

**Lancaster University  
13:00 to 14:00**

**Present**

Jen Hendry, Francis King, Mark O'Brien, Sarah Blandy, Charlotte Bendall, Anthony Bradney, Fiona Cownie, Rosie Harding, Rosemary Hunter, Chris Ashford, Marie Selwood, Jed Meers, Natalie Elizabeth Corbett, Jill Dickinson, Michael Thomson, James Thornton, Maebh Harding, Petra Mahy, Naomi Creutzfeld, Helen Dancer, Neil Graffin, Hugh McFaul, Francine Ryan, Sofia Graça, Katherine Parker, Katerine Kalaitzaki, Friso Jansen, Kieran McEvoy, Alex Batesmith, Vesco Paskalev, Olivia Anku-Tsede Kevin Crosby, Nikki Godden-Rasul, Kevin Brown.

**Agenda item**

**Action**

**1. Apologies**

Sharon Cowan, Lydia Hayes, Jess Guth

**2. Minutes of AGM 2015**

Approved.

**3.1. Chair's Report**

Rosemary Hunter reported on the work of the SLSA thorough out the year.

There have been a number of successful conferences included the previous annual conference in Warwick and the annual Postgraduate Conference hosted by the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. A one-day socio-legal training conference on Sources and Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice, organised in conjunction with IALS, the British Library and the British Society of Criminology, was held in November 2015.

The SLSA Annual Conference 2017 will be held at the University of Newcastle. A site visit to Newcastle was undertaken, which found excellent facilities, a great central space, and an outstanding conference dinner venue at the Discovery Museum. The 2018 conference will be held at the University of Bristol and the 2019 conference at the University of Leeds.

The SLSA will be hosting a reception at the LSA annual meeting in New Orleans in June.

Cataloguing of all the papers currently held in the SLSA Archive at IALS has been completed. Further papers will be deposited from time to time, and we are in discussions with IALS about the archiving of electronic materials.

The SLSA is pleased to announce the advent of a socio-legal blog which is intended to be a site for information and conversations about issues of current socio-legal interest. The blog will have a 'soft' launch after the conference.

As a Learned Society, we responded to invitations to contribute or respond to various initiatives in socio-legal studies, legal education, the higher education sector and law reform over the last twelve months.

Thanks were offered to those members of the Executive Committee who were standing down, and particularly to the officers standing down: Charlotte Bendall (postgraduate representative) and Sarah Blandy (membership secretary).

Thanks were offered to Nathan Emmerich who is providing the executive with administration assistance particularly in relation to membership matters.

It was noted that:

Rosie Harding has taken on the role of Vice-Chair.

Sharon Cowan has taken on the role of Scottish representative and International Liaison Officer.

Lydia Hayes has taken on the role of Recruitment Secretary.

Natalie Corbett has taken on the role of PG representative.

Meabh Harding will take on the role of Membership Secretary.

### **3.2. Vice Chair**

Rosie Harding reported on her work including co-ordinating the most recent rounds of Expressions of Interest to host the SLSA annual conference; overseeing the judging of the excellent nominations for the Article Prize 2016; and chairing the seminar competition sub-committee.

Expressions of Interest to Host the SLSA Annual Conference: We are grateful to all of the prospective conference organising teams who expressed an interest in hosting the conference in future years. The 2018 and 2019 conference venues have been decided. We will hold another round for expressions of interest to host the conference in 2020 and subsequent years in due course. When we do, it is likely that we will make some amendments to the information on the SLSA website to make clear that an outline conference budget is a required element of an expression of interest in hosting the conference.

Article Prize: The nominations to the 2016 Article Prize were extremely high quality, and there was much to commend about all of those shortlisted. A total of 18 nominations were received. The quality of the nominations is testament to the flourishing socio-legal community in the UK and internationally. Many congratulations to all those who were nominated and shortlisted, and especially to our Article Prize winner for 2016, Lynette Chua.

Seminar Competition: As in previous years, we had a very strong field of

applications to the seminar competition. This year, the total £10,000 budget was split between 3 seminars, representing an 18% success rate from the 16 applications. If we had funding available we could have supported many more applications, as most submissions were of high quality. Congratulations to Natasha Hammond-Browning and Claire Lougarre (University of Southampton) for the 'Reproductive Futures: Reproductive Choices?' seminar; Davina Cooper (University of Kent) for the 'Imagining the State for Progressive Politics' workshop; and Ania Zbyszewska (University of Warwick) for the 'Labour Law for a Warming World?: Exploring the intersections between work regulation, ecology, and sustainability' seminar. Details of all of the SLSA supported seminars for this year will be advertised online and in the newsletter.

### **3.3. Treasurer**

As in recent years, the SLSA's finances remain healthy, although down from the high of last year, and we are very grateful for the donation of £21,467.73 from the University of Warwick from last year's successful conference. As with the preceding year, 2014-15's high closing balance was prior to some significant expenditure/ various cheques and awards issued in the preceding financial year being cashed in the current year, consequently a significant number of outgoings in this year's accounts relate to commitments from the previous financial year, as well as being the result of increasing spending on grants.

The Association has two financial complications that we are seeking to resolve: firstly, the adoption of PayPal for the payment of membership fees has led to PayPal temporarily limiting our use of the account to comply with anti-money laundering regulations. Consequently, we currently have limited access to Association monies totalling £13,066.54. We are also still resolving the issues with the 'old' Lloyds account, which now contains approximately £20,000 of Association monies.

### **3.4. Membership**

Sarah Blandy reported on her work throughout the year.

Since April 2015, 122 new members have joined, meaning that the SLSA now has a total of 1637 members:

565 active full members

383 active postgraduate members

334 free members (HoD positions etc)

There are also 355 'expired' members, which include those who have moved institutions but have not updated their details, those who have a duplicate account, and those with little information or no payment history, etc. It's a significant and ongoing task is to reduce the number of these 'expired' members, and to ensure that all members are paying the right subscription amount, into the right bank account. Details are on the website, and periodically included in the Newsletter.

Thanks to those members who have sorted out your payments during the past year. We very much rely on members to enter their details and keep them up to date, so that the SLSA website can fulfil its function as a valuable resource and reference point for all our members.

### **3.5 Recruitment**

No report.

### **3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor**

Marie Selwood outlined this year's activities with the Newsletter, website and e-bulletin.

### **3.7 PG Student Representative**

Charlotte Bendall reported on her work throughout the year including:

- conducting her annual recruitment campaign, in an attempt to attract new PG members;
- Using social media, in addition to the PG list (which currently has 138 subscribers), to circulate details of events taking place that might be of interest to the PG community;
- encouraging postgraduates to write pieces for the SLSA newsletter;
- attending this year's PG conference in Oxford;
- organising, for the third year running, the 'buddy up' scheme at the annual conference. Eight postgraduates were 'buddied up' with an academic this year.

### **3.8 Webmaster**

There have been a few instances of downtime on the SLSA website which have required technical support to resolve. Our JOOMLA developer is working on a clone, and in the course of this process, a partial rebuild, of the current site on his developer server, which would allow for:

1. Testing of new patches and updates before they go live on the main site.
2. A more effective restoration process (should the worst ever happen!).
3. The ability to migrate to the new version of JOOMLA more safely and to spread this over a longer period of time.
4. The ability to try out new templates for the main website on a working demo.
5. An opportunity to iron out current issues with the functioning of the present website.

There is further ongoing development work to undertake to get this clone site functioning effectively.

### **3.9 International Liaison**

No report.

### **3.10 Social Media**

Jen Hendry outlined her work over the last year.

Facebook closed group: 709

Facebook official page: 706

Twitter followers: 2063

### **3.11 Newcastle Conference SLSA 2017**

There was a brief update regarding the SLSA conference at Newcastle University, 5-7 April 2017.

## **4. Elections**

Rosie Harding, Jen Hendry and Jess Guth were elected to a second term on the Executive Committee. Proposed by Rosemary Hunter, seconded by Nikki Godden-Rasul.

Sharon Cowan and Meabh Harding who had been co-opted in the previous year were elected to the Executive Committee. Proposed by Dave Cowan, seconded by Kieran McEvoy.

The AGM AGREED that Mark O'Brien should continue as Treasurer of the SLSA for a further three-year term. Proposed by Rosemary Hunter, seconded by Fiona Cownie.

Nominations were called for two ordinary vacancies on the Executive Committee. Three nominations were received and the Chair agreed to expand the size of the Committee and accept all three nominations. Neil Graffin, Petra Mahy and Jill Dickinson were duly declared elected.

Newly elected members were invited to attend the next Executive meeting to be held on 19.05.16. New members would also be added to the Executive mailing list.

**KJB/MS**

## **5. Any Other Business**

None.

## **6. Next Meeting**

The next AGM will be held at the Newcastle University at the annual conference on 6 April 2017.