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# SLSA Annual Seminar Competition

The Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) invites submissions for its annual Seminar Competition. The fund is £5,000 and awards will be made to a maximum of £1,000 only. We are happy to fund successful seminar proposals which can realistically draw other sources of funding in addition to an SLSA award. The money can be used to support the delivery of either an individual seminar or a short conference. There are no restrictions concerning the subject matter, provided that applicants can show relevance to the socio-legal community.

Applicants must be fully paid-up members of the SLSA. Applications will not be considered where the amount of support required from the SLSA is less than £500, or where the event is targeted at staff or students of a single institution. Preference will be given to high-quality proposals from applicants who have not held an award under this competition in the last three years. The annual deadline for applications is **the** **third Monday in December**.

Based on our practice over recent years, we are unlikely to fund applications:

* for what are really research projects (e.g. group interviews) rather than exchange and dissemination events;
* submitted at too early a stage in the planning process;
* for more than one event;
* for annual or other recurring events;
* where insufficient attention has been paid to alternative or complementary sources of funding, especially from non-academic stakeholders.

As well as academic seminars and workshops, we welcome applications regarding events which have a wider significance in terms of the local or regional community in which an institution is based. This includes outreach events and engagements with non-academic organisations.

See the list of previous events on the SLSA [website](https://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/funding-schemes/seminar-competition) to see examples of events that have been funded in the past.

All applications and enquiries should be submitted to: [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

## Terms and conditions

* Applications will be considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA.
* Applications are encouraged from all sections of the socio-legal community, within and outside the UK, including early-career researchers.
* Joint applications are welcome are particularly encouraged where permanent members of academic staff are partnering with precarious/unaffiliated researchers. Any such application must specify the institution to which payment should be made.
* Preference will be given to high quality proposals from applicants who have not held an award under this competition in the last three years.
* No award may be made to a member of the Board of Trustees of the SLSA.
* Grants of between £500 and £1,000 will be awarded.
* Applications for partial or joint funding will be considered.
* All events funded through this year’s competition must be scheduled for completion by the end of July 2025.
* The application must be costed in, and any award will be made in, GBP (£).
* The Seminar Competition Committee will make an annual report to the Board about the number and quality of applications for awards and the awards actually made. A summary of the Annual Report will be published in the Newsletter.
* The scheme will be advertised regularly in the Newsletter and weekly e-bulletin.
* Brief feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

## Criteria

The Competition will be judged on the following criteria. It should not be assumed that successful applications will necessarily meet all the criteria, nor that any standardised weighting will be applied in respect of these criteria.

* **Relevance and innovation**: Applicants should identify the particular relevance of their event(s) to the socio-legal community. For this purpose, the socio-legal community may include funders and users of socio-legal research. Events which support capacity building within socio-legal research and scholarship will be particularly welcomed. This includes applications from within and outside the UK. ‘Capacity building’ includes activities designed to introduce socio-legal research and scholarship to new audiences, to increase awareness of new theoretical or methodological approaches within the target community, and otherwise to enhance the capacity to use, undertake or deliver socio-legal research. Applicants are encouraged to be innovative in their design and/or approach to content.
* **Access and inclusivity**: The event should be as inclusive as possible. Invitation-only events are not encouraged. Events must not be restricted exclusively to SLSA members, nor will the SLSA fund seminars, workshops or training programmes delivered to staff or students of a single department or institution.
* **Bursaries**: Applicants are encouraged to include in their budget some funds to cover travel/attendance bursaries for precarious and/or unaffiliated researchers.
* **Availability of alternative funding**: Applicants should explain briefly why alternative funding has not been sought, or considered appropriate.
* **Raising the profile of the SLSA**: Please indicate how you intend to publicise the event, and also detail how your bid incorporates opportunities to raise the profile of the SLSA (e.g., internationally, with government, policymakers, the legal professions, research funders or users of research) or to recruit new members.
* **Dissemination**: It is desirable that that the event results in or supports the publication of some paper or electronic (including multimedia) output, or other appropriate form of dissemination beyond the seminar itself.
* **Equality, diversity and inclusion:** When considering applications, the Committee will take EDI (equality, diversity and inclusivity) aims into account. In particular, the Committee will consider the extent to which projects represent the full diversity of the socio-legal community (e.g. in terms of applicants, invited speakers and issues the seminar will cover).

## Eligible costs

* Funds may be sought to meet travel, accommodation and reasonable *per diem* costs for speakers and discussants. Accommodation costs should not normally exceed £100 per night (£120 in London). Where any papers are co-authored, normally the costs of only one author will be considered eligible for support. Costs and expenses of any other attendees, including session chairs or convenors will not be considered, except that funding may be used for bursaries to support the participation of precarious and unaffiliated academics including postgraduate researchers.
* Fees or honoraria in respect of any speaker or participant, and salary or salary-related costs of the organiser or of any administrative or secretarial support person cannot be claimed.
* Other reasonable costs of the event which may be included are: catering, room hire, copying and prior circulation of papers, publicity and advertising, including postage costs. Any other items will only be considered where they are expressly identified and the applicant can make a case that such items are essential to the event.
* Awards will not be made under this scheme to fund activities that are exclusively or primarily postgraduate training events.
* The award will not fund costs for teaching buy-out, institutional overheads or profit for any institution hosting or otherwise supporting the event. The SLSA is not registered for VAT.
* The SLSA in its discretion may exclude any specific items of expenditure from the award to a successful applicant. Any such exclusion(s) will be expressly notified to the applicant at the time the award is made.

## Applications

* There is no standard application form. Applications must be submitted by email to [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).
* Applications must not exceed 1,500 words and must include:
  + the title of the proposed event,
  + the themes or topics to be addressed,
  + a list of agreed speakers or an indication of those who have been approached and those who have indicated an intention to participate,
  + a statement indicating which of the criteria (listed above) are met, and how.
* The application must be accompanied by a clear budget statement identifying the main heads of eligible expenditure, the amount of funding sought under each head and the overall amount sought. Where any funding for the event has been obtained or applied for from another body, including an applicant’s host institution, this must be disclosed in the application.
* The application must be accompanied by a letter from an authorised person within the applicant’s institution undertaking to administer any award in accordance with that institution’s approved financial procedures. Where an application is made by a number of individuals or a consortium, the administering institution should normally be the lead applicant’s home institution.
* The budget statement and letter of institutional support are not included in the word limit.
* A voluntary statement disclosing that one or more of the applicants is employed on a precarious (non-permanent) basis or is not currently employed by an HEI may also be included. Including this voluntary disclosure will not impact your chances of being awarded funding but will help us to target extra funding to precariously employed members.
* Upon submission of your application, you will be asked to fill in a voluntary and confidential EDI monitoring form, which will not be connected to, or have any bearing on, your application. Providing this information helps the SLSA monitor and progress EDI issues.

## Acceptance of an award

* Written confirmation of acceptance must be received from the applicant(s) within 14 days of receiving notification of the offer of an award.
* If such confirmation is not received within 14 days, the offer will be deemed to have lapsed and the Association may thereafter offer funding to an alternative bid.
* The SLSA reserves the right to offer funding subject to the fulfilment of specified conditions. In such a case, any acceptance will become binding on the SLSA only once it is satisfied that such conditions have been or will be met.
* In all cases, it will be a condition of acceptance that the applicant(s) will undertake to provide details of their event for inclusion in the Socio-Legal Newsletter and circulation via the SLSA ebulletin. In addition applicants must submit a final report (300–500 words) of the event(s) once completed for publication in the Socio-Legal Newsletter; OR contribute a blog to the SLSA Blog (max 100 words); OR submit a video for the SLSA YouTube channel. Applicants should liaise with the Seminar Subcommittee Chair and the Newsletter Editor about their reporting choice.
* If the above condition is not fulfilled (i.e. the applicant does not provide a final report on the event) then the SLSA will approach the applicant’s institution to seek a refund of the award. Furthermore, the applicant(s) will be barred from applying for future grants until the report is provided.
* Recipients of funding will be required to acknowledge the fact of the award in any publication which stems from the event(s) funded by the award.