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SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

www.slsa.ac.uk

SLSA SUSSEX 2026

After 15 years away, the SLSA Annual Conference will return to the University of Sussex from 30 March–1 April 2026 at the campus in Falmer, Brighton. This is a unique opportunity for socio-legal academics from both the UK and abroad to share knowledge and network with other like-minded scholars.

The first of the new 1960s British universities and surrounded by the striking South Downs National Park, the University of Sussex has been at the forefront of global and disruptive teaching and research for decades. Next spring, the Sussex Law School will welcome delegates to its state-of-the-art facilities. With research centres specialising in human rights, gender, sustainability, trade policy, crime, and technology, as well as expertise across several other areas, the Sussex Law School has an interdisciplinary and vibrant research environment that allows us to push the boundaries of the discipline.

With a strong commitment to equality, inclusion and sustainability, and supported by the seasoned Visit Brighton team, the University of Sussex is looking forward to welcoming a large academic audience to the well connected and popular city of Brighton & Hove, just under an hour by rail from London and half-an-hour from Gatwick Airport. We trust delegates will have a unique experience in our city, known for its welcoming and diverse atmosphere and passion for culture and creativity.

The three-day event, has grown since its last outing in Sussex in 2011. It will include paper presentations across 35 regular streams alongside seven current topic sessions which reflect on socio-legal themes or debates of emerging importance such as — new this year — ‘Death, dying, and the dead’ and ‘Social class and law’.

The conference will feature a dedicated programme of activities focused on postgraduate researchers (PGRs), reflecting Sussex’s PGR training strengths. There will also be an opportunity to display posters, both online and in person. As in previous years, all selected posters submitted by PGR members of the SLSA will be entered into a Poster Prize competition. The winner will be awarded a monetary prize and a certificate.

The theme of the plenary will be ‘Protest and progress’, focusing on the legal regulation of various forms of protest and protest’s social value in effecting change for progress, however ‘progress’ may be conceptualised.

The conference will also feature the usual social events. Delegates will gather for an informal reception on the first evening of the conference at the Brighton Palace Pier, and a gala dinner on the second evening at the Grand Hotel, where the SLSA annual prizewinners will be announced. Due to venue capacity limitations, places at these events will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so hurry up and register!

Particular attention is being paid to ensure the conference will be accessible, sustainable and inclusive. The conference will be held in person, but the plenary session will be live-streamed and there will be an online poster display as well. Requests for online presentations will be

considered when needed as a reasonable adjustment. The conference will be held in the Fulton and Jubilee buildings, which have accessible and gender-neutral toilet facilities on each floor. A train station is located a few minutes’ walk from campus, there are bus stops on campus, and there will be a wheelchair-accessible shuttle bus connecting the city centre and the campus for those who cannot use other transport options.

There will be access to childcare/breastfeeding, religious/spiritual/meditation and sport facilities. In line with our sustainable campus ethos, delegates will not be offered any merchandise such as tote bags, pens or notebooks. To help reduce food waste and cater to the diverse dietary preferences and needs of delegates, the conference will offer meat-free meals and refreshments for all on-campus catering and offer fish or meat as options for off-campus evening events.

The call for papers and posters is open – deadline **18 December 2025**. Registration is also open and, as usual, registration rates are divided into three categories (early bird, standard, and late), and there are four types depending on SLSA membership status (member, non-member, PGR member, PGR non-member). In recognition of the financial difficulties of many institutions and increasing cost of living, registration rates have not been increased. The fee includes access to all sessions, lunch and tea/coffee breaks. Registration for the online poster presentation is separate and carries much lower fees. Early bird registration ends on **29 January 2026**, and registration overall closes on **18 March 2026**.

As in previous years, a bursary scheme designed to help offset the costs of attending the SLSA conference is available. The bursary covers the cost of the registration fee and the deadline for applications is **18 December 2025**. In addition, there are also registration fee-waivers for stream convenors (see further details on [page 3](#)).

More details about all these and other aspects of the conference are on our [website](#). If you have any queries, contact [e slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk). We look forward to welcoming you in Brighton in spring 2026!

The Conference Team

For more conference information, see pages 4–5, and, for full details of current topics and streams, see pages 14–15.

Also in this issue

- SLSA Annual Prize – winner announced: 3
 - A note from the Chair: 3
 - SLSA Seminars: 6–7
 - a tribute to Professor William Twining: 10
- ... plus, SLSA website news, grant reports, socio-legal news, publications and events.

Download the Socio-Legal Newsletter

A link to an electronic copy of the newsletter will be emailed to SLSA members on publication day **24 November 2025**. Don’t forget to check your inbox!

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DAVID SUGARMAN WINS SLSA ANNUAL PRIZE

The SLSA Board is delighted to announce that Professor David Sugarman has been awarded the 2025 Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community.

The six nominators cited his long and distinguished career in socio-legal studies, his prolific and diverse scholarly output, his leadership, mentorship and collaborative working, his legal life-writing and his vast contribution to modern socio-legal historical studies, which Fiona Cownie and Anthony Bradney describe as a “new legal history”, which is contextual and critical’.

Sally Wheeler wrote that David was ‘the first to draw on sources from culture, economics, social and political sciences to augment his work’ which has ‘huge depth and range – the legal profession, legal literature, company law’. To this already extensive list David Nelken adds ‘legal education, European anti-discrimination law, women’s rights and gender equality, law and literature, law and the visual and legal life writing’. And for Roger Cotterrell, David’s ‘work sets lawyers and their lives in wide socio-economic and political context and his long career exemplifies the highest virtues of collaboration and support in the socio-legal community’.

For Susan Bartie, David’s contribution to socio-legal scholarship has ‘played an enormous role in pioneering and sustaining the field in the UK and beyond’, transforming ‘how scholars think about lawyers, legal education and legal history’ and ‘providing exemplary models of how historians should embrace sociological and



other disciplinary perspectives to challenge dominant and enduring perspectives of law’.

Widely known and admired for his work on the Pinochet case, Sally recalls that: ‘David worked tirelessly for years (even learning Spanish) as a human rights advocate to hold Augusto Pinochet to account for his crimes.’

There is not enough space here to include all the nominators’ comments, but the above extracts give an overview of the esteem in which David is held by his colleagues. We look forward to welcoming him to the SLSA annual dinner next year when he will receive his award from SLSA Chair Smita Kheria.

We are also pleased to include a tribute to the late Professor William Twining that David has kindly contributed to this issue (see page 10).

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Our Chair, Smita Kheria, outlines the work of a hectic few weeks for the SLSA Board.

It’s been a busy and exciting summer. We launched a new website and CRM system, since then successfully migrating hundreds of members to the new platform. Our second **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Survey Report** was published, and the **SLSA Mentoring Scheme** was renewed for the 2025–2026 round, continuing our commitment to fostering a more inclusive socio-legal community. We also welcomed Camilo Cornejo Martinez as our second PGR representative, joining Diksha Sanyal in supporting our postgraduate members. And we bade farewell to Marie Burton who stepped down as a trustee due to a career change. We thank her for her contributions to the Board’s work.

We also reflected on our Annual Conference experience and introduced improvements for 2026. Calls for papers and posters and early bird registration opened simultaneously, and earlier than ever, to give colleagues more time to plan their participation. We streamlined the abstract review process offering an early acceptance deadline from which over 150 abstracts have benefited. We also made sure that essential information on conference participation, sustainability and accessibility was published in tandem with the call for papers, to give attendees a comprehensive overview of the event. Recognising the complexities of catering for a large-scale event, we worked with the 2026 organising team to ensure that details about available food options were shared at the same time to support informed planning and participation (see also the discussion on pages 4–5).

In addition, in response to the financial pressures facing UK higher education, we have held all the 2026 conference registration rates at 2025 levels. We also opened bursary applications earlier and will announce decisions sooner to help successful recipients in their planning. And, finally, we have introduced a new needs-based fee-waiver scheme for our permanent stream convenors (see page 4). These measures reflect our ongoing commitment to support the membership.

If members have any ideas or suggestions to help us improve our offerings, then they are warmly invited to get in touch with me and the Board members.

See contact details on page 2 opposite.

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NEW FEE-WAIVER SCHEME FOR STREAM CONVENORS

The scheme is for convenors of permanent streams at SLSA 2026 and applications are now open.

In recognition that many institutions have reduced funding for conference attendance, the SLSA Board has decided to launch a limited fee-waiver scheme for convenors of permanent streams at SLSA 2026. The terms of this scheme are set out below.

- Eligibility is limited to convenors of permanent streams not convenors of current topics.
- Successful applicants will receive a waiver of the conference registration fee.
- Up to one fee-waiver is available per conference stream. We will accept one application per stream

and convenors should decide among themselves who should apply.

- The waiver is needs-based and is intended to provide support to convenors who do not have institutional funding. Applications should consist of a short statement (no more than one page) explaining why a fee-waiver is needed to ensure in-person attendance and the successful running of your stream. Applications should be sent to [e streams@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:streams@slsa.ac.uk) by **12 January 2026** and accompanied by an email from your department to confirm that you do not have access to institutional funding to attend the SLSA Annual Conference, or to explain the extent of funding that can be offered (eg if your institution is only able to partially fund costs).
- Stream convenors who are also postgraduate research students are eligible to apply for both the standard bursary route (closing on **18 December**) and the convenor fee-waiver (closing **12 January**). Of course, any applicant may only receive one fee-waiver.

FOOD AT THE SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SLSA conference dinners should be inclusive

With the next SLSA Annual Conference around the corner, Professor Robert Dingwall offers some suggestions on how event organisers should approach the difficult and sometimes controversial topic of food choices.

This contribution is prompted by the late notification to attendees at the Liverpool SLSA Annual Conference that the annual dinner would be exclusively vegan, as a mark of the organisers' commitment to sustainability. This is not an anti-vegan tract. Although I am not persuaded, I respect the arguments presented by people who decline to consume meat or dairy from a principled position on the relationship between humans and other species that share the planet. They challenge all of us to reflect on the use that we make of other species and the importance of giving serious attention to their quality of life, and death, in our service.

However, a conference dinner, especially when coupled with an award ceremony, is not the place to impose a particular viewpoint. I would make exactly the same argument if the organisers only provided a meat or fish menu. But it is inconceivable in this day and age that this would happen precisely because it is so widely accepted that a conference dinner should respect the diversity of attendees and aim to be as inclusive as possible.

Clearly, there might be occasions where organisers were ethical vegans who felt they could not in good conscience provide a conference dinner open to all dietary choices. However, we might expect this to be raised in negotiations with the Board and to be signalled to attendees at the time of booking. The Board might ask for different people to be involved in arranging a more inclusive dinner; combine the award ceremony with the AGM at a different time; or give attendees an opt-out price to make their own arrangements.

However, if animal products are being excluded to make a point about sustainability, the ground is much shakier. This is contested science – not in the trivial sense of

climate change denial but in terms of the degree to which vegan diets contribute to or detract from sustainability. The imposition of contested science caused many problems during the Covid pandemic and the SLSA should be wary of replicating them.

What is contested here? First, the degree of chemical engineering, energy consumption, and natural resources, like water, consumed in producing vegan simulacra of animal-based products. Second, the food miles and disruption of local production systems in lower and middle-income countries required to grow and transport vegetable protein usable in the Global North when the climate of the British Isles is particularly suited to the production of animal-based protein. Third, the lack of attention to the implications of getting from 70 million inhabitants of the UK to somewhere south of 20 million – the greater the switch from animal to vegetable protein, the smaller the sustainable UK population.

An association that respects the diversity of its membership and wishes to make the annual dinner as inclusive as possible should always offer vegan and vegetarian options for members with health issues or conscientious or faith-based objections to consuming animal products. However, diversity and inclusion work both ways. The Board should be clear with organisers that the annual dinner must respect an appropriate range of views and choices. If this is not going to happen, attendees should be clearly told in the initial conference marketing that some preferences will not be welcome, that the conference pricing will not oblige them to pay for a non-inclusive meal, and that they will be able to celebrate award winners at a time in the conference open to all.

The University of Liverpool's response

Professor Marie Fox, on behalf of the SLSA 2025 organising committee, offers some important context to the challenges of arranging catering for such a large event before responding to Professor Dingwall's points.

Members may not be aware of all the logistical challenges of organising a conference on the scale that the SLSA Annual Conference has become. Clearly, this testifies to the success of the association, but it does pose logistical issues which we believe, for instance, would make it highly unlikely that the SLSA Board would have many

takers should they propose that ‘different people’ organise a conference dinner.

This year we ultimately welcomed over 900 delegates, having originally worked on the basis of 600 participants. Even had we limited the size of the conference to our projected figures, finding an appropriately sized venue able to cater an event on this scale would have been challenging, even in a major city like Liverpool.

For various reasons the historic St George’s Hall was selected as the best dinner venue, not least given its central location, magnificent architecture and its significance in Liverpool’s history. However, the venue did require that we use selected outside caterers who advised that for a dinner on this scale we must select a single menu. Given this, the organising team (vegan and non-vegan) unanimously agreed that we should offer a vegan menu precisely because it was inclusive. Indeed, we are somewhat puzzled by the definition of inclusivity that Professor Dingwall espouses, since, with minor tweaks to accommodate gluten-free delegates, literally all diners were able to eat this menu regardless of their ethical or religious views. In that regard we would simply endorse a **convincing rebuttal** by Joanna Demaree-Cotton of Jeremy Clarkson’s similar claim that a County Council’s decision to provide only plant-based meals at council-catered events (as a move towards environmental sustainability) interfered with his freedom of choice. As Demaree-Cotton notes, ‘even if these events only serve plant-based meals, this still leaves attendants very, very free to spend most of their time eating animal products as a regular part of their diet—the definition of being a committed omnivore’. Furthermore, the initial view of the organising team was in fact that the conference dinner should be optional, but we were persuaded otherwise by the SLSA Board, which rightly pointed out that such a policy would likely exclude those least able to afford the conference dinner should their institution decline to pay for ‘optional’ extras.

Importantly, we took the view that, as well as being inclusive, a vegan menu aligned with the University of Liverpool’s sustainability commitments. Alongside our wish to be as inclusive as possible, we believed it was vital to deliver a plastic, paper, meat and dairy-free conference. The result was limited food waste and careful recycling of excess food, including delivery to homeless charities. At a local level, for many of us our Law School’s focus on social justice, coupled with our expertise in environmental and animal law and ethics, means that our inclusive conception of social justice extends beyond the human. We also believe that at a juncture where many of the choices being made by UK universities may be deemed ethically questionable, and in the context of the climate crisis, plant-based food may be one of the few areas where universities are pursuing more progressive policies. In this we were influenced by a recent **Lancet article** suggesting that universities are especially well placed to lead on a plant-based dietary transition. We hope that our conference has contributed in a minor way to this shift in thinking.

We recognise, of course, that no conference dinner menu will be to everyone’s taste, just as some of us lament the passing of paper programmes. However, it is notable that amongst much positive feedback we received on the conference in general (for which we are very grateful) the catering was singled out for praise. In fact, other than Professor Dingwall, no complaint was received. Much more typical was the following unsolicited comment:

I just wanted to reach out to say thank you for a wonderful SLSA – In particular I wanted to thank you for the excellent catering – as somebody with dietary requirements it was so refreshing and inclusive to know that I could eat anything that was provided without having to spend ages scrutinising ingredient lists and the like. And even without that, it was great that all the lunches were hot food and of such a consistently high quality. A real change for the better, I think.

SLSA CALENDAR

2025

November

24 SLN 107 published

December

12 Final weekly ebulletin of 2025

18 SLSA 2026: calls for papers, posters & bursary applications close

2026

January

8–9 SLSA Postgraduate Conference, Cardiff

9 First weekly ebulletin of 2026

21 SLSA Board meeting

22 SLSA 2026 results of bursary applications

26 SLSA 108 copy deadline

29 SLSA 2026 early bird registration closes

tbc Outcomes communicated to successful and unsuccessful applicants to the five SLSA funding schemes

February

tbc SLSA Prize shortlists published

16 SLSA Board call for trustee nominations and AGM agenda items

19 SLSA 2026 deadline to confirm participation by speakers and deadline to confirm acceptance of bursaries

26 SLSA 2026 standard registration closes

March

2 SLN 108 published

5 SLSA 2026 draft programme released

9 Deadline for trustee nominations and receipt of agenda items for AGM 2026

16 Notification of SLSA AGM 2026 and publication of papers

18 SLSA 2026 late registration closes

19 SLSA 2026 final programme released

27 Final ebulletin of spring term

30 SLSA Annual Conference, University of Sussex, opens

31 SLSA AGM

SLSA annual dinner and announcement of SLSA prizewinners

April

1 SLSA Annual Conference closes

17 First ebulletin of summer term

May

18 SLN 109 copy deadline

20 SLSA Board meeting

June

22 SLN 109 published

July

10 Final ebulletin of summer term

tbc SLSA funding schemes and prizes open for applications and nominations

Disability and Rights: The Possibilities and Limits of Rights Discourses under Neoliberalism

Danielle Watson, University of Leicester, £2991
13–14 June 2025, online from the University of Birmingham

This **two-day online conference** brought together scholars from around the world to explore the achievements and limitations of rights discourses for disability justice, offering a counterpoint to mainstream socio-legal research on disability and rights.

The conference was jointly hosted by the SLSA Disability Law and Social Justice conference **stream convenors** (Emily Kakoullis, Alison Tarrant, Clare Williams and Danielle Watson) and the Marxism and Disability Network, with kind funding from the SLSA (£2992), the University of Leicester Law School (£1000) and with institutional support from the universities of Birmingham and Brighton.

On 13 June, we enjoyed three panels and a keynote by Professor Ravi Malhotra, and on 14 June, a further three panels, rounded off by a keynote given by Professors Peter Bartlett and Anna Lawson. Emerging themes from

across all sessions included the achievements of rights as well as their inability to address structural disadvantage in some contexts. A common thread across several papers was the way in which rights can function not only as a compensation for market-based discrimination and oppression, but can also entrench neoliberal carceral and disciplinary techniques of power that they seek to challenge. During the conference, some alternative strategies began to emerge, and the organisers are now working with presenters to develop these conversations further through workshops and a journal special issue.

There was strong attendance, with over 300 registrations. The SLSA funding allowed us to provide live British Sign Language interpretation and IT support, enabling accessibility. There was also strong interest in presenting. We selected 12 papers, which provided opportunities to hear from PGR, ECR and experienced colleagues, and included offerings from the Global South and North. Consequently, the insights and discussions that emerged have been not only generative, but have drawn positive feedback from presenters and guests.

The organisers would like to extend their thanks to the SLSA for supporting this event.

Recordings from the conference are available online and can be viewed [here](#).

Reforming Legal and Policy Responses to Investigating and Prosecuting Sexual Violence

Elizabeth Agnew, Queen's University Belfast, Eithne Dowds, Queen's University Belfast, Susan Leahy, University of Limerick, Siobhan Weare, Lancaster University, £2890
19–20 June 2025, Queen's University Belfast

Criminal justice and legal responses to sexual violence have long featured in academic and policy debates. Yet, despite a raft of substantive and procedural reforms, evidence continues to demonstrate steep attrition rates in sexual offence cases and the persistent issue of secondary victimisation experienced by complainants. Recent consultations and reviews across various jurisdictions – including England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland – have further highlighted the inherent complexities involved in prosecuting sexual violence within an adversarial legal system, and the ongoing need for meaningful, effective reform.

Within this context, funding from the SLSA annual Seminar Competition provided the opportunity for the applicants to host this event which brought together over 100 delegates from academia, legal practice, the judiciary, statutory agencies and the voluntary sector to review recent progress, share expertise and consider future directions for reform.

Plenaries were delivered by Her Honour Judge Patricia Smyth (Recorder of Belfast), Professor Julia Quilter (University of Wollongong Australia), Professor Clare McGlynn (University of Durham), Professor Vanessa Munro (University of Warwick) and Professor Penney Lewis (Criminal Law Commissioner, England and Wales).

The conference also included a roundtable on the use of juries within sexual offence trials. Contributors included Dr Dominic Willmott (Loughborough University), Dr Siobhan Weare (Lancaster University), Professor Vanessa Munro (University of Warwick), Dr Rosie Cowan (QUB), Ms Janice Bunting (CEO, Victim Support

Northern Ireland) and Mr Nigel Bloomer (Gillen Review Implementation Team, Department of Justice).

Across the two days, the conference featured 23 panel presentations, with speakers presenting on topics focused on defining sexual violence and consent; evidence rules and procedures; disclosure of certain types of evidence/material; young people and sexual violence; perspectives of jurors and victims; practical perspectives on sexual offence trials; technology-assisted sexual violence; and support for victims within the criminal justice system. The conference thus provided the opportunity for an in-depth, multi-jurisdictional exploration of the persistent challenges and emerging opportunities in reforming legal and criminal justice responses to sexual violence.

Social and Legal Studies

34(6) December 2025

- Reconsidering the asylum lottery: refugee determination and the structure of luck – Emma Marshall
- Between 'I' and 'they': distributing authorship for evidence-making: how asylum lawyers construct credible accounts before the French Court of Asylum Law – Bénédicte Stoufflet
- The communicative space: painting the evidence and plausibility in asylum court hearings – Helena Tužinská
- Within and beyond transitional justice shadows: rallying social movements, re-sculpting agendas, re-centring historical injustices – Vicky Kapogianni & Benjamin Thorne
- 'Posted: no trespassing': on the performativity of property and gender as intertwined social practices of power – Ariël Decoster
- Deconstructing 'rough sex' in a New Zealand murder trial: beyond the modern mythology of everyday kink – Nicola Gavey
- 'Circling the drain': the emotional 'dirty' work of legal aid workers – Lara MacLachlan

SLSA Writing Workshop

On 28 May 2025, at SOAS University of London, 15 PhD candidates – 10 in person and five online – gathered to participate in a hybrid writing workshop organised by our PGR Reps.

The session was the first in-person gathering of this series, which has been run by SLSA PGR reps over the last two years. It was hosted by Dr Isobel Roele of QMUL who launched it by introducing George Orwell's six rules for writing.

- 1 If it's possible to cut out a word, cut it out.
- 2 Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- 3 Never use a passive when you can use an active.
- 4 Avoid foreign and technical words.
- 5 Never use a metaphor that you've seen in print.
- 6 Break any of these rules to avoid something outlandish.

Seemingly straightforward at first, but soon enough this advice opened big questions for socio-legal writers in the making. For instance, we were asked to get a 'feel' for what we were writing. So, for instance, to understand where to position a comma the author needs to view it as the 'breathwork of the writing'. In other words, when they get to a comma, the reader is supposed to take a breath!



Other valuable lessons for would-be writers involved being aware of the use of 'voice' – namely, is the voice they are using representing just themselves or the entirety of their field(s)? The selection of voice may therefore change the choice of words and probably their weight for the reader.

We also learnt that understanding that every piece of writing is a sequence of 'choices' in terms of vocabulary is important; some choices can drive some readers away while inviting others. Thus, word selection is almost a political decision, depending on your field. In that context, Professor Roele cited literary critic James Wood, who suggests reading for style and not (just) for content because

doing so enables 'serious noticing' of how arguments become convincing for the reader!

Finally, Professor Roele shared her personal writing method. Specifically, she explained how writing simultaneously in three different documents helps her organise 'the voices' in her writing. The first document is what she calls the 'proper' one – the working document. The second involves editing out text and sections that are being saved for other projects (here, appropriate highlighting helps, so as to not plagiarise oneself) and unused material, from a PhD thesis for example. The third is a form of 'sandbox' where writing experimentation and unblocking takes place. In that one anything goes, and the writer can employ 'stinking prose', use a different voice or write a piece without an 'ology', 'ism' or even the letter 'e' in sight. Employing these kinds of tactics can indeed be extremely helpful in getting unstuck by introducing an element of play which definitely takes the pressure off writing and could help with writer's block.

All the sessions were interactive and engaging and the day was a wonderful opportunity to meet and write in a community. At the end, we discussed the possibility of organising more such shared writing sessions across the academic year with occasional retreats, centred around mindfulness activities and yoga, and interdisciplinary and data-visualisation workshops. Online participants were also very pleased with the hybrid programme, especially the writing swap towards the end and suggested using breakout rooms on MS Teams for facilitating the exchange and feedback element in future.

The session ended with a hot lunch for those in person and we talked about the need to distribute (inevitable) leftover food in the locality as a group activity!

Overall, the retreat was a novel and successful initiative and we hope to see more like this in the coming years!

Jessica Elias PhD Candidate, University of Kent

New SLSA PGR Rep appointed

Greetings from the Lancaster and Chile SLSA families! My name is Camilo Cornejo Martinez and I am delighted to be working alongside Diksha Sanyal as PGR Rep.

I am a PhD candidate at Lancaster University School of Law, specialising in the socio-legal dimensions of the Just Transition. My research examines how cities are both shaped by and shape the Just Transition in international climate law, where notions of climate colonialism, ambitious action and human rights provide important insights into the challenges of navigating emerging climate and socio-legal scenarios.

Originally from Chile, I hold an LLM in Human Rights and the Environment, Lancaster University, and a Master's in Public Law from Universidad de Chile where I began my academic career and where I am currently an Assistant Professor in legal clinic teaching. Professionally, I have worked with interdisciplinary teams at the Second Environmental Court, the Centre for Climate and

Resilience, Climate Policy Radar and Carey (a private law firm).

What drives me, both in my research and in this role, is the conviction that strong socio-legal communities foster stronger scholarship, allowing us to better understand pressing challenges, to exchange ideas creatively, and to generate more thoughtful and impactful responses.

As a PGR representative, I aim to build on the excellent and committed work of previous teams by continuing to foster connections, support collaboration, and create opportunities for dialogue across disciplines and backgrounds. I am open to exploring new ways to strengthen our postgraduate network and to contribute to the vibrant, welcoming and intellectually diverse environment that makes the SLSA community so unique. In this spirit, if I can be of help or support in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am always happy to connect, exchange ideas and work together in mutual support.

You can contact our PGR Reps Diksha and Camilo at [e slsaprep@gmail.com](mailto:slsaprep@gmail.com).

NEW SLSA WEBSITE AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

After many months of work behind the scenes, the new site was unveiled during July. The site still contains all essential information about the SLSA's mission and aims but it has been redesigned with accessibility and navigability in mind.

The site features four clearly defined sections on our core activities:

- 'About us': where we showcase our mission and values, governance, policies and contact details.
- 'Our work': everything you need to know about funding schemes, prizes, events, one-off projects and – coming soon! – courses.
- 'Get involved': here you can find SLSA streams and current topics and our burgeoning blog – plus new members can join and existing members can manage their accounts.
- 'News': last but not least our socio-legal news section features details of the latest publications, research and funding opportunities, non-SLSA events, vacancies and much more. Members are invited to send their

own news for inclusion in this section and in the weekly Friday ebulletin during term-time. Contact: **e marieselwood@btinternet.com.**

In addition, we have introduced a new exclusive membership area. This is where you can easily manage your account and browse the SLSA Directory. Since our printed directory (which more-seasoned members will remember!) was cancelled in the early 2000s, the Board has often been asked about resurrecting this facility in electronic format – most recently at the 2024 AGM. Members can now search for colleagues and network with other members via the new 'Social groups' feature – as we go to press there are already more than 30.

SLSA weekly ebulletin and newsletter

We are currently phasing out the use of Mailchimp to send the ebulletin and other announcements to members as we can now generate all communications directly from the new site. Once you have a membership account, you need to go to your settings page and subscribe to 'marketing emails'. These will **only** be messages from the SLSA. In addition, you can still subscribe to a hard copy of the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* by typing 'YES' in the 'Newsletter' box on the same page. If you have any questions about your membership, then contact **e admin@slsa.ac.uk.**

SLSA RESEARCH GRANTS

As our grant schemes go from strength to strength, with increased maximum awards for the current round, we bring news of three completed research grant projects from 2023/2024. Look out for fieldwork and impact reports in the spring issue.

Towards an abolitionist feminist framework in Ex-Yugoslavia 2024–2025

Jana Kujundžić, Northumbria University, £1500

What were your research questions?

The project sought to initiate a dialogue on feminist abolition tailored to the post-socialist and post-war context of the Balkans. Recognising the limits of carceral responses to gendered violence, the project created a collaborative space for imagining alternatives based on solidarity, care and community accountability. Research questions were: how do we radically reimagine safety in the Balkans? What do relationships of care that prevent the death of people on the move on our borders look like? Can we end violence against women, minorities and LGBTQ+ people without harsher prison sentences?

What did you use SLSA funding for?

The funding was used to organise the central activity, which was the Summer School on Feminist Abolition, held in Novi Sad, Serbia, in June 2024. This event brought together scholars, activists and organisers from across the region.

What did you learn during the research?

The school functioned as a space for collective knowledge production, leading to the publication of the edited collection *Abolition Feminism Perspectives in a Global Context: Dispatches from Novi Sad*. Launched at the 18th Subversive Festival in Zagreb in June 2025, the publication disseminates regional perspectives into global abolitionist debates.

What are your next steps?

The project also gave rise to a regional feminist abolition collective, ensuring continuity beyond the initial timeframe. The plan is to continue organising future summer schools and events across the region and to become part of the transnational network for feminist abolition. Together, these outcomes contribute to both academic scholarship and activist practice, strengthening abolitionist feminist discourse in an under-represented region. The project demonstrates that abolitionist research thrives when approached as a participatory process, adaptable in design, and oriented towards long-term collective organising.

Law in universities, law in society

Cameron Giles, London South Bank University, & Yue Ang, Brunel University of London, £1155

We want to express our thanks to the SLSA for awarding us a grant for our project into legal education and the undergraduate law curriculum in England and Wales. The project aimed to explore students' perspectives on curriculum design by getting groups of students to engage in a collaborative design activity to investigate what choices they would make about the content and structure of a degree programme if they were designing a law degree and how they would justify those choices.

What were your research questions?

The higher education landscape in law is increasingly complex, with a range of new providers of legal education and reduced involvement of the professional bodies following the end of the joint statement on the academic stage of legal education. Our earlier research showed a significant expansion in the scope of the elective curriculum when compared with historic data. Both this diversity within the elective curriculum and potential changes to the core as a result of the end of qualifying law degree (QLD) requirements as a precursor to entering the vocational stage of training as a solicitor raise questions over the content of the undergraduate law degree. This project

therefore aimed to investigate students' motivations for choosing to study law at an undergraduate level, their expectations as to the curriculum and their perspectives on the role of the academic stage.

What did you use SLSA funding for?

The funding enabled us to carry out in-person focus groups at five institutions in England, speaking to groups of students from undergraduate law programmes. In-person data collection was key to our design-focused focus group method which involved participants physically constructing a model curriculum in the form of a timeline for a three-year programme in addition to participating in focus group discussions.

What did you learn during the research?

We were able to develop a number of key themes. In focus group discussions, we found that participants had mixed views on the demise of the QLD and the impact that this had on the value of an undergraduate legal qualification. Our analysis demonstrates that those applying for and commencing undergraduate legal education are frequently unfamiliar with its scope, whilst also highlighting the role of groups such as further education law lecturers as sources of information for would-be undergraduates.

Data from our design activity enabled us to identify several extrinsic and intrinsic factors which participants drew on to make curriculum design choices. On the one hand, extrinsic factors which often led to the inclusion of traditionally core subjects included the perceived value of law degrees as a gateway to the legal professions, notwithstanding the end of the joint statement, and as a degree qualification for roles beyond the legal sector. On the other hand, participants frequently discussed legal studies contributing to their personal identity and sense of purpose, with calls for legal education to include a greater emphasis on what participants termed everyday law – law connected to their daily lives and place in society.

What are your next steps?

We were able to share some initial findings from this project at SLSA 2025 and brought data from this project and our other work into the undergraduate curriculum to run a hybrid half-day workshop earlier this summer. We are currently working on developing an academic output based on our analysis. One of the unexpected trends during data collection was participants expressing their interest in curriculum design and wishing there were further opportunities to share their perspectives; we are therefore currently exploring how to best develop the activities we created for this project into tools which other legal educators can use to explore the curriculum with students. Get in touch via [e gilesc4@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:gilesc4@lsbu.ac.uk) and [e yue.ang@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:yue.ang@brunel.ac.uk) to discuss making use of some of these activities yourself.

Teaching public law through empire's archive

Tom Frost, University of Kent, £1128.60

What were your research questions?

The dominant narrative in UK public law stresses the longevity and stability of the country's constitution. But this constitutional history omits the fact that the UK's past constitution was also the constitution of the British Empire. This research project set out to determine how the British empire shaped decisions in key constitutional cases from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. These are cases like *Phillips v Eyre* (1870), which was decided in the shadow of the Morant Bay Rebellion

in British Jamaica, and *Begum* (2022), which considered when British citizenship can be deprived. My aim was to discover how imperial doctrines, rationalities and policies shaped the legal decisions and constitutional doctrines laid down in those cases. I sought to discover relevant archival materials that recounted the words and testimonies from those involved in the disputes to enable me to retell the history and background of these cases, and the importance of the empire to the dispute, in a way not yet done systematically in the literature.

What did you use SLSA funding for?

I used it to conduct archival research at the National Archives and the Imperial War Museum (IWM) in London, relating to anticolonial struggles against the British Empire. I used my visits to the Archives to consult official records of the Morant Bay Rebellion in 1865. I also consulted files on the Malaya Emergency, which took place from 1948 to 1957, the Kenyan Emergency, which occurred from 1952 to 1960, and the Chagos Islands dispute, which started in the 1960s and continues to the present day. The IWM's Sound Archive contains thousands of oral interviews, including with soldiers and members of the armed forces who served with colonial forces through independence struggles across the British empire in the twentieth century.

What did you learn during the research?

Many constitutional doctrines have their origins in imperial rationalities and modes of thinking, including parliamentary sovereignty, the rule of law and the royal prerogative. As courts decide matters of law, not history, this imperial archival record is not part of many judgments, as historical events and disputes must be translated into heads of claim. The British empire is not a long-distant event with limited constitutional relevance. Court decisions are only ever a partial account of history and can serve to 'silence' the testimonies of witnesses and survivors. Those voices can provide a crucial historical perspective that enables us to understand and critique key judgments. Without understanding the ongoing influence of the British empire, we cannot understand the modern shape of UK public law.

What are your next steps?

A research monograph, *Empire's Law – Exploring Public Law through the Imperial Archive*, is under contract with the Hart Kent Critical Law Series for 2026. The monograph aims to show the importance of archival history for the teaching and understanding of UK public law, to both academics and law students.

people . . .

Professor LISA WEBLEY has been appointed Law Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law. She took up the post on 1 September 2025. All four current Law Commissioners are now female for the first time in the Commission's 60-year history. Lisa served as SLSA PGR Rep from 1999 to 2001, and as a member of the then Executive Committee until 2005, working as the SLSA's first email network administrator!

Professor RICHARD COLLIER, Newcastle University, has been appointed Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow. He will be working on the project 'Men, masculinities and legal professions: gender equity and the "man question"'. Richard received the SLSA Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community in 2022.

William Lawrence Twining (1934–2025): leading jurist and reformer of legal education and scholarship

William Twining, who died on 9 October 2025, was Britain's foremost and most influential architect and champion of a broader and more humanistic legal education and scholarship. David Sugarman, his friend and colleague, pays tribute.

A giant of an intellectual, William's impact was profound. His work on jurisprudence, legal method, evidence and proof, intellectual history, globalisation, and legal education galvanised generations of students, law teachers and practitioners worldwide. He inspired us by doggedly and perceptively giving voice to our baffled disillusionment with our own legal education and why legal education and scholarship were important and fascinating.

William was the go-to person on legal education reform, known for promoting 'law in context' and advancing the teaching of 'skills' as a major component of legal education. He challenged the prevailing assumption in the UK that law was a hermetically sealed discipline, overwhelmingly preoccupied with legal doctrine. Whilst accepting that doctrine was important, he demonstrated its limitations, showing how law could only be understood in its larger historical, social, cultural, political and ethical context, and in the light of its operation in practice. The pivotal 'law in context' book series that he and Robert Stevens launched in 1966 with Weidenfeld & Nicholson created a succession of 'counter textbooks' intended to subvert and transform law schools and legal writing. As General Editor of the series (1966–2020), he encouraged hundreds of experienced and novice authors to undertake legal scholarship in new ways.

William attached great importance to analytical rigour and conceptual analysis in law and socio-legal studies, harmonising theory and practice, and to the examination and refinement of one's own epistemological and methodological assumptions. His originality and importance stem partly from his incorporation of key facets of analytical jurisprudence, legal realism, legal pluralism and perspectives eschewing insularity and Eurocentric universalism. This was directly related to his long-standing crusade to widen and deepen Oxford-style analytical jurisprudence and build a bridgehead between it and socio-legal studies. A true Renaissance man, he drew freely on sources beyond law, notably, history, literature, anthropology and on Africa, thereby lending his work an exceptional breadth and depth.

Born in Uganda, for William East Africa remained a significant reference point and part of his self-identity throughout his life: he commented to me that he frequently felt like an expatriate anywhere else. While reading law at Oxford (1952–55), only the classes of Herbert Hart on analytical jurisprudence engaged him. Graduating with a 1st and searching for an intellectually challenging cause and career, he spent 1957–58 studying law at the University of Chicago, mentored by Karl Llewellyn, a leading figure in the American legal realist movement. William found Llewellyn's way of looking at law catalytic – fresh, whole, as it works, and with a sensitivity to legal pluralism – with his experience at Chicago graphically highlighting the invidious comparison between the US and UK in matters of legal education. England's legal profession frequently regarded legal education as a lower-level 'vocational' activity, akin to a university degree in plumbing, evoking much the same status, scepticism and ridicule. Hence, and despite the intellectual poverty of much training for legal practice, most English lawyers, and virtually all superior court judges, did

not study law at university. In America, academic university legal education was more institutionalised and accepted. The dogmatic textbook tradition continued to prevail in England and, as Gower complained, 'English teachers of law suffer from an acute inferiority complex' and were often in thrall of the profession. Those who practised, especially at the Bar, tended to regard university law teachers as self-defined failures, with few exceptions. Nor was academic law held in high esteem by colleagues from other faculties. William had found his cause, spending his subsequent professional career challenging these perceptions. Viewing a liberal legal education as essential in the training of lawyers and having a crucial impact on the wellbeing of society, his message was optimistic: with the implication that legal academics can become *de facto* cause lawyers, and that law and legal education are potentially transformative. Whilst not alone in championing these views, he, more than anyone else, evinced an exceptional dedication to their elaboration, dissemination and implementation.

In the late 1950s and 1960s, a cadre of fledgling British law teachers, including William, inspired by legal realism and their encounter with American legal education, elected to teach law in Africa. Working in and grappling with an alien legal system and culture demonstrated how law could only be understood 'in context', with this 'US–African moment' fostering an interest in legal education and its politics. On returning to Britain, these expatriates adapted for their British audiences the intellectual and pedagogical innovations fashioned for African ones.

William's experience at Chicago was deepened by his period teaching law at the University of Khartoum (1958–61) and at University College, Dar-es-Salaam (1961–65), and by his subsequent appointments at the Queen's University, Belfast (1965–72), Warwick (1972–82) and University College London (1983–2025). Supplemented by visiting posts, this enabled him to shape the direction of law schools, broaden and raise the calibre of law school appointments, and experiment with the field.

William's inaugural lecture at Belfast was his first public attempt to challenge the prevailing legal orthodoxy in UK legal education and became one of his most frequently cited and influential works. Similarly, his Hamlyn Lectures, focusing on the history, ambiguous role and true potential of the modern law school, immediately became the go-to account of modern English legal education. As an activist law reformer, he served as a member of many national and international committees and bodies on legal education. His final major book, *Jurist in Context* (2019), is a rich and detailed intellectual memoir, providing the best entry point to his life, thought and wide-ranging publications.

William was a wonderful friend, teacher, mentor, colleague and collaborator to many of us within and beyond the UK. His courtesy and diplomatic skills were disarming, no doubt helping him in his cause. Tolerance, open-mindedness, the accommodation of widely differing political opinions, inclusivity, and the promotion of intellectual freedom and engagement were key values. A good listener and gracious critic, he was always generous with his time and support for others.

Although his vision remains unfulfilled, many of his ideas are now commonplace. Socio-legal studies is more mainstream than hitherto, and academic law livelier, more diverse and contextual than ever. Whilst social, political and economic times are different from when William began his career, the values that he cherished remain relevant and challenging. He will be profoundly missed, but remembered with great admiration and no little awe.

A longer version of this article, with full references, is available to download on the [w website](#).

Three years of the JLS Website

Three years ago, the *Journal of Law and Society* (JLS), in partnership with the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff Law School, launched a brand new website: a unique and prestigious online space for scholars to explore ideas, concepts and methodologies that underpin socio-legal scholarship.

The website provides a wealth of resources to promote the transparency of the publishing process, from leading socio-legal scholars as well as first-hand accounts from early career researchers (ECRs) who have published in the JLS. A vibrant feature of the website is the JLS's inaugural blog, in which authors of JLS articles and socio-legal books are invited to provide 'behind the scenes' accounts of how they conducted their research, what inspired them to focus on their subject matter, and their perspectives on what further research is needed in their respective fields. Reaching approximately 2000 visitors per month, the blog is read widely by international academic audiences beyond the UK, particularly Australia, the United States, Hong Kong and mainland Europe.

To explore the resources and discussions available on the website, visit [w JLS website](#). For queries about the website or proposals for new posts, contact the website editor Jess Mant, [e jessica.mant@monash.edu](mailto:jessica.mant@monash.edu) or JLS administrator, Jasmine Hagger [e jasmine.hagger@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:jasmine.hagger@cardiff.ac.uk).

Law Teacher of the Year Award 2026: call for nominations

Nominations are now open for this year's Oxford University Press Law Teacher of the Year Award. The award aims to celebrate and reward those who really make a difference to their students' learning experience. It is the only national award to recognize and champion all-round law teaching excellence. The judges are looking for extraordinary teachers: those who are passionate about what they do, who add that extra special something to their teaching, and who inspire those they work with and teach. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **12 December 2025**.

Nuffield Foundation schemes open for outline applications

Strategic Fund

The Strategic Fund supports new, transformative ideas that are capable of anticipating and addressing the most significant themes and developments shaping the UK public policy agenda. With up to £15 million in the fund, proposals are invited that respond to one or more of the Foundation's priority questions. These are major grants, typically in the range of £1 million to £3 million. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **16 March 2026**.

Main Grants

Nuffield Foundation Main Grants Fund (the Research, Development and Analysis Fund) offers up to £500,000 for research that addresses one or more of the priority questions outlined in the Foundation's Strategic Review. In special cases, and by prior agreement, applications are accepted for up to £750,000, but most of the grants are below £300,000. See [w website](#) for details.

There are two application deadlines a year for this fund: one in spring and the other in autumn. The next deadline is **April 2026**.

CCRC: call for research proposals

The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) seeks to stimulate serious, independent academic research that will benefit the criminal justice system. In doing so, the CCRC has allowed controlled access to its casework records to assist projects exploring topics of practical use and interest. The CCRC is currently inviting proposals for new research projects. The deadline for submission of an initial proposal is **Friday 30 January 2026**. See [w website](#) for details.

Leverhulme Trust schemes open for applications

Emeritus Fellowships

These Fellowships are for senior researchers who have retired or partially retired from an academic post who wish to complete a research project and prepare the results for publication. The primary intention of the scheme is to support the facilitation, integration or completion of the applicant's own research output, rather than general further support for their research group or research assistants. Applications are invited for a minimum value of £3000 and a maximum of £24,000 and are tenable for between 3 and 24 months. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **29 January 2026**.

Leverhulme Centenary Doctoral Scholarships:

The Leverhulme Centenary Doctoral Scholarships scheme is also open for applications. While the scheme requirements remain largely as set out for the 2023 round, this round includes additional studentships, as well as funding for postdoctoral opportunities and programme administration costs. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **6 March 2026**.

Leverhulme Trust: Early Career Fellowships

The Leverhulme Trust Board has announced funding of an additional £3.35 million in the Early Career Fellowship scheme. From 2026, the scheme will see a reduction in the contribution required by universities. The Trust will fully fund the first year of fellowships, with match funding in years two and three. See [w website](#) for details. Scheme opens: **1 January 2026**. Closing date: **19 February 2026**.

AHRC and BBC New Generation Thinkers 2026

This scheme offers five ECRs the opportunity to work with programme makers at BBC Radio 4. They will appear on a number of episodes and shadow the production process to understand how ideas get on air. This scheme is for up-and-coming ECRs based at a UK research organisation eligible for this opportunity. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **28 January 2026**.

'Understanding sentencing decision-making': your expertise invited

Shan Plant, a PhD researcher at the University of Sussex, supervised by Dr Simon Flacks and Professor Hans Crombag, would be grateful for the help of colleagues with her socio-legal research. It involves completing a [survey](#) relating to sentencing and drugs/addiction.

Legal Resistance under Authoritarianism: The Struggle for the Rule of Law in Hong Kong (2025) Yan-ho Lai, Routledge £108hb/£34.39eb 342pp

This book examines the decline of Hong Kong's rule of law under China's expanding authoritarian influence. While the imposition of the National Security Law in 2020 is seen as a turning point, the author argues that threats to Hong Kong's rule of law began with the 1997 sovereignty transfer. Drawing on comprehensive fieldwork, the book explores tensions between the legal profession, political authorities and the state's broader authoritarian project from the 2014 Umbrella Movement to the 2019 Anti-extradition Bill Movement.

Future Flight Governance: Socio-legal, Environmental and Economic Approaches (2025) Mariela de Amstalden, Adam Packer & Michael Lewis, Routledge £116hb, 300pp

This book seeks to bridge disciplinary and scholarly gaps by bringing together a range of social science studies to capture state-of-the-art advancements in the field of advanced air technology governance as the vision for the future of aviation systems evolves. What the authors call 'future flight' encompasses a complex range of legal, social, economic, cultural and environmental issues that cut across a diverse range of sectors, stakeholders and disciplines, with chapters covering law, economics, and geography, alongside other relevant issues looking beyond conventional methodologies and traditional disciplines.

The Emotions of LGBT Rights and Reforms: Repairing Law (2025) Senthoran Sunil Raj, Routledge 256pp £95hb/open access ebook

This book analyses the emotions that shape conflicts of rights that emerge between different groups across law reforms aimed at better supporting LGBT people. It examines contemporary law reform debates about religious exceptions to anti-discrimination laws, legal gender recognition, bans on 'conversion therapy', and sex and LGBT education in schools from jurisdictions such as the UK, Australia and the US. Drawing on critical legal theories, this volume cultivates the concept of 'emotional grammar' to show how emotions structure law reform pursuits by threading together Hansard, legislation, case law, law reform consultations, and statutory guidance.

Manning the Law: Why the Legal Person Remains a Man (2025) Ngaire Naffine Hart £90hb/£81eb 248pp

This is a study of elite English men of English law and the methods they used to retain and justify their power and privilege through controlling the story of the legal person. It looks at how these men of legal authority thought of themselves and their institution; how they studied and explained law; and how they put themselves in the middle of it, as the standard human in need of legal regulation and protection and in charge of that regulation and protection, and assigned to women an inferior legal role and being.

Socio-Legal Studies on Epistemic Injustice and Spaces and Places (2025 in press) Mark L Flear, Ceri Davies-Tyrie & Daniel Wincott, Palgrave Macmillan Socio-Legal Series £119.99hb 226pp

This edited collection illuminates what the concept of a specifically epistemic type of injustice has to offer socio-legal analysts. The epistemic aspects of injustice comprise more than knowledges, meaning and understanding, to include the supporting material and discursive (infra) structures for their production and dissemination arising in space/place/time. The book focuses on legal and regulatory arrangements and the forms of knowledge and meaning they carry and with which they interact to bring to light their spatial and place-relatedness or boundedness, including their temporal dimensions at various scales.

Leftover Women in China: Understanding Legal Consciousness through Intergenerational Relationships (2025) Qian Liu, University of California Press £80hb/£30pb/£10.99eb 234pp or free ebook

This book offers an intimate analysis of the lived experience and legal consciousness of China's 'leftover women': those who remain unmarried in their late twenties and beyond. Drawing on interviews and focus groups, Liu examines how such women deal with parental and social pressure, as well as the denial of their right to have children outside of heterosexual marriage.

Epidemics and the Law from Plague to the Present (2025) Emily Gordon, Charles Mitchell & Ian Williams, Hart £95hb/£85.50 280pp

This collection of essays presents a socio-legal history of epidemics from the medieval period to the present day. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, it features contributions from scholars across a range of academic disciplines who consider the wider implications of epidemics and disease beyond the obvious health effects.

Socio-Legal Trajectories across Europe: Comparative Perspectives (2025) Christian Boulanger, Naomi Creutzfeldt & Jennifer Hendry (eds), Hart £90hb/£81eb 216pp

This book allows scholars from across Europe to reflect on the socio-political, legal and academic contexts in which they became the academics they are today. The chapters link individual scholars to the historical and contemporary factors that have shaped or influenced their work and careers. Use code GLR BD8 to claim 20% discount.

Equal Rights, Equal Voices: The CRPD and the Pursuit of Legal Capacity for Persons with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disability (2025) Paula Campos Pinto et al, Palgrave Macmillan £44.99hb/open access ebook

A critical socio-legal examination of the rights of people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, with a focus on the determination of their legal capacity in court and the wider consequences for their self-determination, this book draws on a research project featuring stories and court cases of disabled people, and reflections on lessons learned from legal systems around the world where reforms on article 12 have occurred.

Routledge Studies in Courts and Legal Systems: new book series – call for proposals

Routledge Studies in Courts and Legal Systems is a book series which covers aspects relating to courts in civil and criminal proceedings, and appellate courts and judges in both domestic and international courts. See **announcement** for further details. If you have an idea for a monograph, an edited collection, or a short focus book and you would like to submit a book proposal, or if you have any queries, please get in contact with the series editor, Nicola Monaghan at e n.monaghan@worc.ac.uk.

Disability Judgments: call for expressions of interest

Beverley Clough, Eilionóir Flynn and Anna Lawson, the editors of the new series Hart Studies in Disability, Law, and Justice, invite expressions of interest for contributing to the Disability Judgments collection. See **announcement** for details. Call closes: **30 November 2025**.

Amicus Curiae 7.1: now published

The latest issue of *Amicus Curiae* has been edited by Dr Maria Federica Moscati. Among its wide-ranging content it features a special section on the **Queer Judgments Project**, edited by Katie Jukes and Alex Powell, and another on 'Law's Spaces and Places', edited by Andrew Benjamin Bricker, a collaborative project from the IALS **Law and Humanities Hub** exploring law's spatial dimensions in Central London.

- **AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH, ROLE OF THE CORONER IN DVI**
10 December 2025: *Bush House, King's College London*
See [announcement](#) and [website](#).
- **PGR AND ECR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**
10 December 2025: *Leeds Beckett University*
Organised by Professor Jill Dickinson as part of the Pracademia in Law Schools SLSA-funded internationalisation project.
See [website](#) for details.
- **PROTECTING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION IN AN AI ERA**
11 December 2025: *OUP Virtual Panel Discussion*
See [website](#) for details of this OUP event.
- **COMMON LAW: A BETTER FOUNDATION FOR A FREE SOCIETY**
11 December 2025: *Hong Kong Theatre, LSE*
See [website](#) for details.
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE IN LAW AND BUSINESS: BRIDGING PERSPECTIVES AND ADVANCING CHANGE: CFP**
12 December 2025: *Online from Leeds Trinity University*
See [announcement](#) for details. Call closes: 28 November 2025.
- **RESISTANCE AND AGENCY IN THE DIGITAL SOCIETY: BEYOND LITERACY, TRANSPARENCY, AND RISK ASSESSMENT**
15 December 2025: *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*
See [website](#) for details.
- **IS AI THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCE? A DEBATE**
15 December 2025: *UCL Institute of Education, London*
See [website](#) for details.
- **DECOLONISING THE BODY: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**
14 January 2026: *School of Law and Social Justice, Liverpool*
See [website](#) for details of this SLSA seminar. Call closes: 28 November 2025.
- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE TROUBLE FOR AUTHORSHIP**
22 January 2026: *University College London*
See [website](#) for details.
- **REFLECTIVE PRACTICE AND THE PRACADEMIC: INSIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**
28 January 2026: *online*
Speaker: Dr Michele Leering (Queen's University, Canada).
This event is part of the Pracademia in Law Schools SLSA-funded internationalisation project. See [website](#) for details.
- **FAMILY MEMORY AND THE OFFICIAL HISTORY MACHINE: A FEMINIST CRITIQUE OF THE BRITISH PUBLIC INQUIRY**
29 January 2026: *UCL Laws, London*
Speaker: Professor Máiréad Enright, Loughborough University. See [website](#) for details.
- **BEYOND THE STATE: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONCEPTUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONSTITUTION AND SOCIETY**
29–31 January 2026: *Institut Universitaire de France, Paris*
See [website](#) for details.
- **MODERN STUDIES IN PROPERTY LAW**
30 March 2026: *University of Southampton*
See [announcement](#) for further details.
- **SLSA 2026: CFP**
30 March–1 April 2026: *University of Sussex*
Calls for papers, posters and bursary applications close on 18 December 2025. See [website](#) for details.
- **THE LAW OF SUCCESSION AND THE WILLS BILL: CALL FOR PAPERS**
13 April 2026: *Selwyn College, Cambridge*
See [website](#) for details. Closing date: 21 December 2025.
- **NEW TECHNOLOGY, AI AND GENDER EQUALITY: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS – CFP**
15 April 2026: *University of Southampton*
See [announcement](#) and [website](#) for details. Call closes: 5 January 2026.
- **EVIDENCE MATTERS BEFORE REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COURTS: THE AFRICAN COURT IN CRITICAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**
11–13 May 2026: *Pretoria, South Africa*
See [website](#) for details.
- **LSA ANNUAL MEETING 2026**
28–31 May 2026: *Hilton Union Square, San Francisco*
See [website](#) for details.
- **LAW, CULTURE, AND THE HUMANITIES: 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – CFP**
17–18 June 2026: *DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, Illinois*
See [website](#) for details. Call closes: 31 January 2026.
- **LAW AND HUMANITIES ROUNDTABLE 2026: VISIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN ART AND LITERATURE - CFP**
19 June 2026: *Trinity College Dublin*
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **LEGAL HUMANITIES AND CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**
1–2 July 2026: *University of Southampton*
See [announcement](#) for details. Call closes: 1 December 2025.
- **PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE: CFP**
22–24 July 2026: *Sapienza University of Rome, Italy*.
This conference will be preceded by a WINIR Young Scholars Workshop on Tuesday 21 July 2026. See [website](#) for details.
Call closes: 19 February 2026.

Social and Legal Studies

34(5) October 2025

Living with a sense of a right to hope – Sarah Trotter

How does legal culture matter for climate mobilities? A case study in an unplanned coastal settlement in urban Mozambique – Simon Halliday, Eric Hoddy, Jonathan Ensor, Christine Wamsle, Emily Boyd & Amelia Macome

Digital colonialism beyond surveillance capitalism? Coloniality of knowledge in Nigeria's emerging privacy rights legislation and border surveillance practices – Samuel Singler & Olumide Babalola

Forensic radiology and the testimony of shadows – Marc Trabsky & Averyl Gaylor

Problematising the 'man problem' in the Domestic Abuse Act: discursive co-option and the (in)visibility of gender – Sharron FitzGerald & Anna Carline

From European roots to settler soil: adapting Foucault's biopolitics to Canadian settler colonialism – Amy Swiffen

Storytelling and listening in transitional justice processes: addressing the marginalisation of more-than-human worlds – Janine Natalya Clark

SLSA 2026: CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

The call for papers and posters for the SLSA Annual Conference 2026 is now open!

The conference will be hosted by the University of Sussex from **30 March to 1 April 2026**. Authors wishing to present at the conference should visit the **w conference website**. Submission of abstracts is via **Oxford Abstracts**.

Please choose the most appropriate stream or current topic for your proposed paper and prepare an abstract of no more than 250 words. Deadline for submissions: **18 December 2025**. If you wish to enter the Poster Competition you should also submit an abstract by this date. 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. Full details on conference participation, sustainability and accessibility, as well as food options at the conference can be found on the **w website**. For general queries, please contact the Conference Team: **e slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk**.

Current topics

Converging frontiers: evolving dimensions of terrorism, security, and threats

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Samantha Stark **e s.j.stark@lancaster.ac.uk**

Dance/law

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Sean Mulcahy **e s.mulcahy@latrobe.edu.au**

Death, dying, and the dead

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

Law in the culture wars

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Max Morris **e maxmorris@brookes.ac.uk**

Legal consciousness in context: discussions on theory and methods

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Animal Law, Sentience and Rights

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Armed conflict, justice and law

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Children's rights

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Constitutionalism in developing democracies

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Exploring legal borderlands: empirical and interdisciplinary methods

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Articles

- AI as legal persons – past, patterns, and prospects
 – Claudio Novelli, Luciano Floridi, Giovanni Sartor & Gunther Teubner
- Ordinary courts, informal justice efforts and accountability for massive human rights violations in Syria – Brigitte Herremans & Tine Destrooper
- Harm behind the counter: ‘regulatory labour’ and the offloading of risk onto frontline employees in the post Gambling Act era – Samuel Kirwan, Joshua Torrance, Joanna Large & Kirwan Samuel
- The local injustice of bankruptcy: geographical variation in access to debt relief within England – Joseph Spooner & Saul Schwartz
- Epistemic struggles in legislating animal welfare: competing constructions of the public interest – Matias Koivulehto
- Territory, values, and health law in a devolved UK: examining the role of the gift in opt-out organ donation – John Harrington, Anne-Maree Farrell, Ruby Reed-Berendt & Matthew Watkins
- Division of labour in social movements: the interplay between legal mobilization and public protests in Swedish mining resistance – Daniel Fjellborg & Karin Lindahl
- Reforming surrogacy law: what can we learn from children’s artwork? – Katherine Wade & Charlotte Mills
- Profitable insecurities: trade mark law, misleading advertising and body image perceptions in the UK – Luminita Olteanu
- Book reviews**
- Inducing Intimacy* by Chloë Kennedy – Tsachi Keren-Paz
- A Sociology of Post-Imperial Constitutions* by Chris Thornhill – Martin Ramstedt
- Law and Film* edited by Vittoria Becci et al – Peter Goodrich

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