

# Call for Abstracts

## CLS Interdisciplinary Workshop

### Dysfunctional governance: “Crisis”, “Scandal”, “Tragedy”, “Emergency”

15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### Deadline for abstracts: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

This is an interdisciplinary workshop which will consider how we can understand government at this moment of pluri-crisis/scandal/tragedy/emergency.

While government could have been seen as a sense of order punctuated by moments of crisis or scandal, this seems to have changed. We live now in a pluri-crisis, pluri-scandal era in which these kinds of events (to the extent that they can be called such) have come to be the norm. There is no order to government; rather a series of blunders characterize it which are labelled a crisis, scandal, tragedy, or emergency. These labels are diverse ways of articulating the difficulties and failures of government.

Together, they tell us, perhaps, that the order of government is cover-up or controlling the norm. The suggestion, accordingly, is that somehow an inquiry, investigative journalism, legal process, or democratic judgment (or combination) exposes the issues; but, they expose *those* issues as such, privileging certain narratives over others in ways which class, structure, gender, race are overcome or ignored. Each public inquiry will produce a judgment about government, processes, and practices, and reform will be anticipated and expected. The question remains, however, as to why we end up with yet more dysfunction.

In our workshop, we want to address the following interdisciplinary questions among others:

1. What does the use of these labels tell us about dysfunctionality?
2. What does the over/use of the labels mean and entail for government?
3. How should we analyse the use of these labels and their government?
4. What analytical resources can we employ to analyse this moment in time?
5. What can socio-legal studies offer this disordered sense of government?

Please send your abstracts to [CLS-LawPL@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:CLS-LawPL@Cardiff.ac.uk). We will let you know shortly after the closing date whether your abstract has been accepted. It is hoped that presenters will provide draft papers in advance if possible.

The intention is that papers presented at the workshop will form a Special Research Issue of the *Journal of Law and Society*.

The Centre for Law and Society will be in a position to make a contribution to some part or all of the travel expenses of speakers.

We are particularly keen to receive abstracts from early career scholars.

Please get in touch with either Dave Cowan or Victoria Basham, the co-organisers of the workshop if you have any queries.