

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER

No 104

AUTUMN/WINTER 2024

SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

www.slsa.ac.uk @slsa_uk

SLSA 2025: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SLSA 2025 will be hosted by the University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice. The UK's most important gathering for the socio-legal research community will take place at the main campus, easily accessible from the city centre, from 15 to 17 April 2025.

One of the most popular and long-standing fixtures on the academic conference calendar, the three-day event will be held at Liverpool for the first time in 20 years. It offers a unique opportunity to engage with cutting-edge research across 33 streams and six key current topics, engaging with emerging fields such as 'Animal law' and 'Dance/law'. The conference also features a dedicated postgraduate programme, a revamped poster competition, and a session on socio-legal publishing via a panel discussion led by editors of leading socio-legal journals.

The plenary will showcase the Liverpool region's proud history of campaigning for social justice, as demonstrated by the Hillsborough Justice Campaign. There will also be social events, including the conference dinner, a reception and the opportunity to sign up for Liverpool walking tours of historical and architectural significance, including the city's extensive links with the global slave trade. The flagship conference dinner and prize-giving will be held in the iconic St George's Hall, located in the city centre.

In line with other conferences across the sector, and given the very high cost of providing quality hybrid facilities and low take-up at the past two SLSA Annual Conferences, this year's will be held in person. Most activities will be hosted in our award-winning Central Teaching Hub and landmark new Yoko Ono Lennon Centre. Online participation will, however, be facilitated by an expanded online poster competition (see page 15) which the organising team hope will encourage participants to think creatively about presenting their socio-legal research. We aim in this way to provide a meaningful online space for those who are unable to attend in person and to encourage greater international participation. In addition, the Board is actively developing other means, apart from and alongside the Annual Conference, to facilitate online participation in the SLSA.

Liverpool, known for its rich cultural history, global significance and tireless campaigners for social justice, is the perfect setting for SLSA 2025. A city that has helped shape the world and been shaped by the world, a UNESCO city of music, with a unique musical history and unrivalled sporting success, this is a place where innovation and creativity thrive.

Conference attendees will experience Liverpool's dynamic blend of heritage, art and culture. From the historic Royal Albert Dock and Liverpool cathedrals to its renowned museums and galleries, including the Museum of Liverpool, World Museum and Walker Art Gallery, the city offers a wide array of attractions. Ranked the seventh best city in the world to visit (*Timeout* 2024) and



the fourth friendliest city in the world (*Rough Guide* 2024), Liverpool continues to be celebrated as one of the UK's most vibrant and exciting cities and offers a wide variety of accommodation. And with excellent transport links, Liverpool is easily accessible by road, rail and air.

Across the conference we will seek to encourage exchange between socio-legal scholars and local legal professions, organisations and community activists. Our aim is to deliver an inspiring, inclusive, cruelty-free and sustainable event. The programme will be available via an easily updated app.

The School of Law and Social Justice is a leader in interdisciplinary and socio-legal research. With its strong emphasis on social justice, it ranks amongst the leading law schools in the UK. The university is also a key driver in legal research and education, contributing to both national and international socio-legal developments. It was ranked in the top 10 for research impact in REF 2021 and hosts an award-winning law clinic which works closely with the local legal profession. As host of SLSA 2025, we aim to provide an enriching experience for delegates, continuing the tradition of academic excellence, while showcasing the best of what Liverpool has to offer.

The call for papers and posters is open, with a deadline of **18 December 2024**. See pages 14–15 for details.

Registration is also open: the early bird rate closes on **5 February 2025**.

For more information, visit the conference [website](#) or contact slsa2025@liverpool.ac.uk.

The SLSA 2025 Conference Team

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The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is sponsored by a consortium of law schools and journals. We are very grateful for this essential support for our community. If your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, contact SLSA Chair, John Harrington: e harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk.



SLSA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We are delighted to announce the launch of the second SLSA Membership Survey.

The first such survey was conducted in late 2021 and the **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Survey Report** describing the survey findings was published in March 2022. The SLSA committed in that report to keeping our data current by surveying SLSA members every two to three years. As a learned society and Charitable Incorporated Organisation, it's important that we understand and represent our members, and the survey results will inform the SLSA's equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) initiatives over the next few years. In short, we need to know about you!

The survey is anonymous and will take less than 10 minutes to complete. It asks about your characteristics and your experiences as a member of the SLSA.

Information about how your data will be processed and ethical approval for the survey can be found at the survey link. Any queries should be directed to the SLSA Board of Trustees' EDI Committee, which you can reach by emailing [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey! You can access it via [this link](#) or the QR code on the right. The survey will close at 5pm on 13 December 2024.



SLSA ARCHIVE PROJECT

The SLSA archive has been housed at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) since 1997. Now the SLSA Board has set up a new working group, led by Dr Raza Saeed, to review what materials should be included and how we can invest to ensure it is up to date and comprehensive in the future.

Over the years, previous SLSA Chairs and Treasurers have deposited papers in the archive when their terms of office have come to an end. The collection consists of SLSA documents including meeting minutes, financial records, conference materials, back issues of the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* and other important historical records. However, there is no set procedure in place for regular accruals or deposits of SLSA archival material, and there is a need to draw up a schedule for future depositions.

The working group initially met with Professor Fiona Cownie, who has recently worked on the Society of Legal Scholars' extensive archive. We also met with the IALS archivist, Clare Cowling, who was able to offer expert advice and guidance. We are extremely grateful to Fiona and Clare for their help.

On their advice, the Board has decided to engage the services of a professional archivist on a freelance basis to analyse and catalogue existing material, identify gaps and help draft a policy for the Board. Once we have received the archivist's advice, it is likely that we will put out a call to members, especially those who have served on the Executive/Board over the years, to donate specific items, for instance conference programmes, photos or correspondence. In the meantime, pdfs of missing newsletter back issues have already been added to the archive up to SLN No 103.

If you have any questions or have SLSA material that you think would be of interest, please contact our Archive Officer, Raza Saeed [e archive@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:archive@slsa.ac.uk).

SLSA PRIZE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIO-LEGAL COMMUNITY

Since its inception in 2011, 14 senior socio-legal scholars have received this prize. This year, the SLSA Board is delighted to announce that the winner is Professor Joanne Conaghan, of the University of Bristol. She will receive the award at the annual dinner in Liverpool on 16 April 2025. Helen Carr explains why she nominated Joanne for the 2024 award.



Joanne's distinguished academic record involves socio-legal, feminist and critical scholarship in labour law, tort, jurisprudence and criminal justice. Never afraid of controversy, she was a pioneer of feminist legal scholarship in the 1990s, playing a leading role in the founding of feminist legal studies. She exposed the gendered nature of tort law in her groundbreaking and challenging publication *The Wrongs of Tort* (Pluto Press 1999 co-authored with Wade Mansell). More recently her work on the role of a victim's sexual history in rape trials gets to the heart of the failures of the legal system in this contentious area.

As Research Director and Head of School at Kent, she nourished its powerful socio-legal traditions and as Head of School at Bristol she oversaw a blossoming of its intellectual focus. She has served on three RAE/REF panels, including once as chair, driving forward the work of colleagues by ensuring that excellence in all the riches of legal research (including socio-legal) is recognised. Joanne continues that work in the British Academy. Moreover her supervision of numerous students has fostered the careers of many socio-legal scholars including some who have become distinguished in their own right. Joanne is a fearless, generous and effective colleague who fully deserves the recognition of the socio-legal community.

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Next copy deadline: 27 January 2025

Next publication date: 3 March 2025

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NEW SLSA PGR REP

Hi, I'm Diksha Sanyal, a postgraduate researcher at the UCL Faculty of Laws and I'm thrilled to be appointed as SLSA PGR Rep alongside Mini Saxena this year!

I hold a Masters in Human Rights Law, Conflict and Justice from the School of Oriental and African Studies. Before starting my PhD, I taught courses on family law and gender and society at Jindal Global Law School in India. Along with academia, I've also worked in civil society organisations and legal policy think-tanks which has allowed me to use research for more practical, policy-oriented aims in the field of judicial reform and gender and sexuality.

My thesis examines how atypical and/or queer families in India navigate the legal system, aiming to develop a jurisprudential basis for their legal support and recognition. I'm deeply interested in the intersection of law, feminist and queer legal theory, and the use of socio-legal and empirical methods to understand the inner workings of legal institutions and the complex interplay between law and social change.

From my experience within both academic and policy research environments, I firmly believe that the best research emerges from collaborative efforts and

cross-disciplinary engagements. This belief motivated me to join the SLSA, which operates at the confluence of several disciplines and facilitates cutting-edge research in social science and law. I'm eager to support and help grow this work.

Additionally, I want to help foster a sense of community among PGR students working on or interested in socio-legal studies in the UK and beyond. The PhD journey can be tough, and one of the things that makes it easier is having a sense of community and peer support. As a PGR Rep this year, I hope to build these connections and networks through activities and workshops, and facilitate mentorship and guidance opportunities for PGRs.

CARBON OFFSETTING

The printed newsletter remains popular with most SLSA members. However, the Board is aware that the hard copy newsletter does have an environmental impact, estimated to be equivalent to the planting of around 32 trees annually to compensate for printing and distribution.

At its May meeting the Board voted to make a donation to an environmental charity to offset this impact and the SLSA is now the proud sponsor of one-quarter of an acre of woodland in **Coed Cefn** in the Brecon Beacons owned and managed by the Woodland Trust.

SLSA SEMINARS

Since the Seminar Competition was launched in 2007, 60 events have been run with the support of SLSA. The following activities all took place this year, with three more in the pipeline.

Climate Change and Migration: New Challenges, Legal Responses, and Policy Solutions, University of Nottingham, 19 June 2024

Andrea Pelliconi, City University of London, £999.85

The University of Nottingham **Human Rights Law Centre** and the Nottingham Trent University **Climate Justice Hub**, in collaboration with the **ICON•S Interest Group on Climate Change and Migration** and the European Society on International Law **Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law**, hosted this SLSA-sponsored seminar on 19 June 2024. Fifteen researchers and practitioners from various disciplines, including established scholars and early career researchers, presented their ongoing work on the pressing issue of climate-related human (im)mobility and received feedback from renowned experts and peers.

The **papers addressed the issue from various perspectives**, including migration policies within the European Union, the law of the sea, legal theory, TWAIL (Third World approaches to international law) and feminist approaches and human-rights based approaches.

The event included an online keynote speech by international environmental law and human rights policy expert Ian Fry, Associate Professor at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, College of Science at the Australian National University, Canberra, and the former UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change (May 2022–December 2023).

The seminar also featured a workshop by communicator and activist Sarker Shams Bin Sharif, a climate migration specialist with first-hand experience of

climate change in Bangladesh, where participants worked in groups to think about strategic communication about climate (im)mobility. The contribution of the SLSA has been crucial to fund this one-day event, including by financing catering expenses and two travel bursaries for ECRs. Some of the papers will be published in a Special Series of the SLSA Blog in the coming weeks.

Contemporary Challenges to Migration, Ulster University, 17 May 2024

Amanda Gray Meral, QUB, Ben Hudson, University of Exeter, Gillian Kane and Sarah Craig, Ulster University, Neil Graffin, Open University, £800

Following on from SLSA 2023 at Ulster University and building on several years of stimulating academic dialogue as part of the 'Managing people on the move' stream (convened by Ben Hudson with Kat Langley since November 2023), the purpose of this workshop was to bring together researchers from across the island of Ireland to look at local, national and international issues relating to migration. The timing was particularly apt when dealing with multiple issues relating to migration and refugee policies on the island, a theme addressed by both participants and keynote speakers.

The first session on socio-legal research methods was specifically designed for PGR and ECR attendees, allowing them to discuss their own research with input from the organising panel. Thereafter, the first panel on 'Global migration challenges' kicked off with Neil Graffin discussing the criminalisation of search and rescue in the Mediterranean, followed by Ben Hudson presenting on climate-induced sea-level rise and displacement across the British and Irish Isles. In the second panel, 'Human rights in migration', the panellists were Gillian Kane, who presented on state-empowered entities as sites for progress within the field of anti-trafficking law and policy; Sarah Craig, who discussed the recent reforms within the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the Illegal Migration Act from a Northern Ireland perspective; and

Amanda Gray Meral, who spoke on the right to work for refugees, specifically looking at this through a decolonial perspective.

The workshop finished with two fantastic keynote speakers. Andrew Chisholm from the **International Organization for Migration** (IOM) UK delivered a fascinating discussion on the work of IOM across the island of Ireland and Giulia Dedej from **Nasc Migrant and Refugee Rights** gave a wonderful talk on work that Nasc is currently undertaking, highlighting some of the practical challenges refugees and asylum seekers face in obtaining international protection.

The organisers wish to thank the SLSA for the generous funding for this workshop which allowed four PhD students to receive travel bursaries to attend. We hope to continue these all-island conversations on migration law research with events in the future, both online and in person, so as to generate a real sense of researcher community and to be as inclusive as possible.

Interpretation in Courts in Wales and the Republic of Ireland – Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpretation Compared, 18 October 2024

Róisín Á Costello, Trinity College Dublin, £1000

In October 2024, a one-day seminar on the impact of interpretative methods on the perception and understanding of evidence was held in The Temple of Peace, Cardiff, co-organised by Dr Róisín Á Costello BL (Trinity College Dublin) and Dr Catrin Fflur Huws, Dr Rhianedd Jewell and Dr Hanna Binks (Aberystwyth University). The seminar is the third in a research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (alongside the SLSA in the case of this event) and which explores multilingualism within the context of the use of official languages (which are statistically, if not legally, minority languages) in the Republic of Ireland and Wales.

The purpose of this seminar was to explore how the use of a particular method of interpretation in court proceedings conducted in the minority/official languages (Welsh and Irish) of the jurisdictions examined impacted the understanding of evidence, the perception of the speaker and, perhaps, the outcome of any hearing.

The seminar specifically considered hearings in which both the questioner and the respondent spoke the same (minority/official) language, but where the proceedings are interpreted for other parties/participants in the process. In Wales, simultaneous interpretation is used consistently in court proceedings, while in Ireland it is most common to use consecutive interpretation (though simultaneous interpretation is also, sometimes, employed).

In order to examine the differential impacts, if any, of these two methods, the seminar used a mock cross-examination in which barristers from each jurisdiction questioned actors, playing a witness, about a road traffic collision. Each barrister began their cross-examination of the witness through the interpretative method most commonly used in their own jurisdiction. Thus, in the morning session, the Irish-speaking barrister and witness began by using consecutive interpretation. This was followed by a reflection session facilitated by Yvonne Murphy, during which the audience reflected in small groups led by individual group leaders (drawn from the research team) on how the use of consecutive interpretation impacted the listeners. The groups then came together to share their views. The barrister and witness then repeated the cross-examination using a simultaneous interpretation and a further reflection session followed. After a break

for lunch, the same method was employed with a Welsh-speaking barrister and witness.

Engagement was strong throughout the day, with participants identifying common and diverging issues in perception and understanding based on the interpretative method used, as well as functional challenges to the use of 'non-usual' interpretative methods (eg simultaneous methods in Ireland), both for the trial participants and those listening to them. The results of the research will form the basis of an article by the research team, and will inform the final seminar in this project which will examine whether and how the research findings can be expanded to other statutorily protected languages such as Irish in Northern Ireland, British Sign Language in England and Wales, and Gaelic in Scotland, as well as to other languages used in legal proceedings.

In light of the continuing work on the broader research project of which this seminar forms a part, the organisers are arranging future events in spring 2025. To learn about these contact [e roisin.acostello@tcd.ie](mailto:roisin.acostello@tcd.ie).

SLSA SEMINARS

Look out for these future events funded by the SLSA Seminar Competition.

- Jaime Lindsey, University of Reading, 'Law's Role in Shaping and Responding to Disability and Motherhood': **19 March 2025**
- Colin M Luoma, Brunel University: 'Climate Change Mitigation and Human Rights': **date tbc**
- Sahar Shar, University of Bristol: 'Calculating Climate Reparations: Legal Perspectives': **date tbc**

Social and Legal Studies

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Pressing evidence: activating Khmer Rouge archives – Maria Elander & Rachel Hughes

Everyday healthcare regulation: British newspapers and complementary and alternative medicine – Michael Ashworth

'The problem is the law and women's rights ...' a study of marriage practices in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo – Holly Dunn

'Legal marriage is paperwork day': independent celebrant-led wedding ceremonies as a critical institutional response to changing social norms – Sharon Blake

Exploring the links between racial exclusion and human trafficking of migrant workers in Qatar – Favour Ogbugo Offia

Judicial constructions of harm in Australian image-based sexual abuse case law: a feminist discourse analysis – Alice Witt, Nicola Henry & Gemma Beard

'You can sue for anything': student rights to participate in school disciplinary procedures and legal socialisation – Idan Zak-Doron & Lotem Perry-Hazan

Anti-pluralism, labour market policy and the pandemic: political uses and social consequences of Covid-19 in Hungary – Judit Gárdos, Sára Hungler & Miklós Illéssy

GRANTS

In this section we bring together final reports from one fieldwork project and two impact grants, plus pre-project summaries from this year's PGR cohort who are currently carrying out their fieldwork.

Fieldwork report

Property law and deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon

Pablo Peña, University of Oxford, £1000

What were your research questions?

My project examines the relationship between property and tropical deforestation in agricultural frontiers. Deforestation is the most important source of carbon emissions in many tropical countries, including Peru. The literature on tropical forest governance often cites property arrangements as an institutional and legal underlying driver of deforestation, focusing on the role of state laws and property titles. However, little is understood about how law is applied in practice and the role of social norms and local legal practices that enact private property in the agricultural frontiers of tropical forests. My research asks why and how farmers navigate these laws, social norms and local legal practices of private law to convert the forest – formally under government ownership – to an agricultural landscape of *de facto* private property owners.

What did you use SLSA funding for?

I travelled to Peru where I interviewed small-scale farmers who migrate from the highlands to the Peruvian Amazon where they settle (illegally) to cultivate agricultural commodities like cocoa or coffee.

What did you learn during the research?

My empirical findings show that farmers in this context do not suffer from tenure insecurity despite lacking official property titles, contrary to the assumption in much of the deforestation scholarship. They enact property using a social norm that recognises as legitimate owners people who reach virgin forests and enclose a plot for agricultural production. Instead of the more habitual view of social norms as helping govern forests in a common property system, my research reveals a social norm supporting private ownership arrangements under an individualistic ethos of ownership and production that is based on active possession and usage, echoing Blackstone's 'despotic dominion' understanding of property. This changes through time. As other settlers arrive and a community begins to form, the materiality of ownership gives way to a more relational (and abstract) approach to property as it gets reinforced by documents produced by village leaders under local practices of private law, such as certificates and buy-and-sell contracts. Together, these norms and practices help expand the agricultural frontier in a process that slowly but surely clears more forest to turn it into farms. The enactment, use and understanding of private property unveiled by my research considers and builds on Rose's call to look at property from an 'outside-in' point of view. It also takes Lange's eco-socio-legal perspective and Blomley's legal geography 'disposition' approach to focus on how property, community and deforestation co-constitute in frontier contexts of what Pruitt has termed as the 'rural lawscape'.

What are your next steps?

I am currently writing my thesis, and I expect to complete it and defend it in 2025. I also plan to share my findings

with policymakers in Peru, as the country is currently undergoing a process of discussing changes to its land tenure policies in the Peruvian Amazon.

Impact reports

Getting on YOUR case

Louise Hewitt and Ella Simpson, University of Greenwich, £783

This project aims to provide basic information to convicted individuals about how to obtain their legal case file. We identified, through our own work, that convicted individuals do not know they are entitled to a copy of their case file (including the judge's summing-up) from their trial solicitors. Little has been written in academic literature about how prisoners access these files and there is an assumption that the relevant information will be provided by a defendant's legal representative. However, anecdotal evidence suggests this is often not the case. Therefore, this project articulated a gap between the 'law in books' and the 'law in action' and contributes new knowledge to the fields of socio-legal studies and criminal justice on this topic through the collection of empirical data from people with lived experience of prison and prison practitioners.

What were your impact objectives?

- 1 What do prisoners identify as their needs in terms of accessing their legal case file?
- 2 Is the information on the draft leaflet accessible and understandable?
- 3 How does a short information leaflet developed using findings from the focus groups improve prisoners' knowledge of basic legal rights and responsibilities in the preparation of their criminal cases?

What did you use SLSA funding for?

The SLSA grant funded focus groups in four prisons to obtain input into the content of the leaflet from those who will use it, developing an understanding as to what convicted individuals need in order to obtain their legal case file. The focus group information is being used to design the leaflet. Prison librarians have been key to the project's success by recruiting and hosting the focus groups and ultimately will help to distribute the leaflets via prison libraries.

What did you learn during the project?

Through the focus groups we developed understanding of the range of knowledge individuals in prison have about accessing their legal documents. Some people with experience of the prison system knew they could do so, but others, newer to the system, did not. We also began to see the varied understanding of the trial process in the context of the operation of the trial, the role of barristers and solicitors and the requirement for effective communication about what happens after someone is charged. Therefore, it became evident that there was a need for an leaflet to provide relevant information.

What are your next steps?

We intend to implement a peer mentor programme trialed in two of the prisons that hosted focus groups. Mentors will have responsibility for communicating information based on the leaflets. They will receive training on the leaflet's purpose, contents and wider context, eg the criminal trial process. The training will upskill mentors to better understand the legal system and offer relevant information in an appropriate manner to their peers – skills which are transferable to employability.

Reformers or reinforcers: an exploration of how legal educators perceive their role and its relationship with the legal profession

Alex Nicholson and Hannah Wainwright, University of Leeds, £1452

What were your impact objectives?

In the wake of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE), how do legal educators in England and Wales perceive the evolving relationship between legal education and the solicitors' branch of the legal profession? Through their work, do legal educators see themselves as positively influencing the development of the legal profession for the benefit of society ('reformers'), or as merely supporting and responding to what the profession says it needs ('reinforcers')?

What did you use SLSA funding for?

We conducted 30 semi-structured interviews and identified common themes using template analysis. The SLSA grant enabled us to employ an hourly-paid research assistant to proofread the auto-generated transcripts of the interviews and then work with us on coding the data. Having a third pair of hands (and eyes) with this enormous task was hugely helpful in ensuring that we coded the data systematically and comprehensively.

What did you learn during the project?

Principally, we learned that the participants in our study: (1) generally had a positive impression of the solicitor's branch of the legal profession, and might not always be as critical of its shortcomings as the literature

suggests perhaps they should be; (2) believe that the influence of the solicitors' profession on legal education in England and Wales was strong and increasing, the SQE notwithstanding; and (3) could not agree on the nature and purpose of their role, and the impact that this may or should have on society more broadly.

In our view, this cocktail of perceptions may in and of themselves work together to reinforce existing norms, cultures and practices within the legal profession and limit legal education's power to influence positive change. There is much literature to suggest that aspects of the legal profession would benefit from change, and yet the legal educators in our sample typically either felt disempowered in this respect, or thought that this was not a matter that legal education should be concerned with.

What are your next steps?

Our belief is that legal education has an important role in equipping future lawyers with the knowledge and skills that they need to challenge and change for the better the working practices in the legal profession and beyond. Relatedly, how legal educators perceive their role, and the power (real or imagined) that the legal profession holds over curriculum design, will have a significant impact on the future of legal education and the impact that it is able to have on society.

We have now completed our analysis of the data and written up the findings of our study in a journal article, which is currently under review. We hope to be able to share our published article soon, and that it will serve as a rallying cry, persuading more legal educators to fight for and protect the reformatory potential of legal education!

Fieldwork Grant summaries 2024

Rethinking feminist engagements with anti-sexual harassment laws and institutional mechanisms: a study of university spaces in India

Atreyee Sengupta, School of Law, SOAS, £1000

My research takes place in a context where news about incidents of sexual harassment is continuously emerging from higher educational institutions in India, but survivors are often unable to find the resolution that they seek. At such a time of crisis, my thesis aims to understand and analyse the relationship between anti-sexual harassment laws/regulations, justice and feminist social resistances in university spaces in India, relying on extensive fieldwork, being conducted presently in such institutions.

The fieldwork consists of in-depth unstructured interviews with academics, activists, students, staff and members of anti-sexual harassment committees in universities in Delhi National Capital Region (NCR). It also involves focus-group discussions with student bodies working around issues of gender-based violence on campuses. The final component is understanding how the meanings of concepts such as injustice and justice are constructed and presented through participant observation of a short-lived but significant social resistance against a sexual harassment complaint in a university in Delhi NCR.

A practice analysis of the influence of private security on the security practices of humanitarians

Dalia Saris, QMUL, £1000

This research looks at the impact of security outsourcing by non-governmental organisations to private security providers. By asking what the impact is of the depoliticised technical and pragmatic decisions by security advisors,

it aims to uncover the structures and hierarchies that are reinforced through these practices. The aim of this fieldwork is to uncover the relationship between humanitarian security practitioners and private security actors in Geneva. Through interviews and observations at a major humanitarian network conference, I will analyse the practices and social space of the humanitarian security experts. In addition, through archival work and interviews with practitioners at international organisations I will gain a wider understanding of the socio-legal context in which these agents operate in Geneva. This research sits on the nexus of international relations and socio-legal studies, grounded in international political sociology methodology looking at practices and agents in a social space as relational and co-constitutive to each other. I use biographical methods to uncover personal and professional trajectories of individuals in the social space. A deeper understanding of these practices will hopefully inform new regulation of the industry and improve existing ones. The fieldwork in Geneva supplements my research on humanitarian organisations and private security based in London.

Concealed claims, contested citizens: a study of India's informal internal migrant workers

Ayesha Pattnaik, Oxford University, £1000

My research examines access to law among India's internal migrant workers when they migrate from their rural domiciles to distant urban destinations within India. Migrating across internal state borders leaves these workers undocumented in the cities they work in, limiting their access to welfare schemes and labour laws.

Through a multi-sited ethnography with workers from the state of Odisha who migrate to Kerala for informal work, I am exploring the drivers and experiences of this migration. After interviews with migrants and their

families in the villages, I will follow workers to their destinations in Kerala. By documenting how migrants work and live in the city, I will map the networks they form with employers, NGOs, state officials and other workers to access services. I also volunteer at an NGO resource centre situated in a migrant-dense area in Ernakulam that supports workers with accessing welfare benefits and legal aid.

This study will contribute to socio-legal research that analyses the intersecting vulnerabilities of migration, informality and citizenship. Do migrant workers in the informal sector envision their needs as rights? And to what extent do they negotiate and claim them? My research will document their experiences of accessing legal frameworks and perceptions of the law.

Socio-legal lives of contested statues in India

Saptarshi Mandal, Kent Law School, £1000

Popular protests against statues with imperialist and racist histories across the Western world in recent years have sparked legal scholars' interest in the politics of statues. My research seeks to contribute to this literature by elaborating a method to understand the socio-legal lives of statues in India. Thus, my project seeks to shift the focus from the exceptional (throwing Edward Colston's statue into Bristol harbour) to the mundane (petitioning government officials or going to court for matters pertaining to statues) to give an account of the legal processes in the lives of contested statues. Second, it understands statues not as passive objects acted upon by the law but as active participants in the experience of law as a social phenomenon. Statues *incite* emotions, thereby *inviting* regulation and, in the process, *influence* discourses on the ideas they represent. I will do fieldwork in three cities in India, where I will collect empirical data on the understanding of statues, their functions, and their relationships to legal ideas, institutions and processes. I will collect this data through interviews with government officials, lawyers and anti-caste activists involved in legal as well as extra-legal struggles to remove statues with casteist legacies.

To revolutionary type love: legal mobilization by Black lesbian bisexual and queer (LBQ+) activists in Kenya and South Africa

Waruguru Gaitho, University of Cambridge, £1000

Queer activism on the African continent has been ongoing for many decades, with significant legal, political and social gains, as well as a fair amount of pushback and counter-mobilisation. While some of these contestations have been documented and studied, Black African queer women's organising, in particular their relationship to the law as actively engaged agents of meaning-making and social transformation, has yet to be explored, recognised and expatiated.

Spatially situated in Kenya and South Africa, this research project thus homes in on two intricately linked central areas of inquiry: Black LBQ+ activists' legal mobilisation and Black LBQ+ activists' social movements. The study focuses on the work of these movements around the criminalisation of same-sex relations and racialised gendered violence in Kenya and South Africa respectively. Deploying a mixed-methods qualitative methodology, I use ethnography, hybrid key informant interviews and oral histories as well as legal analysis to investigate the above. Ultimately, the aim of this project is to make visible the world-making revolutionary work that Black LBQ+ activists engage in daily, fashioning this as a mirror upon which to reflect on the interplay between law and social movements and the impact of legal mobilisation on political consciousness, praxis and identity.

people . . .

We are delighted to announce that the Academy of Social Sciences has appointed five SLSA nominees in its latest list of 45 new Fellows. They are: ANA ALIVERTI, Professor of Law, University of Warwick; ANNE-MAREE FARRELL, Chair of Medical Jurisprudence, University of Edinburgh; NEVE GORDON, Professor of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Queen Mary University of London; KIRSTY HORSEY, Professor of Law, University of Kent; and HELEN STALFORD, Professor of Law, University of Liverpool.

Following the appointment of Professor JIŘÍ PŘIBÁŇ as a Judge of the Czech Constitutional Court and his stepping-down as director of the Centre of Law and Society, Professor DAVE COWAN and Professor RACHEL CAHILL-O'CALLAGHAN have taken over as the new co-directors of the Centre. Dave is a former Vice Chair of the SLSA having served twice from 2002–2004 and again from 2008–2011. The Centre at Cardiff University is a hub for socio-legal studies, working to promote socio-legal research. See [w website](#) for details.

Professor CHARLOTTE O'BRIEN, University of York, has been shortlisted for the UKRI Celebrating Impact Prize for her project, 'Supporting strategic litigation to secure EU nationals' post-Brexit rights'. Also on the shortlist are the research team of Professor RICHARD MOORHEAD, Dr REBECCA HELM, Dr SALLY DAY, University of Exeter, Dr KAREN NOKES, University College London, and PAUL GILBERT, LBC Wise Counsel, for 'The Post Office scandal project'. The winners were announced on 20 November 2024, after the newsletter went to press. See [w website](#) for details.

Dr BETTINA LANGE, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford, has been awarded a Leverhulme research grant of £238,749 for her project 'Floods and pandemics a socio-legal study of evidence in regulation'. Professor NAOMI CREUTZFELDT, University of Kent, has also received Leverhulme funding for her project 'How ordinary people navigate digital justice: tracing everyday journeys'. See [w website](#) for a full list of this year's awards.

The Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies has announced the appointment of a new Associate Professor, Dr AGNIESZKA KUBAL. Agnieszka will play a key role in advancing the Centre's regional expertise in Eastern Europe and will lead its research cluster on Lived Experiences of Human Rights. See [w website](#) for details.

DIDI HERMAN ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY: GUIDANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT WITH PUBLICATION WRITING, RESEARCH AND REF

I am an interdisciplinary, socio-legal Emerita Professor, ex-Law School head, and REF Submission coordinator/writer (retired in 2021). I now provide independent guidance to departments and individual academics. I work with law schools, including REF2029 preparation, and with individuals as a developmental editor for work-in-progress. I also provide mentorship for academics at all levels of seniority. For further details see: [Didi Herman Academic Consultancy](#).

Advertisement

Cardiff Leverhulme Visiting Fellow

Professor Ambreena Manji, of Cardiff University Law School, has been awarded funding to host a Leverhulme Visiting Professorship. The prestigious visitor, Justice Professor Joel Ngugi of the Kenya Court of Appeal, is based in the new Hyb Astudiaethau'r Affrig/African Studies Hub and attached to the Law School.

Justice Professor Ngugi trained in law at the University of Nairobi and at Harvard where he earned his SJD, before becoming the director of the Judiciary Academy in Nairobi, Africa's leading judicial training academy. He has just chaired an important 'Inquiry into Access to Justice' for Kenya's Chief Justice, as required by the 2010 Constitution of Kenya.

During his time in the UK, Justice Professor Ngugi has given the 'GW4 Leverhulme Lecture', entitled 'Access to Justice and Kenya's Transformative Constitution', chaired by VC Professor Evelyn Welch, which took place on 1 November 2024 at Bristol University, and on 13 November 2024, he participated in Cardiff University's 'Inaugural Kapila Hingorani Dialogue'. The dialogues will be an annual event named for Cardiff's distinguished alumna, Pushpa Kapila Hingorani (BA 1951, Hon 1998). Pushpa was born in East Africa and was the first South Asian woman to graduate from University College Cardiff. She studied English, economics and history before embarking on her pioneering work as a public interest litigation lawyer in India. The Dialogue took the form of a discussion on 'South-South Perspectives on Access to Justice' between Pushpa's son, Aman Hingorani, himself a practising advocate of the Supreme Court of India, and Justice Professor Ngugi. It was chaired by VC Professor Wendy Larnar, joined remotely by law students in Kenya and in India.

Justice Professor Joel Ngugi has also been invited to deliver the British Academy Global Perspectives Lecture at the British Academy alongside Professor Tetyana Antsupova, previously of the Ukrainian Supreme Court and now British Academy Global Professor at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. The event will be chaired by Professor Manji on **2 December 2024** and is by invite only. Please get in touch with her if you would like to attend: [e manjia1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:e.manjia1@cardiff.ac.uk).

Ambreena Manji, Cardiff Law School

Shifting Dynamics in Medical Law: Invitation to join network

Dr Anna Nelson, University of Sheffield, and Professor Beverley Clough, Manchester Metropolitan University, have set up a mailing list with a view to building an interdisciplinary network of scholars who are interested in 'Shifting Dynamics in Medical Law'. This network is for anyone engaging in – or interested in – work which explores the shifting landscape of medical law as a discipline, from one which is focused on static analysis of legal doctrine to one which is attentive to the different spatial, temporal and agential dynamics which influence the way the law operates in practice.

This mailing list is envisaged as a space to share published papers, books, events, calls for papers, panel proposals for conferences etc. To join, please follow the [link](#) and subscribe in the top left corner.

Please contact [e anna.ce.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:anna.ce.nelson@gmail.com) and [e b.clough@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:b.clough@mmu.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

Law Commission Consultation on Burial and Cremation

The Law Commission is seeking to reform the law of burial in England and Wales, which is piecemeal, complex and outdated. It is also gauging solutions for unresolved issues in cremation law. The Commission has published a consultation paper and a summary and is looking for views on its proposals. This work is part of the its **Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods** project, which has two other strands.

The consultation is open until **9 January 2025**. See [w website](#) for details.

OUP Law Teacher of the Year Award: open for nominations

The Law Teacher of the Year award is the only national award to recognise and reward all-round law teaching excellence. The judges are looking for extraordinary teachers: those who are passionate about what they do, bring an extra-special something to their teaching and inspire those they work with and teach. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **13 December 2024**.

SLSA CALENDAR

2024

December

- 13 SLSA Membership Survey: closing date
Final weekly ebulletin of autumn term
- 18 SLSA 2025 call for papers: closing date

2025

January

- 9–10 SLSA Postgraduate Conference, Manchester Metropolitan University
- 10 First weekly ebulletin of 2025
- 23 SLSA Board meeting
- 27 SLN 105 copy deadline

February

- 5 SLSA 2025: early bird registration closes

March

- 3 SLN 105 publication
- 5 SLSA 2025: standard registration closes
- 28 SLSA 2025: registration closes

April

- 15–17 SLSA 2025, University of Liverpool
- 16 SLSA AGM 2025
SLSA prizewinners announcement and annual dinner in Liverpool

May

- 20 SLN 106 copy deadline
- 29 SLSA Board meeting

June

- 23 SLN 106 publication
SLSA funding schemes and prizes open for applications and nominations

2026

- tbc SLSA 2026, University of Sussex

British Academy International Writing Workshops: call for applications

The British Academy is inviting proposals seeking to deliver one or more writing workshops in developing countries. These workshops should aim to develop the skills of early career researchers, including supporting and promoting the uptake of their research in journals and publications. See [announcement](#) for details. Closing date: **29 January 2025**.

Leverhulme Trust: open schemes

The Leverhulme Trust is inviting applications for the following funding schemes:

- **Study Abroad Studentships** – closing date **7 January 2025**
- **Emeritus Fellowships** – closing date: **30 January 2025**

In addition outline applications for **Research Project Grants** are welcome at any time.

Declarations: The Human Rights Podcast

The podcast, from the Centre of Governance & Human Rights, Cambridge, has published its **Season 8: 'Human rights at 75: horror, hope & human'**, reflecting on 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and asking questions such as: who are human rights for? Where is the 'human' in 'human rights'? And what have we learned about human rights over the last 75 years? In eight episodes, the authors discuss topics including the western hegemony in human rights debates, politics and human rights defenders. Input and feedback are welcome.

Journal of Human Rights and the Environment: new publication model

The *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* has announced an innovative 'slow publication' model overtly aimed at celebrating depth, imagination and rigour, and resisting the spiralling pressures for more frequent publications and issues.

In addition, the journal now invites longer submissions of 20,000 words or so, as well as much shorter submissions that might explicitly be experimental, out-of-the-box, imaginative, critical and prefigurative work. See [announcement](#) for full details.

International Journal of Law in Context – OA from 2025 volume

Cambridge University Press, the publisher of the *International Journal of Law in Context*, has announced that from volume 2025 the journal will be open access (OA) and that any authors without OA funding will have the OA payment waived. See the journal's [website](#) for full details and submission information.

New podcast: 'Not for want of trying'

Hosted by Sharon Thompson and Erica Rackley, this new legal history podcast uncovers key events in women's legal history during the interwar years. The hosts talk to leading experts – including Lady Hale, Kay Crosby, Caroline Derry, Rosemary Auchmuty and others – about key legal landmarks for women and why they still matter today. Available to download from [Apple](#) and [Amazon Music](#). Listen to trailer [here](#).

What's new on the SLSA Blog?

- **Review of Picciotto's Lawyers as Constructive Ideologists of Corporate Capitalism: The Legal Framing of Software – Applying to Health Apps**, Lyla Latif
- **Welcome to the SLSA Guest-Edited Blog Series by the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research**, edited by Amy Kirby and Jessica Jacobson
- **My Experiences Presenting at the Vulnerable Accused Conference**, Louise Parker
- **ICPR Guest-Edited Blog – Lived Experience of the Law: Public Law Proceedings in the Family Court**, Nicola Campbell and Gill Hunter
- **Introduction to Blog Series: Right-Wing Extremists in Power: Party Bans in Europe under Focus**, edited by Jessika Eichler
- **Regulation and the Common Good**, Richard Craven, Tony Prosser and Julia Black
- **A Defendant with Autism and an Intermediary: A Novel Australian Case Study**, Rukiya Stein
- **The Overlooked Realm of Tactile Artistic Works within UK Copyright Law**, Annaliese Wren
- **Empirical Teaching in Law: Building an Empirical Legal Revolution**, Alysia Blackham and Kylie Burns
- **Protest Camps on University Campuses: The Legal Status of Assemblies on Private Land**, William Norcup-Brown
- **Copyright Law and Film Archives: Archival Research and Zine Dissemination**, Melanie Stockton-Brown
- **Contracts in Life and Law Blog Series Posts 1 to 6**, series edited by Renata Grossi
- **Is There Space for a Cultural Defence in International Criminal Law?**, Vera Piovesan
- **The Future of Law: The Essential Role of Human Oversight in AI-Driven Decision-making**, Ammar Zafar
- **Trauma-informed Legal Services and Legal Education**, Helgi Maki, with Marjorie Florestal, Myrna McCallum and J Kim Wright
- **The Role of Communities and Connections in Social Welfare Legal Advice**, Sarah Nason
- **ICPR Guest-Edited Blog 4: Peer Researcher Blog – 'Our experience is second to none: we've rode that ride, haven't we?'**, Jeanette, Nick, Pottsy, Anthony and Charlie

New journal: *Gender and Justice*: call for papers

Gender and Justice is a new, international, transdisciplinary feminist journal. Published by Bristol University Press, it is dedicated to advancing critical feminist scholarship on justice in the social sciences, from different methodological perspectives.

The journal aims to showcase innovative contributions that develop theoretically driven and/or empirically grounded approaches to various forms of gender inequality, injustice and exclusion which influence and shape individuals' lives across diverse and global contexts. The editors' conception of justice is comprehensive. It encompasses economic, social, criminal, distributive, environmental, cultural and political dimensions.

The editorial team is led by Dr Sharron FitzGerald, Cresppa-GTM, Paris, Professor Anna Carline, University of Liverpool, and Professor Lesley McMillan, Glasgow Caledonian University. The first issue will be published in the spring of 2025. The journal is open for submissions! Visit the [w website](#) for full details.

Legalities: call for submissions

Legalities is the official journal of the Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand (LSAANZ), and the premier journal for socio-legal studies in the region of Aotearoa, Australasia and the Global South.

Legalities welcomes submissions in the broad field of socio-legal studies that are contextually sensitive, theoretically informed, critically engaged and interdisciplinary in scope, including on topics such as law and society, legal geography, law and politics, criminology, law and economy, law and culture, legal history, feminist legal theory, critical race studies, critical legal theory, law and colonialism/imperialism, queer and transgender legal theory, environmental law, law and psychoanalysis, law and literature, law and social activism, animal law, and law and education. Submissions are invited for the next general issue of the journal, due to be published in October 2025. Further information is available in this [announcement](#) and on the LSAANZ [w website](#). Please send submissions by email to: [e trish.luker@uts.edu.au](mailto:trish.luker@uts.edu.au).

Trish Luker, University of Technology Sydney, Australia

SLSA JOURNALS INITIATIVE

Carl Stychin, Co-ordinating Editor of Social & Legal Studies, outlines the journal's history, ethos and current priorities and announces the winners of its first Editors' Choice Award!

Social & Legal Studies was founded in 1992 by Sol Picciotto and Carol Smart as a collective endeavour of a diverse group of scholars committed to socio-legal and critical legal scholarship. In the over 30 years since it was launched, the journal has established itself as one of the leading publications in the field nationally and internationally and with its publisher, Sage, which has provided strong support for the journal.

At our most recent Editorial Board meeting, we have agreed a fresh journal Statement of Aims. We believe that this best captures our publishing remit:

Social & Legal Studies is a leading international journal publishing studies of law in society. The journal was born of a commitment to feminist, anti-colonial and political economy approaches to the study of law, broadly conceived, that involve critiques of formalist perspectives of law. It offers an intellectual space for theoretically informed and evidence-based critical and interdisciplinary studies of law as a social process. We particularly welcome work from early-career scholars and scholars from the Global South.

We hope that potential authors find the statement useful in emphasising our 'grounded theory' and anti-formalist ethos.

The distinct identity of *Social & Legal Studies* is apparent in its working practices. The Editorial Board works closely together, and almost all peer review is undertaken by Board members themselves. This approach has helped to ensure a consistent standard of review and to facilitate the timely turnaround of papers. The copy flow remains buoyant, and the journal has expanded from four to six issues annually. Thanks to Sage, *Social & Legal Studies* has no page restrictions, allowing the editors to adjust the length of issues to the copy available. The OnlineFirst facility on the journal's website ensures that papers are made available within about a month from acceptance.

Special issues have always featured in *Social & Legal Studies*. In fact, the current issue (33(5)) is a special issue

entitled, *The Rule(s) of Law under Hindutva*, edited by M Sudhir Selvaraj and Raphael Susewind. The editors work closely with special issue editors and all papers are subject to the journal's normal peer review processes.

Over the years, the journal has sought to innovate with its format and content. The 'Debate & Dialogue' feature has provided a flexible vehicle designed to showcase a range of voices with shorter pieces 'in conversation'. Our occasional feature, 'Review of the Field', invites an author to highlight key sources in a field of enquiry and to identify research questions and issues for the future. The Editorial Board always welcomes offers to contribute to either of these features.

The Editorial Board remains strongly committed to Global South voices, but we have recognised that our content has not always lived up to our aspirations. In response, we have sought to more actively engage with scholars in the Global South, and we have supported the SLSA's Internationalisation Strategy. This activity has generated some excellent articles for the journal, although we fully recognise that there is more work to be done. In this regard, our International Advisory Board has proven to be very helpful.

Finally, the Editorial Board made the decision earlier this year to launch the Editors' Choice Award. This prize will be given every year to an article, published in an issue in the previous calendar year, which the Editorial Board deems to have exceptionally represented the journal's commitment to progressive, interdisciplinary and critical socio-legal scholarship. The award is meant to recognise the chosen article's quality, significance and alignment with the journal's mission and ethos.

The Editorial Board is very pleased to take this opportunity to publicly announce the winning article drawn from those published in 2023:

Emilie Cloatre, Tidiane Ndoye, Dioumel Badji, and Adams Diedhiou, '[Traditional healing and law in contemporary Senegal: legitimacies, normativities and practices](#)' (2023) *Social & Legal Studies* 32(3): 356–377.

The Editorial Board congratulates the authors for producing the article that, in our view, best captures the spirit of the journal.

For further information, visit the journal's [w website](#).

Critical Trusts Law: Reading Roger Cotterrell (2024) Nick Piška & Hayley Gibson (eds), Counterpress £18pb/£9eb

In his 1987 article, 'Power, property and the law of trusts: a partial agenda for critical legal scholarship', Cotterrell outlined a critical, socio-legal approach to the law of trusts. Cotterrell's work is as important as ever in posing questions of power, property, ideology and inequality, opening new perspectives on the broader societal significance of the effects of trusts law. Chapters in this edited collection, first presented at a workshop sponsored by the SLSA, revisit themes and theoretical perspectives in Cotterrell's now canonical work, bringing the theoretical insights of sociological and critical theory to the field of trusts.

Mental Capacity Law, Sexual Relationships, and Intimacy (2024) Beverley Clough & Laura Pritchard-Jones (eds), Bristol University Press, £80hb/£27.99eb, 220pp

Questions as to the mental capacity of an individual to consent to sex are an increasingly important aspect of legal scholarship and professional practice for those working in care. Recent case law has added new layers of complexity, requiring that a person must be able to understand that the other person needs to consent and can withdraw that consent. While this has been welcomed for asserting the importance of the interpersonal dynamics of sex, it has significant implications for practice and for the day-to-day lives of people with cognitive impairments. This collection stems from a workshop funded by the **SLSA Seminar Competition**. Use code BUP11 in November and BUP12 in December for 50% discount.

Note: *If you have published a book that has its roots in an SLSA seminar or research project, please let us know* [e marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com).

Law and War in Popular Culture (2024) Stefan Machura (ed), Nomos €59 237pp

Leading international scholars provide fresh perspectives on law and war in popular culture, analysing works, placing them in context at the time of origin and discussing their meaning for today's audiences. Law and war in film, television series, opera and pop music are investigated in the 10 chapters of the book by authors in the fields of media studies, political science, sociology, law and criminology and music.

Digital Justice (2024) Linda Mulcahy & Anna Tsalapatani, Palgrave Socio-Legal Series £34.99hb/£27.99eb 110pp

This book asks: what do we lose and gain when legal proceedings go online? Adopting a multidisciplinary socio-legal perspective, it draws on an emerging body of empirical evidence from the UK, Australia, Canada and the US about the ways in which digital justice is being conceived of and experienced. Insights are drawn from across the social sciences to discuss the interface of digitalisation with a range of issues such as due process, procedural justice, digital disadvantage, ceremony and ritual, science and technology studies and the dematerialisation of the civic sphere.

Children's Rights, 'Foreign Fighters', Counter-Terrorism: Children of Nowhere (2024) Rummyana van Ark, Devyani Prabhat & Faith Gordon, Edward Elgar £95hb/£25eb 244pp

Presenting innovative interdisciplinary work in the field, the authors emphasise the vulnerability of children in situations of war, conflict and radicalisation. Exploring issues of nationality rights and statelessness, chapters examine counter-terrorism measures such as the cancellation of citizenship as a strategy of pre-emption of violence while dissecting relevant cases across Asia, Australia, Europe and North America.

Gender, Sexuality and Law: A Textbook (2024), Chris Ashford & Alexander Maine (eds), Edward Elgar £95hb/£35pb 318pp

This textbook combines pioneering feminist and queer judgments and statutes with critical and intersectional theories, to provide a comprehensive overview of the field of gender, sexuality and law. A diverse range of socio-legal experts set out the theoretical and legal foundations of the topic, before examining the ongoing struggle for rights and contemporary dissenting voices.

Trade, Labour and Sustainable Development: Leaving No One in the World of Work Behind (2024) Tonia Novitz, Edward Elgar £120hb 396pp

Examining the relationship between trade and labour regulation in the context of sustainable development, the author interrogates how international legal architecture could be reformed so that no one in the world of work is left behind. She highlights the dangers of pursuing labour and environmental issues on parallel tracks without recognising how they interact, arguing for the crafting of the content and application of trade rules through participatory processes, which involve the representation of all sectors of the labour market and all of the world.

Note: *Edward Elgar 25% discount code SLSA25.*

The Oxford Handbook of Environmental and Natural Resources Law in India (2024) Philippe Cullet, Lovleen Bhullar & Sujith Koonan (eds), Oxford University Press £146hb/£97.34 880pp

This volume offers comprehensive coverage of the diverse and complex discipline of environmental and natural resources law in India over the past 50 years. With 42 contributions from law and non-law scholars, the handbook presents multiple perspectives on varied areas including biodiversity, climate change, water, forests, agriculture, health, resource extraction and industrial development, offering a much-needed integrated analysis of the development of domestic jurisprudence *vis-à-vis* environment and natural resources.

Women's Legal Landmarks in the Interwar Years: Not for Want of Trying (2024) Rosemary Auchmuty Erika Rackley and Mari Takayanagi (eds), Hart £85hb/£53.55eb 312pp

This book focuses on the legal landmarks that benefited, or aimed to benefit, women in England and Wales between 1918 and 1939. It follows campaigns by key women's organisations (eg the Six-Point Group and the Married Women's Association), while assessing the impact of early women lawyers and politicians. It uncovers an era when feminist activists provoked legal reforms and advances impacting every area of life.

Note: *Hart 20% discount code SLSADIS.*

Act and Omission in Criminal Law: Autonomy, Morality and Applications to Euthanasia (2024) Roni Rosenberg, Routledge £130hb/£35.99eb 196pp

While an act that positively causes a prohibited harm is sufficient for a conviction, an omission warrants a conviction only when there is a legal duty to act. Thus, it is commonly argued that the difference between acts and omissions is also applicable to the intuitive moral distinction between active and passive euthanasia. This book offers a comprehensive, coherent and systematic discussion of the intersections between the philosophical-moral and the legal-criminal aspects of this topic; a rationale for the distinction between acts and omissions; and demonstrates the influence of the theoretical discussion on significant practical questions.

Note: *Routledge 20% discount code SLSA24.*

- **THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE LAW AND THE ROLE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION**
28 November 2024: Strathclyde Law School and online
Speaker: Professor Francesco Sindico. See [w website](#) for details.
- **BRITISH ACADEMY GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES LECTURE**
2 December 2024: British Academy, London
Speakers: Justice Professor Joel Ngugi and Professor Tetyana Antsupova. Chair: Professor Ambreena Manji. This event is by invite only: e manjia1@cardiff.ac.uk to attend.
- **THE 'INCONSPICUOUS IMPACT' OF FEMINIST PRESSURE THROUGH LAW**
5 December 2024: UCL Faculty of Laws, London
Speaker: Dr Sharon Thompson. See [w website](#) for details.
- **WHITE COLLAR CRIME: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS**
5 December 2024: Derby University and online
See [invitation](#) for details.
- **HERITAGE IN WAR AND PEACE IV: HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVES THROUGH PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**
5–6 December 2024: University of Strathclyde
See [w website](#) for details.
- **THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LEGAL PLURALISM?**
13–15 January 2025: Jakarta, Indonesia
See [w website](#) for details.
- **THE GEOMETRY OF LEGAL THOUGHT**
16 January 2025: UCL Faculty of Laws, London
Speaker: Professor Kevin Toh, UCL. See [w website](#) for details.
- **NORTH AND SOUTH: JUDICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH**
20 January 2025: University of Leicester and online
Speaker: Robert Reed, Lord Reed of Allermuir. See [invitation](#) for details.
- **THE SOCIAL SIDE OF FAIR PROCESS**
23 January 2025: UCL, Endsleigh Gardens, London
Speaker: Professor Joe Tomlinson. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: 30 September 2024.
- **DIGIRIGHTS PROJECT FINAL CONFERENCE – THE DIGITALISATION OF DEFENCE RIGHTS: TIME FOR NEW PERSPECTIVES ... AND DIRECTIVES?**
30–31 January 2025: KU Lueven, Belgium
See [w website](#) for details.
- **WORLD CONFERENCE ON QUALITATIVE RESEARCH**
4–6 February 2025, Kraków, Poland, in person/ 11–13 February 2025, online
See [w website](#) for details.
- **ACCESSIBILITY AND THE LIMITS OF THE EQUALITY ACT 2010**
6 February 2025: UCL, Endsleigh Gardens, London
Speaker: Professor Anna Lawson. Chair: Lady Tanni Grey-Thompson. See [w website](#) for details.
- **SWISS NETWORK FOR LAW AND SOCIETY CONFERENCE**
10–12 February 2025: University of Bern, Switzerland
See [w website](#) for details.
- **NOT JUST IN OUTER SPACE: A STORY OF 'ALIENS' IN NATIONALITY LAW**
20 February 2025: UCL Faculty of Laws, London
Speaker: Professor Devyani Prabhat. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: 30 September 2024.
- **THE BSLC INAUGURAL ANNUAL JANINE SARGONI MEMORIAL LECTURE**
5 March 2025: Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol
Theme: Radical Lawyers? Rethinking the law and society canon. Speaker: Professor Linda Mulcahy. See [w website](#).
- **UK IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION AND A HIERARCHY OF MODERN SLAVERY VICTIMHOOD**
12 March 2025: Wilberforce Institute, Kingston upon Hull
Speaker: Dr Marija Jovanovic. See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW'S ROLE IN SHAPING AND RESPONDING TO DISABILITY AND MOTHERHOOD: CALL FOR PAPERS**
19 March 2025: University of Reading and online
See [announcement](#) for details. Closing date: 6 December 2024. This event is supported by the [SLSA Seminar Competition](#).
- **SYMPOSIUM ON ROGER COTTERRELL'S JURISPRUDENCE AND SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES**
3 April 2025: QMUL, Mile End Road, London
See [w website](#) for details.
- **SLAVERY'S LONG GOODBYE: A WILBERFORCE INSTITUTE LECTURE**
14 May 2025: Wilberforce Institute, Kingston upon Hull
Speaker: Professor Chris Evans. See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**
22–25 May 2025: Chicago, Illinois, USA
See [w website](#) for details.
- **CONFERENCE ON JUDICIAL ACTIVISM AND RESISTANCE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND BEYOND: CALL FOR PAPERS**
5–6 June 2025: Institut d'études européennes, Université libre de Bruxelles
See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 25 January 2025.
- **UK THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE AND HEALTH CONFERENCE**
19–20 June 2025: University of Manchester
Speakers: Professor Amy T Campbell, Dr Nigel Stobbs and Dr John Stannard. See [w website](#) for details.

Journal of Law and Society
Volume 51(4) winter 2024

Articles

- 'On the knife's edge': medical, police, and legal responses to self-harming protesters – James Greenwood-Reeves & Rory Ellwood
- Trust at the border: identifying risk and assessing credibility on reality TV – Laura Smith-Kahn & Hanna Torsh
- Worthy domestic violence survivors in the eyes of Beijing courts – Jiaying Lin
- It could be my son! Himpathy and the male fear defence in rape trials – Sara Uhnnoo, Asa Wettergren & Moa Bladini
- Regulation of trustworthy autonomous systems: exploring stakeholder perspectives on trustworthiness and answerability – Louise Hatherall & Neyha Sethi
- The hidden histories of the Pinochet case – David Sugarman
- When less is less: the complexities of growth and the degrowth company – Lorraine Talbot

Book reviews

- Socratic Voices: Dialogues on Law, Time and Reconciliation* by Bert van Roermund – Aleksandra Gliszczynska-Grabias
- Gender Recognition and the Law: Troubling Transgender People's Engagement with Legal Regulation* by Flora Renz – Chris Ashford

SLSA 2025 CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

The call for papers and posters for the SLSA Annual Conference 2025 is now open!

The conference will be hosted by the University of Liverpool from **15 to 17 April 2025**.

Authors wishing to present at the conference should visit the **w conference website**. Submission of abstracts is via **Oxford Abstracts**.

Descriptions of the various streams and current topics that make up the conference can also be found on the website. Please choose the most appropriate stream or current topic for your proposed paper and prepare an abstract of max 250 words. Deadline for submissions: **18 December 2024**. If you wish to enter the Poster Competition you should also submit an abstract by this date – see page 15 for details. Decisions on acceptance/rejection of papers will be made by individual stream/current topic conveners. If you have any questions about the suitability of your idea for a particular stream or current topic, contact the conveners directly. Further information about the conference will appear on the website in the coming weeks. For general queries, please contact the Conference Team: **e slsa2025@liverpool.ac.uk**.

Current topics

Access to legal advice and legal aid

Jo Wilding **e j.m.h.wilding@sussex.ac.uk**
Emma Cooke **e e.s.cooke@kent.ac.uk**

Animal law, sentience and rights

Gary Potter **e g.potter2@lancaster.ac.uk**
Joshua Jowitt **e joshua.jowitt@newcastle.ac.uk**
Rachel Dunn **e r.a.dunn@leedsbeckett.ac.uk**
Rachel Heah **e r.heah@lancaster.ac.uk**

Dance/law

Maria Federica Moscati **e m.f.moscati@sussex.ac.uk**
Sean Mulcahy **e s.mulcahy@latrobe.edu.au**
Lucy Finchett-Maddock **e l.finchett-maddock@bangor.ac.uk**

Defining, defying, and desiring death

Richard B Gibson **e r.gibson2@aston.ac.uk**
Edina Harbinja **e e.harbinja@aston.ac.uk**

The future of human reproduction, parenthood, and families – emerging technologies and the law

Laura O'Donovan **e l.odonovan@sheffield.ac.uk**
Sara Fovargue **e s.j.fovargue@sheffield.ac.uk**
Stephen Wilkinson **e s.wilkinson2@lancaster.ac.uk**
Nicola Jane Williams **e n.williams2@lancaster.ac.uk**

The law(s) of the future

Alex Green **e alex.green@york.ac.uk**
Mitchell Travis **e m.travis@leeds.ac.uk**

Streams

Administrative justice

Chris Gill **e chris.gill@glasgow.ac.uk**
Susannah Paul **e susannah.paul@uws.ac.uk**

Armed conflict, justice and law

Luke Moffett **e l.moffett@qub.ac.uk**
Felix Eduardo Torres Penago **e f.torres@bham.ac.uk**

Art, culture and heritage

Janet Ulph **e ju13@leicester.ac.uk**
Sophie Vigneron **e s.vigneron@kent.ac.uk**

Banking and finance

Alison Lui **e a.lui@ljmu.ac.uk**
Priscilla Vitoh **e pav10@leicester.ac.uk**

Children's rights

Naomi Lott **e naomi.lott@law.ox.ac.uk**
Nicolas Brando **e n.brand@liverpool.ac.uk**

Constitutionalism in developing democracies

Nauman Reayat **e nauman.reayat@leicester.ac.uk**

Criminal law and criminal justice

Demet Caltekin **e demet.a.caltekin@durham.ac.uk**
Michelle Coleman **e m.a.coleman@swansea.ac.uk**
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Susy Menis **e s.menis@bbk.ac.uk**
Louise Taylor **e louise.taylor1@open.ac.uk**

Disability, law and social justice

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Alison Tarrant **e tarrantae2@cardiff.ac.uk**
Clare Williams **e c.williams-678@kent.ac.uk**
Danielle Watson **e danielle.watson@leicester.ac.uk**

Empire, colonialism and law

Raza Saeed **e raza.saeed@warwick.ac.uk**
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Maximilien Zahnd **e mzahnd@berkeley.edu**
Dania Thomas **e dania.thomas@glasgow.ac.uk**

Environmental law

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Equality and human rights law

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Severyna Magill **e severyna.magill@stmarys.ac.uk**
Shahab Saqib **e shahabsaqib445@gmail.com**

Exploring legal borderlands: empirical and interdisciplinary methods

Pedro Fortes **e pfortes@alumni.stanford.edu**
Andra Le Roux-Kemp **e alerouxkemp@lincoln.ac.uk**

Family law and policy

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Philip Bremner **e philip.2.bremner@kcl.ac.uk**

Gender, sexuality and law

Mireia Garces de Marcilla **e m.garces-de-marcilla-muste@exeter.ac.uk**
Harriet Samuels **e h.samuels@westminster.ac.uk**
Mini Saxena **e ms194@soas.ac.uk**

Graphic justice: law, comics, and related visual media

Angus Nurse **e angus.nurse@ntu.ac.uk**
Ian Mahoney **e ian.mahoney@ntu.ac.uk**
Liam Sunner **e l.sunner@qub.ac.uk**

Health law and bioethics

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Ed Horowicz **e e.horowicz@liverpool.ac.uk**

Indigenous rights

Aliza Organick **e organick@law.unm.edu**
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Intellectual property

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International economic law in context

Mervyn Martin **e m.martin@tees.ac.uk**
Maryam Shadman Pajouh **e m.shadmanpajouh@tees.ac.uk**

Interrogating the corporation

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IT law and cyberspace

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Labour law and society

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Social rights, citizenship and the welfare state

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Socio-legal jurisprudence

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New poster session

The Liverpool Organising Committee is excited to launch a new poster session for SLSA 2025. Every year, the Annual Conference showcases innovative and engaging posters. These demonstrate the value of posters as a way to present socio-legal work in original ways, as well as their capacity to stimulate research conversations that can be more interactive than panel sessions. The committee is therefore keen to expand their reach. This year, there will be both an in-person event and an online poster event. There will be a Best Poster Prize for each event, which SLSA members are eligible to enter.

In-person poster event

The in-person poster event follows our usual format. Open to PGRs only, it will involve physical posters, displayed for the entirety of the conference, as well as an opportunity to give short presentations and answer questions about their content. Digital versions of these posters will also be uploaded to Oxford Abstracts.

Participation fees follow the same fee structure as the wider conference. There are no additional costs to entering.

Online poster event

The online poster event is open to all academic levels, ensuring an additional opportunity to participate in the conference. Online posters will be displayed on Oxford Abstracts for the entirety of the conference. Presenters will also have the opportunity to give a short oral presentation in an online Zoom meeting and to engage with questions from the judging committee and other attendees.

You do not need to register for the full conference to submit a poster to the online event. The fee structure is as follows: £10 (PGRs), £20 (members – all other levels), £40 (non-members – all other levels).

The goal behind these events is to expand format options for the poster session and opportunities for participation. We hope this will encourage participants to

be creative about how to present their work and see the value in different types of presentations. We aim to provide a meaningful online space for those who are unable to attend in person and to encourage greater international participation from those outside the UK. We look forward to receiving your posters!

If you have any questions about the Poster Competition, please contact e slsa2025@liverpool.ac.uk.

SLSA membership benefits

- Three hard-copy newsletters per year and/or an e-version
 - discounted SLSA conference fees
 - a weekly term-time ebulletin
 - eligibility for research, fieldwork and impact grants
 - eligibility for Seminar Competition
 - eligibility for SLSA prizes
 - eligibility for international collaboration funding
 - members' priority in newsletter publications pages
 - discounted student membership (first year free)
 - free annual Postgraduate Conference
 - student bursaries for SLSA Annual Conference
 - discounts on books bought online from selected publishers
 - special membership category for retired members
- ... and much more. Visit **w website** for details.

SLSA policies

The SLSA is guided in its work by policies approved by the SLSA Board. The latest addition is our Stream Convenor Policy. See **w policies page** for the full list.



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SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

15 – 17 APRIL 2025



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