**SLSA Postgraduate Conference 2025:  
Call for Host Organisation**

The Executive Board of the SLSA are inviting expressions of interest from members of the SLSA community who would like to volunteer to host the annual SLSA Postgraduate Conference 2025, through their department or institution.

**About the SLSA Postgraduate Conference**  
The Postgraduate Conference is an annual event aimed at postgraduate socio-legal researchers (primarily those in the first or second year of their PhD studies) who are commencing their research journeys. Past conferences have been held at Northumbria University, the University of Oxford, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Warwick, and have been very successful. We are keen to diversify the institutions which host the conference. We welcome expressions of interest from all institutions, and are keen to engage with the full breadth of the socio-legal community.

The Conference plays an important role in introducing postgraduate researchers to the world of socio-legal studies, and academia more generally. It provides postgraduates with guidance and support on issues such as: completing their postgraduate research; getting their work published; finding their first academic job; and establishing links with like-minded scholars. There are usually 50 delegate places for the Conference. In terms of format, the conference normally takes place over two days, beginning with registration over lunch on Day 1 and finishing over lunch on Day 2. The Conference typically splits postgraduate delegates into two groups, with each 25-person group attending seven sessions together over the course of the Conference. Each session lasts for approximately 90 minutes and is co-run by two presenters, and delivered twice during the Conference – once for each group. These sessions comprise:

* Supervising your Supervisor
* Getting Published
* Research Ethics
* Funding and Research Impact
* Presenting Conference Papers
* Conference Posters
* Getting a Job in Academia

We often have volunteers from the socio legal community delivering sessions. Over the past two years, the SLSA has circulated an open call to its membership to volunteer to co-run sessions, and encouraged the joint facilitation of sessions by more experienced colleagues, as well as early-career researchers. The Board particularly encourages scholars who have taken non-traditional routes into their current roles, and have a diverse range of experiences to share with postgraduate delegates. The SLSA will be responsible for opening a call for speakers to facilitate sessions.

Following these sessions, the Conference will typically hold informal events in the evening (including a conference dinner) to allow postgraduate researchers to network and socialise. In previous years, the Conference has combined these social events with an informal panel of early career researchers who volunteer advice and support to postgraduate delegates, but this can be decided by the host institution.

**Costs**

The budget for the conference is £6000, which should cover 50 delegates’ and 6-8 speakers’ accommodation, lunch and refreshments across both days, and dinner for the first night. The majority of expenses are funded by SLSA but some costs may be absorbed by the hosting institution such as room hire.

Delegates fund their own travel costs. Speakers have traditionally claimed their travel expenses directly from the SLSA treasurer. Delegates are asked to pay a £10 deposit when they register and this is returned to them when they arrive. This has been found to reduce the late drop-out rate considerably.

**Never hosted a conference before but think you might be interested?**

The SLSA will offer guidance and support throughout the planning and delivery of the conference. Whilst you can apply individually, we recommend that at least two people from an institution apply together to aid with workload. We also recommend speaking with your Head of School/Department to discuss how your institution could help with hosting.

We are happy to have an informal discussion with anyone interested in hosting or wanting to find out more in advance of submission.

**Expressions of Interest**  
Expressions of interest should comprise:

* A short supporting statement, including details of your institution/current position and a short summary of relevant experience, including any prior contributions to the socio-legal community *(max 150 words)*
* A short summary *(max 500 words)* of how your institution might facilitate the Postgraduate Conference, including:
  + relevant details of any previous experience in hosting conferences
  + relevant details of any previous experience organising events or training for postgraduate researchers
  + how you plan to represent a diverse range of experiences (e.g., delegates with caring responsibilities, part-time students, etc.)
  + costings

**Expressions of interest should be submitted by 29 February 2024 to** [**admin@slsa.ac.uk**](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk)**. Expressions of interest will be reviewed by the SLSA Executive Board, with a view to representing a diverse range of experiences across the conference programme.**