

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER No 77 SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION AUTUMN/WINTER 2015

2016 SLSA ANNUAL PRIZE AWARDED TO MARTIN PARTINGTON

The SLSA Executive Committee is delighted to announce that Professor Martin Partington has been awarded this year's prestigious Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community. Dave Cowan and Helen Carr explain why they nominated him and highlight a few of his many achievements.

We are delighted that Martin has won this year's SLSA annual prize. Martin was a founding member of the SLSA who chaired its steering committee and organised its first conference in 1990. Subsequently he served as its chair from 1993–1999. Much of the stuff that we now take for granted is due to him, for example, the various ways of interacting with policymakers and significant subject-specific innovation (housing, administrative justice) as well as a focus on legal education and even the directory of members. Martin co-directed the WG Hart

Workshop on Empirical Research in Law at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in 2005 and founded the Legal Empirical Research Support Network in 2007.

Martin's pioneering publications established housing law, welfare law and administrative justice as significant, and now flourishing, fields for academic enquiry. Grounded in the real world and motivated by social justice, his work has prompted fruitful collaborations with practitioners and policymakers and inspired a generation of both academic and practising lawyers.

As a law commissioner, Martin used and developed socio-legal research in an innovative programme of law reform. The Welsh Assembly is currently debating a Bill that will implement his proposed reforms to tenure law, affecting the lives of more than one million people involved in residential renting. Other notable examples of public service include acting as a consultant to the Lord Chancellor's Department/Treasury Review of Legal Aid (1994–1995), as an expert consultant to the Leggatt Review of Tribunals (2000–2001) and as a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee (2011–2012).

Most of all, though, he has been a wonderful friend to the next generation of socio-legal scholars.

SLSA 2016: LANCASTER

Lancaster University Law School is looking forward to welcoming SLSA members and non-member colleagues to the SLSA annual conference 2016. The Law School has seen an exciting period of growth and change in recent years, including a merger with our colleagues in criminology, while Lancaster University concluded its 50th anniversary celebrations last year.

The conference plenary panel, 'Social constructions of crime', encompasses many of the interests of our research centres, but also showcases the broad range of areas which socio-legal studies has influenced and continues to impact upon.

This year, in addition to bursaries for postgraduate researchers to attend the conference, we are also offering a number of bursaries to non-higher education charitable organisations to support their attendance at the conference, introduce their work to researchers and start to build research relationships.

The call for papers and posters is now open (see pages 17–18). Closing date: **6pm, Monday 18 January 2016**.

The conference will take place on our 360-acre parkland campus with views across beautiful countryside and only a short journey from the Lake District National Park and the Forest of Bowland and Arnsdale and Silverdale areas of outstanding natural beauty. Delegates will also be able to take a walk through the campus's 150-year old woodland on our Woodland Walk, visit the Peter Scott Gallery showcasing contemporary art, and perhaps take in a show from the Lancaster Arts at Lancaster programme.

In the city of Lancaster itself, delegates can take a tour round Lancaster Castle, visit the Ashton Memorial, a Victorian folly set in the picturesque Williamson Park, or eat and drink at the many great pubs, restaurants and cafes that Lancaster has to offer.

The conference will continue to be family friendly. We hope to provide a space for parents and young children away from the hustle and bustle of the conference. There are also several holiday schemes available in the area including the local authority programme of activities, the University Sports Centre programme and other providers such as Mad Science (details will be made available when the programmes for the Easter break are announced).

The university also has an excellent sports centre encompassing fully equipped cardio and weights gymnasiums, a swimming pool and a climbing and bouldering wall. If you want to exercise outdoors, delegates can take on our Trim Trail, running around campus, or take advantage of the excellent cycle routes heading away from the campus.

For delegates arriving by train, Lancaster is 1 hour north of Manchester by rail, and 2.5 hours' travel from London Euston. For those travelling by car, Lancaster University Campus is just off Junction 33 of the M6. If you are visiting from further afield, Manchester Airport has its own train station with regular services north towards Lancaster.

Please visit the conference website for further details www.lancaster.ac.uk/law/slsa2016. For queries please contact the organising committee via slsa@lancaster.ac.uk.

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**SLSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2015—2016**

CHAIR

Rosemary Hunter
QMUL
e rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk

VICE-CHAIR AND SEMINAR COMMITTEE

Rosie Harding
University of Birmingham
e r.j.harding@bham.ac.uk

SECRETARY

Kevin Brown
Queen's University Belfast
e k.brown@qub.ac.uk

TREASURER

Mark O'Brien
Oxford Brookes University
e mark.obrien@brookes.ac.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sarah Blandy
Sheffield University
e s.blandy@sheffield.ac.uk

RECRUITMENT SECRETARY

Lydia Hayes (JLS representative)
Cardiff University
e hayesl@cf.ac.uk

PUBLISHER LIAISON

Francis King
Westminster University
e f.king@westminster.ac.uk

EDITOR: NEWSLETTER, WEB, eBULLETIN

Marie Selwood
e marieselwood@btinternet.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

Jen Hendry
University of Leeds
e j.hendry@leeds.ac.uk

GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jess Guth
Bradford University
e j.guth@bradford.ac.uk

LANCASTER 2016 CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

Benjamin Mayfield
e b.mayfield@lancaster.ac.uk

Tom Webb

e t.webb@lancaster.ac.uk

POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Charlotte Bendall
University of Essex
e cbendall@essex.ac.uk

WEBMASTER

Jed Meers
University of York
e jed.meers@york.ac.uk

SLSA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Diamond Ashiagbor
SOAS University of London
e da40@soas.ac.uk

Lois Bibbings
Bristol University
e lois.s.bibbings@bristol.ac.uk

Helen Carr
Kent University
e h.p.carr@kent.ac.uk

Nwudego Chinwuba
Lagos University, Nigeria
e uchinwuba@unilag.edu.ng

Emilie Cloatre
Kent University
e e.cloatre@kent.ac.uk

Dave Cowan
Bristol University
e d.s.cowan@bristol.ac.uk

Sharon Cowan (Scottish representative)
Edinburgh University
e s.cowan@ed.ac.uk

Naomi Creutzfeldt
Wolfson College Oxford
e naomi.creutzfeldt@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

Carla Crifo
Leicester University
e cc116@leicester.ac.uk

Jonathan Garton
Warwick University
e j.garton@warwick.ac.uk

Maebh Harding
Warwick University
e maebh.harding@warwick.ac.uk

Gethin Rees
Newcastle University
e gethin.rees@ncl.ac.uk

Michael Thomson
University of Leeds
e m.a.thomson@leeds.ac.uk

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Newsletter sponsorship

The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is sponsored by a consortium of law schools interested in promoting socio-legal studies in the UK. If your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, please contact SLSA chair Rosemary Hunter
e rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk.

Newsletter academic sponsors 2013–2016 are: Birkbeck; Cardiff Law School; Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford; University of Exeter; Kent University; University of Liverpool; the LSE; Newcastle University; Northumbria University Newcastle; University of Nottingham; QMUL; Queen's University Belfast; University of Leicester University of Sheffield; University of Strathclyde; University College London; University of Warwick; University of Westminster; and University of York.

The newsletter is also sponsored by the *Journal of Law and Society*.



SLSA Postgraduate Conference 2016

7–8 January 2016, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford

This year's postgraduate conference is being organised by the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford. It is open to both members and non-members of the SLSA and is FREE (including accommodation in St Catherine's College and subsistence but not travel). Sessions are run by top socio-legal academics from across the UK. Topics usually covered include:

- giving a conference paper;
- getting published;
- time management;
- managing your supervisor;
- getting through your viva;
- academic job-hunting;
- and socio-legal researching.

There is also a free conference dinner on the Thursday evening. **Registration is now open.** Please visit the website for further details and to download the booking form. Closing date for booking: **11 December 2015** **w** www.law.ox.ac.uk/events/slsa-postgraduate-conference-2016

Membership renewals

Membership fees are due on 1 July each year. The annual full membership fee is £40 (student rate £20). Our preferred method of payment is via the online PayPal facility (available at **w** www.slsa.ac.uk), where you can renew your membership, or join the association, using a credit or debit card.

If you have any problems using this system, please contact **e** jed.meers@york.ac.uk. For any other queries regarding membership, please contact **e** membershipslsa@gmail.com.

Note: some members with existing standing orders are still paying the **wrong rate** or paying the correct rate into the **wrong bank account**. Please check that your standing order is for the correct amount and being paid to:

- **bank:** Co-operative Bank;
- **sort code:** 08-92-99;
- **account number:** 65209341;
- **account name:** Socio-Legal Studies Association.

Future SLSA seminars

- **Lost in Translation? From science to regulation**
19 January 2016, University of Birmingham
Organiser: Aleksandra Cavoski
See website for details **w** www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#LIT.
 - **Climate Governance after the Paris Summit**
16 March 2016, University of Warwick
Organisers: Celine Tan and John McEldowney
See website for details **w** www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#IEL.
- See page 5 for details of this year's Seminar Competition.

SLSA

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w www.slsa.ac.uk

Twitter **w** https://twitter.com/SLSA_UK

Facebook **w** www.facebook.com/groups/55986957593

LinkedIn **w** www.linkedin.com/groups/SocioLegal-Studies-Association-4797898

SLSA funding schemes open for applications

The SLSA Executive Committee invites applications for two funding schemes. Applications for both are on a rolling basis.

SLSA Research Methods Training Bursaries

The aim of this scheme is to support training in social science research methods and the use of data analysis software (eg SPSS and NVivo) for SLSA members who do not possess but wish to acquire these skills and do not have access to sources of institutional support to do so. The SLSA will provide bursaries to cover the cost of attendance at a relevant training course offered by an established provider. See, for example, the courses offered by the National Research Methods Training Centre at the University of Southampton **w** www.ncrm.ac.uk. Eligible applicants will be members of the SLSA who are early or mid-career researchers and not currently undertaking a PhD. Full details are available at **w** www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/research-methods-training-bursaries.

SLSA Mentorship Scheme

The aim of this scheme is to support travel and accommodation for SLSA members who wish to visit and spend up to a week working with a chosen mentor. Applicants must be paid-up members of the SLSA who are not currently undertaking a PhD.

Full details are available at **w** www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/mentorship-scheme.

Enquiries about these schemes should be directed to **e** admin@slsa.ac.uk.

people . . .

MARY SENEVIRATNE was appointed as an emeritus professor by Nottingham Trent University, following her retirement from the university earlier this year.

Professor **CHRIS WATERS** has become acting dean at the Law Faculty, University of Windsor, Canada.

LOIS BIBBINGS has been appointed professor of law, gender and history at Bristol University.

SHARON COWAN has been promoted to professor of feminist and queer legal studies at Edinburgh University.

JOHN FLOOD has moved to Australia as professor of law and director of the Law Futures Centre, Griffith University Law School, Queensland.

SLSA contact details

Socio-Legal Newsletter

Marie Selwood, Editor, *Socio-Legal Newsletter*
✉ 33 Baddlesmere Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2LB **t** 01227 770189
e marieselwood@btinternet.com

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SLSA admin

The SLSA has a dedicated email address for applications for and queries about all prizes, competitions and funding schemes. Contact **e** admin@slsa.ac.uk.

SLSA online

Webmaster: Jed Meers **e** jed.meers@york.ac.uk
Webeditor: Marie Selwood **e** marieselwood@btinternet.com
Social media officer: Jen Hendry **e** j.hendry@leeds.ac.uk

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in articles in the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the SLSA.

SLSA grant report: EU migration and homelessness: are some citizens more equal than others?

Ed Mowlam, Bradford University Law School, reports on his grant project for which he received £1000.

In 2013 I was a very grateful recipient of a £1000 small grant from the SLSA to support my PhD fieldwork. It was humbling to receive the SLSA's recognition of the value of my research at an early stage in the PhD process. It also came as something of a lifeline, as I was paying for the PhD by way of a fee-waiver arrangement with the School of Law at the University of Bradford, coupling my full-time research with teaching as an associate member of staff. This was not an ideal arrangement, but I can have no complaints. Bradford has since employed me as a full-time lecturer.

My research looks at homelessness and other forms of destitution among the European Economic Area (EEA) migrant community in the city of Bradford, West Yorkshire. In order to understand the rights, services and the operation of the legal framework at the heart of this matter I have conducted numerous interviews with stakeholders (homeless shelter directors, outreach workers, homelessness key workers and former service-user volunteers), local administrators (Department for Work and Pensions, police and council officers) and the homeless/destitute EEA migrants themselves, occasionally with translators present. My use of the SLSA money effectively boils down to the purchase of incalculable cups of coffee (or rather, I cannot account for all those for which

I neglected to ask for a receipt). We have all been asked to give money to the homeless for a hot cuppa, and it was very pleasing that the SLSA allowed me to formalise this form of charitable giving, and for allowing a struggling student to continue supporting the homeless in this small way.

My research is inspired by my work as a trustee of Bradford Cyrenians, a charity providing shelter and support to mostly UK nationals. Providers of temporary hostel accommodation, such as ours, cannot provide shelter for those who are not eligible for welfare support. Many EEA-migrants who do not satisfy the habitual residence test standard or otherwise fail to be recognised as a worker under EU law therefore slip through this welfare gap. Problems are, of course, exacerbated by issues of substance dependency, exploitation and an array of cultural and linguistic barriers. There are organisations which offer some support, but they were not especially easy for *me* to find, despite being armed with extensive local knowledge and all the resources a law PhD researcher could want. It is even more difficult for a poor recent arrival, unused to Bradford's quirks, institutions and support services and how to navigate them. Crucially, demand far outstrips supply and many find themselves on the street, in squats, couch-surfing, paying for sub-standard accommodation, and relying on the great work of Bradford's various providers of free hot meals, day-shelters and advisors.

My fieldwork is now largely complete and I will be embarking upon the writing-up stage when my work schedule allows in January 2016. The SLSA grant will be warmly thanked in my thesis for its role in allowing me to add to what is currently a frustratingly limited discourse on transnational homelessness.

Newsletter advertising

We have a limited amount of space available in the newsletter for advertisements. Rates are as follows (no VAT to add):

- back cover: £650
- inside back cover: £500
- other inside whole pages (excluding pages 2 and 3) £400
- half page: £200
- quarter page: £100
- inserts: £350 (for 1300 inserts supplied by advertiser)

Contact [e marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com).

SLSA membership benefits

Benefits of SLSA membership include:

- three 16-page newsletters per year;
 - personal profile in the SLSA online directory;
 - discounted SLSA conference fees;
 - weekly ebulletin;
 - eligibility for grants schemes, seminar competition, prizes, training bursaries and mentorship scheme;
 - members' priority in newsletter publications pages;
 - discounted student membership (with first year free);
 - free annual postgraduate conference;
 - student bursaries for SLSA annual conference;
 - discounts on subscriptions to a selection of law journals;
 - 20 per cent discount on Ashgate, Hart, Palgrave Macmillan and Routledge books bought online;
 - special membership category for retired members
- ... and much more. Visit [w www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk) for details.

Journal of Law and Society (winter 2015)

Articles

Riders on the storm: Wales, the union, and territorial constitutional crisis – Richard Rawlings

The legal case file as border object: on self-reference and other-reference in criminal law – Irene van Oorschot and Willem Schinkel

Judges, conflict and the past – Kieran McEvoy and Alex Schwartz

Radical transactionalism: legal consciousness, diverse economies and the sharing economy – Bronwen Morgan and Declan Kuch

Country rag merchants and English local currencies in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century – Iain Frame

From brand performance to consumer performativity – assessing European trade mark law after the rise of anthropological marketing – Luke McDonagh

The impact of socio-legal studies in family justice: from Oxford to Whitehall – Mavis Maclean

Review article

Richard Nobles and David Schiff (eds), *Law, Society and Community: Socio-legal essays in honour of Roger Cotterrell* – Michael King

Book Reviews

Boaventura De Sousa Santos, *If God were a Human Rights Activist* – Adam Gearey

Lois Bibbings, *Binding Men* – Richard Collier

Mariana Valverde, *Chronotopes of Law* – Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos

Amy Ludlow, *Privatising Public Prisons: Labour law and the public procurement process* – Roseanne Russell

SLSA 2015 ANNUAL SEMINAR COMPETITION

This year's Seminar Competition is now open for applications. The total prize fund is £10,000.

The money can be used to support the delivery of an individual seminar or short conference, or a series of events. There are no restrictions on subject matter, provided that applicants can show relevance to the socio-legal community. Applicants must be SLSA members. Applications will not be considered where the amount of support required is less than £500, or where the event is targeted at staff or students of a single institution. The fund has so far supported 18 successful events.

If you are considering an application, please ensure that your proposal accords with the published guidance, downloadable from the SLSA website www.slsa.ac.uk. If you have any queries, please contact Rosie Harding [e r.j.harding@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.harding@bham.ac.uk). Closing date: **11 December 2015**.

Reports of two SLSA seminars held this year follow.

Symposium on law and compassion

Dermot Feenan (lead) reports on this one-day symposium held on 1 July 2015 at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London.

This symposium provided a forum for presentations and discussion on the relationship between law and compassion, focusing on the conceptual and theoretical approaches to compassion, and the relationship of compassion to litigation, judging and regulation, with particular concern to learn from critical interdisciplinary and socio-legal approaches.

The keynote speaker was Professor Susan Bandes, DePaul University, USA, editor of *The Passions of Law*. Presentations were given by Dermot Feenan and Daniel Bedford, Portsmouth; Dr Maks Del Mar, Queen Mary; Dr Iain Wilkinson, Kent; Dr Marinos Diamantides, Birkbeck; Victoria Butler-Cole, barrister; Professor Hazel Biggs, Southampton; Judge Anselm Eldergill, Court of Protection; Professor Jonathan Herring, Oxford; Professor Jonathan Montgomery, UCL; and Professor Bettina Lange, Oxford.

Thirty-six people attended the symposium, comprising postgraduate students, early career and senior academics, legal and medical practitioners, and members of legal professional bodies and local government. Feedback after the event was excellent. One delegate said: 'It was good to see so many academics and practitioners together talking in a like-minded interdisciplinary way.' Another said: 'I work in the intersection of legal and ethical theory with mental health and capacity law, and the themes raised in the symposium are ones which I intend to explore in this context in future work.' For a quarter of respondents, this was their first SLSA event.

The symposium is one of a number of projects on law and compassion of the Law and Social Enquiry Group founded in 2014, which is planning an international research group in the field. The *International Journal of Law in Context* has agreed to consider for publication a special issue of selected papers from the symposium. Two other papers from the symposium, by Victoria Butler-Cole and Judge Eldergill were published in the *Elder Law Journal*, with a commentary on Eldergill's paper provided by Feenan, Bedford and Herring in the journal's November issue. Further relevant research from the project is designed also to inform practice, policymaking and legislative processes, where appropriate.

Dermot Feenan [e dermot.feenan@port.ac.uk](mailto:dermot.feenan@port.ac.uk)

Law's metaphors

David Gurnham reports on his SLSA seminar held at the University of Southampton School of Law on Friday 25 September 2015.

I am very grateful for the generous support of the SLSA that made this seminar possible. It was also supported by the *Journal of Law and Society* (JLS) as the papers presented are part of a larger collection submitted for publication in the JLS spring 2016 special issue (also called 'Law's metaphors') that I am guest-editing. In brief, metaphor is the practice of representing one thing in the terms of another; a means by which meaning may be 'transported' or 'carried over' between, say, the literal and the abstract. We find this everywhere with regards to law: from the very language of a 'body' of law with the police as its 'long arm', to justice imagined as a blindfolded lady in myriad representations, to equity as the thick fog that shrouds the streets of Dickens' London of *Bleak House*. This event brought together a diverse collection of colleagues to discuss the significance of metaphor in legal language, education and scholarship: how notions such as law and justice are shaped consciously and unconsciously by particular uses of metaphor and how scholars can engage critically with such uses in understanding and shaping law and legal studies. The open call for participants via SLSA ebulletins attracted early career researchers as well as established and senior scholars as presenters and non-presenting participants (the latter including postgraduate researchers). I shared chairing duties with Dr Paul Scott (also University of Southampton School of Law) and a lively discussion ensued.

In the morning, three papers addressed metaphor in legal language. Dr Angela Condello (University of Roma Tre) set the scene by examining the relationship between metaphor and analogy in legal reasoning and demonstrated how both concepts may be seen to work in the courts when judges attempt to apply legal rules in new or previously unforeseen circumstances. This was followed by Professor Adam Gearey's (Birkbeck) presentation on metaphors that may form the basis for action in the service of invigorating the political community and the democratic ethos and he used the writings of F W Maitland as a point of departure. The morning session closed with Dr Julia Shaw (de Montfort) speaking from a 'law and literature' perspective about metaphor in legal culture; she used metaphors to critique the disciplinary and oppressive aspects of law and to suggest a way to overcome these by deploying new and more productive metaphors. After lunch, Professor Michelle LeBaron's (University of British Columbia) innovative paper drew attention to the multiplicity of metaphors and metaphoric allusions in legal education and the day finished with my own paper on the metaphor of the 'uncanny double' in writings about rape myth acceptance, locating that strange and unsettling figure in mock jury research, in scholarship critical of feminist work on rape myths, and in fictional works such as the recently popular novel and film *Gone Girl*.

The discussion was productive and gave presenters whose work is to appear in the special issue a valuable opportunity to generate interest in and feedback on their work before final versions of their article submissions were due. We hope that the published collection in the JLS will offer a useful contribution to ongoing debates about the ways that language works to produce law's effects and how it can be harnessed to critique the same.

David Gurnham [e d.gurnham@soton.ac.uk](mailto:d.gurnham@soton.ac.uk)

The newsletter needs you

News and feature articles are always needed for the newsletter, plus information about books, journals and events. The next deadline is **1 February 2016**. Contact Marie Selwood [e marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com) or [t 01227 770189](tel:01227770189).

A dialogue on the role of state and non-state actors in the development, delivery and regulation of restorative practice

On 7 July 2015 the School of Law, University of Leeds, welcomed over 65 researchers, practitioners and policymakers for the inaugural conference of the Community of Restorative Researchers.

The community is an international, interdisciplinary research network, connecting individuals who work in the field of restorative practice in different capacities. It promotes an open, critical dialogue within the field in order to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of the growing use of restorative practices in this and other jurisdictions. The objective of the event was to contribute towards these goals by enhancing communication and collaboration between key individuals and organisations in the field.

The event was introduced by community founder Ian Marder who spoke about the purpose of the event and network, as well as outlining some of the practical steps that delegates could take in order to use restorative principles and practices to their full potential. He suggested that this might involve the organisation of local, cross-sector events, as well as the application of delegates' knowledge and experience of the arena of social divisions and reconciliation processes.

A discussion panel followed, on the role of non-state actors in developing, delivering and regulating restorative practice. The panel was chaired by research student Roxana Willis from the University of Oxford and included Ali Gohar from Just Peace Initiatives, Jon Collins from the Restorative Justice Council and Andrew Hancock from Darlington Neighbourhood Resolution. The panel discussed the nature of community participation and the role of volunteers in delivering restorative practices, with Andrew speaking passionately about his experience of managing volunteers. Jon, meanwhile, discussed the role that his third-sector organisation plays in regulating the field and Ali outlined his organisation's work to update indigenous dispute resolution processes in Afghanistan and Pakistan so that they adhere to human rights values.

A second panel debated the role of state actors in developing, delivering and regulating restorative practice. It was chaired by Lizzie Tiarks from Northumbria University, and featured Jonathan Doak from Durham University and Nicola Preston and Becky Beard, experienced practitioners and strategists in the coordination and delivery of restorative justice

at a local level. Jonathan drew a number of comparisons between the functions of the state in the jurisdictions of Northern Ireland, on the one hand, and England and Wales, on the other. Based on their work in Thames Valley and Gloucestershire respectively, Nicola and Becky delineated the practicalities involved in implementation. Nicola also contributed some insights about the use of restorative practice in educational institutions, while Becky spoke about the establishment and maintenance of restorative multi-agency partnerships.

The final session started with a presentation from Deborah Mitchell, a founding member of RJ Working CIC. Entitled 'Creating restorative collaborations', her engaging and provocative talk outlined the enablers of and barriers to cooperation between the variety of statutory and third-sector agencies required to instigate and sustain a viable, local restorative service. 'Handshakes are as important as documents,' she said, 'but someone has to extend their hand first.' For the remainder of the session, all the day's speakers and chairs participated in a final discussion, speaking about their varied experiences of collaboration in the pursuit of implementing restorative practices.

Feedback from delegates suggested that the day was highly successful: attending researchers expressed an improvement in their understanding of the pressures and constraints of implementation, while practitioners, project managers and policymakers said that they would now be more likely to engage with academia. The range of experience and professions of the attendees and the positive, friendly atmosphere were both integral to achieving these ends. We have no doubt that relationships formed at this event will play a central role in the development of processes and practices across the country in the years to come.

Thanks are due to the School of Law, which hosted and funded the day, and to sponsors Gramlich. We would also like to thank all participants for making it such a success. It is hoped that further local, cross-sector events will take place in the future, including a research dissemination conference in the autumn of 2016.

The day was dedicated to Professor Nils Christie, a scholar from Oslo who recently passed away and whose seminal writings (such as *Conflicts as Property* and *A Suitable Amount of Crime*) underpin much of the discourse in this field.

**Ian Marder and Megan Sharp,
Community of Restorative Researchers**

Law as aesthetics and memory

Agata Fijalkowski, University of Lancaster, is currently working on a project considering law as a matter of aesthetics and memory. It builds upon earlier work concerning the maladministration of justice in post-dictatorial Europe* and seeks to make an original contribution to the fields of transitional justice, comparative criminal justice and, more broadly, interdisciplinary studies. The study considers the visual images of political trials carried out in Albania, East Germany and Poland during the Stalinist period (broadly 1944–1957). The project's key question considers the power of the image and what it conveys about the law through the eye of the observer and the spectator. Some of these visual images currently form part of these states' contemporary approaches to 'remembering the past', making the complex use of the image, when handled as part of a transitional justice measure, an important part of the study.

Agata Fijalkowski

* See *Transitional Criminal Justice in Post-Dictatorial and Post-Conflict Societies* (2015) Intersentia (co-edited with Raluca Grosescu) and her work on the Albanian political dissident, Musine Kokalari 28(3) *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* 577–602.

Liability vs innovation

Professor Tsachi-Keren Paz, Keele Law School, has been awarded an ESRC Seminar Series grant (£30,300) for his international project entitled 'Liability vs innovation: unpacking key connections'. The 24-month award starts in December and will bring together jurists, economists, ethicists and medics from several jurisdictions, including the UK, Australia, the USA and Israel, to explore from interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives the theoretical assumptions, empirical findings, and normative ramifications of the debates about the relationship between tort liability, disciplinary proceedings, defensive medicine and innovation, and the practical implications of legal reforms. The co-investigators are Professor Alicia El Haj from the Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, Keele University, Associate Professor Tina Cockburn, Queensland University of Technology Law School, Australia, Dr Michael Fay, Keele Law School, and Professor Richard Goldberg, Durham Law School.

Tsachi-Keren Paz

Martha Fineman postgraduate discussion group, Birmingham

During Professor Martha Fineman's visit to the universities of Birmingham and Leeds this summer, I had the privilege of presenting my work to her at Birmingham Law School's dedicated postgraduate discussion group.

This event was part of an extensive series of conferences and lectures that took place across the two universities which were widely attended by academics who have used Professor Fineman's vulnerability theory as a means to understand and enhance socio-legal and social policy-oriented research. The discussion group was an opportunity for postgraduate researchers to hear how their peers were using Professor Fineman's work, as well as to informally discuss vulnerability theory and ask questions concerning two of her most recent papers. The discussion group took place on 3 September 2015 and was attended by several postgraduate researchers from UK universities and beyond who are making use of vulnerability theory.

The discussion group began with three postgraduate student presentations to Professor Fineman and the group. As one of these students, I presented the findings of my thesis (masters by research) that I am currently undertaking at the University of Leeds. This discusses the way in which 'vulnerability' has been used in government policy concerning the reform of legal aid eligibility for family law matters and the experiences of litigants who are subsequently attempting to present their own cases to the family court in the absence of this support. In addition to hearing Professor Fineman's feedback on my work, I found it fascinating to see how other students had made use of vulnerability theory in areas quite distinct from my

own. For instance, PhD student Chris Dietz, from the University of Leeds, presented the ways in which Professor Fineman's work is contributing to his assessment of a Danish alternative to UK gender recognition legislation. In contrast, Ellen Gordon-Bouvier, from the University of Birmingham, discussed her use of vulnerability theory in relation to the use of constructive trusts in the breakdown of cohabitee relationships.

A general discussion of Professor Fineman's work followed, in particular her recent papers, which were dedicated reading for the group. During this session, attending postgraduates were able to consult Professor Fineman herself on the ways in which vulnerability theory can contribute to current PhD projects and future early career research. I found that this portion of the event was particularly useful as I will be continuing my project by way of an empirical, interview-based PhD this autumn and now feel extremely motivated to make use of a vulnerability-focused analysis derived from Professor Fineman's work.

After the roundtable sessions, the group chatted informally about their projects over refreshments. This was an excellent opportunity to connect with other PhD students using Professor Fineman's work, as well as to receive further one-on-one critiques from her. This event was of great benefit, particularly this early on in my research, as it provided the opportunity to assess the ways in which I and others make use of vulnerability in our projects and to ensure that we do justice to the theory in our continued application of it. As a result of this, I believe this event paved the way for a network of early career researchers engaging with vulnerability theory, which will prove invaluable for their future work in this and many other socio-legal fields.

Jess Mant, MRes/PhD candidate, University of Leeds

International Research Collaborative: Law, Reason and Emotion – call

The Law and Society Association (LSA) has awarded the status of International Research Collaborative (IRC) to the network entitled Law, Reason and Emotion.

This IRC brings together scholars from a range of disciplines studying aspects of the relationship between these key themes – law, reason and emotion – including in legal reasoning, in the creation of legal norms, in the behaviour of legal actors (eg judges, juries, victims, lawyers, defendants) and in the structure and function of legal institutions, broadly defined. IRC status guarantees sessions at the LSA conference in Mexico City, June 2017, with potential for consolidation of the IRC as an ongoing Collaborative Research Network or Working Group for future LSA conferences.

The network currently includes over 40 scholars across disciplinary fields (such as law, classics, history, psychology, philosophy, criminology and sociology) at leading universities in the UK, Australia, Argentina, Canada, Germany, Sweden and the USA. The IRC is coordinated by Dermot Feenan, University of Portsmouth, and Susan A Bandes, DePaul University, who plan to edit a special collection of papers from the IRC sessions.

Those interested in membership should: (a) provide details of their research interests (including publications) related to the theme 'Law, reason and emotion' in not more than 200 words; (b) confirm that they are willing to present their research on this theme at Mexico City; (c) indicate whether they would be able to contribute a paper for publication, and if so, the provisional title. (Commitment to publish is not required; nor can those who want to publish papers be guaranteed the opportunity to do so.)

Dermot Feenan e dermot.feenan@port.ac.uk
Susan Bandes e sbandes@depaul.edu

AHRC seeks views about the next phase of its funded studentships

The AHRC is developing ideas about the next phase of funded studentships which will recruit students from October 2019. As part of this process, it is inviting the arts and humanities community to reflect and comment on its proposals. The next stage of development seeks to build upon the strengths and flexibility of the current arrangements as well as simplify the AHRC's approach to doctoral funding.

Further details can be found on the AHRC website www.ahrc.ac.uk and feedback is invited via a Smart Survey www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/C3PQ4.

Law Commission consultations

The Law Commission is currently inviting responses to three open consultations. They are: Bills of Sale – closing date **9 December 2015**; Transfer of Title and Change of Occupancy Fees in Leaseholds – closing date **29 January 2016**; and Sentencing Law in England and Wales – closing date **9 April 2016**. See www.lawcom.gov.uk.

@SLSA_UK prize

The prize for our 1500th Twitter follower went to Andrew HR @andhr83 of Sheffield Business School. He won a copy of Caroline Hunter (ed), *Integrating Socio-Legal Studies into the Law Curriculum* from Palgrave Macmillan's Socio-Legal Studies series. We're now on the way to our 2000th follower who will also receive a book of their choice from the series, see the website for all 11 titles published so far www.palgrave.com/series/palgrave-macmillan-socio-legal-studies/PMSLS.

AHRC international placement scheme

This provides funded research fellowships at world-leading international research institutions for early career researchers, doctoral-level research assistants and AHRC/ESRC-funded doctoral students. Placements for 2016 will be in the USA, Japan and China, are between two and six months in duration and include a travel grant, visa costs and a monthly stipend. See www.ahrc.ac.uk. Closing date: **21 January 2016**.

Routledge/Association of Law Teachers: Teaching Law with Technology Prize 2016

Entries are invited for this annual prize for law teachers who use high-tech, innovative techniques to engage students. This prize recognises, rewards and champions innovation in teaching and learning with a £1200 cash prize. The competition is free to enter and is open to all law teachers in the UK. Closing date: **15 January 2016**. www.routledge.com/law/posts/7649

Law, politics and ideology

Dermot Feenan and Andrew Gilbert, acting co-convenors of the 'Law, politics and ideology' SLSA conference theme explain why it's important to recognise this field at SLSA conferences.

It might seem odd to have a specific theme on law, politics and ideology at the annual SLSA conferences. Socio-legal scholars have often contributed to understanding law as ideological and shaped by the system of political ideas in which it is made. Yet, at the annual conference at Warwick Law School in 2015, a theme on this topic was introduced by Graham Gee and Andrew Gilbert to consider contributions which explored explicitly the relationships between law, politics and ideology. The theme attracted 11 submissions, of which eight were presented at the conference. Dermot Feenan was invited subsequently to join as co-convenor of the theme. Following the success of the theme in 2015, we thought it important to continue the theme for the following reasons.

Firstly, the conjunction of law, politics and ideology captures much that characterises the quintessence of socio-legal studies. For instance, there are 395 references to 'ideology' within the text of articles in the *Journal of Law and Society*, with seven such references in titles of articles (all pre-dating 2003, most before 1983). In the same journal, there were 644 references to 'politics' within the text of articles (including some citations), with 29 such references in titles of articles. There is a similar incidence in the *Law and Society Review*, and in *Social and Legal Studies* there are numerous references to ideology and politics. So discussion around these terms is very much alive in the literature.

Secondly, the SLSA, founded in 1990, conceives of socio-legal studies as concerned with, inter alia, the influence of politics on law and legal institutions. Critical legal scholarship has developed and extended analysis in these fields.¹

Thirdly, there has been a renewed interest in the place of ideology and politics in relation to law. US-based scholar Elizabeth Mertz² (2001) refers to concerns about the absence of engagement with ideology in law and society scholarship at the turn of the millennium. Significant political transformations since then, from the recession of 2008 through seismic shifts to the left in a number of countries, have posed new questions for legal scholars in terms of the relations between the state and law. Such transformations sit alongside re-emerging analysis of ideologies such as socialism, conservatism and neoliberalism.

Post-structuralist and postmodernist opposition to ideology as an analytical category in favour of discourse, though

ESRC Prize for Outstanding Impact in Society for coma research

Professors Jenny Kitinger and Celia Kitinger have been awarded this prestigious ESRC prize for their ESRC-funded research into the support available for relatives of patients in a coma, vegetative or minimally conscious state. Many patients' relatives suffer from feelings of isolation, guilt and confusion and are often given incorrect legal advice. The team developed an online resource providing information and support for families, solicitors and health professionals. The online resource is available at www.healthtalk.org.

Celebrating impact prizes

Nominations open in the autumn for the fourth year of this prize that recognises and rewards the successes of ESRC-funded researchers who have achieved, or are currently achieving, outstanding economic or societal impacts. Prizes range from £5000 to £10,000. www.esrc.ac.uk

valuable, did not eliminate the need to understand and analyse ideology³ and its new configurations.⁴

Finally, the annual conferences have traditionally operated with agreed 'streams'. In 2015, there were 28 such streams. These ranged from traditional areas such as 'Labour law', through well-established mixed themes such as 'Gender, sexuality and law' to more recent streams such as 'Art, culture and heritage'. Lately, the SLSA has run themes as well as streams, including 'Families and work'. The theme 'Law, politics and ideology' invites papers that explicitly make connections between these fields – though the degree of connection between each may vary.

One of the challenges for this theme is how to understand 'ideology'. There are diverse definitions⁵ However, we offer a working framework as follows: a pervasive normativity of ideas and concepts held by people or institutions (such as government) that sustains, typically by concealing, relations of social power. And it is in the theme's conjunction of ideology with politics and the latter's broad concern with the exercise of influence over people, principally through governance, that we hope to stimulate fresh enquiry.

Papers in this theme might include such questions as:

- How can socio-legal studies extend understanding of ideology and politics in relation to law?
- How is the relationship between the state, law and the individual conceptualised in particular ideologies?
- What political ideas inform law-making (from a contemporary or historical perspective)?
- How are political ideas used in law-making, and by whom?
- How and why do particular political ideas fall in and out of fashion among law-makers?

The relations between law, politics and ideology might be explored in diverse ways, eg: between people and institutions; in formation of social identities, consciousness, and practices; in different jurisdictional spaces (local/municipal, devolved, regional, international, global). But above all, we will be inviting papers (see page 18) – conceptually rich and preferably empirically based – that bring novel theoretical analysis to the intersection of law, politics and ideology.

- 1 M Stone, I R Wall and C Douzinas (eds) (2012) *New Critical Legal Thinking: Law and the political*, Routledge
- 2 E Mertz (2001) 'Book review: Susan Philips, *Ideology in the Language of Judges*' 30(1) *Language in Society* 111–15.
- 3 J Schwarzmantel (2008) *Ideology and Politics*, Sage
- 4 R Soborksi (2013) *Ideology in a Global Age*, Palgrave Macmillan
- 5 D Hawkes (2003) *Ideology*, 2nd edn, Routledge

Two LSA book prizes open for nominations

The Law and Society Association (LSA) invites nominations for two book prizes: the J Willard Hurst Prize for the best work in socio-legal history; and the Herbert Jacob Prize for books from all other fields of law and society scholarship. Both prizes offer a \$500 prize and authors are invited to participate in an author-meets-reader session if they are attending the LSA Annual Meeting. Closing date for both prizes: **16 December 2015**. For full details, please see www.lawandsociety.org/awards.html.

ALT Conference: call for future hosts

The Association of Law Teachers (ALT) committee is seeking expressions of interest from universities wishing to host its annual conferences in 2018 and 2019. The conference usually takes place during the Easter break each year. In 2016 it will be in Newcastle, hosted by Northumbria University, and in 2017 it will be at Portsmouth University. The closing date for the call for expressions of interest is **11 December 2015**. www.slsa.ac.uk/images/2015autumn/ALT_Conference_Call_2018_and_2019revised.pdf

British Academy

JSPS postdoctoral fellowships

Applications are open for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) fellowships. The scheme is for early career researchers who wish to conduct research in the fields of social science or the humanities in Japan for up to 24 months.

The scheme provides subsistence funding as well as a settling-in allowance, a return air ticket and insurance cover. The Japanese host institution may also apply for a grant-in-aid for scientific research of up to ¥1.5 million per year for cooperative research-related expenses. Closing date: **9 December 2015**. www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/jspcs.cfm

Skills innovator awards

The British Academy has announced a call for a revised scheme of research funding support within the Languages and Quantitative Skills Programme. The revised scheme, British Academy skills innovator awards, is intended to extend the Academy's support to promote innovative research methods using languages and quantitative skills, be it through skills development, acquisition, collaboration or dissemination. The scheme is intended for researchers who wish to experiment with new quantitative methods through a variety of means, or to experiment with methods and vehicles for teaching languages in higher education. The awards will in particular be valuable to researchers wishing to pilot new methods and approaches in order to apply for larger grants in the longer term. Awards of up to £15,000 are available. Closing date: **2 December 2015**.

Newton international fellowships

The Newton international fellowships scheme has been established to select the very best early stage postdoctoral researchers from all over the world and enable them to work at UK research institutions for a period of two years. Funding consists of £24,000 per annum for subsistence costs and up to £8000 per annum research expenses, as well as a one-off payment of up to £2000 for relocation expenses. The next round will open in **January 2016** with a closing date in February. www.newtonfellowships.org

BOOKS

Reforming Law and Economy for a Sustainable Earth: Critical thought for turbulent times (2014) Paul Anderson, Routledge £85 282pp

Few concerns preoccupy contemporary progressive thought as much as the issue of how to achieve a sustainable human society. The problems impeding this goal include those of how to arrest induced global environmental change (GEC), disagreements about the contribution of economic activities to GEC, and differences in views on how these activities can be reformed to reduce the rate of change and thus mitigate threats to much life on Earth. This volume aims to help resolve these problems in two ways. Since addressing GEC requires global coordination, the book first clarifies the conditions necessary to achieve this effectively. The author explores these conditions through analysis of key concepts in influential disciplines, particularly social and political theory and law, relating to the transition to a sustainable economy. Second, he tackles the problem of how to arrest GEC by evaluating two leading theoretical positions in terms of their capacity to support the conditions required for effective global coordination. From this basis, the book offers an extensive critique of the idea that global environmental problems can be solved within the framework of global capitalism. It also critically reviews and advances the proposition that global sustainability can be achieved only by changing the capitalist form of organising the economy.

Blamestorming, Blamemongers and Scapegoats: Allocating blame in the criminal justice process (2015) Gavin Dingwall and Tim Hillier, Policy Press £70 216pp

We live in a society that is preoccupied with blame. Bringing together philosophical, psychological and sociological accounts of blame, this is the first detailed criminological account of the role of blame. The authors present a study of the legal process of blame attribution in the context of criminalisation as a social and political process. Blame is a prism through which to view contemporary criminal justice policy and practice. It also has another function: it can be used to explain and evaluate. Blaming may be a process worthy of examination but, because of the potentially adverse consequences of this, it is imperative to assess whether it is necessary and the finding and consequences warranted. Just as politicians and the media readily invoke blame to justify repressive measures, some criminologists are guilty of dismissing all instances of criminalisation as further proof of invidious state control. Both accounts dissolve when exposed to the complexity of contemporary criminal justice. Any meaningful assessment has to be more nuanced and context-specific. Blame may be a contested concept, but it has resonance and power and there appears to be widespread agreement that it should play a role in setting the parameters of the criminal law. Rather than challenging this, progressive reformers would be advised to deconstruct the process of attribution and formulate a more compelling alternative. (Tim Hillier discussed the ideas in the book on BBC Radio 4's 'Talking Allowed' on 3 June 2015.)

How Do County Courts Share Care of Children between Parents (2015) Maebh Harding and Annika Newnham, Nuffield Foundation

This project examined how contact and residence orders were granted in five County Courts in England and Wales within a six-month period in 2011. Researchers looked at the type of applications that came to court, the role of the court in adjudicating such disputes and the different types of timeshare arrangements reached by parents during the court process. The project was carried out by researchers at Warwick and Reading universities. www.nuffieldfoundation.org/how-do-county-courts-share-care-children-between-parents

Religion and Legal Pluralism (2015) Russell Sandberg (ed), Ashgate £70 300pp

In recent years, there have been a number of concerns about the recognition of religious laws and the existence of religious courts and tribunals. There has also been a growing literature on legal pluralism which seeks to understand how more than one legal system can and should exist within one social space. However, whilst there have been a number of important theoretical works concerning legal pluralism in the context of cultural rights, little has been published specifically on religion. *Religion and Legal Pluralism* explores the extent to which religious laws are already recognised by the state and the extent to which religious legal systems, such as sharia law, should be accommodated. A 50 per cent discount is available on the Ashgate website with code 50CNZ15N w www.ashgate.com.

Legal Dissonance: The interaction of criminal law and customary law in Papua New Guinea (2015) Shaun Larcom, Berghan £53 188pp

Papua New Guinea's two most powerful legal orders – customary law and state law – undermine one another in criminal matters. This phenomenon, called legal dissonance, partly explains the low level of personal security found in many parts of the country. This book demonstrates that a lack of coordination in the punishing of wrong behaviour is both problematic for legal orders themselves and for those who are subject to such legal phenomena. Legal dissonance can lead to behaviour being simultaneously promoted by one legal order and punished by the other, resulting in injustice and, perhaps more importantly, undermining the ability of both legal orders to deter wrongdoing.

Eugen Ehrlich's Sociology of Law (2014) Knut Papendorf, Stefan Machura and Anne Hellum (eds), Lit Verlag €39.90 272pp

The work of Eugen Ehrlich (1862–1922) is directly relevant for an understanding of law in society and of the role of sociology of law, for both law and social sciences. Now, it is possible to see behind the smokescreen of historical debates and to assess his key ideas in the light of today's problems. The coexistence of state and local law still challenges lawyers and decision-makers. Ehrlich suggests sociology of law as an instrument to address social and legal problems that supplements standard legal methodology. Articles in this book place Eugen Ehrlich in the context of his times, outline the international reception of his work, and show the relevance of his thoughts for contemporary issues.

Criminal Justice in Transition: The Northern Ireland context (2015) Anne-Marie McAlinden and Clare Dwyer (eds), Hart £55 416pp

This book represents a critical examination of key aspects of crime and criminal justice in Northern Ireland which will have resonance elsewhere. It considers the core aspects of criminal justice policymaking in Northern Ireland which are central to the process of post-conflict transition, including reform of policing, judicial decision-making and correctional services such as probation and prisons. It examines contemporary trends in criminal justice in Northern Ireland with regard to various dimensions of crime relating to: female offenders; young offenders; sexual and violent offenders; race and criminal justice; community safety; and restorative justice. The book also considers the extent to which crime and criminal justice issues in Northern Ireland are being affected by the broader processes of 'policy transfer', globalisation and transnationalism and the extent to which criminal justice in Northern Ireland is divergent from the other jurisdictions in the UK. Written by leading international authorities in the field, the book offers a snapshot of the cutting edge of critical thinking in criminal justice practice and transitional justice contexts.

Exploring the 'Legal' in Socio-Legal Studies (2015) David Cowan and Daniel Wincott (eds), Palgrave Macmillan £65 276pp

Socio-legal studies has had an ambivalent relationship with the 'legal' – one of its defining aspects, but at the same time one that the discipline has sought to transcend or even leave behind. While socio-legal studies benefits hugely from the insights, methods and theories of other social science and humanities disciplines, the contributions to *Exploring the 'Legal' in Socio-Legal Studies* illustrate the value of a focus on the legal. The chapters in this book combine traditional legal materials and analyses with other ways of engaging empirically with the legal. They illustrate the rich potential of the legal as a site both for theoretical and methodological reflection and for case study analysis. Taken as a whole, this volume demonstrates that methodological discussion is most helpful when rooted in empirical cases and that the best case studies also help us to develop our methodologies. Bringing methodology and empirical analysis together offers an opportunity to reflect on socio-legal studies and develop the discipline in productive new directions. This is the latest in the Palgrave Macmillan Socio-Legal Studies series edited by David Cowan. This book arose out of an SLSA one-day conference in 2012.

Stopping Rape: Towards a comprehensive policy (2015) Sylvia Walby, Philippa Olive, Jude Towers, Brian Francis, Sofia Strid, Andrea Krizsán, Emanuela Lombardo, Corinne May-Chahal, Suzanne Franzway, David Sugarman, Bina Agarwal and Jo Armstrong, Policy Press £24.99 320pp

This important book offers a comprehensive guide to the international policies developed to stop rape, together with case study examples on how they work. The book engages with the law and criminal justice system, health services, specialised services for victim-survivors, and educational and cultural interventions, as well as how they can be best coordinated. It is informed by theory and evidence drawn from scholarship and practice from around the world.

Transitional Criminal Justice in Post-Dictatorial and Post-Conflict Societies (2015) Agata Fijalkowski and Raluca Grosescu (eds) Series on Transitional Justice, Intersentia €85 290pp

States that are in transition after a dictatorship or a violent conflict face formidable challenges concerning accountability for human rights violations. This edited collection considers criminal justice as a method of addressing state violence committed by non-democratic regimes. Its main objectives concern a fresh, contemporary and critical analysis of transitional criminal justice as a concept and its related measures, beginning with the initiatives since the fall of the communist regimes in Europe in 1989.

Managing Family Justice in Diverse Societies (2015) Mavis Maclean and John Eekelaar (eds), Hart £20.99 328pp

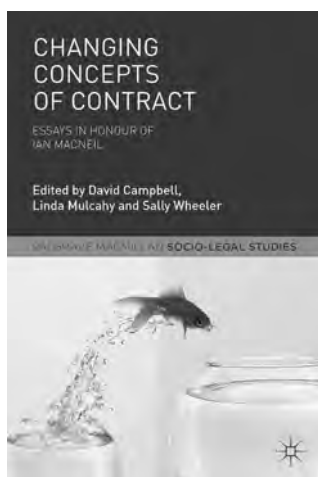
The aim of this book is to explore what response the law has or should have to different family practices arising from cultural and religious beliefs. The issue has become increasingly debated as Western countries have become more culturally diverse. Although discussion has frequently focused on the role Islamic family law should have in these countries, this book seeks to set that discussion within a wider context that includes consideration both of theoretical issues and also of empirical data about the interaction between specific family practices and state law in a variety of jurisdictions, ranging from England and Wales to Bangladesh, Botswana, Spain, Poland, France, Israel, Iran and South Africa. The contributors to the 17 chapters approach the subject matter from a variety of perspectives, illustrating its complex and often sensitive nature. The book does not set out to propose any single definitive strategy that should be adopted, but provides material on which researchers, advocates and policymakers can draw in furthering their understanding of and seeking solutions to the problems raised by this significant social development.

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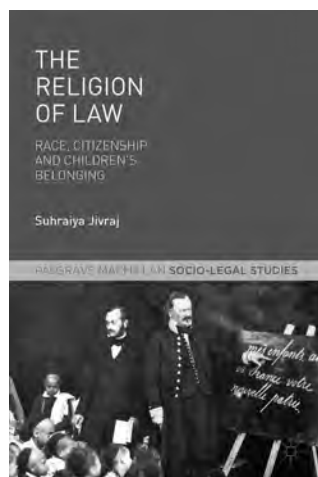
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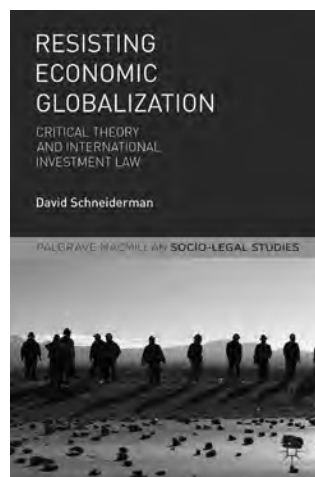
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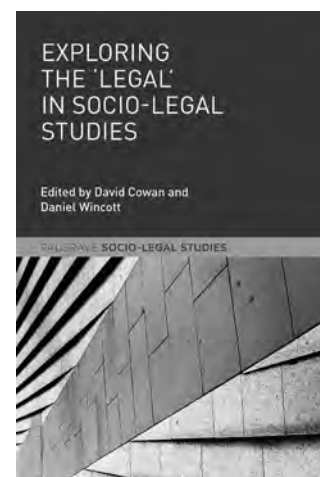
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Marriage Rites and Rights (2015) Joanna Miles, Perveez Mody and Rebecca Probert (eds), Hart £35 320pp

Recent years have seen extensive discussion about the continuing retreat from marriage, the increasing demand for the right to marry from previously excluded groups, and the need to protect those who do not wish to marry from being forced to do so. At the same time, weddings are big business, couples are spending more than ever before on getting married and marriage ceremonies are increasingly elaborate. It is therefore timely to reflect on the rites of marriage, as well as the right to marry (or not to marry), and the relationship between them. To this end, this new interdisciplinary collection brings together scholars from numerous fields, including law, sociology, anthropology, psychology, demography, theology, and art and design. Focusing on England and Wales, it explores in depth the specific issues arising from this jurisdiction's Anglican heritage, demographic development, current laws and social practices.

Regulatory Transformations: Rethinking economy-society interactions (2015) Bettina Lange, Fiona Haines and Dania Thomas (eds), Hart £60 272pp

The issue of whether transnational risk can be regulated through a social sphere goes to the heart of what John Ruggie has described as 'embedded liberalism': how capitalist countries have reconciled markets with the social community that markets require to survive and thrive. This collection, located in the wider debates about global capitalism and its regulation, tackles the challenge of finding a way forward for regulation. It rejects the old divisions of state and market, citizens and consumers, social movements and transnational corporations, as well as 'economic' and 'social' regulation. Instead this rich, multidisciplinary collection engages with a critical theme – the idea of harnessing the regulatory capacity of a social sphere by recognising the embeddedness of economic transactions within a social and political landscape. This collection therefore explores how social norms, practices, actors and institutions frame economic transactions and thereby regulate risks generated by and for business, state and citizens. A key strength of this book is its integration of three distinct areas of scholarship: Karl Polanyi's economic sociology, regulation studies and socio-legal studies of transnational hazards. The collection is distinct in that it links the study of specific transnational risk regulatory regimes back to a social-theoretical discussion about economy-society interactions, informed by Polanyi's work. Each of the chapters addresses the way in which economics, as well as economic and social regulation, can never be understood separately from the social, particularly in the transnational context.

Lawyers' Ethics and Professional Responsibility (2015) Andrew Boon, Hart £30 464pp

This book aims to produce lawyers who can debate, criticise and change professional ethics as well as understand its underlying rationale. Written by the author of the leading work on the subject, *The Ethics and Conduct of Lawyers in England and Wales*, this book is aimed at the undergraduate or postgraduate student taking a half or full course in the subject. The book is divided into four parts dealing with the professional and regulatory framework for delivering legal services, the obligations owed to clients, wider duties and responsibilities, and practice settings. It sets out the important background to the modern practice of law and explains the theoretical underpinning of professional ethics and its everyday application through conduct rules and principles. Extracts from legislation, cases and conduct rules are provided, and comparative issues are considered where relevant. The book is also interactive, raising issues and posing questions that will encourage students to engage with the material as they read, which will also be helpful for classroom discussion.

Regulating Food-borne Illness: Investigation, control and enforcement (2015) Richard Hyde, Hart £60 272pp

When faced with tackling food-borne illness, regulators have a number of competing goals. They must investigate in order to discover the source of the illness. Once the source is identified they must take action to prevent further cases of illness occurring. Finally, once the illness is under control, they may wish to take enforcement action against those responsible. *Regulating Food-Borne Illness* uses interviews and documentary analysis to examine the actions of regulators and considers how they balance these three tasks. Central to the regulators' role is the collection of information. Without information about the source, control or enforcement action cannot be taken. Investigation must therefore take place to produce the necessary information. Utilising theoretical frameworks drawn from regulation and biosecurity, the author shows that control is prioritised and that investigatory steps are chosen in order to ensure that the information necessary for control, rather than enforcement, is collected. This has the effect of reducing the possibility that enforcement action can be taken. The difficulty of evidence-gathering and case-building in food-borne illness cases is exposed, and the author considers the methods aimed at reducing the difficulty of bringing successful enforcement action.

Landmark Cases in Family Law (2016) Stephen Gilmore, Jonathan Herring and Rebecca Probert (eds), Hart £35 330pp

In recent years, the notion of 'family' in the law has seen enormous changes, with the enactment, for example, of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and, more recently, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008. As we begin to move forward into the new millennium, this is therefore an excellent time to engage in 'stock-taking' of the landmark decisions, many of which were decided in the 1970s, which have shaped modern family law. Indeed, the landmark cases in family law in England and Wales deserve detailed historical examination. These cases tend to raise highly controversial issues, often on striking facts, frequently provoking wider social debate and/or extensive publicity. Consequently, the landmark cases chosen for this collection provide considerable scope for doctrinal analysis as well as for in-depth examination of the social or policy developments that influenced them. The stories behind the cases often provide a fascinating insight into the complexities of family life and the drama that can be found in the family courts.

The Legitimacy of Medical Treatment: What role for the medical exception? (2016) Sara Fovargue and Alexandra Mullock, Routledge 256pp £90

Whenever the legitimacy of a new or ethically contentious medical intervention is considered, a range of influences will determine whether the treatment becomes accepted as lawful medical treatment. The development and introduction of abortion, organ donation, gender reassignment and non-therapeutic cosmetic surgery have, for example, all raised ethical, legal and clinical issues. This book examines the various factors that legitimate a medical procedure. Bringing together a range of internationally and nationally recognised academics from law, philosophy, medicine, health, economics and sociology, the book explores the notion of a treatment, practice, or procedure being proper medical treatment, and considers the range of diverse factors which might influence the acceptance of a particular procedure as appropriate in the medical context. Contributors address such issues as clinical judgment and professional autonomy, the role of public interest and the influence of resource allocation in decision-making. In doing so, the book explores how the law, the medical profession, and the public interact in determining whether a new or ethically contentious procedure should be regarded as legitimate.

Moffat's Trusts Law (2015) Jonathan Garton, Graham Moffat, Gerry Bean and Rebecca Probert, Cambridge University Press 6th edn £39.99 1178pp

This latest edition of *Moffat's Trusts Law* has been fully revised and updated to cover recent statutory developments and explores the impact of a wealth of new cases including the Supreme Court decisions in *Pitt v Holt* (2013), *FHR European Ventures v Cedar Capital Partners* (2014) and *Williams v Central Bank of Nigeria* (2014). It has been restructured to incorporate a new chapter on the internationalisation of the trust which provides an understanding of the new directions being taken in the areas of trust law and equitable remedies. Supplementary material includes an online chapter on occupational pension schemes. With suggestions for further reading guiding the student to contemporary debates, this textbook retains its combination of a contextualized approach and a commercial focus.

The Changing Legal Regulation of Cohabitation: From fornicators to family, 1600–2010 (2015) Rebecca Probert, Cambridge University Press 300pp £27.99

This book has three key aims: first, to show how the legal treatment of cohabiting couples has changed over the past four centuries, from punishment as fornicators in the seventeenth century to eventual acceptance as family in the late twentieth; second, to chart how the language used to refer to cohabitation has changed over time and how different terms influenced policy debates and public perceptions; and, third, to estimate the extent of cohabitation in earlier centuries. To achieve this it draws on hundreds of reported and unreported cases as well as legislation, policy papers and debates in Parliament; thousands of newspaper reports and magazine articles; and innovative cohort studies that provide new and more reliable evidence as to the incidence (or rather the rarity) of cohabitation in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century England. It concludes with a consideration of the relationship between legal regulation and social trends.

Critical Company Law (2016) Lorraine Talbot, Routledge 2nd edn hb£85/pb£29.99 214pp

The second edition of *Critical Company Law* provides a framework in which to understand how the company functions in society and a thorough grounding in modern legal doctrine. It shows how modern company law is shaped by a multilayered history of politics, ideology, economics and power. Through the lens of political economic theory, the book shows how the company becomes the mechanism through which the state makes political choices about distributing society's wealth and through which it responds to economic crises. The current law reflects an economy marked by a disjuncture between the low profits of the productive economy and the high profits of the finance economy. The book examines areas of company law to show how they reflect a fragile economy inexorably drawn to social and economic inequality and short-termism. In this hybrid book, the legal topics are treated with detail and clarity, providing an engaging introduction to the key topics required for a student of company law.

Lions under the Throne: Essays on the history of English public law (2015) Stephen Sedley, Cambridge University Press £25 303pp

Francis Bacon wrote in 1625 that judges must be lions, but lions under the throne. From that day to this, the tension within the state between parliamentary, judicial and executive power has remained unresolved. *Lions under the Throne* is the first systematic account of the origins and development of the great body of public law by which the state, both institutionally and in relation to the individual, is governed.

Learning Legal Skills and Reasoning (2016) Sharon Hanson, Routledge 712pp hb £100/pb £29.99

Language skills, study skills, argument skills and legal knowledge are vital to every law student, professional lawyer and academic. This book discusses the main sources of English law and explains how to work with legal texts in order to construct credible legal arguments which can be applied in coursework, exams or presentations.

The Irish Yearbook of International Law 2013 (2015) Fiona de Londras and Siobhán Mullally (eds), Hart £180 280pp

The Irish Yearbook of International Law supports research into Ireland's practice in international affairs and foreign policy, filling a gap in existing legal scholarship and assisting in the dissemination of Irish thinking and practice on matters of international law. On an annual basis, the *Yearbook* presents peer-reviewed academic articles and book reviews on general issues of international law. Designated correspondents provide reports on international law developments in Ireland, Irish practice in international bodies, and Ireland and the law of the sea and the law of the EU as relevant to developments in Ireland. In addition, the *Yearbook* reproduces key documents that reflect Irish practice on contemporary issues of international law. **w** www.hartjournals.co.uk/iyl

Journals

The **Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly** is a peer-reviewed academic journal published by the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast and edited by Professor Sally Wheeler. Submissions are invited for upcoming editions for publication in 2016. As well as article contributions, submissions are welcome for three new 2000-word categories: case notes and comments; statute and legislation review; and innovations and trends in the market for legal services. Closing date for next edition: **18 December 2015**. For further details, contact Lauren O'Sullivan **e** losullivan04@qub.ac.uk.

The Funambulist is a bimonthly printed and digital magazine complemented with a blog and a podcast edited by Léopold Lambert. The second issue was launched at the Westminster Law and Theory Lab (director Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos) in November 2015. The latest edition is dedicated to suburban geographies. See **w** <http://thefunambulist.net>.

Building on a conference in London in September 2015 – 'Rethinking deprivation of liberty in a health and social care context' – the editors of the **International Journal of Mental Health and Capacity Law** invite submissions for a special issue on 'Rethinking the deprivation of liberty safeguards'. Please contact Daniel Wang for details **e** daniel.wang@qmul.ac.uk. Closing date: **31 January 2016**.

The editor-in-chief of **Medicine, Science and the Law** (MSL) is seeking speciality editors. The posts are honorary and for a year in the first instance. MSL is also seeking academics interested in becoming reviewers. Finally, MSL welcomes original articles on matters of forensic interest in any domain. For details, contact editor-in-chief Professor Bob Peckitt. **e** enquiries@eastanglianforensicservices.com.

SLSA Guidance on Open Access

The SLSA Guidance on Open Access (OA) is available on the SLSA website along with SLSA chair Rosemary Hunter's presentation on OA from our 2014 conference: **w** www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/open-access#SLSA. If you would like a member of the SLSA's OA sub-committee to visit your institution to give a presentation on OA, please contact Rosemary Hunter **e** rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk.

● **HAMLIN LECTURE: A 'MAGNA CARTA' FOR CHILDREN?**

25 November 2015: *University College London*
 Speaker: Professor Michael Freeman. Please see website for details.
 w www.laws.ucl.ac.uk/event/hamlyn-lecture-2015

● **LAW AND ETHICS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH**

4 December 2015: *Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London*
 Please see website for details and booking.
 w <http://events.sas.ac.uk/events/view/19239>

● **UK SUPREME COURT DECISIONS ON PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL LAW**

4 December 2015: *UK Supreme Court, London*
 Please see website for details.
 w www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk/events/162539.html

● **MELBOURNE DOCTORAL FORUM ON LEGAL THEORY**

7–8 December 2015: *Melbourne Law School, Australia*
 Theme: Locating the law: place and space in relation to legal theory.
 Please see website for details. w <http://lawlithum.org/mdflt-locating-the-law-place-and-space-in-relation-to-legal-theory>

● **AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND LAW AND HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA**

10–12 December 2015: *University of Adelaide, Australia*
 Theme: Legal reform and innovation. Please see website for details.
 w <http://law.adelaide.edu.au/anzlhs>

● **LIABILITY v INNOVATION: UNPACKING KEY CONNECTIONS**

17 December 2015: *Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia*
 Please see website for details. w www.eventbrite.com.au/e/20151217-liability-v-innovation-seminar-the-defensive-medicine-debate-tickets-19141032343

● **SLSA POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE 2016**

7–8 January 2016: *Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford*
 This is the SLSA's annual FREE postgraduate conference. Please see website for details. Closing date for registration: **11 December 2016**.
 w www.law.ox.ac.uk/events/slsa-postgraduate-conference-2016

● **THE ACT OF MEDIA: WORKSHOP ON LAW, MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY IN SOUTH ASIA**

8–10 January 2016: *The Sarai Programme, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, India*
 Please visit website for details. w <http://sarai.net/call-for-abstracts-the-act-of-media-workshop-on-law-media-and-technology-in-south-asia>

● **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE LEGAL CONFERENCE 2016**

11 January 2016: *University of Liverpool*
 Theme: Emerging issues in law. Please see website for details.
 w www.liv.ac.uk/law-and-social-justice/conferences/international-postgraduate-legal-conference

● **INTRODUCTION TO MPhil/PHD LEGAL RESEARCH METHODS**

11 January 2016: *Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, London*
 Course director: Professor Lisa Webley. Please see website for details.
 w http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/Legal_research_methods.htm

● **POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE: MASCULINITIES, VIOLENCE AND (POST-)CONFLICT**

14 January 2016: *Ulster University, York Street Campus, Belfast*
 Please see website for details. w www.ulster.ac.uk/ulster-life/events/transitional-justice-institute/masculinities,-violence-and-post-conflict

● **LOST IN TRANSLATION? FROM SCIENCE TO REGULATION**

19 January 2016: *Law School, University of Birmingham*
 Organiser: Aleksandra Cavoski. This event is a seminar sponsored by the SLSA via our annual Seminar Competition. Please see webpage for further details. w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#LIT

● **NEW VOICES IN COMMERCIAL LAW SEMINAR: FINANCIAL REGULATION**

4 February 2016: *Centre for Commercial Law Studies, QMUL*
 Please see website for details.
 w www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk/events/147504.html

● **HOUSING LAW SYMPOSIUM: HUMAN RIGHTS, HOUSING AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

26 February 2016: *University of Coimbra, Portugal*
 Please see website for details. Call closes: **1 January 2016**.
 w www.legalscholars.ac.uk/events/legal-event-details.cfm?no=2367

● **NEW VOICES IN COMMERCIAL LAW SEMINAR: CURRENT ISSUES IN INSURANCE LAW AND REGULATION**

3 March 2016: *Centre for Commercial Law Studies, QMUL*
 Please see website for details.
 w www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk/events/162739.html

● **CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AFTER THE PARIS SUMMIT**

16 March 2016: *University of Warwick*
 Organisers: Celine Tan and John McEldowney. This event is a seminar sponsored by the SLSA via our annual Seminar Competition. Please see webpage for further details. w www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/prizes-grants-and-seminars/seminar-competition#IEL

● **JUSTICE AND PENAL REFORM: RE-SHAPING THE PENAL LANDSCAPE, OXFORD**

16–18 March 2016: *Keble College, Oxford*
 Hosted by the Howard League for Penal Reform. Please see website for further details w www.howardleague.org/justice-and-penal-reform

● **ASSOCIATION OF LAW TEACHERS 51st ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS**

20–22 March 2016: *University of Northumbria, Newcastle-upon-Tyne*
 Theme: Promoting collaboration. Closing date: **11 December 2015**.
 Please see website for details. w www.northumbria.ac.uk/alt2016

● **TRILCON 2016: CALL FOR PAPERS**

27 April 2016: *West Downs Campus, University of Winchester*
 Theme: Information is power. This is the Third Winchester Conference on Trust, Risk, Information and the Law. Please see website for details. Call closes: **29 January 2016**.
 w www.winchester.ac.uk/academicdepartments/Law/Centre%20for%20Information%20Rights/Pages/TRILCon-2016.aspx

● **THEORIZING TRANSNATIONAL BUSINESS GOVERNANCE INTERACTIONS: DESIGN, STRUCTURES, MECHANISMS AND IMPACTS**

16–17 May 2016: *York University, Toronto, Canada*
 See website for details. w <http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9c469ba21bc97eb026344d1d7&id=fb67cfe569&e=b4c1d13e1b>

● **LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

2–5 June 2016: *New Orleans, USA*
 Please see website for details.
 w www.lawandsociety.org/NewOrleans2016/neworleans2016.html

● **WG HART WORKSHOP 2016: CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND NOMINATIONS**

30 June 2016: *Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London*
 Please see webpage for details. w http://www.slsa.ac.uk/images/WG_Hart_Call_for_Proposals_2016_CW_FV21.pdf

● **THE FUTURES WE WANT IN NUMBERS: SEARCHING LEGAL INDICATORS FOR A BETTER WORLD**

10–14 July 2016: *Vienna, Austria*
 This is the third International Sociology Association Forum of Sociology. Please see webpage for details.
 w www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016

● **MEDICO-LEGAL SYMPOSIUM: THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF NEUROLAW**

8–9 September 2016: *Edinburgh University*
 Contact Lisa Wood e lwood2901@gmail.com or John Rumbold e neurolaw_uk@yahoo.co.uk for details.

STREAMS AND THEMES: SLSA 2016

To give readers a better idea of the breadth and diversity of SLSA members' research interests, some of our 2016 theme and stream organisers expand on their aims and focuses. See pages 17–18 for the full call for papers, details of submission and all convenors' contact details.

Streams

Administrative justice

Administrative justice is a broad topic that captures traditional administrative law concerns, such as judicial review and tribunals, alongside the whole range of alternative providers of justice. Administrative justice also captures the concept of 'getting decisions right' in the first place and the stream welcomes research on primary decision-makers as well as dispute resolution procedures. The stream is also happy to receive papers on regulators responsible for promoting administrative justice and papers that cross over the public/private divide. Papers from a broad array of perspectives are invited, including empirical, theoretical or legal examinations of different areas of the administrative justice system, with papers from international jurisdictions particularly welcome. Informal inquiries on proposed abstracts are also welcomed, as are proposals to run sessions on more focused topic areas or significant pieces of work recently published.

Naomi Creutzfeldt and Richard Kirkham

Art, culture and heritage stream

Art, culture and heritage are concerned with people and their relationships throughout history. It was therefore unsurprising that the papers presented in this stream at the conference at Warwick University earlier this year were a fascinating and memorable mix. One area that was explored was tangible property. Heritage objects are distinguishable from ordinary commodities because they are concerned with relationships far more than with financial value. However, this means that any debate regarding dealings with such objects may have a particular poignancy. Papers in 2015 therefore included topics such as the repatriation of cultural property. A number of papers raised issues about the relationship between culture and politics and the media. More generally, the papers were concerned to examine appropriate ways to protect, promote and regulate cultural matters. The co-convenors are looking forward to hearing a fresh and diverse group of papers at the 2016 conference.

Janet Ulph and Charlotte Woodhead

Banking, finance and the business of organised financial crime

This stream will be examining the legal, social and economic role of banking and finance nationally and internationally. The enthusiastic and high calibre presentations of previous years demonstrate how important this stream is within the SLSA conference and we welcome old and new delegates to participate in the lively academic debates. Whether you are researching the historical developments of money or considering the legal implications of bitcoins within crisis economies, we invite you to consider submitting a paper to this stream. Please email any questions to the co-convenors. We look forward to seeing you.

Clare Jones and Mary Young

Challenging ownership: meanings, space and identity

We are again looking forward to the 'Challenging ownership' stream and to repeating the success of last year which was our busiest yet, attracting a range of stimulating papers which filled

sessions running over all three days. The title of this stream embraces conflicts over ownership, as well as challenges to the meaning of the concept of 'ownership'. Papers are welcomed which address any context in which the law seeks to define, regulate, limit or conceptualise the ownership of tangible or intangible property. In particular this might include: the emergence of new forms of land ownership or regulation; housing and homelessness; the boundaries between public and private ownership or regulation; and the relationship of property (including intangible, indigenous and cultural property) to individual or collective identity. Contributions which cross traditional disciplinary boundaries are particularly welcome.

Sarah Blandy, Penny English and Francis King

Children's rights

Contributions are invited for this stream that provides a platform for interdisciplinary dissemination and exchange of the latest children's rights research. We welcome papers exploring children's rights from a methodological, ethical, theoretical and normative perspective at local, national, European or international level. We are particularly interested in papers on substantive children's rights issues that respond to the following broad themes: children's access to justice; children's participation; balancing children's autonomy with adult/parental authority; and children's rights monitoring and evaluation. For informal discussion, please email the stream convenors.

Helen Stalford and Nuno Ferreira

Indigenous rights and minority rights

Papers are welcomed on any aspect of indigenous or minority rights, whether domestic, regional or international. Papers from students researching this area are also welcomed as we strive to offer a supportive and constructive environment for discussion for all presentations. Of interest are the ways in which indigenous and minority rights intersect with other legal areas, as well as a focus on the rights themselves. Please email the convenor with any queries about possible papers.

Sarah Sargent

Information

Society is increasingly data-driven. Whether it is the provision of information to citizens to help them make decisions, or the state's collection of information to target their actions (whether criminal, regulatory or military), information is an important topic of study. From the acquisition of information via surveillance or whistleblowers, to access to information by the citizen and the presentation of information to a court, all aspects of the citizen-state relationship can be conceptualised in information-driven terms. This provides ample scope for

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Socio-economic rights versus social revolution?
Constitution making in Germany, Mexico and Ireland,
1917–1923 – Thomas Murray

Copyright and mass social authorship: a case study of the
making of the *Oxford English Dictionary* – Elena Cooper

Reframing the universalist republic: legal pluralism in the
French periphery – Eoin Daly

Law on a slanted globe: travelling models of criminal
responsibility for state violence – Christiane Wilke

Providing justice for low-income youths: publicly funded
lawyers and youth clients in Hong Kong – Kevin
Kwok-yin Cheng, Wing Hong Chui and Rebecca Ong

Dialogue and debate

Social rights and markets – Fernando Atria

Social rights, social contract, socialism – John Holmwood,
Russell Keat and David Garland

analysis. The convenors organised successful panels in York and Warwick, with topics ranging from accessing court-held information to the sharing of forensic bio-information between EU member states. Participants demonstrated a wide variety of perspectives and considered the challenges and opportunities presented by information. The area of study is expanding and the theme convenors anticipate many more excellent discussions in this area. **Richard Hyde and Ashley Savage**

Information technology law and cyberspace

In 2016 we wish to continue discussions and debates commenced in previous years that have engaged with the legal regulation of cyberspace from diverse and various perspectives and approaches. We continue to live in times that contain both exciting and troubling developments in the interface of law and information technology. The ongoing war on terror has sparked calls for new forms of state surveillance that rely on a mesh of legal processes and technological oversight that claim to protect us while removing many aspects of privacy. The use of social media to send chilling messages of hate, harassment and offence continues to conflict with its role as a place for uncensored public debate. Wearable technology has created new forms of social interaction that both liberate and enslave. Cyberspace is a contradictory space that both seduces and frightens us. How should the law respond? This stream welcomes papers that seek to critically unwrap the manner in which the law has been co-opted into the information and technology age and the new forms of social and legal space that it has created. Presenters will be invited to submit finished papers for inclusion in a potential special issue of the journal *Information and Communications Technology Law*, to be edited by the stream convenors following the conference. **Mark O'Brien and Brian Simpson**

Intersectionality

A special edition of *Signs – The Journal of Women in Culture and Society* in summer 2013 argued that intersectionality has 'become one of feminist and critical race theory's most generative concepts'. Yet it is still relatively little used within legal studies when compared to other disciplines. This broad stream welcomes papers which analyse the creation or perpetuation of discrimination from an intersectional perspective; whether conceptual, theoretical or empirical. Papers might examine political, structural, or representational intersectionality. They could address national, European or international law, norms which influence rights interpretation or constitutional discourse, cover aspects of policy or practice, or examine the dynamics within social or political movements for change. These are examples only and this list is not exhaustive. Please contact the convenor if you want to discuss your paper. **Charlotte Skeet**

Labour law

Labour law is a very broad stream covering every aspect of the law relating to the work environment, including (but not restricted to) the employment relationship, trade unions and collective and individual employment rights. It also encompasses labour-related equality, human rights and immigration issues. Given the SLSA's international membership, it is not surprising that, in addition to the UK perspective, there is also often an international or comparative dimension to many papers. The eclectic mix of topics each year makes for challenging, interesting and informative sessions. We try to be as inclusive as possible in terms of inviting and welcoming presenters and participants. **Margaret Downie**

Lawyers and legal professions

The global legal professions continue to undergo radical changes although there are contradictory trends. Many countries aspire to embrace the rule of law and seek to establish independent legal professions as a step in that process. In the meantime, in many

Western jurisdictions, legislation, technology and competition are driving change in the role, structure, organisation and culture of lawyers and legal professions. As professions change, so, arguably, do the nature and connotations of professionalism. This stream is concerned to understand the work of lawyers and the role of professions historically, presently and in the future. We invite papers on any aspect of the legal profession – law firms, lawyers' work, organisation, practice, ethics of practice, training, globalisation and more. We encourage work reflecting sociological, philosophical, theoretical and empirical perspectives on these themes. **Andy Boon**

Law and literature

The core assumptions derived from the implementation of socio-linguistic mechanisms and imagistic language transform the nature of legal analysis and are embedded within a diverse interplay of meanings, yet, as Peter Goodrich suggests in *Law in the Courts of Love: Literature and other minor jurisprudences*: 'Law is a literature which denies its literary qualities. It is a play on words which asserts an absolute seriousness; it is a genre of rhetoric which represses its moments of invention or fiction; it is a language which hides its indeterminacy in the justificatory discourse of judgment; it is a procedure based upon analogy, metaphor and repetition, and yet lays claim to being a cold or disembodied prose, a science without either poetry or desire; it is a narrative which assumes the epic proportions of truth; it is, in short, a speech or writing which forgets the violence of the word and the terror or jurisdiction of the text.' Far from being mere embellishment or decoration, the application of allegorical terminology, imagery and metaphor is fundamental to the formation of legal principles, concepts and judgments without which law would lose most of its persuasive force. Papers and performances are welcomed on any aspect of what is loosely defined as law and literature. **Julia J A Shaw**

Refugee and asylum law: theory, policy and practice

This stream focuses on any issues relating to the theory, policy and practice of refugee and asylum law at an international or national level. In view of the current global refugee crises and the apparent failure of the 'international community' to address the problems confronting millions of asylum seekers and refugees, the theme is particularly concerned with the following issues: conceptualising asylum and refugee protection; the role of law and policy in achieving or diminishing (access to) protection; the role of the UNHCR and NGOs in refugee protection; regional protection regimes and access to asylum; the search for durable solutions; and future challenges for asylum and refugee protection. **Dallal Stevens**

Research methodologies and methods

This year the methodology and methods stream is inviting papers from all spheres of socio-legal and empirical legal research which explicitly address methodology and methods through detailed description of the methodology/methods used in particular socio-legal research projects, explanation of why the methodology/methods were chosen, and reflections on lessons learned. Potential presenters are welcome to contact us to discuss their ideas and we very much look forward to some inspiring methods discussion at the conference in Lancaster. **Petra Mahy and Eleanor Pritchard**

Themes

Registering registration

In this theme, we are interested in one form of state bureaucracy – registration – and the governance work that it does for law. We are interested in the possibilities and problems arising from registration itself and an engagement with registration. We seek to explore: how registration can fix, evidence and objectify; the

ways registration might inaugurate law; and the implications of that inauguration. We hope to explore how registration can call jurisdictions into being, invoke law's authority and ritual, and provide a starting point for resistance, engagement or submission to law's power. We invite papers and musings from all areas of law to explore how different legal registrations speak to each other. As well as papers on how we can see registration and understand what it is doing in various legal contexts, we also want to examine registration's appearances, whether through paper certificate, electronic record, office holders or elsewhere.

Julie McCandless and Ed Kirton-Darling

Renewing critique in criminal justice

Criminal justice practices have long been experiencing an atmosphere of crisis and this climate of normative insecurity has entered another phase of prominence. In this context, there is an urgent need for the renewal of a critical, interdisciplinary criminal justice research programme that has recently fallen by the wayside in legal academia. This ongoing theme is part of an established research group on criminal law and criminal justice theory and aims to continue fostering dialogues with scholars from diverse perspectives to explore possibilities and pathways towards a renewed research programme that goes beyond the traditional impasses dividing different theoretical methods and orientations. The main purpose is to discuss and put forward ways in which a renewed research programme can be initiated, pursuing new theoretical and empirical methodologies that can provide a serious intellectual engagement with the current crisis of legitimacy in criminal justice.

Henrique Carvalho

Rethinking surrogacy laws

In 2014 the Hague Conference on Private International Law report on surrogacy concluded that 'there is a children's rights

imperative' to reconsider existing surrogacy laws internationally. This year has seen an increase in surrogacy cases at both domestic and European Court of Human Rights level, the rise (and fall) of multiple international surrogacy destinations and the reconsideration of legislation in several jurisdictions. This theme will consider the legal and ethical issues arising from international and/or domestic surrogacy arrangements. The convenors will present their research resulting from a University of Canterbury-based and funded interdisciplinary project entitled 'Rethinking surrogacy laws' and encourage papers addressing any aspect of the regulation of surrogacy and its implications for the child, intended parents, surrogate and the overall conception of 'family'. It is hoped that this theme will generate discussion and ideas about how to most appropriately regulate this increasingly prevalent form of family formation.

Debra Wilson and Rhonda Powell

Vulnerable suspects and defendants

Discourses and policy initiatives on vulnerable persons in the criminal justice system have focused on vulnerable victims and witnesses. This stream will consider the identification of vulnerable suspects and defendants and the mechanisms and processes that are present (or absent) for supporting and assisting them throughout the criminal justice process. Papers might address the following topics: identification and labelling of 'vulnerable' suspects and/or defendants; age of criminal responsibility; young suspects and the police; young defendants before the courts; mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable suspects in the police station; mental condition defences; and abused defendants who kill their abusers.

Nicola Wake and Natalie Wortley

CALL FOR PAPERS 2016

The call for papers for SLSA 2016 is now open. Abstracts of 300 words are invited for the streams and themes listed below. Abstracts **must** be submitted via the EasyChair system [w https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=slsa2016](https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=slsa2016).

The full call text for the streams and themes is available via [w www.lancaster.ac.uk/law/slsa2016](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/law/slsa2016). The deadline for submissions is **6pm Monday 18 January 2016**. If you have any questions about the suitability of your paper, please contact the relevant convenor.

Streams

Administrative justice

Richard Kirkham [e r.m.kirkham@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.m.kirkham@sheffield.ac.uk)
Naomi Creutzfeldt [e naomi.creutzfeldt@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.creutzfeldt@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

Art, culture and heritage

Janet Ulph (corresponding convenor) [e janet.ulph@le.ac.uk](mailto:janet.ulph@le.ac.uk)
Charlotte Woodhead

Banking, finance and the business of organised financial crime

Clare Jones [e clare15.Jones@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:clare15.Jones@uwe.ac.uk)
Mary Young [e mary.young@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:mary.young@uwe.ac.uk)

Challenging ownership: meanings, space and identity

Penny English [e penny.english@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:penny.english@anglia.ac.uk)
Francis King [e f.king@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:f.king@westminster.ac.uk)

Sarah Blandy [e s.blandy@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.blandy@sheffield.ac.uk)

Children's rights

Helen Stalford [e stalford@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:stalford@liverpool.ac.uk)
Nuno Ferreira [e nuno.ferreira@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:nuno.ferreira@liverpool.ac.uk)

Civil procedure and alternatives to litigation, ADR

Masood Ahmed [e masood.ahmed@le.ac.uk](mailto:masood.ahmed@le.ac.uk)

Criminal law and criminal justice

Vanessa Bettinson [e vbettinson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:vbettinson@dmu.ac.uk)
Samantha Pegg [e samantha.pegg@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:samantha.pegg@ntu.ac.uk)

Environmental justice

Sophia Kopela [e s.kopela@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.kopela@lancaster.ac.uk)
Ben Mayfield [e b.mayfield@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:b.mayfield@lancaster.ac.uk)
Saskia Vermeylan [e s.vermeylan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.vermeylan@lancaster.ac.uk)

EU law

Ian Kilbey [e ikilbey@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:ikilbey@dmu.ac.uk)

Family law and policy

Anne Barlow [e a.e.barlow@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.e.barlow@exeter.ac.uk)
Annika Newnham [e a.newnham@reading.ac.uk](mailto:a.newnham@reading.ac.uk)

Gender, sexuality and law

Chris Ashford [e chris.ashford@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:chris.ashford@northumbria.ac.uk)
Alex Dymock [e Alex.Dymock@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Alex.Dymock@rhul.ac.uk)

Indigenous rights and minority rights

Sarah Sargent [e sarah.sargent@buckingham.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.sargent@buckingham.ac.uk)

Information

Richard Hyde [e richard.hyde@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:richard.hyde@nottingham.ac.uk)
Ashley Savage [e ashley.savage@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:ashley.savage@northumbria.ac.uk)

Information technology law and cyberspace

Mark O'Brien [e mark.obrien@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:mark.obrien@brookes.ac.uk)
Brian Simpson [e brian.simpson@une.edu.au](mailto:brian.simpson@une.edu.au)

Intellectual property

Jasem Tarawneh [e jasem.tarawneh@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jasem.tarawneh@manchester.ac.uk)

International criminal justice: theory, policy and practice

Anna Marie Brennan [e Anna.Marie.Brennan@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Anna.Marie.Brennan@liverpool.ac.uk)

Intersectionality

Charlotte Skeet [e c.h.skeet@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:c.h.skeet@sussex.ac.uk)

Labour law

Margaret Downie e m.downie@rgu.ac.uk

Law and literature

Julia Shaw e jshaw@dmu.ac.uk

Lawyers and legal professions

Andy Boon e andy.boon.1@city.ac.uk

Legal education

Tony Bradney e a.bradney@keele.ac.uk

Fiona Cownie e f.cownie@keele.ac.uk

Medical law and ethics

Glenys Williams e gnw@aber.ac.uk

Mental health and mental capacity law

Peter Bartlett e peter.bartlett@nottingham.ac.uk

Refugee and asylum law: theory, policy and practice

Dallal Stevens e d.e.stevens@warwick.ac.uk

Research methodologies and methods

Petra Mahy e petra.mahy@soas.ac.uk

Eleanor Pritchard e eleanor.pritchard@csls.ox.ac.uk

Sentencing and punishment

Gavin Dingwall e gdingwall@dmu.ac.uk

Sexual offences and offending

Phil Rumney e phil.rumney@uwe.ac.uk

Sports law

Simon Boyes e simon.boyes@ntu.ac.uk

John O'Leary e john.oleary@anglia.ac.uk

Systems theory thinking

Adrienne Barnett e adrienne.barnett@brunel.ac.uk

Sarah Sargent e sarah.sargent@buckingham.ac.uk

Thomas Webb e t.webb@lancaster.ac.uk

Themes

Culture clash, peace and world order

Nwudego Nkemakonam Chinwuba e uchinwuba@unilag.edu.ng

Economic, social and cultural rights

Amanda Cahill-Ripley e a.cahill@lancaster.ac.uk

European solidarity and its limits

Esin Kucuk e e.kucuk@lancaster.ac.uk

Clemens Rieder e c.rieder@lancaster.ac.uk

Graphic justice

Thomas Giddens e thomas.giddens@stmarys.ac.uk

Human rights, religion and discrimination

Ilias Trispiotis e i.trispiotis@leeds.ac.uk

International economic law in context

Mervyn Martin e m.martin@tees.ac.uk

International environmental law and the north-south perspective

Jona Razzaque e jona.razzaque@uwe.ac.uk

Judicial biographies and justice for human rights

Agata Fijalkowski e a.fijalkowski@lancaster.ac.uk

Raluca Grosescu e raluca.grosescu@googlemail.com

Law and neoliberalism

Annette Morris e morrisa7@cardiff.ac.uk

Law, politics and ideology

Andrew Gilbert e andrew.gilbert@anglia.ac.uk

Dermot Feenan e dermot.feenan@port.ac.uk

Law, trust and emerging technologies (a sub-theme of 'Information technology law and cyberspace')

Catherine Easton e c.easton@lancaster.ac.uk

Law's empire? Justice, law and colonialism

Raza Saeed e raza.saeed@warwick.ac.uk

Carol Jones e c.jones2@wlv.ac.uk

Lawyering for the poor: legal aid provision in low to middle income states and prospects for access to justice under proposed reform

Jessica Carlisle e jessica.carlisle@manchester.ac.uk

Pluralist citizenship in the times of European double standards

Johana Etxezarraga Aldamiz-Etxebarria e johana@liverpool.ac.uk

Joxerramon Bengoetxea Caballero e joxerramon.bengoetxea@ehu.eus

Private International Law

Emma Roberts e emma.roberts@chester.ac.uk

Registering registration

Julie McCandless e j.c.mccandless@lse.ac.uk

Ed Kirton-Darling e ek263@kent.ac.uk

Renewing critique in criminal justice

Henrique Carvalho e h.carvalho@warwick.ac.uk

Rethinking surrogacy laws

Debra Wilson e debra.wilson@canterbury.ac.nz

Rhonda Powell e rhonda.powell@canterbury.ac.nz

Social security: ideology, law and society in the twenty-first century

Ciara Fitzpatrick e fitzpatrick-c@email.ulster.ac.uk

Mark Simpson e simpson-m7@email.ulster.ac.uk

Spatiality and inclusivity

Jill Dickinson e jill.dickinson@shu.ac.uk

Vicky Heap e v.heap@shu.ac.uk

The law and unintended consequences

Phil Thomas e thomasp@cardiff.ac.uk

Richard Craven e rpc11@leicester.ac.uk

Trans*/law

Bela Chatterjee e b.chatterjee@lancaster.ac.uk

Transitions from conflict: the role and agency of lawyers

Anna Bryson e a.bryson@qub.ac.uk

Transnational organised crime (a sub-theme of 'Banking, finance and the business of organised financial crime')

Clare Jones e clare15.jones@uwe.ac.uk

Mary Young e mary.young@uwe.ac.uk

Vulnerable suspects and defendants

Nicola Wake e nicola.wake@northumbria.ac.uk

Natalie Wortley e n.wortley@northumbria.ac.uk

Workplace dispute resolution in the twenty-first century

Eleanor Kirk e eleanor.kirk@strath.ac.uk

Nicole Busby e nicole.busby@strath.ac.uk

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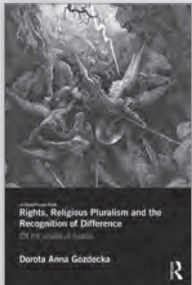
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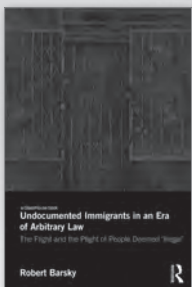
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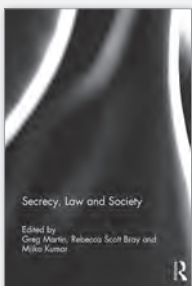
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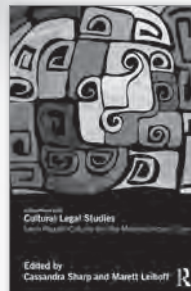
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