

17 May 2018, IALS, Russell Square, London, Room L103

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| **Present**  Rosie Harding, Jen Hendry, Ed Kirton-Darling, Jess Mant, Jess Guth, Thomas Webb, John Harrington, Marie Selwood, Diamond Ashiagbor, Naomi Creutzfeld, Imogen Jones, Amanda Keeling, Neil Graffin, Smita Kheria, Elen Stokes, Flora Renz, Devyani Prabhat, Jed Meers |  |
| **1. Apologies**  Antonia Layard, Colin White, Ilke Turkmendag, Emilie Cloatre, Vanessa Munro, Roxanna Dehaghani. |  |
| **2. Approval of minutes** | Approved |
| **3. Officer Reports**  **3.1 Chair’s report**  A warm welcome to new members of the exec committee elected at the 2018 AGM: Roxanna Dehaghani (Cardiff), Smita Kheria (Edinburgh), Antonia Layard (Bristol), Jess Mant (Leeds/Cardiff), and Flora Renz (Kent)  Many thanks for Elen Stokes for taking on the role as Treasurer.  A number of new committee roles were identified. These were filled as follows:   * Scottish representative – Smita Kheria * Social media – Jess Mant * International liaison – Smita Kheria with Devyani Prabhat supporting * Recruitment Secretary – Flora Renz   There was some discussion concerning electing a new PG representative. Two strong candidates had been identified and it was suggested that there was a possibility that they could job-share. There was discussion concerning the nature of the role and it was raised whether it might be confusing if PGRs did not know who to go to for support. After some debate it was suggested that having two PGR reps who could agree on how the work is split would be the best way forward, and that it accurately reflects the growth in the PGR community.  It was discussed how on the new REF panel a number of members we have nominated have been appointed (these include Adam Crawford (interdisciplinary advisor), Rosemary Hunter, Omar Khan, Chris Ashford, Matthew Craven, Clare McGlynn, David Nelken, Suzanne Ost)  The Academy of Social Sciences hold tri-yearly meetings. RH suggested that she would attend in June. EKD will attend in September and JHe in December.  Edward Elgar have contacted RH to ask whether we would like to do an Encyclopaedia on Law and Society.  DA – question over who would do work? RH advised that EE considered that editorial work would come from the exec or from stream convenorsSK suggested that individual contributions are not that onerous drawing on experience from completing an encyclopaedia on law and economics and it can be useful to promote socio-legal research within their catalogue (noting a caveat surrounding whether we would have the capacity);  NC – discussed a current Routledge Handbook project on socio-legal methods and theory and inviting contributions.  JH suggested that EE have a good approach to marketing in the global south  JG asked whether there is danger over someone else doing it. Noted that this could be a concern.  RH suggested that this will be 2,800 pages and therefore large in scale, significant work, and potentially difficult to manage.  It was agreed that we will not move forward with this idea due to lack of capacity from the exec.  **3.2 Vice-chair**  JHe noted that it has been agreed what conferences will go to each universities – Portsmouth in 2020 and Cardiff in 2021. Official communications will be sent as soon as possible.  JHe noted the date for Leeds – 3-5 April 2019.  JHe states that the call for papers for the Wollongong conference is still open until 6 July 2018.  JHe asked whether we should impose conditions for the article prize. It was agreed that self-nomination is still acceptable, but nominators will have to submit up to a 200 word statement piece of writing explaining why their submission is socio-legal.  JHe noted that social media is going well and more people are beginning to engage with Twitter as opposed to Facebook. It was noted that there were good connections and sharing of the SLSA website blogs.  **3.3. Treasurer (ES)**  MOB is handing the Treasurer’s position over to ES at the moment – ES will soon have permissions to sign things off; MOB will have a final formal handover meeting soon.  We are still awaiting payment from Newcastle in relation to the SLSA 2016;  ES advised that once she has details of the banking from MOB she will be able to process expenses, but that might take a few weeks.  ES will do expenses electronically and it was suggested that scanned copies of receipts will be OK moving forward and expenses forms can be emailed  ES will bank transfer expenses moving forward and has asked for any outstanding bank details  EKD asked what is happening with the Newcastle payment. It was discussed how the SLSA’s current legal status impacts on the way that university finance departments can struggle with sending their donation.  **3.4. Membership (MH)**  **JM noted the following:**   * We will reduce our database from 2500ish entries to around 900 by deleting all membership data where the member has not paid their dues in over 1 year. * This will mean closing the database to new members for approx. 2 weeks. * We will suspend the member’s expertise database pending a smooth transition to the new system and consider re-instating it, at a later date. * We will change the membership form so that new members expressly opt in to receiving both our newsletter and emails. * Once the database updates are complete, we will send out an all existing members email asking them to opt into the email and the newsletter.   JM to have induction on new system – there will be an initial cost of £2500 for the licence, plus additional set up costs. Total around £3,600 and on-going cost of £375 – includes technical support; settled on ‘data ware’ – the new system connects up to JOOMLA – the £375 is for optional telephone support; EKD suggests that current system is complicated – all agreed to go ahead with the proposal as we need to ensure GDPR compliance in our membership database.  **3.5. Recruitment (vacant)**  Please note above  **3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor (MS)**  Spring newsletter publication details were as follows:  • print run: approx 600 for mailing list plus  500-ish for Bristol (organisers to confirm)  pdf to JLS for inclusion as e-insert  pdf to overseas members  • 15 editorial pages  • page 16 Bristol 2018 ad  • one insert from Hart  **3.7. PG Student Representative (vacant)**  Please note above.  **3.8. Webmaster (JM)**  Please note above.  **3.9. International liaison (vacant)**  Please note above.  **3.10. Social Media (vacant)**  Please note above.  **3.11. Publisher’s liaison (NC)**  We got approached by the Wellcome Trust if they might come and talk to some of the academics about funding – might we offer other funding bodies to come and give a talk at future conferences?  Publisher PG poster competition sponsorship (2018: Wiley GBP 100 book voucher, this could be offered to someone else each year?)  NC will look at publishers and more membership benefits | RH, EKD, JHe  JM  JM  ALL  ALL  NC |
| **4. Conferences**  **4.1. a. Bristol 2018 (DP, JS)**  A thank you was extended to Devyani and Janine for a fabulous conference in Bristol  Devyani thanked the PGRs and Jess for her work  It was noted that there were 475 attendees – this is one of the biggest conferences we’ve held  DP stated she will be happy to chat about anything with those organising the Leeds conference  **4.1. b. Leeds 2019 (AK, IJ)**  AK noted the following:  - The SLSA 2019 conference website is now registered  - The email address for the conference has just gone live  - An in-house designer will be used for logo etc  There was a question concerning deadlines – DP suggested that the draft programme and early bird closure deadlines pose an issue. Early bird rate at Bristol came before acceptance – could this be rationalised? DP suggested that there is an issue for the day rates. A solution was identified to have no early bird day rate (agreed)  There was a question concerning the continuing use of EasyChair – It is an American system – are there any issues around DP…? The university does have an alternative system that can be used (cost attached). It was discussed that it would be EasyChair in violation if an issue arose.  A question was raised whether numbers be capped for dinner? 350? In Bristol DP note 250 worked out ok at the end, but there was a waiting list leading up to the event.  Noted by IJ and AK that there will be an issue regarding nursery/childcare during the conference as the holidays are not on in Leeds – very early notice will need to be given. Bristol asked about childcare but no one used it – noted that there will be very small numbers so issues should be able to be dealt with  There was some discussion concerning tours – Bristol asked tour operators to pay by cash – not rolled in to overall cost  RH noted that we need to agree budget at next exec meeting  IJ and AK will to speak to DP concerning further queries  Call for papers will go in October (mid)  **4.1. c. Future conferences (JHe)**  See above  **4.2. Postgraduate Conference (VM)**  A number of challenges have been identified with regards to the Warwick conference – the costs are high and the dates not ideal - usually we spend £5000  ES as treasurer notes that she has no objections in principle to the costs of Warwick  We agreed to go with Warwick and option 2 as stipulated in VM’s email  We discussed that in order to ensure PGRs attend we usually require a refundable deposit which in the past was paid by cheque. This is difficult now as many PGRs do not have cheque books. Asking for bank transfers and then transferring money back is problematic.  To get around this problem it was decided that PGRs who pay a deposit by bank transfer will be refunded by cheque at the conference.  **4.3 One Day Conferences (RH)**  We discussed that we are exploring a German socio-legal conference, which JHe has had discussions regarding with a German academic (Berlin).  We are also organising a Law Commission ‘Impacting Law’ one day conference.  **4.4. ANZLSA Conference December 2018 (JHe)**  Not discussed. | IJ, AK, DP  JHe |
| **5. Prizes and Competitions**  **5.1. Book and article prizes (RH)**  No need to discuss further (note above)  **5.2. Contributions to the socio-legal community (RH)**  Beginning of September deadline.  **5.3. Grants (JG)**  No need to discuss further  **5.4. Seminar (JHa)**  In the last round we gave the same award to everyone. JHa asked if we should keep doing this/  RH asked whether we should instead put the limit down  It was agreed that £2000 should be the limit for seminar awards  Should we exclude people that have been successful in recent past? Should it be on merit? Preference given to people who haven’t awarded in last 3 years – agreed.  **5.5. Research Training and Mentoring Awards (RH)**  One award was made following the February deadline for this scheme. The next deadline is 1 June | ALL to note |
| **6. Sub-committee membership**  Three vacancies have been identified on the seminar committee. These were filled by FR, SK and JG  TW was appointed to the grants committee  EKD was appointed to the book prize committee |  |
| **7. SLSA GDPR Readiness**  We will be asking whether we need members to opt-in to the e-bulletin  We are thinking about opt-in for JISC for PGRs – Jed is asking more about this | JM  JM |
| **8. The Legal Status of the SLSA**  The proposal to work towards the possibility of changing the legal status of the SLSA was discussed at the AGM. The working group will now take this forward with the intention that a final proposal will be taken to the AGM in 2019. The preferred legal status for the SLSA at this time is to become a Charitable Incorporated Association.  The working group has some space – ES, JHa and JG volunteered to join it.  RH will set up a doodle poll for a date for the Working Group to meet in Birmingham. | ES, JHa, JG  RH |
| **9. Subject-Level TEF Consultation Response**  Thanks to JHe, JHa and AL for their inputs – the response will be finalised soon & circulated to the full exec.  Two models are being proposed – one will be quite onerous  Draft will be sent – can all get back over weekend?  Jess Guth to share ALT draft | ALL  JG |
| **10. Future Executive Committee Meeting Dates**  September 13 2018  January 10 2019  May 16 2019  Query whether we should use Westminster university moving forward– NG and NC to check | NG, NC |
| **11. Use of REF Scoring in Funding Application Assessment**  Should we be giving REF scores for all our assessments?  JHa asked about whether we could give half marks when assessing  TW suggests that transparency could be important – i.e. entrants for competitions may wish to know how they are being judged  RH suggests that an alternative could be 0-6 in ESRC  Criticism from IJ of tacitly endorsing the REF  DA asked whether we not endorsing these things in our jobs?  RH – asked whether we should develop our own criteria?  Agreed to revisit in a year’s time, as we have several large projects to complete this year. |  |
| **12. Any other business**  From Vanessa (email) concerning nominations to FAcSS  RH suggested that we should not nominate two people in from same institution in same round (agreed)  We agreed to nominate Anna Lawson and Clare McGlynn  It was noted that deadlines for nomination are in July and December. There is also list of fellows on the website, should anyone want to nominate. | ALL |