# **Impact Prize**

# **Guidance Notes**

The Board of Trustees of the Socio-Legal Studies Association has created a prize to recognize and celebrate excellent impact resulting from socio-legal research (‘SLSA Impact Prize’). The prize will be awarded pursuant to an annual competition, which will be run in accordance with these guidance notes.

**Definition**: Impact is defined for these purposes in a similar way to that used in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). Specifically, it includes, but is not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit to:

* the activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding
* of an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals
* in any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

It also includes the reduction or prevention of harm, risk, cost or other negative effects. Impacts on students, teaching or other activities in HEIs are also included.

**Eligibility**: All current SLSA members, including PGR members, are eligible to nominate themselves or others using the SLSA Impact Prize Nomination Form. Nominees must be based at a UK higher education institution, but need not be SLSA members. Members of the SLSA Board of Trustees are ineligible to nominate or be nominated.

**Award**: The total prize fund is £250 per year. A single award will be made. Where impact has been achieved as a result of jointly published work, the research group or co-authors may be nominated as a single group. If successful the prize will be evenly divided between those named on the nomination form, unless an alternative approach is specifically requested. Where the SLSA Board of Trustees are of the view that no nomination reaches the required standard, no award will be made.

**Criteria**:

1. Nominations will be judged with reference to the **reach and significance** of impacts on the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life. Generic examples of relevant impacts are provided in REF 2021, *Panel Criteria and Working Methods (Annex A)*, [pp.77-89](https://www.ref.ac.uk/media/1450/ref-2019_02-panel-criteria-and-working-methods.pdf)
2. Impacts must be generated by **socio-legal research**, including any or a combination of the following: quantitative or qualitative empirical methods; law and humanities approaches; the range of critical theory. Doctrinal legal research may form part of a wider socio-legal research project, but only a part.
3. The socio-legal research which generated the impact will have been **published** at any point prior to the nomination deadline. Publication must have been in the form of a book, book chapter, article, report or blog post. Aspects of the research may have been published as more than one output.
4. Impacts must be **corroborated** by sources independent of published research. These can include links to reports, media or testimony in the form of letters from external research users.

**Decision**: The outcome of the competition will be determined by the SLSA Board of Trustees on the basis of a shortlist that will be published. All shortlisted nominees will be required to attend the SLSA Annual Conference at which the winner will be announced. No individual feedback will be provided.

**Deadline**: The closing date for nominations is **1st November** in the year preceding the SLSA Annual conference. The relevant impact should have been achieved within the 12-month period up to 30th September of that year.

**Publicity**: Shortlisted nominees and prize winners will be requested to contribute to a short video about their impact work for the SLSA YouTube channel, and to a short report for publication in the SLSA Newsletter.

**Reporting**: The SLSA Board will include a summary report with details about the number and quality of nominations, and the decision-making process, with advice on future Impact Prize competitions in the Trustees Annual Report.

**SLSA Board, January 2022**

**Impact Prize**

**Nomination Form**

**Please read the Guidance for the SLSA Impact Prize competition carefully before completing this form.**

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| **Name of nominating SLSA member:**  |
| **Details of nominee(s)** |
| **Name(s):** | **Career stage (eg. ECR; mid-career etc):**  | **Institution:** |
| **Title of impact project:** |
| **Date(s) of publication of underpinning socio-legal research:** |
| **Period when impact occurred:** |
| **1. Summary: What impact has been achieved?** (max. 100 words) |
| **2. Underpinning socio-legal research: What is the basis of impact in published scholarship?** (max. 500 words)  |
| **3. References: Where has the research been published?** (max. six references) |
| **4. Details: How was impact achieved?** (max. 750 words) |
| **5. Sources: Corroborating the impact** (max. 5 references) |

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**SLSA Board**