

## Membership of the SLSA Board of Trustees

The SLSA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Under its Constitution, the object of the SLSA is: for the public benefit to advance education and learning in the field of socio legal studies and to promote research, the useful results of which shall be published for the public benefit, teaching and the dissemination of knowledge in the field’.

In pursuit of these aims, the SLSA is strengthened by the commitment and experience of the whole breadth of its membership. We are keen to encourage members of all backgrounds to put themselves forward for election as Trustees. The Board is guided by the SLSA’s [EDI policy](#) and ongoing work in that field and is keen to redress historic underrepresentation in the association and in the legal academy more broadly.

The SLSA’s major sources of income are membership fees and the surplus made from the Annual Conference. The SLSA Board is the governing body of the CIO. It meets three times a year, in mid-September, mid-January and mid-May, in hybrid format or wholly on-line, and communicates between meetings via a JISCMail email list.

The term of office of Trustees is three years, with the option to be re-elected for a further three years. After serving for a continuous period of six years a Trustee must stand down from the Board for at least a year (and may then re-nominate if they wish). Other non-Trustee Board members are invited rather than elected, in order to perform a particular function (e.g. the Webmaster) or if we wish to fulfil a particular representative purpose (e.g. Precarity Rep). Such members may serve for an indefinite period.

The SLSA will reimburse your travel expenses to attend Board meetings, but since we are using members’ funds to do so, we will only cover second-class, advance-purchase rail fares. If you need to fly, exceptionally, you will need to book as early as possible. There is an [expense form](#) for claiming reimbursement.

The activities of the SLSA Board fall into the following categories:

- 1 Office bearers: Trustees may stand for election as an Ex-officio Trustee. There are five Ex-Officio Trustees: the Chair, Vice-chair, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary
- 2 In addition, Trustees may volunteer for the Trustee posts of Recruitment Secretary; International Liaison Officer; Publisher Liaison Officer; YouTube Channel Editor; Data Protection Officer; Blog Editor; and other roles such as Precarity Rep and Social Media Officer. There are also two Postgraduate Representatives (who are not trustees and must be postgraduates). We also have a permanent Newsletter, website and ebulletin editor; a Webmaster; and an Administrator.
- 3 There are a number of committees and working groups which carry out particular functions:
  - Grants Subcommittee;
  - Book Prizes Subcommittee;
  - Seminar Competition Subcommittee;
  - Impact Subcommittee;
  - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee;

- International Subcommittee;
- Stream & Conference Subcommittee;
- Open Access Working Group;
- PGR Group;
- Interdisciplinarity Working Group; and
- Research Ethics Subcommittee.

Sub-committees may also be set up on an ad hoc basis to deal with a particular issue, for example, future conferences. Each member of the Board is expected to join one or more subcommittees.

- 4** Policy decisions: Policy issues raised at Board meetings are discussed and decided on by the whole Board. These can include issues relating to the annual conference, ideas for new funding schemes or requests for funding support from the SLSA, or suggestions for nominations of eminent socio-legal scholars to be Fellows of the Academy of Social Science. The annual Prize for Contributions to the Socio-legal Community and the annual Article Prize are also decided by the Board as a whole. Since the SLSA Board only meets three times per year, members are expected to prioritise attendance at these meetings.

Contributing to submissions: The SLSA is invited to or considers it important to make submissions on a range of consultations concerning socio-legal and higher education (eg. those related to the Research Excellence Framework, or development of UKRI policy). If you have particular expertise or interest in a topic, your input into the SLSA's submission will be welcomed.

- 5** Representing the Board at events and on committees: The Chair receives regular invitations to attend various events. If the Chair cannot attend, the Chair will email the Board to see if anyone else is available and willing to go on behalf of the SLSA. Less frequently we are asked to nominate a representative to a committee and again, the Chair will email the Board and ask for volunteers.
- 6** Generally promoting and supporting the SLSA. This might include encouraging colleagues to join the SLSA, proposing a topic for a one-day conference, contributing to the Newsletter if requested, or attending SLSA-sponsored events. Board members are expected to attend the Annual Conference unless absence is completely unavoidable.

By engaging in the above activities, you will have the opportunity to gain considerable knowledge of current issues in the research environment, in legal education and in higher education generally, gain experience in assessing funding applications and/or research outputs, contribute ideas to the development of the SLSA and what we offer our members, learn about the running of an association, take on a leadership role and pursue networking opportunities. These can be of benefit to your own academic career as well to your institution.

You are probably aware that the SLSA website is a vast trove of information: [www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk). Any questions can often be answered there. Otherwise, feel free to ask contact [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk) or SLSA Chair [HarringtonJ3@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:HarringtonJ3@cardiff.ac.uk).