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| slsa-red80 |  | | **Executive Meeting  Minutes**  **18 January 2018**  **Conference Room:**  **IALS**  **Address: IALS, Russell Square, London** | |
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| Present: Rosie Harding, Jen Hendry, Ed Kirton-Darling, Jess Mant, Jess Guth, Thomas Webb, John Harrington, Colin White, Emilie Cloatre, Marie Selwood, Diamond Ashiagbor, Naomi Creutzfeld, Imogen Jones, Vanessa Munro, Neil Graffin | | | |  | |
| Agenda item | | | | Action | |
| 1. Apologies | | | |  | |
| Jed Meers, Sharon Cowan, Maebh Harding, Jill Dickinson, Devyani Prabhat, Ilke Turkmendag, Elen Stokes, Mark O’Brien, and Jonathan Garton. | | | |  | |
| 2. Minutes of 20 September 2017 - approved | | | |  | |
| 3.1 Chair | | | |  | |
| 3.1. Chair (RH) **Exec Moves**  Two new members have been co-opted to the executive - Amanda Keeling and Imogen Jones, as representatives of the Leeds 2019 conference.  Nikki Godden-Rasul and Kevin Crosby (Newcastle 2017) will be stepping down - thanks was extended to them for their work. Michael Thomson has resigned and thanks was extended to Michael for all his work; Jonathan Garton and Nwudego Chinwuba are also stepping down (thanks extended). Emilie Cloatre has come to the end of her 3 year term, but plans to stand for re-election.  Diamond Ashiagbor continues to be co-opted through her ESRC role.  Congratulations were extended to Jess Mant on her lectureship appointment. Jess will be standing down as PGR rep, but wishes to stand as an ordinary exec member at the AGM  We will therefore need a new PGR rep in the summer – exec members to think of any suitable candidates. An item also to be added to the newsletters soliciting applications.  REF sub panel nominations  The SLSA nominated 10 academics to serve as sub-panel members for REF and a further 7 as output assessors (out of 22 nominations) – they will find out soon whether they have been appointed. It was noted that we did not have an ethnically diverse range of self-nominated persons – RH pointed out that this is a reflection on legal academy at higher levels. Exec members are asked to reflect on nominations for the next round, particularly for ‘wider use and benefits of research’ panel members and impact assessors.  Academy of social sciences  The next round of nominations is Friday 8th June 2018. Vanessa Munro FAcSS to lead on this for the SLSA.  The exec are asked to consider whether anyone can think of examples of exciting socio-legal work that has had societal impact? Suggestion to look through 4\* impact case studies in own institutions.  Examples were provided on a number of issues, including ASBOS, nanotechnology, food security, housing, law and religion, influences on judges in courts, regulation of batteries for electric cars. Exec members to send examples to RH for collation and forwarding to the AcSS.  RH and CM attended a day on business engagement – There were issues identified in relation to this as it will require engagement with and responsiveness to the needs of business – therefore science will be preferred; as opposed to social sciences. CM suggested that there are opportunities in terms of business engagement – but it may require a different type of academic – one involved in enterprise.  CM to write an article for the newsletter about socio-legal studies and business engagement and take a lead on this.  JH questioned definition of industry – networking is a something we may need to think about when looking at industry partners – do we want to set up some sort of event?  Law Commission  There is an understanding now that the SLSA are different to SLS within the LC. There is a willingness want to work with us moving forward. An LC member will be attending the 2018 conference and free conference places are to continue to be offered to the conference organisers moving forward.  A One-Day Conference proposal to be developed around working with the Law commission RH, IJ and EK-D to be involved with this.  Legal status  Nothing to report. RH suggest that this should go to AGM to enquire whether we have the consent to move this forward in due course. | | | | ALL  ALL  ALL  ALL    CM  Exec to revisit in May  EKD, IK  RH | |
| 3.2. Vice Chair | | | |  | |
| There was no vice chair report, but further details are provided below concerning the discussion on the article prize. | | | |  | |
| 3.3 Treasurer | | | |  | |
| MOB is currently on sabbatical and has been noted that there has been a delay in getting some expenses signed off.  RH asked everyone with outstanding expenses to contact MOB and copy her in.  MOB has provided instructions via email about moving to electronic payment and how we should send details to him.  [Note from report: I would be grateful if Executive members (where these details haven’t been provided hitherto) could provide me with their bank details in two separate emails, one containing their bank account number, the other their sort code, to my mark.obrien@brookes.ac.uk email address, please. I am happy to receive Executive Committee receipts and completed expense forms in electronic form].  ES has expressed an interest in taking on the role of treasurer when MOB steps down. ES will shadow MOB for a period of time and this will commence following the AGM. [Update since meeting: MOB has expressed his desire to step down entirely at the March 2018 AGM. This makes putting a new treasurer in place urgent]. ES has agreed to stand for election.  EKD would like to know how much overall (excluding PayPal balance). We have 47586.73. The Co-operative current account balance is £34,772.27. The Lloyds deposit account balance is £12,814.46.  There was discussion at this point about the large contribution Newcastle gave after the SLSA (£56,000), and it was noted that there are a large amount of attendees at the conference now (RH stated that more like 450-500 on a regular basis). RH – suggested spending more money to feedback into our contribution to the socio-legal community and this was agreed upon (this decision influencing the money spent on grants within the meeting) | | | | ALL  ES | |
| 3.4 Membership | | | |  | |
| EKD stated that there was nothing to add to his report. There are 1159 members on the system – 9% PGR – 33% are international  The responsibility for membership has now been handed back to MH  Thanks were extended to EKD for covering this  There were issues identified with the accuracy of the membership database by EKD. It was discussed that JM and MH will discuss this with MS. | | | | JM, MH, MS | |
| **3.5 Recruitment** | | | |  | |
| Nothing to report | | | |  | |
| 3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor | | | |  | |
| It was identified that there a sporadic Issues with the website going up and down. This is a result of hardware issues with the server.  It was discussed that the email tracking is interesting from the perspective that we are able to pinpoint who is visiting the website, when and from where.  It was discussed that more improvements can be made to the format presented by MailChimp moving forward, but it was discussed how the new format is more presentable and thanks were extended for this.  **Number 84 (spring 2018)**  Planning for the spring issue is well underway. The deadline is **29 January 2018** (but there is a small amount of leeway in that date for Exec news).   * print run: approx 600 for mailing list plus 400-ish for Bristol (organisers to confirm) pdf to JLS for inclusion as e-insert pdf to overseas members * 15 editorial pages * page 16 Bristol 2018 ad * one possible insert from Intersentia (not confirmed)   One of the big advantages of using Mailchimp is that we can now see how many people open the ebulletin and what they click on. We know, for example, that the latest ebulletin on 5 January has been opened by 27.1% (426) of subscribers (n=1554) and that produced a click rate of 9.2% (ie 140 times) on internal links. This compares well with other open/click rates in similar lists. For example, the average opening rate for ‘Legal’ lists is 22.49% with 2.99% clicks; ‘Education and training’ is 22% with click rate of 2.63%; for ‘Social networks and online communities’ the figures are 21.71% and 3.33%. We can also tell which are the most popular items in the ebulletin (further detail in MS’s report). | | | |  | |
| 3.7 PG Student Representative | | | |  | |
| JMant discussed how Belfast was a success with a lot of engagement from the PGRs and positive feedback. The PGRs suggesting making posters or submitting proposals for papers for the upcoming conference.  The PGR session is underway for the conference and there will be a dry-run in Jan for this, with JMant being involved.  All volunteers have been obtained for the networking scheme.  DA suggested one PGR student she spoke to said the conference had exceeded expectations | | | | JMant | |
| 3.8. Webmaster | | | |  | |
| It was noted that the blog is performing well. JM was unable to attend, these are highlight points from his report not covered elsewhere:  For the November mailing, the hard copy newsletter will only be sent to paid-up members with an address on the JOOMLA system. The way in which we normally retrieve member addresses from the system (CBJuice) did not function properly for this mailing – as a result, we had to fill in the gaps using a previous mailing list and some newsletters were sent to older addresses. Our Joomla developer Lewis is working on a solution to the problem in time for the next hard-copy mailing.  The SLSA Blog continues to attract a steady stream of posts and total visits are on the up. Since the last committee meeting, we have had a total of 1,349 ‘reads’ on the blog (i.e. people who have visited a post and remained on the page for bit). Most of our traffic comes from the e-bulletin, but we now getting more and more through search engines (e.g. 44 visits from Google in 2018 so far). | | | |  | |
| 3.9 International liaison | | | |  | |
| Nothing to report | | | |  | |
| 3.10 Social Media | | | |  | |
| Figures were provided for the social media accounts, including Facebook and Twitter. These are looking healthy.  For Twitter it was suggested Dave Cowan will give book to the 3.5k person to follow. JMant has volunteered to take over the role of Social Media Officer if elected as an ordinary exec member at the AGM. | | | | JMant (with caveat) | |
| **3.11 Publisher’s liaison** | | | |  | |
| NC stated that things have been taken over and there are good amount of bursaries.  Unfortunately OUP has said that they will not be at the SLSA this year due to budgetary restraints – NC is chasing this up and is hoping to meet with them in person soon. JG will check if they are at ALT, or SLS, and RH will contact them directly.  NC suggested that things look good – we managed to get a few new publishers (Policy Press and Lexis Nexis) to join the conference, which is promising.  So far everything seems to be on track and the pack will help for the future  RH thanks NC for work on this  A publisher’s liaison pack has been developed, it is hoped that this may help the executive for future conferences | | | | JG, RH | |
| 4.1. a. Bristol 2018 | | | |  | |
| The deadline has passed for papers. Early bird closed on 19 January.  It was discussed how there will be a ‘soft’ deadline for registrations. Some changes will be required to be picked up towards the end as a result of late registrations.  All of the seminar rooms are split over three sites and people will be there for directions etc;  There have been 450 submissions on the call for papers. The organisers are at the point of setting conference programme. DP and JS are putting together the programme for the first week in Feb  Four posters have been submitted, but it is hoped that there will be more submissions than this. The deadline has therefore been extended – hoping for a minimum of 10  There will be a full panel for the plenary – details of which are in the report  The tours are shaping up. These include one on the Suffragettes, Banksy, Tower and the Bridge  Questions  RH - there was a fire at Bristol –will this affect anything? Reply – it will not  RH - conference dinner – how many people has this been set out for? Reply - 250  RH – will there be entertainment? Reply – there will be a DJ, but the dancing and dinner will be in slightly different sections – this can facilitate chatting at dinner and dancing  CM – Given the large number of submissions, can we take everyone within the streams? Reply (inc. from RH) We have given stream co-ordinators leverage with regards to timing; max of 8 sessions, with up to 4 papers in each gives 32 papers in total. One stream ran concurrent panels once in the past, but we have discouraged stream convenors for doing this. Noting that submissions have not surpassed any stream just yet (need to check this for clarity)  MS – do we need 500 newsletters? As 450 papers is a lot?  CM – raised concern that the convenors (citing criminal justice stream) hadn’t got back to submitters before early bird had gone. Reply – this was extended for a week to allow conveners to get back to people | | | | DP, JS | |
| 4.1. b. Leeds 2019 | | | |  | |
| Nothing to report – AK will be at the Bristol conference | | | |  | |
| **4.1 c. Future Conferences** | | | |  | |
| There were three submissions which JH reports are generally suitable. There is a plan to set up a sub-committee to look at the submissions. JH suggested that she will be contacting the different institutions about their submissions.  CM, JG, TW to be on subcommittee. | | | | CM, JG, TW | |
| **4.2. Postgraduate Conference** | | | |  | |
| Warwick will be hosting the PG Conference next year.  It was discussed that the Belfast conference was the last for Fiona Cownie and Tony Bradley; Sally Wheeler has now also gone to Canberra.  RH discussed that this provides an opportunity for the exec to reflect and reform  It was discussed whether this was worth rebranding this as a workshop (this was also discussed in May – see previous minutes)  NC suggested changing the format and getting PGRs more involved  JMant suggests getting final year students to become more involved and to reflect on their experiences would be useful for early PGR students  Asked whether Linda Mulcahy and Dave Cowan will want to be involved in the new PGR sessions  NC – suggested blocks of different categories (early research etc) might be the best way to split the day up  JMant suggested approaching the closed Facebook group that she is part of for feedback  RH – suggests survey monkey – basic ideas of what they had, enjoyed, like to see more (JMant to take forward)  RH – suggested something to thank Tony and Fiona – RH will do at conference dinner | | | | JMant  RH | |
| **4.3. One Day Conferences** | | | |  | |
| RH – has written different texts for call for submission for the one-day conference. It was noted that the main difference is that they will usually involve a member of the exec committee proposing them  All happy with RH text  Socio-legal Studies/Sociologie du Droit: Methods, traditions, theories in France and the UK– theme sessions – interrogating social and interrogating the legal  The conference has settled for 8 ECR papers; mixture of French/UK students  Family and Social Welfare - postponed from November due to low registrations a possible advertising issue was identified including an issue with timing. A new proposed conference has been provisionally rescheduled for 18 May. It was discussed how another session on Grenfell could be added – EKD asked about whether he would like to contribute  The draft agenda for the family and social welfare conference had session on courts, family mediation, court protection, adoption, British Library on social welfare portal, (other) library on social justice resources.  VM suggests flyers could be distributed for the family and social welfare event for the main conference in Bristol – RH/MS to Liaise with JS and DP. | | | | RH  EKD, RH  JS, DP | |
| **4.4. ANZLSA Conference December 2018** | | | |  | |
| This conference is happening and JH explained that the last communication indicated that the conference committee were coming up with list of keynote speakers.  JH explained that we need to make sure when call for papers come out it goes to our membership  It was discussed that the December date is problematic due to the price of flights, but that we have limited control over these dates.  RH – asked what if exec offered bursaries for this conference? It was asked whether preference could be given to early career researchers. It was agreed that this is a good idea and the money given would be for a top-up contribution. RH, JH and TW to look at specific criteria for these bursaries.  It was suggested that we would need to send our logo to go to them | | | | JH  RH, JH, TW  MS | |
| **5. Prizes and competitions** | | | |  | |
| 5.1. Book prizes (RH) **Hart-SLSA Book Prize Shortlist 2018:**  Rowland Atkinson & Sarah Blandy (2016) *Domestic fortress: Fear and the new home front* (Manchester: Manchester University Press).  Anne Barlow, Rosemary Hunter, Janet Smithson, Jan Ewing (2017) *Mapping Paths to Family Justice: Resolving family disputes in neo-liberal times* (London: Palgrave Macmillan).  Janine Natalya Clark (2017) *Rape, Sexual Violence and Transitional Justice Challenges: Lessons from Bosnia-Herzegovina* (Abingdon: Routledge).  **SLSA Theory and History Prize Shortlist 2018:**  Margaret Davies (2017) *Law Unlimited: Materialism, Pluralism and Legal Theory* (Abingdon: Routledge).  Henrique Carvahlo (2017) *The Preventive Turn in Criminal Law* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).  Yaniv Roznai (2017) *Unconstitutional Constitutional Amendments* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).  **Hart-SLSA Early Career Prize 2018 Shortlist:**  Lydia Hayes (2017) *Stories of Care: A Labour of Law* (London: Palgrave Macmillan).  Kathryn McNeilly (2017) *Human Rights and Radical Social Transformation: Futurity, Alterity, Power* (Abingdon: Routledge).  ---  Divided into three subcommittees   * JMant and RH – early career submissions – nice reading – two clear front runners were identified * NC and DA – general submissions – 10 submissions * Theory and history – JGar and JH – clear frontrunners identified   A discussion ensued about whether we need a third pace short-listed candidate for the early career prize as it this was difficult to decide and there were two clear frontrunners. It was decided that only two persons would be shortlisted.  Book prize sub-committee to read/re-read all of the shortlisted books to agree the winners, which will be announced at the conference dinner. 5.2. Article prizes (JH) **SLSA** **Article Prize Shortlist 2018**  Emily Grabham (2016) ‘Time and technique: the legal lives of the 26-week qualifying period’ *Economy and Society* 45:3-4, 379-406.  Cheryl Lawther (2017) ‘The Truth about Loyalty: Emotions, Ex-Combatants and Transitioning from the Past’ *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 11(3): 484-504.  Marie-Andrée Jacob (2017) ‘The strikethrough: an approach to regulatory writing and professional discipline’ *Legal Studies* 37(1): 137-161.  ---  It was noted that some nominations were not very good. This meant that good articles were easy to spot.  It was agreed that we would open this up with further round of rating for a long list to agree a short list – short list it was agreed to be no more than three (as per previous years).  Short list to winner – Everyone to provide their ranking of the three shortlisted articles to JH.  If any conflicts, just let Jen know.  Thanks was extended to DA for reading all articles and also for being on the book committee  Question: Have articles always been self-nominated? Yes.  A discussion followed concerning whether any filter could be introduced. After discussion, it was agreed that the rules would, from the 2018 deadline, include a requirement for a 200 word statement from the nominator describing why the article has been nominated and how it is socio-legal.   5.3. Contributions to the socio-legal community (RH) Calls for nominations will need to go out in Summer newsletter  5.4. Grants (JGu)  12 applications were submitted for PhD fieldwork and 19 were submitted for small grants. This roughly matches up to what was submitted last year. JG described how interesting collating scores. There was agreement on what was not good, but less agreement on good submissions.  JG extended her thanks to everyone for submitting on time.  Small grants  The two highest nominations were to Dave Cowan and Sharon Thompson who are both established researchers. It was asked whether we should be encouraging early career researchers.  There was some discussion prior to the meeting on whether we should fund Ciara Fitzpatrick, but there was a divergence of scores on this.  RH – suggested whether we should agree to fund the first 5 on list (with reference to earlier discussions on spending more money). This was agreed.  JG to contact winners and provide feedback as usual, following agreement of funding amount with MOB.  Fieldwork  There was some discussion about what constitutes research which is germane to the completion of a thesis that institutions should be funding. It was agreed that this was a grey area, and a lot of PhD fieldwork is central to completion.  RH suggests to fund the top four – this was agreed.  RH suggested that we will need to check with MOB regarding the total fund available this year.  JG will be stepping down as chair of the grant’s subcommittee as she has served her term. Asked whether anyone want to take over the chair of this? ALL. RH suggests that grants subcommittee members should be approached initially. Subcommittee members should talk to Jess if they are interested in this.  5.5. Seminar (JHa)  Nothing to report – two weeks to hard deadline.  To liaise with MOB on budget.  5.6. Research Training and Mentoring Awards (RH)  No applications – nothing to report. | | | | RH, JM, JH, JG, DA, NC.  RH  MS  RH, MOB  ALL (but with particular reference to grants subcommittee members)  JHarr, and MOB | |
| **6. Equality and diversity policy** | | | |  | |
| REF nominations – we had to report that we do not have an equality and diversity policy  We will seek to draw one up  DA, EKD, JG, JH will look at this, to provide a draft policy for discussion at May 2018 exec meeting. | | | | DA, EKD, JG, JH | |
| **7. General data protection regulation**  Comes into force on 25 May – we need to do some work on this  RH suggests DP officer (agreed)  CM - can check colleague at Kent  RH – stipulates we will need to bring someone on board at next AGM  ALL – to think of someone suitable (e.g. SLSA member with DP experience)  RH – Can anyone lead on this in the interim? CM volunteered to look into what will be required under the GDPR.  DA will liaise with the Information Law and policy centre at IALS. | | | | CM  ALL  CM  DA, ALL | |
| **8. Any Other Business**  8.1 Legal education (RH)  JG discussed that SRA are moving ahead with SQE  The Legal Services Board have to approve this. The application has gone in. The SLS have spoken to the LSB and they were receptive about a number of issues.  JG queried whether the SLSA want to be part of the consultation process…? (agreed)  Is SRA amenable to judicial review? Yes. This could be on the agenda.  Could we circulate the statement? Agreed. Exec members should note that this is confidential.  All comments should be sent to JG, noting the short deadline. | | | | ALL | |