

Methods in Legal Geography – Innovations and Future Directions | AAG 2027, New York (8-12 February 2027)

Legal geography, being a confluence of disciplinary lenses (Chiodelli, 2025), features a variety of research methods, techniques and tools employed by legal geographers drawing from the separate disciplines of law and geography. Innovation in this scholarship can be traced through influential texts (e.g. Blomley, 1994; Blomley et al., 2001; Holder and Harrison, 2002; Sarat et al., 2003; Delaney, 2010; Braverman et al., 2014) and studies documented in *Progress in Human Geography* reports prepared by David Delaney, Alex Jeffrey and most recently Päivi Kymäläinen.

'Handbooks' fusing themes of space, place and law (O'Donnell et al., 2020; Bartel and Carter, 2021) also offer a guide to the foci and approaches of legal geographers.

Legal geography is not encumbered by a settled methodological practice: there is no authoritative 'how to' text asserting research design, form or practice. For instance, O'Donnell et al.'s (2020) text on perspectives and methods in legal geography is a useful introduction to some potential approaches available to legal geographers. Moreover, Jeffrey and Klosterkamp's *Research Handbook on Legal Geography* (due for imminent release) exhibits the diversity of concepts and methods underpinning research in the field whilst indicating that legal geography remains open for innovation.

With that in mind, we invite abstracts for a session themed on innovations and future directions for methods in legal geographical research. We invite contributions from scholars to join the session(s) to present work and respond to the following topics guiding discussion:

- How do the methods deployed in the research synthesise tools and techniques from disciplines of both law and geography?
- How does legal geography foster creation and exploration of novel methodological approaches, and offer instructive guidance to others pursuing similar inquiry
- In which ways do the research contribute to the future direction of legal geography as a field of interdisciplinary scholarship?
- What might be missing? What opportunities for research innovation have yet to be (fully) explored in legal geography and where might scholarship go next?

Abstracts should be emailed to Dr Christopher Morris (c.morris@mmu.ac.uk) and Dr Hannah Friedrich (hkfriedrich@cornell.edu) by 30 September 2026.

Key Deadlines

Abstract Submission to Convenors: 30 September 2026

Confirmation of Acceptance: 9 October 2026

Abstract Submission to AAG: 15 October 2026