

Nominations for SLSA Board of Trustees – AGM 2026

Nominations were invited for up to six Trustee vacancies. This year, we are particularly keen to receive nominations from members with interest or expertise in data protection, publisher liaison, archives management, stream convenorship, finance, risk management, and digital and communications strategy, including oversight of our website and social media. These areas represent current priority skills for the Board and are essential to delivering our aims and supporting our membership, collaborators, and the wider community.

A nomination statement of no more than 200 words was requested covering the following: why the candidate would like to serve as a trustee of the SLSA; their commitment to socio-legal studies; their capacity and willingness to contribute to the board's work, particularly in the priority skills areas identified for this year. The nominations received are noted below in alphabetical order.

Nominations received

Claire Bessant

I have been undertaking socio-legal research and teaching at Northumbria Law School since 2002, initially undertaking research and teaching in family law and now focusing primarily on privacy and data protection law (an identified priority skills area). As a former solicitor, I have always been interested in the law's practical operation; my research uses diverse methods to explore individuals' knowledge and experience of the law.

I have benefitted from attending 4 SLSA conferences. I formed part of the team who designed, delivered and presented at Northumbria's 2024 SLSA PGR conference. I have served as SLSA mentor for the past three years. I believe I could make a meaningful contribution to, and am keen to become further involved in, the SLSA's work including by attending and contributing my expertise to SLSA meetings, committees and working groups, and supporting administration of SLSA prizes and funding schemes.

I have experience of reviewing and providing feedback upon UKRI and internal funding applications, submitting consultation responses. Having undertaken internal roles as Director of Education, Ethics Lead and PGR Lead I have some understanding of the challenges faced by and opportunities presented to socio-legal scholars. I would be honoured to serve as SLSA trustee.

Taz Brookes

I am a doctoral researcher at Birkbeck, University of London, examining how legal institutions shape access to justice, professional participation, and the organisation of legal knowledge. My work engages with governance, regulatory frameworks, and the institutional conditions that shape socio legal inquiry.

If elected as a Trustee of the Socio Legal Studies Association, I would contribute in three ways. First, I bring an understanding of governance and regulatory practice, which I would apply to the Board's oversight responsibilities as a CIO. I am attentive to transparency, proportionality, and risk, and would support reasoned decision making across the Association's activities, including assisting fellow trustees to reach their goals within their expert areas.

Second, my research on institutional dynamics positions me to contribute to subcommittees, prize assessment, and policy consultations. I am committed to strengthening the SLSA's support for rigorous, interdisciplinary socio legal scholarship and to engaging thoughtfully with the Board's annual cycle of work.

Third, I am dedicated to fostering an inclusive scholarly community. I would support conference organisation relating to EDI and further initiatives that create meaningful opportunities for doctoral and early career researchers to participate in the Association's work.

I would approach the trustee role with reliability, collaboration, and a sustained commitment to service.

Sandra Duffy

I wish to serve as a trustee of the SLSA because I believe that uplifting minoritised viewpoints is a vital contribution to the future of the discipline of sociolegal studies in this country. As a queer Disabled SLSA member, I bring an important positionality and perspective to my work. I would bring energy, enthusiasm, and a deep appreciation for the Association's work, to the SLSA Board.

I am an emerging leader in the field of gender and sexuality law, and passionate about my sociolegal work. I believe in accessible, open academic work and I enjoy writing for online outlets as well as traditional academic publishing, in order to more broadly disseminate my research.

I have experience in running a Current Topic at SLSA. I am a committee member of Trans Pride Bristol and helping with drafting our CIO application, so I am familiar with CIO governance. I am co-chair of my university's LGBTQ+ Staff Network with experience in working groups and policy. I am also experienced at combining social media, blogging, and public legal education through my years of work in Ireland with Lawyers for Choice.

Anne-Maree Farrell

My name is Anne-Maree Farrell, and I am Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Director of the Mason Institute at Edinburgh Law School. Coming from an interdisciplinary research background, I have longstanding research interests in socio-legal studies in health, medicine and the life sciences. I was previously a member of what was then known as the SLSA executive committee for a period of five years. I would welcome the opportunity to become involved again in the governance of the SLSA, this time as a trustee. If elected, I would look forward to working with other trustees to ensure that all necessary statutory obligations were met on the part of the SLSA as a charity. In terms of identified priority areas, I would be willing to contribute as a trustee to publisher liaison, finance and risk management. More generally, I am

interested in being involved in mentoring the next generation of socio-legal researchers, working to expand socio-legal research networks, and engaging in knowledge exchange and impact activities which enhance the profile of socio-legal research in the UK.

Mohamed Gomaa

I wish to serve as an SLSA Trustee to bridge the gap between socio-legal scholarship and judicial practice on an international scale. My commitment to socio-legal studies is evidenced by my PhD research at the University of Hamburg, where I analyze the socio-legal implications of Digital Justice, Public-Private Partnerships, and AI in the judiciary. This academic pursuit is deeply informed by my thirteen years of experience as a Judge at the Egyptian Council of State, providing me with a unique "law-in-action" perspective.

I am highly willing to contribute to the board's work, specifically within the identified priority areas of digital strategy and risk management. My role as an External Expert for the European Parliament (EPRS) involves assessing complex digital frameworks and AI governance, skills that are directly transferable to overseeing the SLSA's digital communications and strategic risks. I am dedicated to fostering an inclusive, global socio-legal community and possess the administrative capacity to ensure the SLSA remains a leading voice for scholars of all backgrounds.

Ciarán O'Kelly

I would like to be considered for nomination as a trustee for the SLSA. My experience would I hope allow me to make a strong contribution to the board in supporting the SLSA's central role in the socio-legal studies community.

I am a reader and am currently Deputy Head of the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast. My research reflects my commitment to socio-legal studies, ranging from corporate governance through computational linguistics into AI and technology, not least focusing on changes to the legal profession in Northern Ireland. I am also involved in managing a very dynamic doctoral training programme, reflecting my strong interest in supporting doctoral scholars embarking on their socio-legal research careers. I am also a fellow of QUB's Centre for Secure Information Technologies and the Jisc Working Group on AI and Assessment.

I have very significant academic governance experience that I hope could support my contribution to the board. I am experienced in risk management and regulatory compliance. I am also well-placed to contribute to the Association's other priority areas in data protection and digital strategy. I have organised major international conferences both as a member of local organising committees and as part of subject-specific research groups.

Allison Lindner

I nominate myself for election to the position of SLSA trustee as I would like to be involved in advancing the field of sociolegal studies. The career development and network building opportunities offered by the SLSA have strongly influenced my scholarly journey from my time as a doctoral student to now as an early career researcher.

As part and parcel of this, my intellectual engagement with sociolegal theory and methods in my own research on the informal economy in the Global South has been the catalyst for my commitment to the growing field of socio-legal studies. In turn, sociolegal perspectives inform my teaching of environmental law and business and human rights.

In preparation for this nomination, I have familiarised myself with the work of the various SLSA sub-committees – Books, Grants, Impact, Seminar, Stream and Conference, EDI, International, and PGR Working Group – to get a granular understanding of how these work and how I can contribute. If elected to the SLSA Board, I have a particular interest in developing my skills in relation to stream convenorship, publisher liaison, data protection or risk management, but equally I am willing to ‘get stuck in’ as needed. Choose me as your new trustee!

Rachel Maguire

The SLSA community has played an invaluable role in my academic career. I attended my first conference in 2018 as a PGR and have participated regularly since. Serving as a trustee would allow me to give back to this community and help ensure others benefit from the same supportive environment. I would also welcome the opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of the Association and collaborate with a wider range of socio-legal colleagues.

I am strongly committed to socio-legal studies. My research is socio-legal in both methodology and research problem, using empirical methods to explore the real-world experiences of online creators and social media users within relevant legal issues.

I am keen to contribute to the board’s work across a variety of areas. In particular, I believe I could make a meaningful contribution to the Association’s digital and communications strategy. My research focus means that I am technologically literate and have a strong interest in and understanding of digital environments and social media. I also have experience of digital communications, including maintaining website content, from roles prior to academia.

Emma Roberts

I am applying to serve as a Trustee because I am committed to advancing socio-legal scholarship and supporting a strong, inclusive and impactful scholarly community. My research examines institutional accountability, safeguarding and legal duties in educational contexts, contributing to national policy debates and reflecting a sustained commitment to understanding how law operates in practice and shapes lived experience. Having previously benefited from SLSA funding, I value the Association’s vital role in supporting socio-legal research and am committed to contributing to its continued success.

I bring over 15 years’ experience in legal education and academic leadership, and currently serve as Head of Department, with responsibility for strategic direction, academic standards and staff development. I also bring governance experience from serving as Trustee and Vice-Chair of a charity, where I supported strategic decision-making, ensured accountability and advanced EDI. This experience has given me a strong understanding of trustee responsibilities and effective governance.

I would be particularly interested in contributing as International Liaison Officer or as Stream Secretary, drawing on my international network and my experience as an SLSA convenor, Committee Chair within another scholarly network and organiser of conferences and symposia. I am committed to contributing actively to the Board's strategic work.

Sarah Singh

I would be delighted to be considered to serve as a trustee of SLSA. My research adopts a socio-legal perspective, drawing on feminist theory and empirical data with a particular focus on the criminalisation of abused women, and, more recently, legal responses to companion animals. Serving on the University of Liverpool conference organising committee 2025 (and generating bursary income) provided a deeper appreciation of the SLSA's work and I would welcome the opportunity to further the fantastic work of colleagues who served on the board last year. Having worked at pre- and post-92 institutions I have a good understanding of the increasingly challenging HE context in which SLSA operates, alongside experience of being a trustee (for a dog rehoming charity) and thus understand the duties entailed and need to work alongside colleagues to make informed policy decisions. Due to my interests and previous leadership roles, I am particularly interested in contributing to the EDI subcommittee and/or the stream secretary role but am flexible in response to SLSA's needs. Having benefited first-hand from the supportive environment the SLSA provides, particularly for PGR and ECRs, I would appreciate the opportunity to play a greater role in supporting and growing the socio-legal community.