e s.m.lloydbostock@bham.ac.uk <b>Organiser</b> Alison Wagstaff e a.wagstaff@bham.ac.uk † 0121 414 6312
7.05.04	Bristol	Wales and the South West	<b>Convenors:</b> Prof Dave Cowan e d.s.cowan@bristol.ac.uk Prof Phil Thomas e thomaspa@cardiff.ac.uk Prof Kim Economides e k.m.economides@ex.ac.uk <b>Organiser</b> Shirley Knights e shirley.a.knights@bristol.ac.uk † 0117 954 5344
12.05.04	UCL	London and the South East	<b>Convenor:</b> Prof Hazel Genn e h.genn@ucl.ac.uk <b>Organiser</b> Ms Lisa Penfold e lisa.penfold@ucl.ac.uk
18.05.04	Manchester	The North West	<b>Convenor:</b> Professor Neville Harris e neville.harris@man.ac.uk <b>Organiser:</b> Mrs Kathleen Lacey e kathleen.lacey@man.ac.uk † 0161 275 3563
26.05.04	Ulster	Northern Ireland	<b>Convenor:</b> Prof Paddy Hillyard e p.hillyard@ulster.ac.uk <b>Organiser:</b> Mrs Carol Morley e c.morley@ulster.ac.uk
27.05.04	Edinburgh	Scotland and the North East of England	<b>Convenors:</b> Prof John Usher e john.usher@ed.ac.uk Mike Adler e michael.adler@ed.ac.uk <b>Organiser:</b> Ms Jessica McCraw e jmcraw@miscorp.ed.ac.uk

## PULLING UP THE LADDER

*As the Education Bill makes its way towards the statute book, Tony Bradney argues that it is a flawed piece of legislation with the potential to do more harm than good to our education system*

It is now time for all government ministers to have a compulsory course in elementary logic before they embark on making public policy. Were this to happen we might have fewer contradictory proposals about changes to higher education.

The government says that its policy is to provide more money for universities and increase and widen access to them. Both things will be regarded by most people as unequivocally good ideas. Without more money there will be no universities in the future. Wider access means that the benefits of university education will be available not just to an elite but, instead, to the population as a

whole. The only problem with this is that what government says its policy is and what its policy actually is are two very different things.

The extra money provided by fees of £3000 is not going to be sufficient to support the university sector: £3000 will be a start but financial imperatives will, whatever is said at the moment, quickly drive up fees. When fees get higher variable fees will become a reality. Law degrees will inevitably cost more than most other disciplines and law will cost more at some universities than others. This will not necessarily benefit law schools. Shortfalls in other areas will have to be met somehow and, as usual, law schools will find themselves paying for those areas of the university that cannot recruit sufficient students.

Truly variable fees will have a significant impact on student access. Law in every university will be amongst the dearest courses even if some law degrees will be dearer than others. Students who are from comparatively affluent families will find it easier to choose law and easier to choose dearer law schools than those who are not. Historically law has largely been a subject studied by the middle

classes. This will be even more true in the future. Variable (and high) fees and widening student access do not go together. Access regulators and widening participation policies are merely window dressing intended to hide the contradiction at the heart of government policy. And it is all based on a flawed vision of higher education.

The Labour Party once proposed that all university students, whatever the course they took, should have a compulsory element of vocational skills training in their degree programme. Advocating the return of conscription illustrates how little the Labour Party understands the purpose of higher education.

Go to university, says the government's website, and you will earn 50 per cent more than you would do if you did not go to university. Leaving aside the fact that that is highly unlikely to be the case if the government gets the large rises in participation rates that it is seeking, one wonders about the logical consequences of the Government's position. Go to university to earn more money. Presumably students should

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS: THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN BRITAIN

*John Flood of the University of Westminster summarises the findings of a major report on the social sciences.*

Within the last year an important report has been issued by the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences. *Great Expectations: The social sciences in Britain* comprehensively examines the scope and impact of social sciences – broadly defined – in Britain today. The full 160-page report can be found in pdf version at [www.the-academy.org.uk](http://www.the-academy.org.uk). The report was funded by the Department for Education and Skills, the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. This article outlines some of the features of the report.

Social sciences are extensive. Around 4.25m 11–19-year-olds study them in schools and roughly half a million students study them in the universities. The report notes 'total university annual income from the social sciences is of the order of £2.8 billion, of which about 20%

is for research'. And in global terms, British social science research ranks second only to the US.

One of the first items for the commission was to attempt to define the social sciences, something which turned out to be virtually impossible as the categories are too dispersed. Some were easy candidates: sociology, economics, politics and international relations, social policy, social work. The next category contains disciplines where parts of them fall within the social science remit: geography, psychology, law, anthropology, built environment, media studies, history, through to various medical specialties. As to what the social sciences are for, the commission saw them having a dual purpose, namely, to enhance the wealth of the UK and to enhance the quality of life. Two things surprised the commission: that the work of social scientists was little known outside academia; and the social sciences are becoming more important to those involved in the devolution of the UK.

The biggest growth areas for social sciences are in business and management studies and in education: these two dwarf all other social sciences. Students are being attracted to the more applied end of the social science spectrum. But the structure of social science varies by gender according to discipline. At A level a far greater proportion of females take subjects like sociology, law, psychology,

history, social work and English, whereas more males are found taking mathematics and statistics, economics, business studies and political studies. At undergraduate level the proportion of the total student body made up of social science students is 25%, a considerable amount. The table opposite shows the position of law between the extremes of business studies and sociology.

At the postgraduate level, the direction of the statistics changes remarkably. Taking the same five disciplines and seeing what percentage of higher degrees obtained are doctorates in 2000–01, sociology has over 20%, economics has 14.6%, law has 5%, business and management studies has 3.2% and education has 2.3%. Moreover, for law, only 40% of those PhDs were obtained by UK students. Despite these percentages the fastest growth has been seen in education PhDs with business and management beginning to catch up. University staff recruitment retention is suffering, especially in economics and business. Salaries are a significant factor. Overall, social science graduates are generally quite employable, entering a diversity of occupations.

British social sciences are very highly regarded in the world, considered second only to the US. Analysis of the 2001 RAE results

choose the course they think will make them the most money. Good news, perhaps, for law schools, but do we want students studying only those courses that they think will provide them with best financial return? And, once one graduates, is the idea that one should then choose the job that earns one the greatest amount of money because that is the reason why one went to university? Good news for Clifford Chance and its search for new trainees; not such good news for a legal aid practice and even worse news for social work. What kind of Government uses a mantra of money as a way of trying to persuade people that education is a good thing?

If there were any logic to the Government's position then we would need to reconsider the whole basis of education. Plainly, taking A levels improves your employability so we should charge students for taking them. The same argument also obtains for GCSEs with the same result. Once children arrive at infant school they should start paying because they are becoming more employable.

showed that social sciences did better than other disciplines overall. However, the results on average for business and management studies were poorer than for others.

While research and teaching in the social sciences is of good quality, government has an ambivalent attitude to much social science research, saying it does not speak clearly to policy issues. The commission believed this resulted from a mismatch between the unitary disciplinary structure of academia and government need for multidisciplinary research. Part of this lack is explained by relentless bureaucratic demands placed on academics in universities, with the RAE burden tending to risk-averse research.

The commission believes this grim outlook is the legacy of established mindsets that can be changed. It

Education is a public good. Everybody in society benefits from other people being educated. The benefits stem from the fact that more education is likely to make people more tolerant to the advantages that accrue from the specific skills and knowledge that people acquire by being educated. The drive to widen access has been a drive to make these advantages more available to a wider group of people. Widening access is not compatible with telling people that education is just about being able to make more money or charging people for the privilege.

There is a larger middle class now than there once was and that middle class now seeks to educate both its female as well as its male children. They need more universities than they once did. But higher education remains a largely middle-class preserve and the central thrust of government policy will keep it that way. There was a time when it seemed a ladder had been let down which would allow broader access to the universities. That ladder is now being pulled up.

recommends, amongst other things, that government be more proactive in involving social scientists in strategy units and devolved governments. There should be a general move to multidisciplinary. Universities should learn to incentivise their staff through improving the salaries of successful research-active staff and reorganising their schedules. Altogether the commission makes 60 recommendations to government, the research councils, universities, the Academy, other bodies and finally to individual social scientists. This is what it says to individuals: every social scientist should have his/her own website as a shop window; social researchers should grit their teeth and sell their work to the media and public; and they should explore the massive voluntary sector as a fruitful and underworked area for research.

## SLSA one-day conferences

### Is it time for a UK Innocence project?

A one-day conference will be held in Bristol later this year to discuss the feasibility of a UK Innocence Project, along similar lines to Innocence Projects that exist in the USA and Australia. The idea is to augment the *ad hoc* investigations periodically undertaken by students in academic settings and other individuals (i.e. investigative journalists, pressure groups) in the UK. A formally established Innocence Project would assist those convicted of criminal offences who have exhausted existing appeal processes and facilitate research into wrongful convictions and reform of the criminal justice system. The urgent need of such a project was recently made clear when the CCRC publicly acknowledged that innocent people must remain wrongly imprisoned if the legal tests to overturn their convictions cannot be met.

Key individuals and organisations indicating their support or who would actively participate in the collaborative creation of a UK Innocence Project include: Professor Robert Schehr (Director, Innocence Network USA); Lynne Weathered (Director, Innocence Network, Australia); Kevin McNamara MP (Departmental Committee for Home Affairs); Jane Hickman (Chair, Criminal Appeal Lawyers Association); Dr Allan Jamieson (Director, The Forensic Institute); Bob Woffinden (author and investigative journalist); Paddy Hill (member of the Birmingham Six); and support/campaign organisations including INNOCENT, Miscarriages of Justice Organisation (MOJO), Merseyside Against Injustice, South Wales Liberty, Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers (FACT).

For further details please contact either (at Bristol) Dr Michael Naughton [e m.naughton@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:m.naughton@bristol.ac.uk) or (at Leeds) Mrs Carole McCartney [e ctmccartney@aol.com](mailto:ctmccartney@aol.com).

### Stop press: one-day ethics conference

As a response to concern among the social science community about the changing ethical parameters within which research may be conducted, the SLSA is planning an autumn 2004 one-day conference on New Ethical Challenges in Socio-Legal Research to provide a forum for debate and some practical responses. It will be held at the University of Westminster and issues addressed will include: implications of the Data Protection Act 1998; ethics codes and committees; proxy consent; and covert research. Contact Anne Barlow [e aeb@aber.ac.uk](mailto:aeb@aber.ac.uk)

Applications and acceptances to full-time undergraduate courses in five subjects (2001)							
	applications			degree acceptances			applications: acceptances
	m	f	total	m	f	total	
business & management	14,217	14,771	29,988	9,690	10,187	19,877	1.46
economics	4,018	1,790	5,808	3,696	1,578	5,274	1.10
education	2,376	11,892	14,268	2,433	11,531	13,964	1.02
law	6,102	10,350	16,452	5,120	8,819	13,939	1.18
sociology	991	3,205	4,196	1,160	3,393	4,553	0.92

## PROJECT UPDATES FROM SMALL GRANTHOLDERS

*The small grant scheme continues to be as successful as ever and remains one of the most important aspects of the SLSA's work. This year, 10 applications were received and seven grants were awarded totalling £5235. Over the next four pages, 2002 grantholders report progress and 2003 grantholders outline their projects.*

### 2002 grantholders' reports

#### **Study of International Peace Teams, Alison Brown, University of Abertay Dundee, £590**

In the spring of 2003, the SLSA awarded me a grant to help towards the cost of fieldwork for a study of international peace teams. The study has resulted in a paper due to be published in *Social and Legal Studies* which discusses the phenomenon of movement restrictions in the rural West Bank from a socio-legal point of view.

In the early 1990s, I had worked in the West Bank with a human rights organisation and had kept in touch with the situation in that area. Ten years on, in my first research post at Stirling University, I decided to take some time out from 'mainstream' criminal justice research to try to write about the West Bank from a socio-legal point of view.

Before travelling to the West Bank I made contact with an international peace team, the International Women's Peace Service (IWPS) and went through their non-violence training programme. This enabled me to spend two weeks there as a volunteer in May 2003. The team is involved in the protection of civilians and in documentation of, and supporting non-violent protest against, human rights abuses. Although I could have written my paper at home, using the huge volume of material placed on the internet by the team, I decided that some time in the field was necessary to observe, as a participant, the operation of the team and the production of reports.

In the West Bank, movement restrictions are imposed by military order. Rather than engage in a formal legal debate over the applicability of international law and the Geneva Conventions to the West Bank, which has been done many times, I decided to take a more sociological and phenomenological approach. As it turned out, then, the research became less 'socio-legal' in that it is not concerned with the construction or interpretation of 'law'. I hope the resulting paper conveys some sense of the relationship between power and resistance and between restrictions on movement and the control of space and time.

So in what sense is this a study of international peace teams? During the fieldwork and training, and continuing involvement with the team, I have gathered a great deal of data on how such a team operates. I hope at some time that this may lead to further publications, perhaps in comparison with similar teams in other parts of the world. Due to the precarious and high-risk situation in which the team works, however, I decided initially to write not about the team as such but about the dynamic of control and resistance to which the team contributes.

This very small piece of research presented me with several challenges as a researcher: the relationship between research and social action, my relationship to other cultures, working in a war zone, political sensitivities and working across academic disciplines, none of which quite 'fit'. I am grateful for the support of the SLSA and welcome contact from other researchers facing similar dilemmas. [e alison.brown@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:e.alison.brown@abertay.ac.uk)

#### **The commodification of water, social protest and cosmopolitan citizenship – Bronwen Morgan, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford, £1000**

In Bolivia in 2000, the powerful multinational Bechtel in partnership with a British company, International Water, signed a long-term concession with the government to provide water to the citizens of Cochabamba. Under the terms of this concession, it became illegal for poverty-stricken villagers, many of whom had no in-house access to clean drinking water, to collect rainwater without a company permit. From one perspective, this seems outrageous. A basic good, crucial for survival, freely available as a natural resource, is fenced off by a wealthy legal entity whose human needs are grossly disproportionately less than those of the rainwater collectors. From a different perspective, this is a normal incidence of an exclusivity clause in the regulatory framework: clauses widely accepted as a legitimate part of long-term infrastructure concessions ensuring the predictability of the cost flows on which tender prices are based. In Cochabamba, the two perspectives proved socially and politically irreconcilable. Within a year the contract was terminated in a welter of violent conflict.

Contested ways of framing water's importance lie at the heart of my research. Focusing on urban consumption and delivery, it explores links between the status of 'global consumer' and the trend toward global governance, especially in relation to private sector participation in household water delivery, its consequences and social protest. Kickstarting the research, my grant funded attendance at the Third World Water Forum in Japan.

The forum was a massive event attended by over 24,000 people from 182 countries, involving 351 separate sessions on 38 themes as well as a Ministerial Council that produced a Declaration. One of my aims was to map the politics of the struggles at global level around water provision as a basic good necessary for individual survival. A key cleavage around which these politics revolved at the forum was whether the provision of safe drinking water should be treated as a commercial service to be purchased or as a human right. Amongst an otherwise disparate range of participants expressing varying levels of resistance to private sector participation (which can be mapped along four different trajectories – 'threatening rebels', 'cooperative allies', 'citizens' agora' and those affiliated with public sector unions), this was the one shared stance, taken in opposition to a network of actors loosely affiliated with multinational water corporations and multilateral lending institutions.

However, interviews with key representatives of the different networks, as well as more detailed research into the proposed responses to the 'problem of water' carried out since the forum, reveal that this opposition between 'water as a human right' and 'water as a market service' is over-drawn, and tends to dissolve in the regulatory detail of the range of proposed solutions. Seen from an instrumental regulatory perspective, the subject of a human right to water and the subject of consumers' rights within a regulatory infrastructure governing private sector provision of water are one and the same. That said, the research also revealed that the opposition continues to have symbolic importance, as well as practical implications for more collective dimensions of participatory democracy at a local level. Overall, it became clear that while 'human rights' or 'consumer rights' can be useful in creating strategic linkages between actors in water networks as a lever for change, the real implication of such change cannot be understood without more local knowledge about access to the management of water. Whether there are substantial differences in the practical and symbolic effects of consumer rights strategies as opposed to human rights strategies, then, awaits the insights that will be gained from more detailed case studies. Follow-up case-study work (in France, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, New Zealand and South Africa) has been funded by the ESRC. [www.consume.bbk.ac.uk/research/morgan\\_full.html](http://www.consume.bbk.ac.uk/research/morgan_full.html)

### Church-state relations in East Germany – Dr Christine R Barker, Freelance Researcher, Fife, Scotland £1000

My grant funded travel to Berlin and other parts of East Germany to conduct interviews as part of my investigation of the continuing influences of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) on present-day church-state relationships in the area.

The state/church situation in Germany is unique in many respects. Despite the constitutional separation between church and state, the Protestant and Catholic Churches – which have almost equal numbers in Germany, but with very marked geographical variations (for historical reasons) – retain a powerful position and are entitled to levy (church) taxes and to determine the content of religious education in schools. The state collects church tax on behalf of the churches through payroll deductions. The special relationship between the two main churches and the state has a historical basis but now faces significant challenges.

The post-war division of Germany and establishment of a communist regime in the eastern part, formally established as the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in 1949, meant that those living in the east were subjected to a very different ideology from their western counterparts. Although all three constitutions which were developed in the 40-year history of the GDR grant every citizen the right to have a religious faith and to carry out religious acts, the GDR government soon began a systematic

campaign to erode the influence of the churches. As a result whole generations grew up knowing only Marxist ideology and this has had a lasting effect in the eastern part of the re-united Germany following the collapse of the communist regime in 1989.

More than a decade after reunification the majority of the population in the east is still without any church affiliation. In an age when church membership in many other parts of Europe is also in decline, this may not seem altogether surprising, but it is in stark contrast to the situation in the west. According to figures produced by the Protestant Church in Germany, 76% of the West German population are members of either the Protestant or the Catholic Churches, while in the east the figure is just 28%. There remains resistance in parts of eastern Germany, notably Berlin and Brandenburg, to the inclusion of religious education in the school curriculum and the GDR tradition of *Jugendweihe*, a ceremony denoting transition to adulthood in the lives of young people introduced as a secular alternative to a church confirmation service, continues to be extremely popular in East Germany. Numbers of baptisms, confirmations and church weddings in East Germany are low and many there feel that the tax-based promotion of certain systems of religion disadvantages religious freedom which includes the right to practise no religion.

These and other aspects of church-state relations in Germany are examined in a forthcoming article based on my findings in the *Political Quarterly*. e [christine@drbarker.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:christine@drbarker.fsbusiness.co.uk)

### Legal systems as a determinant of FDI in South Asia – Dr Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Queen Mary, £1000

In the past, I have criticised the World Bank for asserting that legal systems are an important factor affecting the location of foreign direct investment (FDI); that predictable and efficient legal systems are the most effective in attracting FDI; and that efficiency and predictability are, in the opinion of investors, best achieved by adopting a 'western-style' legal system in which government and bureaucratic discretion are limited, laws are enforced consistently, corruption is low and the judiciary and bureaucracy are independent from politicians.

In 1997–2001, I tested these claims in Sri Lanka and found them to be unsubstantiated in a number of respects. The nature of the legal system did not seem to be a determinant of location for most investors and most could see benefits to a legal system which deviated from the western-style model.

In recent years, the bank has made great strides both in subjecting its assertions to empirical testing and thereafter in acknowledging that some investors might not follow this model. For example, it now argues that some investors benefit from legal systems which they can 'capture' (see [www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance](http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance)).

But there is still a need for more a more nuanced and qualitative understanding of the relationship between FDI and host state legal systems. In an effort to address this gap, my current research focuses on the role of legal systems as a mediator of relations between states, civil society and foreign investors.

I used an SLSA grant towards a three-week research trip to Bangalore, India in April 2003. There I conducted semi-structured interviews (with foreign investors and their advisors, civil society representatives and government officials), collected secondary materials and administered the second round of a postal survey of foreign investors. To date, my analysis of interview data has focused on the perspective of foreign investors. The following key findings have been suggested thus far:

- At the pre-investment stage, foreign investors in Bangalore seem to be better educated about the local legal system than are those in Sri Lanka. However, they seem to place similarly little emphasis on the legal system as a determinant of location.

- This may to some extent be explained by the fact that foreign investors seem to avoid the Indian legal system by not going to court; use locals as a 'buffer' between themselves and the courts, bureaucrats and politicians; and keep a low profile.
- Some investors seem attracted to the fact that law enforcement is inconsistent due to bureaucratic discretion, political interference in bureaucratic decisions and corruption.
- This may be because some investors see that they can control these forces (bureaucratic discretion, political interference, corruption) ensuring desirable, if inconsistent, results.

These findings have been presented at the University of Groningen and the LSE. They will also be presented in the globalisation stream at SLSA 2004 Glasgow. The postal survey is not yet complete, but results will be published in due course, along with an analysis of civil society and state perspectives thrown up by interviews and secondary research. e [a.j.perry-kessaris@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.perry-kessaris@qmul.ac.uk)

#### *Journal of Law and Society 31(1) March 2004*

Introduction: On Writing:

Law and literature – Patrick Hanafin, Adam Gearey, and Joseph Brooker

The writer's refusal and law's malady – Patrick Hanafin

Estopped by grand playsaunce: Flann O'Brien's post-colonial lore – Joseph Brooker

'Tell all the truth, but tell it slant': a poetics of truth and reconciliation – Adam Gearey

Then and now: the natural/positivist nexus at war: Auden's 'September 1, 1939' – Melanie L Williams

The jurisprudence of travel literature: despotism, excess, and the common law – Piyel Halder

Literature in the dock: the trials of Oscar Wilde – Morris B Kaplan

A fragment on Cnutism with brief divagations on the philosophy of the near miss – Peter Goodrich

Dominions: law, literature, and the right to death – Peter Fitzpatrick

Beyond otomy, or beyond the law of law's ear – Julia H Chrystostalis

Endnote: Untoward – Peter Goodrich

## 2003 grantholders' project summaries

### **Post-conflict legal education in the Balkans – Christopher Waters, University of Reading, £990**

Post-conflict legal education in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be studied through field work carried out in the spring of 2004. The study will be informed by sociological questions concerning legal education generally, such as how legal education is used to control access to the profession. It will also take account of the challenges of post-socialist education, including corruption, common to the former communist states of Eastern and Central Europe. The focus of this study, however, will be the post-conflict experience of Bosnian legal education. The context raises a number of distinct questions, the main one being the extent to which legal education promotes or hinders recovery and reconciliation after armed conflict. Specific points to be addressed through interviews and observation are the ethnic dimension to law school admissions and the role of stakeholders (such as faculty associations, ministries of education and legal professions) in promoting a Bosnian (as opposed to a communitarian) legal education. This study will build on participant-observer experience with law teaching in Kosovo following the war. Outcomes will include an article addressing legal education in the Balkans region and policy recommendations to international donors which have been significant funders of law schools in Sarajevo, Pristina and elsewhere in the region. [e c.p.m.waters@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:c.p.m.waters@rdg.ac.uk)

### **Highly skilled return mobility: policy and practice – Bryony Gill, University of Leeds, £600**

The mobility of highly skilled workers has been the subject of recent socio-legal scrutiny whilst national and European schemes have served to promote outbound moves. Despite recognition that after a period abroad mobile researchers potentially can become 'locked out' of their home country or 'locked into' the host country (JRC 2001: 44) the issue of return mobility has been relatively sidelined. This small-scale project will help start to bridge this lacuna by using qualitative empirical data from the ESRC-funded MOBEX study lead by Professor Louise Ackers at Leeds University. Interviews were carried out in 2003 with 52 Italian researchers who were, or had been, researchers in the UK. A cohort of 10 interviewees will be revisited to investigate further the formal and informal mechanisms through which highly skilled return migration occurs. Secondly, barriers to return mobility, in particular legal obstacles such as the transferability of social rights and recognition of qualifications, will be explored. The major objective of this preliminary work into return mobility will be to formulate suitable research questions and to pilot instruments for a larger comparative study on return mobility. The work will be completed by August 2004 and the grant is supportive of my first project as primary investigator. [e b.gill@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:b.gill@leeds.ac.uk)

### **Law, complexity and globalisation – Julian Webb, University of Westminster**

As developed through a trans-disciplinary 'complexity science', complexity functions, perhaps above all else, as a metaphor. It sets out to represent systems that are more than complicated, systems that by their very scale and contingency defy description in mechanistic or linear terms. Complexity attempts in particular to account for the processes of emergence, adaptation and (self)organisation in systems that exist as fluid, heterogenous and unpredictable features of the social and physical world. This conception of complexity has been gaining ground in social theory and the social sciences, but has had limited impact to date on the study of law and legal systems; it is a perceived gap that this project begins to address.

Funding has been granted to provide some initial research assistance in support of the project. The overall aim is to develop our understanding of the structure and processes of global law, using the concepts and tools of complexity theory in an exercise in theory construction. More specifically, the intention is that the study will review existing socio-legal work on the globalisation of law and its adequacy in describing the complexity of the global. It will set out to analyse the processes of global law, using concepts from complexity theory and will hopefully offer some reconceptualisation of the relationship between law and state in a way that provides a more adequate explanation for the complexity of global law.

The primary output will be a research monograph published by Cavendish's UCL Press imprint. [e j.webb01@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.webb01@wmin.ac.uk)

### **The role of press judges in Dutch courts – Lieve Gies, Keele University, £939**

This project is a study of how press judges in Dutch courts put their combined public relations and judicial role into practice. Press judges perform the role of facilitators in court-media relations: their task ultimately is to improve the accuracy of media reporting of court activities, the transparency of the court system and public understanding of what courts do. However, it is clear that public relations and requests for information from journalists, in particular, also have to be carefully balanced against competing aims such as protecting the anonymity of vulnerable parties and maintaining impartiality. Through semi-structured interviews with press judges and other court personnel involved in public relations, this project aims to shed light on the way in which courts negotiate these possible tensions. The field research has been scheduled for the summer of 2004. Additional library research will also contribute to a better understanding of how courts have experienced the transition from being predominantly the subject of news reporting to a more active and structured participation in news production. This case study forms part of a larger project which combines different methodological and theoretical perspectives from socio-legal, media and cultural studies to make sense of the often uneasy relationship between law, the mass media and popular culture. Methodologically, the case study draws on the tradition of news production analysis in media studies while its theoretical aim is to identify a suitable conceptual framework for assessing the Dutch model of co-operation between journalists and judges. [e l.gies@keele.ac.uk](mailto:e.l.gies@keele.ac.uk)

### **Medical manslaughter: the construction of a crime – perceptions from the CPS – Oliver Quick, University of Bristol, £640**

The purpose of this research is to investigate the prosecution of health care practitioners for manslaughter following fatal errors in practice. Although such prosecutions have risen in recent years, there has been little research exploring the way such cases journey through the criminal justice system. In particular, there is a need to understand the process of prosecutorial decision making in such sensitive cases. This research will provide insights into the way prosecutors perform their roles in relation to prosecuting 'professional' as opposed to 'conventional' crime. To this end, interviews will be conducted with caseworkers at the special casework directorates of the CPS in London and York. Key research questions are: how do such cases come to the attention of the CPS? who reports such cases to the CPS? how are they filtered through the system? how do prosecutors approach such 'sensitive' cases? what informs their perceptions of these cases? how is crime constructed? This will lead to an article exploring the construction of the crime of medical manslaughter including a discussion of the research findings. It will also enable the identification of different directions the research might take. [e oliver.quick@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:e.oliver.quick@bristol.ac.uk)



### The dissemination of technology in a developing nation – Catherine Russell, Manchester Metropolitan University, £467

My study encompasses comparative issues regarding the digital divide. If developing countries realise the opportunities presented by technological innovation they can harness this potential to boost their economies and release them from decline. An effective way in which to nurture and develop a solid technological basis as a platform from which to further economic development is through education. I have been given access to a range of educational establishments in the vicinity of Pretoria in which I plan to examine attitudes to technology in general and experiences of and access to the internet in particular. I will also examine the educational and cultural impact of the dissemination of technology in the chosen establishments. The employment of multiple case study research will be used to determine the provision of technology and its relative importance within each of the chosen institutions. I plan to ascertain attitudes towards and experiences of the use of technology by examining individual learner questionnaires: these will be evaluated via a representative sample of the participants which will be determined when further statistical information is gained about the chosen establishments. In a wider context I hope to be able to suggest, through the information gained from my case studies, ways in which the dissemination of technology in developing countries can be facilitated and promoted in a manner most likely to foster economic growth. I will use the information gained to evaluate how effective government policy and legislation is in the promotion of access to technology in a developing nation. [e c.russell@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:c.russell@mmu.ac.uk)

### A pilot study of community-run prisons in Brazil – Fiona Macaulay, University of Oxford, £1000

Generally prisons are managed either by the public sector, or via private sector contracts. However, Brazil has dozens of small, local prisons operated on a not-for-profit basis by a network of Catholic Church-linked volunteer groups. The mainstream Brazilian prison system is characterised by its overcrowding, endemic violence, appalling conditions of detention, poor management and inability to alter offending behaviour. However, these 'model' community jails appear to be much more cost-effective, offer decent conditions of detention and promote lower recidivism rates. They hold a mixed population of 250 offenders from the locality. Remand and convicted prisoners are separated, but prisoners sentenced to different regimes 'progress' within the same facility. The use of prison guards is minimal, with most of the internal security carried out by trustee prisoners. The chief influences on prisoners' behaviour are other inmates, the volunteer staff, and the local community and families. The original model is faith-based, but some affiliates take a more secular approach, stressing vocational training.

I came across these facilities whilst conducting research into prison conditions for Amnesty International, yet they remain invisible to the authorities. This will be the first study of this innovative experiment, centring on four jails in São Paulo state where the model originated. It will focus on the unusual interaction between the local community, the inmates and the prison authorities, to trace how local communities have appropriated the legal process of punishment and rehabilitation, how they regard the inmates and conceptualise their own role in a penal process normally dominated by legal operators. Equally, how do legal operators regard this 'intrusion' on their territory, what are prisoners' perception of the institution and of their own 'progress' and how do the various stakeholders evaluate success in these prisons? [e fiona.macaulay@brazil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.macaulay@brazil.ox.ac.uk)

### GEOFF MUNGHAM (1943–2003)

Geoff Mungham, senior lecturer in the school of journalism, Cardiff University, died unexpectedly, aged 60, during an academic visit to Utrecht in December 2003. He was a sociologist and a pioneer of the socio-legal movement in the UK. Geoff was a foundation editorial board member of the *Journal of Law and Society* in 1974 and stayed on the board until 1983 when his research interests took him in other directions. However, his personal and disciplinary contribution to the journal was significant, unique and much appreciated by his colleagues. He was also an irreverent laughter machine of bear-size magnitude during those editorial years. Geoff and I published widely during that time. He asked questions that were unfamiliar and sometimes improper for a classically trained lawyer to contemplate. His conclusions were often equally strange. He was a challenging co-author and we wrote about the legal profession, court practice, the ethics of research and the internal competitive networks that underscored the new duty solicitor scheme.

However, Geoff is best remembered by this community of scholars as the co-author of *Images of Law* (1976). It is a racy, pacey, anarchistic, alternative account of law and the activities of lawyers. It was unique and much admired by the radical academic left of the 1970s. In the 1980s, Geoff moved into academic journalism and Labour Party city politics. His parliamentary and subsequently National Assembly ambitions were not realised but he became a powerful Cardiff City politician in the 1990s. His academic interests resulted in critical work on the Falklands War and later he jointly wrote an account of the birth struggle of the National Assembly for Wales. At his death he had recently completed several radio programmes on the Welsh in the USA. Geoff lived and operated at several discrete levels. Different people knew a different Geoff but we will remember him either with a smile or a sigh. **Philip Thomas**

RICHARD COLLIER has recently completed the British Academy funded project 'Male lawyers and the negotiation of work and family commitments'. During the spring of 2004 he will be Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne and Parsons Visitor at the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney.

At the University of Leeds DAVID WALL has been awarded a personal Chair in Criminal Justice and the Information Society. New appointments in the law school are ANDY CAMPBELL from Aberystwyth as reader in business law and JOAN LOUGHREY from Central Lancashire. Dr OLIVER GERSTENBERG has secured a year-long fellowship at Princeton University for 2004–05.

Joining Keele Law School are MARIE FOX (from Manchester) and NICKY PRIAULX (from Kent) from January 2004, MATTHEW WEAIT (from the OU) from May 2004 and ANDREW SHARPE (from Macquarie).

THOM BROOKS at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield has been made editor of the *Journal of Moral Philosophy* an international journal of moral, political and legal philosophy to be launched in April 2004.

There are three new appointments at the DCA Research Unit. MICHELLE DIVER from Transport for London is principal research officer [e michelle.diver@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.diver@dca.gsi.gov.uk). Dr REBECCA DAVIES has joined as research officer (from the University of Wales at Aberystwyth) [e rebecca.davies@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.davies@dca.gsi.gov.uk). MARK SEFTON has joined as research officer from Cardiff University [e mark.sefton@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mark.sefton@dca.gsi.gov.uk).

DAVID SUGARMAN (Lancaster University Law School) has been appointed Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs and Visiting Fellow, Program in Law and Public Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, USA, 2003–04.

## Courses

Brunel University Law Department is expanding its LLM/MA/Postgraduate Diploma in Law and Society programme in 2004 to include a specialist stream in Youth Justice. Applications are now being accepted. Contact [e felicity.kaganas@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:felicity.kaganas@brunel.ac.uk).

The Sciences and Humanities in a Changing World is an annual interdisciplinary graduate summer school and seminar to be held from 5–17 June 2004 at Lund University, Sweden. This summer school provides a forum for researchers and students to meet and discuss major changes in the academic environment as well as other concerns related to their research and scholarly work. Alf Bang [e alf.bang@icomm.lu.se](mailto:alf.bang@icomm.lu.se).

At Leeds, Andy Campbell is offering three new postgraduate modules on International Banking Law – Regulatory Framework, Capital Markets and Loans and International Corporate Rescue. Adam Crawford and Anthea Hucklesby are offering a new Criminal Justice module – Youth Crime and Justice – and Julie Wallbank is offering Gender and the Law. [e lawjaw@lucs-01.novell.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:lawjaw@lucs-01.novell.leeds.ac.uk)

## Land titling and peri-urban poverty alleviation

The linkages between land titling and Third World development are receiving more attention from development researchers since De Soto published *The Mystery of Capital* and the launch of the United Nations Global Campaign for Secure Tenure in 1999.

A multi-disciplinary team of researchers led by the Law School of Anglia Polytechnic University UK has explored land titling and poverty alleviation among peri-urban settlements in three countries of Africa and the Caribbean. Field researchers in the peri-urban areas of Gaborone, Port-of-Spain and Kitwe interviewed poor households on plots with unclear (or 'cloudy') titles.

All three countries researched had forms of intermediate land title but few of the plot-holders were interested in obtaining documented title deeds because of the costly and complex procedures. They felt secure enough anyway and were overwhelmingly reluctant to pledge title deeds with the bank in case they lost their land. 'This land is my life; it has made me,' said one of them. Land and rental housing markets thrive in spite of, even because of, the lack of legally recognised title and attempts to enforce against unauthorised structures have been unpopular and unsuccessful. The implications for government are to undertake a cost-benefit comparison between intermediate and full land titling and for local community-based land record-keeping.

In Trinidad, new legislation in 1998 led to a programme of tenure regularisation on state lands, affecting some 20,000 households. While so-called 'certificates of comfort' were issued which offered a guarantee against 'summary ejection' from plots pending full tenure regularisation, the subsequent progress towards individual plot regularisation has been slow because of bureaucratic processes and costs. Households have generally supported the programme, especially where they can see tangible infrastructure improvements as a result but the election of a new government has resulted in a scaling down of the programme.

The rapid growth of 'self-allocated' plots on tribal land in Botswana led to a 'zero tolerance' policy by the government which has recently been successfully challenged in the courts. Trained land surveyors in the tribal land boards are improving standards of site surveying and record-keeping but informal building plans, or layouts, of thousands of self-allocated plots often cannot be reconciled with the official layouts prepared by planners, creating problems for subsequent infrastructure provision and title regularisation.

In Zambia, planned layouts have been prepared by the city council and procedures exist for upgrading tenure to a long lease, linked to phased building of modern structures. However, the collapse of the local mining economy has meant that few households have upgraded, preferring to build cheaper structures for rent and remove themselves to extra-legal areas. In both the African cases, property transfer and inheritance has been made increasingly problematic with the impact of HIV/AIDS upon families and social structures.

The research recommends that governments should evaluate the cost-effectiveness of intermediate land titling programmes, whether 'zero tolerance' policies towards illegal settlements represent best value principles, compatibility of such policies with the Habitat secure tenure campaign, and the potential of local community capacity-building in tenure security and infrastructure upgrading programmes. Robert Home, [r.home@apu.ac.uk](mailto:r.home@apu.ac.uk) ☎ +44 (0)1245 493131x3349. See also R Home and H Lim (eds) (forthcoming 2004) *Land Titling and Peri-urban Development in Africa and the Caribbean*, Cavendish Publishing.

## Understanding social change and migration

An interdisciplinary centre aimed at providing a strategic, integrated approach to understanding contemporary and future migration dynamics in the UK and EU began work in October 2003. It will be funded by a £3.3m grant over five years from the ESRC. The Centre for Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), which will be hosted by the School of Anthropology at the University of Oxford under the Directorship of Dr Steven Vertovec, draws together the work of three existing university institutions at Oxford: the ESRC Transnational Communities Programme, the Refugee Studies Centre and the Centre for Migration Policy Research. The new centre will undertake interdisciplinary research on key aspects of global mobility and migration with a series of linked research programmes. These will investigate issues concerning the countries from which migrants come, means of migration, integration and social change, the migration-asylum nexus and migration management. 'Migration, asylum and social integration are ever-rising subjects on the agendas of policy makers around the world,' said Dr Vertovec. 'The set of research programmes at COMPAS will contribute significant data and analyses informing government departments, non-government organisations and public understanding of these issues.'

## Same-sex marriages

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. The study began in November 2003 and will last 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 [r.shipman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.shipman@leeds.ac.uk) See also [www.leeds.ac.uk/family/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/family/)

## Children's rights in Northern Ireland

A interdisciplinary team has been awarded £99,970 by the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People to conduct an audit of children's rights there. The research has three key elements: an exploration of the experiences of children and young people; an analysis of existing data and legal and policy documentation; and interviews with public and voluntary sector personnel. The researchers are Rosemary Kilpatrick, Laura Lundy and Phil Scraton at Queen's Belfast, Ursula Kilkelly at University College Cork and independent researcher Linda Moore. Contact Laura Lundy [l.lundy@qub.ac.uk](mailto:l.lundy@qub.ac.uk).

## Anti-social behaviour research

Elizabeth Burney, senior fellow at Cambridge University Institute of Criminology would be glad to get in touch with anyone who shares her interest in policy and practice on 'anti-social behaviour'. She is preparing a book on the sources and development of the idea and resulting policies and is planning to look at how Sweden and Holland approach these issues. She is particularly interested in problem-solving versus enforcement, showing contrasting CDRP practices. [www.crim.cam.ac.uk](http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk)

## New research projects at Leeds

Adam Crawford has been awarded a Major Research Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust for two years from October 2004 to study The Contractual Governance of Anti-Social Behaviour. The research will explore the manner in which anti-social conduct and disorderly behaviour are governed by new forms of contractual instruments in diverse fields of social life. It will explore modes of regulation and policing through contracts in housing, education, leisure, private security and criminal justice. It will draw together empirical research findings and theorise the connections between these developments to understand the genesis and implications of contemporary 'contractual governance'. It will analyse the manner in which contractual forms of controlling anti-social behaviour depart from traditional conceptions of security and justice and embody novel notions of crime and deviance. **†** 44 (0)113 343 5045 **e** law6ac@leeds.ac.uk

Juliet Lodge has received funding from the EU Framework Six programme for two projects with over 20 partners each: an information technology electronic engineering project called eJustice in which she provides the social science risk analysis input and socio-legal analysis; and an interdisciplinary project under priority 7 called Challenge which focuses on the exceptionalism of security and in which work is undertaken on inter-pillar transparency and legitimacy in an enlarging EU and assesses the point at which operational security requirements are sustained without being in conflict with civil liberties, accountability and openness.

David Wall has been awarded an AHRB grant to look at the The Regulation of Deviant Behaviour on the Internet.

Annick Masselot was awarded funding by the European Commission (DG Employment and Social Affairs) and the Association of the Women from the Mediterranean Countries (AFEM) to lead a project on reconciliation between work and family life. She is the director and scientific legal co-ordinator of the project which explores socio-legal aspects of family friendly law and policies in the Mediterranean's Member States of the EU. Three main products are being developed: a website to inform and provide a forum for debate; a conference in Ferrare, Italy (held in February 2004); and the final report of the legal and sociology experts will be published in a book. **w** www.afem-europa.org

## Piloting victim statement schemes

Dr Fiona Leverick, Professor Peter Duff and James Chalmers of Aberdeen University Law School have received a grant of £98,000 to evaluate a pilot of 'victim statement' schemes in Scotland. These commenced at the end of November 2003 in Ayr, Edinburgh and Kilmarnock. Simon Anderson of the National Centre for Social Research Scotland and Professor Andrew Sanders of Manchester University Law School are also involved in the project. The research will run for approximately two and a half years. **e** p.duff@abdn.ac.uk **†** 01224 272428

## Research on government lawyers

This ESRC-funded research based in Oxford ended in July 2003 with a meeting at which some 20 academics from different disciplines, as well as four government lawyers, discussed draft papers on differences between the legal skills and knowledge of government lawyers and administrators, the ways in which they worked together, the part lawyers play in policy-making and 'Professionalism, duty and government lawyers'. The project website has been wound down, but contains a link to a summary of the *Final Report* submitted to the ESRC. **w** http://users.ox.ac.uk/~lewispssc/govlawyers/

## E-consultation project

In December 2003, the Schools of Law and Management at Queen's University Belfast, together with partners in the University of Maynooth and Limerick IT and the e-Consultation Study Group based in Belfast were awarded 580,000 research from the Higher Education Agency in Dublin and the Special EU Projects Board. The project is called E-consultation: Evaluating appropriate technologies and processes for citizen participation in public policy. It looks at the use of electronic computing and communication technologies in consultation and their relationship to existing consultation mechanisms. The aim of the project is to explore the possibilities of turning e-consultation in Northern Ireland and the border counties from an experimental idea to a practical option for community, voluntary and public sector bodies. The project is also interested in examining how this might strengthen democracy through engaging citizens in governance and improving consultation processes.

The project's objectives are: 1 to identify the social context and political implications of electronic forms of consultation and participation in Ireland, north and south; 2 to identify the e-consultation technologies and processes that are most appropriate to the needs of diverse local communities and to determine the best ways to apply these technologies and processes, focusing on the identified needs; 3 to advise, help, study and evaluate at least two electronic consultation exercises over the project period and report on what has been learned from them; 4 To disseminate the results of our research through an online e-consultation guide and training workshops to help groups develop their awareness of and basic skills in e-consultation. Further details can be found at **w** http://econsult.mgt.qub.ac.uk/tiki-index.php or from **e** j.morison@qub.ac.uk.

## An anatomy of access – evaluating entry to the Community Legal Service

Richard Moorhead (Cardiff Law School) and Avrom Sherr (IALS) have recently completed research using model clients (also known as 'mystery shoppers') to test the approach of 294 Specialist Quality Mark holders when approached by clients needing advice outside the markholder's specialisation. The purpose of this was to gauge the frequency of signposting (advising the client to see another provider) and referral behaviour (making an appointment for the client with a specific provider), as well as the tendency of some agencies to provide advice outside the categories of law in which they have specialist contracts. Where such advice was given, the research team was able to test the quality of that advice using quality peer review. The methodology also provides significant insight into the level and nature of access problems faced by clients, in particular in their ability to make contact with Not For Profit agencies on the telephone. It enables a tracking of initial attempts to access the service, the first point of contact and pathways to advice or alternative providers after that. As such it provides an anatomy of access into the Community Legal Service. Key findings were that not one model client was 'referred'; 12% of visits resulted in severe access problems; between 35% and 40% of clients were signposted to an appropriate supplier and a similar proportion (35% to 40%) to a less appropriate provider; 6% received advice and were justifiably not signposted; and about 12% received advice which was poor enough to suggest that the decision not to signpost was probably not justified (7% of whom received advice which appeared to be damaging). The research report is available at **w** www.lsrc.org.uk/publications/modelclientpaper.pdf.

**Insolvency Law: Corporate and personal (2004) Prof Andrew Keay and Dr Peter Walton, Pearson Education**

A clear, readable and comprehensive account of the principles of insolvency law in England and Wales in relation to corporate and personal debtors.

**Economic and Social Rights under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: A legal perspective (2003) Tamara Hervey and Jeff Kenner (eds) Hart £45** 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.

**Grandparenting in divorced families (2003) Neil Ferguson with Gillian Douglas, Nigel Lowe, Mervyn Murch and Margaret Robinson Policy Press £18.99/£50**

This book is the first in-depth exploration of grandparents' relationships with adult children and grandchildren in divorced families. It asks what part grandparents might play in public policy and whether measures should be taken to support their grandparenting role. Do they have a special place in family life that ought to be recognised in law? [www.policypress.org.uk](http://www.policypress.org.uk)

**International Human Rights and Islamic Law (2003) Dr Mashood Baderin, Oxford University Press, Oxford Monographs in International Law Series**

This impressive volume is a comprehensive and authoritative comparative analysis which examines the important question of whether or not international human rights and Islamic law are compatible. It asks whether Muslim states can comply with international human rights law whilst adhering to Islamic law. The traditional arguments on this subject are examined and responded to from both international human rights and Islamic legal perspectives.

**Causes of Action: Civil law and social justice (2003) Pascoe Pleasence, Alexy Buck, Nigel Balmer, Aoife O'Grady, Hazel Genn and Marisol Smith, The Stationery Office**

This report provides an insight into the relationship between justiciable problems and deprivation and demonstrates the role of advice and legal services in the fight against social exclusion.

**Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Blackwell** Published three times annually, this new journal is devoted to the dissemination of empirical studies of the legal system. Full information on [www.blackwellpublishing.com](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com)

**Public Law – call for contributions** The editor of *Public Law*, Andrew Le Sueur, welcomes inquiries and submissions from scholars working in all fields of constitutional and administrative law. Empirical, doctrinal, theoretical and comparative work all find a place in the journal. So far as possible, the journal avoids having a lengthy queue – work accepted for publication normally appears in the next available issue. Professor Andrew Le Sueur [✉ a.lesueur@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.lesueur@bham.ac.uk) School of Law, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

**The Permanent International Criminal Court: Legal and policy issues (2004) Dominic McGoldrick, Peter Rowe and Eric Donnelly (eds), Hart £35**

An introduction to an important subject in international law with contributions from many of the UK's leading scholars. The idea of an International Criminal Court has captured the international legal imagination for over a century. In 1998 it became a reality with the adoption of the Rome Statute. This book critically examines the fundamental legal and policy issues involved in the establishment and functioning of the court.

**Judicial Review and Compliance with Administrative Law (2004) Simon Halliday, Hart £25**

How effective is judicial review in securing compliance with administrative law? This book presents an empirically based study of the influence of judicial review on government agencies.

● **PUBLIC MEETING: RECKLESS TRIALS? TRANSMISSION OF HIV AND THE CRIMINAL LAW**

Room 541, Birkbeck, Malet Street, London: 30 March 2004, 5.30–8pm

Two men have recently been convicted for infecting women with HIV. Another is awaiting trial. These cases have received national coverage and there has been significant support for the prosecutions in the media. Serious questions about law, health, race and sexuality are being ignored and overlooked. For more information contact Daniel Monk [✉ d.monk@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:d.monk@bbk.ac.uk) or Matthew Weait [✉ weait@hotmail.com](mailto:weait@hotmail.com).

● **4TH CENTRE FOR HEALTH LAW NATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE: HEALTH LAW REFORM – ASSESSING THE CHANGES**

Department of Academic Legal Studies, Nottingham Law School in Association with the Medical Protection Society: 5–6 April 2004

A conference for academics, health care practitioners, managers, legal advisers and all those with an interest in health care law reform. There are currently proposed changes to many different areas of health law, the Chief Medical Officer's *Making Amends Report on Clinical Negligence*, the draft Mental Incapacity Bill, genetics *White Paper*, NHS patient complaints, CHAI, government patient empowerment initiatives to name but a few. Major reforms to fundamental areas of health law and the surrounding NHS structures are taking place. This conference is designed to reflect on these, considering how they will affect the future NHS landscape, practically, legally and ethically.

● **ESRC ANTHROPOLOGY OF LAW WORKSHOPS: DEVELOPING ANTHROPOLOGY OF LAW IN A TRANSNATIONAL WORLD**

Birkbeck: 26–28 April 2004

There are three workshops planned each year to be held at Edinburgh, Sussex and Birkbeck. The theme for the workshops for the first year is 'Governmentality, the state and transnational processes of law' and the theme for the second year is 'Space, territoriality and time'. For more information contact Peter Fitzpatrick [✉ peter.fitzpatrick@clickvision.co.uk](mailto:peter.fitzpatrick@clickvision.co.uk)

● **ESRC KNOWING FAMILIES SEMINAR SERIES**

Leeds University

● Visualising Families: Ethnographies of family life (May 2004)  
Contact Angela Jackman [✉ a.s.jackman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.s.jackman@leeds.ac.uk)

● **AHRB CENTRE FOR LAW, GENDER AND SEXUALITY: THEORISING INTERSECTING RELATIONS**

University of Kent: 24–25 May 2005

Speakers: Iris Marion Young and Sherene Razack. Further details to be announced.

● **6TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STUDIES ASSOCIATION: A CONSTITUTION FOR EUROPE? GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MAKING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Montreal: 28–29 May 2004

The European project has changed significantly since the Treaty of Rome was signed in 1957. Understanding, interpreting and explaining these changes will be the guiding themes of the 6th biennial conference of ECSA-Canada. Conference chairs: Jeffrey Kopstein [✉ jeffrey.kopstein@utoronto.ca](mailto:jeffrey.kopstein@utoronto.ca) and Isabelle Petit [✉ isabelle.petit@umontreal.ca](mailto:isabelle.petit@umontreal.ca)

● **5TH ANNUAL LECTURE OF THE CENTRE FOR WELSH LEGAL AFFAIRS**

University of Wales, Aberystwyth: 18 June 2004

'Say not the struggle naught availeth': the Richard Commission and after is the title of the lecture to be delivered by Professor Richard Rawlings of the London School of Economics, focusing on devolution in Wales and the report of the Richard Commission on the powers of the National Assembly for Wales. Ann Sherlock [✉ ans@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ans@aber.ac.uk) [† 01970 622717/622712](tel:+441970622717)

Events continued on [p 15](#)



First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requirements: *e.g. vegetarian, disabilities* \_\_\_\_\_

*Terms & Conditions: An administration fee of £50 will be charged for cancellations confirmed in writing by 13th February 2004. We regret that no refund can be made after that date, for whatever reason, although substitutions will be acceptable if notified in writing before the event. Please note details from Registration Form will be recorded on Data Base for the Conference.*

**Conference Registration Fees**

	SLSA Member	Non member	£
<b>FULL PACKAGE (6-8 April)</b> The fee includes 2 nights hotel accommodation lunches & refreshments, Conference Reception & Conference Dinner Superior Hotel **** Standard Hotel *** Budget Hotel **	£390.00 £340.00 £300.00	£420.00 £370.00 £330.00	
<b>SINGLE NIGHT PACKAGE</b> The fee includes one night accommodation (Superior), lunch & refreshments, Reception on Tuesday or Conference Dinner on Wednesday  Tuesday 6th April Wednesday 7th April	£220.00 £250.00	£235.00 £265.00	£
<b>NON-RESIDENTIAL PACKAGE</b> The fee includes lunch & refreshments, Conference Reception & Conference Dinner	£230.00	£260.00	£
<b>POSTGRADUATE PACKAGES</b> Full Package ** Non-Residential	£230.00 £160.00	£240.00 £170.00	£
<b>Late Registration fee payable after 13th February 2004</b>		£30.00	£30.00
<b>Sub Total</b>			£
<b>Credit/Debit Card supplement 5% if applicable</b>			£
<b>TOTAL</b>			£

**Please indicate type of payment:**

UK Cheque made payable to 'University of Glasgow'. Eurocheques and BACS payments are not accepted.

By Credit/Debit Card – Please provide details below (5% handling charge will be added to all credit/debit card payments) **American Express Not Accepted**

Mastercard     Access     Visa     Euro-card     Switch

Card Number:

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue Number (for Switch Cards) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any queries or special requests, phone Liz Auchincloss 0141 330 3873 or email: l.auchincloss@law.gla.ac.uk  
Send completed form to: Conference & Visitor Services, SLSA Annual Conference 2004, University of Glasgow, 2 The Square, Glasgow G12 8QQ  
Telephone: 0141 330 5385  
Forms not accepted by Fax or email

Date Form Received:	Date Payment Received:	Processed By:	Date Receipt/Letter Sent:
---------------------	------------------------	---------------	---------------------------

● **WG HART LEGAL WORKSHOP 2004: THE CHALLENGE OF MIGRATION TO LEGAL SYSTEMS – Call for papers**  
*Institute of Advanced Legal Studies: 29 June–1 July 2004*

In 2004, qualified majority voting in the EU comes into operation, a crucial constitutional stage in the formulation of an EU migration law. 2004 is also the year in which 10 new Member States of Central and Eastern Europe are admitted to the EU. These developments are taking place in a global environment in which questions of immigration and refugee protection loom large. This workshop therefore aims to explore the interlinkages between these themes and the problems raised as a consequence for legal systems. Abstracts to Dr Prakash A Shah ☒ Queen Mary, Mile End Rd, London E1 4NS  
e prakash.shah@qmul.ac.uk Registration: Belinda Crothers ☒ IALS, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR e belinda.Crothers@sas.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. Streams: 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.crf.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.

● **RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW ANNUAL MEETING: LEGAL REFORM**  
*San Juan, Puerto Rico: 2–4 August 2004*

Papers related to the sociology of law welcome. However, participants are encouraged to consider presenting papers on legal reform or issues related to the topics examined by the Working Groups w www.ucm.es/info/isa/rc12.htm. 300-word abstracts by 30 June 2004 to Rogelio Perez Perdomo e rperez@unimet.edu.ve

● **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

● **UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, EUROPEAN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES RESEARCH CENTRE**  
*Centre for European Gender Studies: 6–7 September 2004*

The European Commission is currently promoting interdisciplinary research into factors that facilitate the co-existence of multiple identities as one aspect of a larger concern with the evolution of identities in Europe. The conference addresses these questions with particular reference to the internet and its use. It will explore processes through which the internet might be said to be promoting or inhibiting the development of European identity or identities (however defined) and analyse the manifestations, dynamics and implications of these processes. Keynote speakers include Prof Don Slater (LSE) and Dr Joost van Loon (Nottingham Trent University). w www.sheffield.ac.uk/escus/events/html or contact Anny Brooksbank Jones at e a.e.brooksbank-jones@sheffield.ac.uk † +44 (0)114 222 4402.

● **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. e ucltmdf@ucl.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

● **AHRB CENTRE FOR LAW, GENDER AND SEXUALITY ONE-DAY COLLOQUIUM TEXT AND TERRAIN – LEGAL STUDIES IN GENDER AND SEXUALITY**  
*University of Kent: 25 September 2004*

Confirmed Speakers: Sarah Ahmed, Maria Aristodemou, Bela Chatterjee, Richard Collier, Elena Loizidou, Ambreena Manji, Les Moran, Ralph Sandland, Mimi Sheller, Carol Smart and Terry Threadgold

Questions to be addressed include: how might socio-legal research on gender and sexuality benefit from incorporating textual analysis? what, if anything, is lost in reading legal and cultural texts without consideration of their empirical effects or the social relations of power within which they have been produced? what is the relationship between legal representations of gender and sexuality and the effects on gendered and sexualised lives of legal decisions? what challenges and difficulties are incurred in attempting to 'read' empirical data or in applying qualitative research techniques to the study of texts? is the humanities/social science distinction better read as one of intellectual purpose and epistemology rather than of data and method, and how coherent is this distinction in relation to legal studies? does historical work illuminate the gains (and some of the difficulties) encountered in combining different approaches and methods? Registration £50 (students/unwaged: £25) (includes coffee/tea/lunch). The colloquium will be preceded the evening before by the centre's free launch event featuring Nira Yuval-Davis and Carl Stychin. All welcome! e d.herman@kent.ac.uk † (44) 01782-583218 or Liz Cable ☒ Kent Law School, Eliot College, University of Kent CT2 7NS.

● **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 in Nigeria (July/August 2004), Egypt (18–19 December 2004), South Africa (February 2005), Senegal (March–April 2005), 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.