

# Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER No 88 SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2019

## A WONDERFUL YORKSHIRE WELCOME IN LEEDS!

*The SLSA Annual Conference was held this year at the University of Leeds, from 3–5 April, centred around the iconic Parkinson Court. With almost 580 delegates, it was a huge and vibrant conference, with attendees from around the UK and the rest of the globe.*

Over 500 paper abstracts were received and presented across 43 streams and current topics, ranging across almost all conceivable areas of socio-legal scholarship. We also had one of the largest poster presentations this year, with 28 posters displayed around Parkinson Court.

The fruits of the hard work by the SLSA PGR reps was seen in full, with a strong presence from PGR delegates (over 200 registrations from PGRs, making up 36 per cent of the delegates) and a very successful PGR session and networking scheme which took place on the Wednesday morning before the commencement of the conference (see page 3 for more details). Huge thanks must go to Tahir Abass and Rachael Blakey for taking the PGR membership from strength to strength, and to Sarah Humphreys for running a wonderful session on identity.

The conference team also organised three tours – one of the ‘Owl Trail’ around the history of the city, a tour of the public art on the campus, and a trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on Friday afternoon. These were well attended, alongside the now-traditional welcome drinks on Wednesday evening. The plenary took place in the beautiful Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall, and focused on ‘Arts and Accessibility’. The session explored the ideas of accessibility for and representation of disabled people in the arts – and included a powerful dance performance choreographed by one of the speakers, Lynn Shaw.

A fully booked conference dinner took place on the Thursday evening in the legendary Refectory, where the prizes were announced by SLSA chair Rosie Harding (see page 4 for the full list), including the Prize for Contributions to the Socio-



From left: Professors Fiona Cownie, Rosie Harding and Tony Bradney at the 2019 prizegiving

Legal Community, which went to Professors Fiona Cownie and Tony Bradney.

It is not always easy, as the organiser of a conference, to see how things are ‘really happening’ – but a number of people have told us how energising and intellectually engaging they found the panels they attended, with good audiences and constructive feedback for speakers.

The **SLSA 2019** conference website is still live, with both the conference programme and abstract booklet available to download. We hope to see you all in Portsmouth next year, where we will be enjoying just being delegates once again! For now, huge thanks to everyone who has helped and supported us in hosting SLSA in Leeds this year – it’s been a privilege and a pleasure!

*Jo Hawkins, Imogen Jones, Amanda Keeling and Chloe Wallace:  
the SLSA 2019 team*

## ANNUAL PRIZE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIO-LEGAL COMMUNITY: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

*This prize was launched in 2011 and in its first eight years has been awarded to Mavis Maclean, Phil Thomas, Roger Cotterrell, Sally Wheeler, Martin Partington, Linda Mulcahy, Mike Adler, and jointly to Tony Bradney and Fiona Cownie (see above). The winner receives £500 and lifetime membership of the association.*

SLSA members are invited to submit nominations for this year’s prize. There are no specific criteria. Nominators should simply state in 100 words why the person they are nominating would be a worthy recipient of the prize. The prize is funded by a private sponsor.

Visit [w website prizewinners’ page](#) to find out why the seven previous winners were chosen.

Nominations should be sent by email to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk). Closing date: **Monday 2 September 2019**.

### Download this issue for instant access

The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is also available as a pdf for download to your smartphone or other device, giving you instant and permanent access not just to all the news and features, but all the embedded links. No more putting off booking for that conference, or buying that book!



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**Newsletter sponsorship**

The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is sponsored by a consortium of law schools interested in promoting socio-legal studies in the UK. If your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, please contact SLSA chair Rosie Harding e r.j.harding@bham.ac.uk.

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The newsletter is also sponsored by the *Journal of Law and Society*.



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## EXEC NEWS

### Changing the legal status of the SLSA

Following unanimous agreement from the AGM to our resolution to register the SLSA as an association model Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the SLSA Exec took the next steps at its May 2019 meeting. Members will be kept informed of developments as appropriate.

### Changes to Executive Committee

At its May 2019 meeting the SLSA Exec was delighted to welcome two new members who were elected at the AGM: Philip Bremner, Sussex, and Rebecca Moosavian, Leeds. Diamond Ashiagbor, Kent University, previously co-opted to the Exec, was also elected at the AGM.

At the same Exec meeting, Antonia Layard, Bristol, was elected as the new vice chair, and the chairs and memberships of the various subcommittees were refreshed. Full details can be found on the **Exec page** of the SLSA website where you can also find minutes of past Exec meetings and AGMs.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Many memberships fall due in July. Please ensure that your membership fees are paid to avoid being chased for payment. The annual full membership fee is £40 (student rate £20). To renew, simply transfer the relevant payment to the SLSA account:

- **bank:** Co-operative Bank
- **sort code:** 08-92-99
- **account number:** 65209341
- **account name:** Socio-Legal Studies Association

Bank payments are manually matched to your membership account so please ensure that your full name is clearly stated in the merchant reference.

Existing members can check their membership profile in the members' area of the **w website**.

In exceptional circumstances where a bank transfer payment is not possible, you can send a cheque made out to the 'Socio-Legal Studies Association' to SLSA Treasurer, Vanessa Munro, School of Law, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

*Don't forget that many of the SLSA's initiatives are only open to fully paid-up members (or those registered as free student members), including the research and fieldwork grants – see page 7.*

## AcSS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

As a member of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), the SLSA can nominate eminent socio-legal scholars for appointment as academicians. Full details of the process are available on the **w AcSS website**.

The paramount requirement for successful nomination is that the nominee be 'a leading figure in their field and have already left a clear mark on it'. The AcSS notes that suitable nominees should 'merit the esteem of their peers for the excellence of their work and their championing of social science'.

SLSA members already admitted as fellows include all the winners of our prestigious annual prize. See the **w AcSS website** for the full list of current fellows.

Please send nominations (maximum 500 words) to Vanessa Munro **e** v.munro@warwick.ac.uk by **2 September 2019**.

## POSTGRAD NEWS

SLSA 2019 kicked off on the Wednesday morning with the PGR activities. This year Sarah Humphreys from the University of Leeds delivered a workshop on Identity, Wellbeing and Postgraduate Research. The aim of the interactive workshop was to enable PGRs to reflect on and develop an understanding of our identity, enabling us to think about who we are, where we belong in the world and our purpose – including our potential future identity – and how this relates to understanding ourselves as postgraduate researchers.

The session was really successful for a number of reasons. For instance, the feedback demonstrated how PGRs will take forward and practically apply what they had learned in the workshop to their everyday lives. But also, it was a brilliant opportunity for PGRs to break the ice, to get to know each other and engage and network before the main conference. The workshop was followed by the annual ECR/PGR Networking Scheme. Many thanks to the eight ECRs who volunteered their free time to sit with PGRs and give them advice on the PhD process, applying for academic jobs and well-being. We both had an amazing time and feedback was again overwhelmingly positive.

Thanks so much to everyone who attended SLSA 2019 to make it such a welcoming and supportive environment for postgraduate students. The number of PGRs attending was incredibly high this year and we hope this trend continues. If you have any thoughts or suggestions about how things can be improved for PGRs at Portsmouth 2020, please let us know. You can also email us about general queries (or to advertise an event) at **e** slsapgprep@gmail.com. See you all soon!

*Tahir Abass and Rachael Blakey*

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Next copy deadline: **21 October 2019**  
 Next publication date: **25 November 2019**

### SLSA admin

The SLSA has a dedicated email address for applications for and queries about all prizes, competitions and funding schemes:  
**e** admin@slsa.ac.uk

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## The newsletter needs you

The next copy deadline is **21 October 2019**. Please send your news; publications; research information; new jobs/promotions/awards; articles; events and anything else of interest to socio-legal colleagues to Marie Selwood **e** marieselwood@btinternet.com or **t** 01227 770189.

## SLSA PRIZES 2019

Many congratulations to this year's prizewinners whose names were announced at the Annual Conference dinner in Leeds on 4 April 2019.

### Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community

- Professor Tony Bradney and Professor Fiona Cownie: see [w prizewinners page](#) on the website for Professor Phil Thomas's nomination statement.

### Hart–SLSA Book Prize

- Charlotte O'Brien (2017) *Unity in Adversity: EU citizenship, social justice and the cautionary tale of the UK*, Hart/Bloomsbury

### Hart–SLSA Prize for Early Career Academics

- Maureen Duffy (2018) *Detention of Terrorism Suspects: Political discourse and Fragmented practices*, Hart/Bloomsbury

### SLSA Theory and History Prize

- David Churchill (2017) *Crime Control and Everyday Life in the Victorian City: The police and the public*, Oxford University Press

### SLSA Article Prize

- Máiréad Enright (2019) "'No. I won't go back': national time, trauma and legacies of symphysiotomy in Ireland' in S M Benyon-Jones and E Grabham (eds), *Law and Time*, Routledge, 46–74
- Marie Fox and Michael Thomson (2017) 'Bodily integrity, embodiment, and the regulation of parental choice' *Journal of Law and Society* 44(4): 501–31

### SLSA Poster Competition

- **First prize:** Lauren Cooper, Cardiff University, 'Do asylum seekers play an active role in their asylum appeal?', Cardiff University
- **Second prize:** Jessica Randall, 'Queery-ing trans families: the recognition of transgender relationships in the EU and its impact on trans families', University of Liverpool

## SLSA 2019 Twitter competition winners

During SLSA annual conferences, Twitter is always a hive of activity. Leeds 2019 was no exception – and this year, we hosted a special competition for our tweeting members.

During the conference, presenters were asked to summarise their papers in just a three-word tweet, using the hashtag #threewordpaper. Not an easy feat for many researchers!

We had many excellent responses, which ranged from innovative uses of the word limit – '(Re)modelling Socio-Legal Research' (Amanda Perry-Kessaris), to the more succinct 'Crip? Queer? Rights!' (Danielle Watson), to the outright intriguing 'Chase The Money' (Rosemary Toll).

Following the conference, the entries were all put to a public poll, and the top three #threewordpaper entries voted by our members were:

- 1 'Colonialism Ruins Everything' (Jen Hendry and Alex Green)
- 2 'Sound, Noise, Distinguish?' (Shane Burke)
- 3 'Time is Plural' (Mitch Travis and Fae Garland)

In the coming weeks, make sure you look out for some extra-special guest SLSA blog posts from our winners expanding upon their entries and telling us more about their exciting research.

The first of these, by Jen Hendry and Alex Green, is already available on the [SLSA Blog](#).

Stay tuned for more social media news and competitions as we look forward to Portsmouth 2020!

Jess Mant

- **Third prize:** Ini-Obong Nkang, 'Trafficking? In football? Yes!', Nottingham Trent University

Jessica Randall (second prizewinner), Ini-Obong Nkang (third prizewinner and Louise Taylor (shortlisted) have written blogs on Sociology Lens on the subject of their posters. Follow the links for [Jessica's](#), [Ini-Obong's](#) and [Louise's](#) blogs.

## CALL FOR BOOK AND ARTICLE PRIZE NOMINATIONS 2019

Nominations are now open for this year's book and article prizes. There are four prizes:

- the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize;
- the Socio-Legal Article Prize;
- the Hart Socio-Legal Prize for Early Career Academics;
- and the Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize.

The closing date is Monday 7 October 2019. Publications published in the 12 months up to 30 September 2019 are eligible.

The first three prizes are generously sponsored by Hart Publishing. The Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize is sponsored by a private benefactor and the same rules apply for this as for the other book prizes, but no book or author will be eligible to win the Theory and History Prize and the Book Prize or Prize for Early Career Academics in the same year.

The winners of all the book prizes will receive £250 and the winner of the article prize will receive £100. Shortlists will be published in the spring issue of the newsletter and winners will be announced at next year's conference dinner in Portsmouth. Full details can be found on the SLSA [w website prizes page](#) and follow the prizes links. If you have a query about any of the prizes, please contact [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

## Forthcoming SLSA events

Each year the SLSA runs or supports a number of workshops, seminars and conferences both in the UK and abroad, either independently or in partnership with academic institutions or other learned associations. Here is a round-up of events planned for the rest of 2019 and early 2020.

- 'The Perennial Problem of Disclosure – A Way Forward?', University of the West of England, Bristol, 3 July 2019 [w website](#)
- 'Socio-Legal Methodology Master Class', St Catherine's College Oxford, 29–30 July 2019 [w website](#)
- 'Socio-legal Studies in Germany and the UK: Theory and Methods', Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, 23–24 September 2019 [w website](#).
- 'SLSA Postgraduate Conference', University of Edinburgh, 8–9 January 2020
- 'SLSA 2020, University of Portsmouth', 1–3 April 2020
- 'Legal Design: Concepts, Methods, Norms and Examples', City, University of London, April 2020 (dates tbc) [w website](#)
- 'Interdisciplinarity as Resistance', Gothenburg, Sweden, 23–25 April 2020 [w website](#)
- 'Workshopping a Feminist Judicial Review' (venue and date tba) [w website](#)

## SEMINAR COMPETITION

*Congratulations to the winners of this year's competition, listed below. A report on the first event follows.*

- Moniza Rizzini Ansari, Birkbeck University of London: £1240, 'Law at the Margins of the City' **26 March 2019** – venue: Birkbeck
- Kay Lalor, Manchester Metropolitan University: £1600, 'Here Versus There 1: Beyond Comparison in Queer and Sexuality Politics' **17 June 2019** – venue: Maynooth University; and 'Here Versus There 2: Academic-Activist Exigencies in Neoliberal Modernity: Transnationalizing queer-feminist lives' **20 June 2019** – venue: Manchester Metropolitan University
- Ed Johnston, University of the West of England: £1500, 'The Perennial Problem of Disclosure – A Way Forward?' **3 July 2019** – venue: Bristol Law School
- Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Kent Law School, and Emily Allbon, City, University of London: £1527, 'Legal Design: Concepts, methods, norms and examples' **April 2020** (date tbc) – venue: City, University of London
- Rose Sydney Parfitt, Kent University: £2000, 'Interdisciplinarity as Resistance, 23–25 April 2020' – venue: Konstepidemin Arts Centre, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Nicole Busby, Strathclyde University: £1950, 'Workshopping a Feminist Judicial Review' – date and venue tbc

### Law at the Margins of the City

**26 March 2019, Birkbeck School of Law, £1240**

This event was hosted by Birkbeck School of Law on **26 March 2019**. The conference was organised by postgraduate researchers Carolina Amadeo, Moniza Rizzini Ansari and Harley Ronan, with the support of the SLSA, as well as Birkbeck School of Law and the Centre for Research on Race and Law. The aim was to bring researchers and activists from various disciplines into a dialogue with legal scholarship and to identify research gaps in the intersection of law, financialisation, race and urban poverty.

Opening the discussions, Raquel Rolnik (University of Sao Paulo) presented her keynote address in which she drew on her experience as former UN special rapporteur on adequate housing to demonstrate the worldwide patterns of colonisation of cities by finance, exploring the role of law in facilitating these renewed forms of racialised poverty, exclusion and dispossession. Josh Ryan-Collins (Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, UCL) acted as discussant.

A discussion panel followed to explore in detail how property law and real estate developments prompt racialised socio-spatial exclusion. Sarah Keenan (Birkbeck School of Law and Centre for Research on Race and Law) focused on the divorce of ownership from its control, through her work on the digitalisation of land title registration. Priya Gupta (Southwestern Law School) discussed financialisation as both a phenomenon and a rationality and culture, presenting case studies that show how finance coupled with law have changed the governance of cities.

The second panel brought together academics and activists to share concrete experiments in which law and legal practices have been used as instruments for resistance to urban exclusionary dynamics. David Thomas, researcher and activist for Brighton and Hove Housing Coalition, reported the campaign for a Homeless Bill of Rights. Melissa García Lamarca, housing-rights activist and researcher at the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability, presented several cases in which collective direct action is used to either



*There was a full house at the Law at the Margins of the City seminar at Birkbeck in March*

disobey or enact the law. Finally, Simon Elmer, Architects for Social Housing, presented the experiences of the Architects for Social Housing, a collective he co-founded.

The final panel session theorised insurgent legal practices and explored the relationship between law and social movements. George Meszaros (Warwick School of Law) addressed mobilisations around legal issues and how institutionalisation plays out with radical practices of social movements. Francesco Salvini Ramas (Kent Law School) explored how to deal with the production of rights by social movements. The discussion of the panel remained around the idea of subjects circulating in and out of what is recognised as law.

Finally, a keynote lecture by Denise Ferreira da Silva (University of British Columbia) focused on the issue of raciality and its connection to coloniality. She addressed how criminal law and law enforcement institutions play a violent part in the construction of racialised bodies. Nadine El-Enany (Birkbeck School of Law and Centre for Research on Race and Law) acted as discussant.

The day ended with the book launch of Raquel Rolnik's *Urban Warfare: Housing under the empire of finance* (Verso 2019).

**Moniza Rizzini Ansari**

### One-day conferences

The SLSA occasionally sponsors one-day conferences, seminars or workshops of broad interest to the socio-legal community. One-day events should be fully costed and self-funding and will usually involve a member of the SLSA Executive Committee in an organisational role. The SLSA may be able to underwrite the event to a limited extent and/or provide endorsement. If you have an idea for a one-day conference and would like an indication of the SLSA's interest, please contact [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk), or approach a member of the Executive Committee directly to discuss your ideas. Proposals for underwriting should include an outline of the concept, an indication of proposed speakers and/or call for papers, venue, timing, number of attendees and a draft budget showing full costs and how those costs will be covered by registration fees and/or from other sources. Please see [w webpage](#) for details of past and future events under this initiative.

### SLSA Blog

The SLSA blog went live in summer 2016 and has proved a great success, attracting regular posts and a steady stream of visitors. The blogeditors welcome contributions. If you have an idea for a short article (maximum 1000 words) on a hot topic of interest to your SLSA colleagues and others, please email [e blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk). See [w SLSABlog](#).

## SLSA OA WORKING GROUP

At its January meeting, the SLSA established an Open Access (OA) working group to monitor new developments in OA following recent moves in relation to the international 'Plan S' initiative. The group is chaired by John Harrington, Cardiff University, and its current members are Smita Kheria, Antonia Layard, Marie Selwood and Tom Webb.

Plan S was launched by Science Europe in September 2018. It is an initiative of **cOAlition S**, a consortium assembled by the European Research Council, research agencies and funders from 12 European countries (later supplemented by other funders including the Wellcome Trust and the Gates Foundation). It commits participating funders to harmonise their selection criteria for research proposals after January 2021 so that only projects with open access publishing will be funded from that point onwards. Some funders already do this, but few impose sanctions on researchers if they do not comply. In addition journals which are currently hybrid (i.e. with some material published behind a 'paywall') have until 2024 to transition to full open access.

Plan S links funding for research and OA publication and does so on a much larger scale than anything we have seen so far. Put simply, it envisages a move by publishers from 'charging readers' to 'charging authors' at least as regards new publications. While the OA rules for REF 2021 will remain unchanged, Plan S will be of considerable significance to all socio-legal scholars in the medium and longer term.

The following issues have been widely raised in relation to Plan S:

1. Larger publishers are claimed to be effectively *double-dipping* by charging article publishing charges (APCs) for new articles, as well as subscription fees for those in their archives. This has increased the costs of publishing, rather than reducing them as had been intended.
2. The predicted effects on *small, independent and society publishers* raise concerns for the viability of these publishers, i.e. APCs will not fully replace the income from subscription fees. This income is used to support a wide range of societies' activities (e.g. prizes, awards) which support and renew specific disciplines.
3. Setting a fair and reasonable APC is likely to be very *difficult and imprecise*. In particular it is nearly impossible to quantify

essential labour and goodwill of the scholars, reviewers and contributors who sustain the work of journals.

4. The APC model creates the risk that publishers will seek to *maximise the volume of papers published* in order to maximise revenue, presenting clear risks to the quality and integrity of journals, and to academic freedom.
5. Not all authors will have *access to funds* to enable APC fees to be paid. These include researchers and scholars who are not externally funded (i.e. with grants). This is particularly acute in social sciences and humanities disciplines, by comparison with STEM.
6. *Independent scholars and practitioners* associated with research are particularly at risk in this regard.
7. In the absence of external funding scholars will depend on the willingness of their *institutions to fund* APCs. Again, the likelihood of this will depend on the resources available to the institution, and its willingness to fund particular types of publication.
8. Scholars in the *global south* may **lack resources** to fund APCs and as a result be locked out from publishing in northern-based journals.
9. Thus, the move to OA *reverses one aspect of the current accessibility problem*, whereby many institutions in the global south cannot afford subscription fees. Increasingly, they will be able to access published scholarship. However, *it raises new barriers* to contributing to it.
10. Where they can, this may be dependent on the *agreement of northern-based partners* in projects funded under, for example, the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund. This would reproduce existing asymmetries and inequalities in the production of knowledge about those countries.

The SLSA is in a good position to monitor the situation going forward as it does not publish a journal and is therefore not directly affected by the financial implications of the changing journal publication model. However, it should be noted that the SLSA benefits from contributions towards the association's scholarly activities from several journals, and some members of the Executive Committee sit on the editorial boards of a number of journals, including members of the OA Working Group.

At its May meeting the SLSA Exec agreed to keep a watching brief on developments in this area and will report to members as appropriate. Consistent with Plan S, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is currently conducting an Open Access Review and is expected to report on its findings in early 2020. The SLSA will contribute to this process when the opportunity arises. Our OA Working Group actively welcomes your own views and insights on this issue. Write to us at [e openaccess@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@slsa.ac.uk).

In the meantime, the SLSA's own OA guidance, produced by the previous incarnation of the OA Working Group, has been reviewed. Minor amendments have been made, but we are confident that it still represents the best advice to members going forward to the next REF.

See the SLSA **w website OA page** where useful links to the resources of other organisations can also be found.

**SLSA OA Working Group**

### SLSA membership benefits

Benefits of SLSA membership include:

- three 16-page (minimum) newsletters per year;
- discounted one-day and SLSA Annual Conference fees;
- weekly ebulletin;
- eligibility for grants (research and fieldwork);
- eligibility for funding schemes (Seminar Competition, and Research Training Grants);
- eligibility for SLSA prizes;
- members' priority in newsletter publications pages;
- discounted student membership (with first year free);
- free annual Postgraduate Conference;
- student bursaries for SLSA Annual Conference;
- discounts on selected books;
- special membership category for retired members;
- ... and much more.

Visit **w website** for details.

### SLSA weekly eBULLETIN

The SLSA weekly ebulletin is published every Friday in termtime. As well as providing updates on SLSA activities and schemes, it also provides a weekly round-up of members' and other news including events, research, publications, vacancies and much more. If you would like an item included in the ebulletin, please send it by lunchtime on a Friday to [e marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com).

## SLSA GRANT SCHEMES

*Applications are now open for the next round of Research Grants and PhD Fieldwork Grants.*

The Research Grants Scheme has been running since 1999 and to date has funded well over a hundred socio-legal research projects. The scheme aims to support work for which other funding sources would not be appropriate and to encourage socio-legal research initiatives in a practical way.

### Research grants

Applications for this year's round are now invited. Applications are considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA, wherever they live. Applications must be made using the Application Package available on the SLSA website. The Application Package is subject to change so be sure to download the latest version.

The deadline is **31 October 2019**. Individual awards are up to a maximum of £3000. Decisions will be made no later than **31 January 2020**. The Research Grants Subcommittee takes the following elements into consideration:

- clarity of the aim(s) and objective(s) of the research – originality, innovativeness and importance of the research; methodology (including coherence with aim(s) and objective(s), practicability and, if applicable, ethical considerations); budget; and potential impact;
- funding will not normally be provided for conference attendance or to subsidise postgraduate course fees;
- funding will not be provided via this scheme for one-day conferences or for seminar series;
- feedback will be given to unsuccessful applicants;
- no member will receive more than one grant per year;
- Executive members are not eligible for the scheme.

## Indigeneity, law and terrain: the Bedouin citizens of Israel

*Emma Nyhan, European University Institute, reports on the completion of her fieldwork which was supported by a £1580 PhD Fieldwork Grant that allowed her to visit the Bedouin citizens of Israel.*

In July 2005 the Negev Co-Existence Forum for Civil Society (NCF), an Israeli grassroots organisation, led by a female Bedouin delegate, went to New York to seek indigenous recognition of the Bedouin at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (UNWGIP).

This isolated event illustrates how the Bedouin in Israel have become indigenous in the sphere of international law. This population – part of the Arab Palestinian minority and also Israeli citizens – have been subject to various efforts at sedentarisation since the establishment of Israel, and this has been accompanied by modalities of dispossession through the denial of recognition of land title. Yet the appropriation of indigeneity is relatively recent and has brought with it complications and frictions as a status, in addition to rights consecrated in international law.

The doctoral thesis is a socio-legal inquiry into the ways in which the international legal concept of indigeneity came to be applied to the Arab Bedouin population of the Israeli Negev. Employing legal anthropology and Sally Merry's heuristic model on the 'vernacularisation of human rights', I capture how indigeneity is reconstructed in the context of the Bedouin in Israel. Funding from the SLSA allowed me to conduct fieldwork from April to July 2017.

Prior to my fieldwork trip I had done background reading on legal pluralism, transnational law, post-colonial studies, and

## PhD Fieldwork Grants

In January 2013, in response to the number of applications from postgraduates, the SLSA Executive created a PhD fieldwork scholarship, with separate selection criteria, under the general umbrella of the grants scheme. The scheme's aim in both cases is to support work for which other funding sources are not available and to encourage socio-legal research initiatives in a practical way.

Applications are invited for the fieldwork scheme for the year 2019. Applications to the scheme are considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA, wherever they live. Funding will only be made available to students who have completed their first year of study by the time the grant is to be taken up and who are not in receipt of ESRC or AHRC funding. Applications must be made using the PhD Fieldwork Application Package available on the SLSA website. Closing dates and decision dates as above.

### Further information

For more information and to help you decide whether your project is appropriate for an SLSA grant, visit the **w grants area** of the website where you will also find a full list of previous grantholders. In addition it may be helpful to look at some of the numerous examples of previous project summaries and reports available in the **w newsletter archive**. And you may also wish to read the instructive article by Jess Guth, former chair of the Grants Subcommittee, published in **SLN 82:5**.

If you have any queries about either scheme, please contact **e admin@slsa.ac.uk**.

*Read on for a final fieldwork report from Emma Nyhan and project summaries from this year's bumper cohort of grant awardees on pages 8–10.*

anthropologies of the global. I also started to actively develop informants and research contacts. The sites of ethnography included unrecognised Bedouin villages, also referred to as 'illegal clusters', where I undertook extensive interviews and ethnographic observation. In parallel, I interviewed domestic civil society representatives and scholars at Israeli universities who play a prominent role in generating unique connotations and shades of meaning of indigeneity in this particular setting.

Socio-legal and historical research reveals how, over the last 20 years in particular, the Bedouin can be seen to have become indigenous; through the work of activists as well as various layers of intermediaries and 'rights translators', an international legal identity became a 'local' one.

By tracing how identities and subjectivities travel and translate, this study demonstrates that these identities and subjectivities do not simply 'fit' a pre-existing reality but must be 'translated', 'tried on', and 'dropped off' in ways that demand new kinds of law-making, knowledge production, and local performances. Overall, the study sheds a great deal of light on how indigeneity is made active and effective in context, and also how it opens new terrain for conflict and challenge – not only against the dominant state, but also in respect of the people who are claiming it.

In November 2017, a photograph that I took during my fieldwork was published in the *European Journal of International Law*. In addition to successfully defending my doctoral dissertation in April 2018, the research was presented at Melbourne Law School, Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Trinity College Dublin, University of Maynooth and University of Wollongong.

I would like to thank the SLSA for generously providing the Fieldwork Grant and for supporting my socio-legal study in a practical way.

## The role of mediation in improving participation in the Court of Protection

**Jaime Lindsey, Essex Law School, £2970**

There are growing concerns about access to justice and the limited participation of vulnerable adults in legal proceedings. The aim of this project is to improve understanding of whether and how mediation could facilitate the participation of vulnerable adults in mental capacity law proceedings. In achieving this aim, the research will provide an evidence base specifically regarding the use of mediation in the Court of Protection (CoP) and engage with broader questions about the experiences of vulnerable participants in mediation. In particular, the research considers the extent to which the subject of proceedings (commonly referred to as 'P') participates in mediation. There is very limited research on P's participation in mental capacity law generally and even less research on P's participation in mediated mental capacity disputes. If mediation is to be expanded in this area, it is important to have an evidence base regarding its impact on participation.

The research will involve the collection of original empirical data. First, a survey of around 50 professionals with experience of CoP mediation will be carried out. The survey will canvass the views of professionals only, to obtain their insights into the use of mediation in this context and its impact on participation. Second, up to 20 semi-structured interviews will be carried out with non-legal and non-mediator participants, for example P and P's carers, family members or social workers. These interviews will consider the participants' experiences of mediation and P's level of participation in those cases from the perspective of non-legal professionals. Part of the funding will be used to prepare Easy Read information to facilitate the participation of disabled people in the research. I am grateful to the SLSA for providing the funding to enable me to carry out this project.

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## The glue that keeps compliance stuck together: the role of test houses in online gambling regulation

**Donal Casey, Kent Law School, £2709.98**

Test houses test compliance of gambling operators' software against technical standards and security requirements set by regulators. As such, these organisations are situated between the rule-makers and rule-takers in the regulatory process.

Given the global proliferation of gambling over the past decades, there has been an increased attention on the issue of gambling regulation. Scholars have explored state regulation, industry codes of practice and how gambling operators interpret regulatory obligations.

Despite this, the role played by test houses in gambling regulation has been overlooked. This research bridges this gap, looking beyond state regulators, operators and law-in-the-books. This project aims to shed light on the central role played by testing houses in the regulatory process and the socio-legal significance of their practices.

Focusing on two jurisdictions, the UK and Gibraltar, this project will deploy mixed qualitative methods. In addition to a review of the regulatory and legal landscape that test houses operate in, the project will use semi-structured interviews with test houses, regulators and online operators to understand stakeholders' experience of the role that test houses play in the regulatory process.

This project will examine test houses' role not only in relation to regulatory compliance, but also in contributing to the meaning, interpretation and development of gambling regulation. In so doing, I seek to provide an innovative contribution that speaks to broader debates occurring in gambling, regulatory governance and law and society scholarship.

## Embracing and reflecting BME diversity in law school curricula: why and how?

**Suhraiya Jivraj, Kent Law School, University of Kent, £2726**

A curriculum is 'inclusive' if it is 'meaningful, relevant and accessible to all' (C Hockings (2010) *Inclusive Learning and Teaching in Higher Education*, Higher Education Academy, York, 1).

Universities are increasingly being required to address the so-called attainment gap, namely that white students tend to graduate with higher degrees than their BME peers. According to the Equality Challenge Unit (now part of Advance HE) in 2015/16, the gap was largest in England, where 78.8 per cent of white qualifiers received a first/2:1 compared with 63.2 per cent of BME qualifiers – a 15.6 per cent gap. This is also likely to be reflected in many law schools, so this research project focuses on inclusivity with specific reference to BME law students with the aim of improving our understanding of the 'inclusivity' of contemporary law curricula; to highlight instances of failure and success; and to begin to co-develop an agenda for change. The project will do this by:

1. drawing on critical race theory (CRT), outsider jurisprudence and post/de-colonial theories and praxis to develop a conceptual framework through which to explore the concept of 'inclusivity' in the context of the perceptions, expectations and experiences of BME law students;
2. applying that conceptual framework, in collaboration with law students of colour and staff in law schools engaged in student success and/or race equality projects, to identify the extent of 'inclusivity' in law curricula, and the potential impact on the attainment of students of particular 'race' or ethnicity;
3. adopting an inclusive approach to the research by disseminating accessible insights into processes and findings across a range of outlets from academic to social media.

Whilst a variety of initiatives have been launched to address attainment disparities, most notably by Kingston University, these initiatives do not necessarily take account of the ethical imperative inherent in CRT and decoloniality to understand the role of power in how certain racialised (as well as gendered, classed and cis) forms of knowledge come to be promulgated through the education system and circulate to what becomes known as the 'canon'.

Moreover, the existing leading initiatives are not specifically formulated for law schools and legal education, taking into account regulatory requirements or professional law bodies being conditioned to expect specific types of knowledge in new entrants, disregarding non-traditional knowledge as surplus or left to be valued by market forces. There seems to be little impetus for change in this area.

However, there are methods and ways to 'decolonise' the curriculum or make it more inclusive that already exist, highlighted by CRT and outsider jurisprudence, as well as in practice in law schools, particularly those with a critical or law-in-context ethos. This research project is therefore necessary in furthering our understanding on effective liberatory approaches within legal education and knowledge production, both within core subject areas as well as those where critical approaches are often deemed to have a more rightful place.

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## 'We exist too': young trans perspectives on legal gender recognition laws in England and Wales

**Peter Dunne, Bristol University, and Maria Moscati, University of Sussex, £2995**

The aim of this project is to listen to, document and disseminate the voice of trans young people (13–17 years old) in relation to legal gender recognition laws in England. In particular, the project pursues four main objectives: (i) to investigate the extent to which trans children and adolescents are aware of gender

recognition; (ii) to consider how (and whether) legal exclusion impacts young trans lives; (iii) to ask how (and whether) trans youth believe that children should be incorporated into the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA); and (iv) to disseminate the results among young people, policy-makers and academics.

The GRA creates a process through which trans individuals can be formally acknowledged in their preferred gender. In order to obtain a gender recognition certificate (GRC), an applicant must have reached the age of 18 years. In 2018, the UK government undertook a public consultation on potential reforms to the GRA. Although the government proposed a model of self-identification for adult trans persons, it omitted the possibility that children and adolescents could access a GRC. The consultation survey did not contain any questions specifically relating to the views of trans young people.

Against this background and adopting a child rights perspective which emphasises the voice of children, this project will provide original data on how trans young people in England experience legal invisibility. The project adopts a participative methodology which employs four main methods – semi-structured interviews, focus groups, diary-writing and artistic expression – and is developed in collaboration with Gendered Intelligence.

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### Women against women's rights?: Female Islamists and Tunisia's equal inheritance debate

**Elise Ketelaars, Ulster University, £2617**

Through interviews with female Islamist actors in Tunisia this project aims to enhance insight into the nature of their engagement with the equal inheritance debate currently taking place in Tunisia, in order to substantiate assumptions in academic literature about this engagement with empirical evidence.

The specific objectives are:

1. to create an overview of female actors/women's groups in the Tunisian political and civil society sphere who actively engage in the inheritance debate in Tunisia;
2. to get insight into the nature of their motivations for this advocacy;
3. to get insight into the mechanisms and tactics they employ to achieve their goals; and
4. to conduct a preliminary investigation into the extent to which their perspectives are in line with the perspectives of the women they say they represent or are perceived to represent.

Globally, more socio-legal research has been conducted on women's advocacy for progressive laws than on women's engagement in advocacy against such change.

This is no different in the Tunisian context. Nevertheless, one of the issues that has gained significant traction in Anglophone publications on women's rights in Tunisia is the cleavage between feminist and Islamist perspectives on gender justice. Various authors have suggested that Islamist women's groups are more closely in touch with the concerns of Tunisia's marginalised women than 'bourgeois' feminist groups and are actually using their newly gained political influence to advance women's rights.

However, while some research has been published on Islamist engagement with advocacy for the adoption of legislation to combat violence against women, scholars have so far failed to examine how these assumptions about female Islamist actors hold up in the context of the battle for equal inheritance rights. In order to get detailed insight into female Islamists' views on equal inheritance, the project relies on in-depth interviews with female Islamist parliamentarians and activists, and focus groups with conservative, 'marginalised' women who are not active in politics or civil society themselves,

but whose interests are supposed to be represented and defended by the female Islamist actors who are the core research subjects of this study.

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### Perceptions of sexual consent in Northern Ireland: rape, responsabilisation and reasonable belief

**Eithne Dowds, Queen's University Belfast, £1714**

The final report of the independent judge-led review into how the criminal justice system handles sex offences in Northern Ireland (NI) (the Gillen Review) was published on 9 May 2019. Among the recommendations in this final report are proposals on reforming the definition of consent as contained within the Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008. Consent is the central element in prosecuting the crime of rape with the prosecution tasked with proving the absence of consent on the part of the complainant and that the defendant did not reasonably believe that the complainant consented.

The application of the consent threshold raises questions over the allocation of responsibility when establishing whether an offence has been committed. These questions can be linked to an emerging literature on the 'responsibilisation' of sexual assault victims, highlighting the way expectations of risk management are placed on victims: where a victim is deemed to have engaged in 'risky behaviour', such as drinking, dressing provocatively, attending parties or engaging in casual sex, they are blamed for the assault and reasonableness is attached to the actions of the defendant.

This project aims to provide an insight into community and professional perceptions of the adequacy and scope of the requirement for reasonable belief in consent in the definition of rape in NI and the proposals made in the Gillen Report. A comprehensive multidisciplinary literature review will be conducted, as well as around 15 semi-structured interviews with community and professional workers, providing a rich source of empirical data. The findings will be situated within the wider international and comparative context, in particular the recent trend towards the adoption of an affirmative consent standard in definitions of rape.

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### Judging the failed mother: women suspected of killing their newborn children and the courts

**Emma Milne, Middlesex University, £2987.19**

Women who are suspected of killing their newborn children challenge ideals of motherhood and the concept that women will always put their children first. Such challenges to the ideologies of motherhood and social norms can create an incentive to prosecute suspects; and yet, factors surrounding the deaths of newborn children and the legal status of fetuses can make convictions very difficult to secure. As such, there is evidence to suggest that prosecutors in England and Wales 'get creative' to secure convictions. The possible impact of this is that criminal offences are being used in ways not intended when enacted by Parliament, suggesting the relevant criminal offences are outdated and ill-suited to the contemporary context of newborn child-killing.

The project further develops research conducted during my doctorate, which considered how criminal justice in England and Wales responds when it is believed a woman has caused the death of her newborn child. This can be a challenging area of study due to the limited number of cases that occur each year. SLSA funding has allowed me to purchase court transcripts, which offer a way to analyse the application of law and judgments of the behaviour and character of suspects. The research intends to analyse how the behaviour of defendants

has been interpreted and understood by professionals within criminal justice and consequently how criminal law has been applied, therefore:

- assessing how perceptions of gender impact and influence judgments made in relation to the behaviour of defendants (who are almost always women), including expectations of femininity and motherhood; and
- analysing how the law is utilised to facilitate a conviction, comparing use to the function and principle of law and individual offences when enacted and in subsequent reviews of legislation/judicial rulings.

I am very grateful to the SLSA for making this research possible.

### Exploring feminist academics' experiences of teaching gendered and intersectional socio-legal issues

**Marian Duggan, Kent, and Charlotte Bishop, Exeter, £2577.88**

Criminal justice professionals increasingly have a background in law or criminology. This makes the ways in which these subjects are taught at degree-level of particular importance in equipping these professionals with awareness of the overt and covert bias and discrimination within the criminal justice system and with the desire to challenge this at both personal and institutional levels.

Furthermore, bias against female academics within higher education persists, particularly against those who incorporate feminist/gendered perspectives into their teaching. In light of the wider socio-political backlash against feminism, there is merit in identifying how feminist academics can, and do, negotiate any resistance from ideologically opposed students and colleagues.

This project therefore explores feminist academics' experiences of teaching gendered and intersectional socio-legal content linked to criminal justice issues in university settings.

The aims of the research are:

- to discover the extent to which gendered and intersectional feminist perspectives are incorporated into specific areas of criminological and legal teaching across UK universities;
- to identify the subjective and objective challenges faced by participants when attempting to incorporate feminist perspectives into relevant content, as well as how these challenges may have been overcome; and
- to identify cases of best practice in overcoming these challenges to disseminate as a pedagogic toolkit.

Qualitative research is currently being carried out via an online survey with academics in UK universities who identify as feminist and teach on criminal law, criminology or criminal justice modules (see page 12). Follow-up focus groups to further explore the findings from this survey will be carried out in the autumn.

We are very grateful to the SLSA for providing grant money to enable us to carry out this research.

### A socio-legal investigation into the journey of bonded labourers from slavery to freedom at the crossroads of labour, law, and the state in India

**Pankhuri Agarwal, University of Bristol, £2760**

Bonded labour has been a deeply embedded feature of the socio-economic relations in India for centuries. It was legally abolished in 1976 with the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976. Under this law, the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers was established in 1978. In this scheme, a legal document, a 'release certificate', is given that is evidence of the labourer's status as being 'free

from bondage' and that she/he is entitled to government assistance.

This certificate offers a unique starting point for the following thesis aims. First, to understand the kind of subjects eligible for freedom by the state; second, to investigate state-sponsored rehabilitation as a solution to bondage; third, to critically examine the ways in which caste, work and internal migration are experienced by 'freed bonded labourers' and constructed in discourses of rehabilitation, reintegration and freedom; and, fourth, to explore whether and how freedom from bondage is contradicted by the continual violation of citizens' constitutional rights.

For the same reasons, legal ethnography is being used for my fieldwork in India through documentary research (legal case files and judgments), in-depth interviews (with former bonded labourers and law enforcement officials) and courtroom observation (in ongoing cases), to gather data about the construction and experience of 'freedom' embodied in the release certificate and the living and work conditions of the freed bonded labourers.

Accordingly, this research will provide an innovative analytical tool to study the nature and contradictions of the meanings of slavery, bondage and freedom in the legal aid and justice systems, thereby contributing to the work of critical socio-legal scholarship through a monograph, journal articles, policy briefs and teaching. In addition, it will also inform the implementation of state policy on rehabilitation in India through advocacy with judicial officials and policy-makers.

### Repealing the 8th: activist legal agency and abortion law reform in Ireland

**Máiréad Enright, Birmingham University, £2600**

This project aims to investigate the legal culture(s) of the Repeal movement (a woman-led grassroots movement for abortion law reform which has been active in Ireland since 2012). The research seeks to explore how activists understand their relationship to law reform processes and law-making institutions. Although lawyers might primarily understand the Repeal movement as engaged in law reform through repeal of the near-total constitutional prohibition on abortion, many activists' relationship to the law of the state is more ambivalent. Repeal's energies were directed as much at abortion stigma, and the Catholic, neoliberal and patriarchal attitudes which sustained it, as at the constitution itself. Many key Repeal activists were involved in formal legal mobilisation through parliamentary lobbying, litigation and representations to international human rights bodies. Others, however, were focused on street protest; creating spaces for abortion-storytelling; supporting abortion-seeking women; raising awareness of Irish histories of reproductive injustice; and representing women's resistance in the arts. There is no single relation between Repeal and law. Questions of legal consciousness and legal agency will arise differently from activist to activist and group to group. This research will pursue four main questions:

1. How does Repeal's legal culture reflect, resist and remake prevailing legal cultures in the state?
2. How does Repeal's legal culture empower or inhibit its wider political work?
3. How, if at all, did that legal culture change when the referendum was won, and the process of legislating for abortion access began?
4. What everyday relationships, practices, emotions and knowledges sustain activist engagements with law?

## NEW CSLS DIRECTOR OUTLINES FUTURE PLANS

*Oxford University has just appointed its second ever Professor of Socio-Legal Studies. In this article Marie Selwood interviews Linda Mulcahy who took up this post in January 2019, together with the directorship of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (CSLS).*

*What is it that attracted you about moving to Oxford?*

I don't think I had much choice! I was extremely happy at the LSE when the post was advertised and expected to spend the rest of my academic career there, but this was a post I felt compelled to apply for. I spent my formative years at the CSLS in the late 1980s and early 1990s. I benefited enormously from the camaraderie and support networks so skilfully orchestrated by the wonderful Donald Harris, who was the director of the centre at that time. I was very fortunate to be mentored by very generous senior colleagues, such as Mavis Maclean, Robert Dingwall and other pioneers of socio-legal studies in the UK. Socio-legal studies and the CSLS have developed in very interesting ways since that time, and I am keen to play a role in ensuring that the centre's legacy continues and that it is seen as a resource for all socio-legal scholars.

*You have played an important role in mentoring and supporting socio-legal PhD students in the UK. You set up the PhD Academy at the LSE; you've been helping run the SLSA postgraduate conference for over 20 years; and for the last three years you've been running an annual methodology masterclass. Can we expect more activity in this field?*

Definitely! In my view, the socio-legal community in the UK is characterised by our commitment to young talent, and I am very proud to have played a part in that. A great attraction of moving to the CSLS is that it has the largest single group of socio-legal PhD students in the country. The fact that many of them come from disciplines other than law bucks a national trend because socio-legal studies in the UK has largely emerged out of law schools. Teaching socio-legal methodology to students who are lawyers alongside those who keen to learn more about law is new to me and presents interesting challenges around identifying the key insights that the study of law brings to a socio-legal agenda. One of the things that is so exciting about the centre is that I am able to teach socio-legal methodology alongside methodologists from other disciplines, and our discussions spill over into much of what we do. I am also keen to build on the work I have previously done to ensure that alongside our methodology course we also provide our students with a high-end professional development programme which equips them to be job-ready and able to write convincing research grants by the time they graduate. I am also very fortunate to have received a grant from the ESRC to undertake a pilot study which is examining the possibility of launching a suite of open access online resources for PhD students and early and mid-career academics who want to follow a programme of training in socio-legal methodology. This draws on my experience of having been the director of an ESRC doctoral training partnership, and the lessons I have learnt from running the annual socio-legal masterclass, which has been generously supported by the ESRC, SLSA and *Journal of Law and Society*.

*Looking beyond students, what are your other priorities at the CSLS?*

I am very keen to promote the Centre as a home for young talent in the field. We currently have six post-doctoral research fellows working in a number of areas in which we have an established reputation, such as regulation, and media law and policy. In some instances, they have brought their own funding from sources such as the British Academy. In other instances, we have raised the money and advertised their posts. Having a healthy balance of students, early career academics and established staff



*Professor Linda Mulcahy, new director of the CSLS*

is central to my plans in promoting and developing clusters of research at the Centre so that the cluster is bigger than any individual and survives when research stars leave us to take up other opportunities. My plan is to play a central role in both mentoring all our post-docs and working with them on research grant applications, so that we can plan their careers with them. This involves reviewing their portfolio of publications, encouraging them to reflect on where they place their work and the academic and practitioner communities they want to reach out to. I am excited about being able to build on the work of colleagues by promoting an environment in which senior staff test out and help develop the ideas of early career academics.

We have recently relaunched our staff and student visitors' programme, which provides us with the opportunity to host leading socio-legal scholars and young talent from around the world. Our visitors become actively involved in our work while with us by attending and presenting at our regular seminar programme, which the director convenes, and the socio-legal discussion group, which is led by our students. There is also a tradition of informal interaction at the Centre which provides opportunities for visitors, students and established staff to mingle and discuss new ideas. Work also has to be fun, and an advantage of being based in a small city is that it is easy for us to get together outside office hours.

The Centre has always had important links with socio-legal scholars across the world. I am also talking to international socio-legal centres about establishing more formal links and exchange programmes with them. The Centre will be celebrating a new partnership with the Australian National University with a drinks reception at the Law and Society Association meeting in Washington this year. I hope this will be the first of a number of more formal links developing with centres of excellence over the next few years.

*Do you have any CSLS secrets that you would like to reveal to us?*

There is a lot going on at the Centre that people outside Oxford don't always get to hear about. Our events programme and the drinks that often follow are open to all. In the academic year 2017–2018 staff and students at the Centre organised over 60 separate socio-legal seminars, discussion groups and book launches. I am keen for us to more effectively promote our activities and the opportunities we are able to offer to others. That has involved me in a major review of our website and social media strategy, and, more importantly, I have finally learnt to tweet!

*And your final word . . . ?*

I am keen for the socio-legal community to think of the Centre at Oxford as a resource for everyone. If you have any ideas about how to help make that happen, I would be very interested to hear from you. [e linda.mulcahy@csls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:linda.mulcahy@csls.ox.ac.uk)

## Doing socio-legal research in design mode

Professor Amanda Perry-Kessaris at Kent Law School has been awarded a nine-month Leverhulme Research Fellowship, worth £33,000, for her project 'Doing socio-legal research in design mode'. At the centre of the project is the question: how might design enhance our understanding of, and our ability to communicate about, law as a social phenomenon and at what cost? During the fellowship Amanda will complete a monograph for publication by Routledge and, with Emily Allbon from City University Law School, will hold the UK's first two-day workshop on legal design. Funding for the workshop was secured with a grant from the SLSA **Seminar Competition** (see page 5 for further details) supplemented with funding from the Centre for Law and Society at Cardiff, Kent Law School and City Law School. See [w website](#) for details.

*Amanda Perry-Kessaris*

## Exploring feminist academics' experiences of teaching gendered and intersectional socio-legal issues: call for participants

Dr Marian Duggan (Kent) and Dr Charlotte Bishop (Exeter) are looking for UK university-based feminist academics who teach criminal law, criminology or criminal justice to participate in a research project funded by the SLSA. This will involve completing an online survey exploring experiences of incorporating gender and intersectional socio-legal issues into teaching. We are interested in hearing from established academics and early career researchers from all areas of the UK, whether or not you are able to incorporate these perspectives at present. If you are interested in participating, further information and a link to the survey is available [here](#). If you have any questions about this research please email either [e m.c.duggan@kent.ac.uk](mailto:m.c.duggan@kent.ac.uk) or [e c.p.bishop@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:c.p.bishop@exeter.ac.uk). Follow-up focus groups will be conducted in the autumn – details of how to participate in these are available via the survey.

This research is funded by an SLSA **Grant** (see page 10 for further details).  
*Marian Duggan and Charlotte Bishop*

## IEL Collective

The IEL Collective was launched on Thursday 23 May 2019. It is an initiative started by research centres based at seven law schools around the UK, and we are hoping to include more partners from around the world shortly.

The IEL Collective provides a space for critical reflection on the complex interactions in the growing field of international economic law and exploring how epistemological and methodological diversity in the discipline can contribute towards the development of a more holistic landscape of scholarship on law and the governance of the global economy.

The Collective aims to stimulate conversations about plurality, representation and, criticality, in researching, teaching and practising international economic law and spark new conversations about the future of the discipline.

Current partners include: Cardiff Law and Global Justice, University of Cardiff; Centre for Critical International Law, University of Kent; Centre for Law, Regulation and Governance of the Global Economy, University of Warwick; Human Rights Centre, University of Essex; Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham; Liverpool Economic Governance Unit, University of Liverpool; School of Law, University of Bristol; Social Critiques of Law, University of Kent;

For more information and how to get involved, please visit the [w website](#).  
*Celine Tan*

## people . . .

**JOHN HARRINGTON**, SLSA Executive member and Professor of Global Health Law at Cardiff University, has just taken up the position of Director of the **ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) in Wales**. One of 14 in the UK, the DTP delivers doctoral and post-doctoral education in the social sciences across six universities. Funding and training are organised through 20 accredited pathways, including empirical studies in law. With a budget of over £25 million, the ESRC Wales DTP currently awards 50 doctoral studentships and three postdoctoral fellowships each year. It supports extensive collaboration with industry, government and the third sector, through joint supervision, internships and fellowships.

Once again, SLSA members feature on the shortlist for the Oxford University Press Law Teacher of the Year Award.

- **LUCY YEATMAN** is a senior lecturer at the University of Liverpool, where her focus is on teaching clinical legal skills.
- **JANE BRYAN** is an associate professor at the University of Warwick, where she teaches an introduction to the law of property relations and medicine and the law.

The winner will be announced at the Celebrating Excellence in Law Teaching conference on 27 June 2019. See [w website](#) for details.

## *Journal of Law and Society (autumn 2019)*

### Articles

Procedural innovation and the surreptitious creation of judicial supremacy in the United Kingdom – David Campbell and James Allan

Tacticians, stewards, and professionals: the politics of publishing Select Committee legal advice – Ben Yong, Greg Davies and Cristina Leston-Bandeira

The economic sociology of labour law – Ruth Dukes  
Constrained waiver of trial rights? Incentives to plead guilty and the right to a fair trial – Rebecca Helm

Socio-legal studies in Poland: great heritage, empirical accomplishments, contemporary challenges – Grażyna Skąpska

### Book reviews

Michael Adler, *Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment* – Katie Bales

Brenna Bhandar, *Colonial Lives of Property: Law, Land and Racial Regimes of Property* – Ambreena Manji

Katherine Biber, *In Crime's Archive* – Linda Mulcahy

Insa Lee Koch, *Personalising the State* – Michael Adler

## SLSA Research Training Grants

Applications are invited for these grants aimed at supporting training in social science research methods and the use of data analysis software (e.g. SPSS and NVivo) for SLSA members who do not possess but wish to acquire these skills and do not have access to sources of institutional support to do so. The grants will cover the cost of attendance at a relevant training course offered by an established provider. See, for example, the courses offered by the **National Research Methods Training Centre** at the University of Southampton.

Eligible applicants will be members of the SLSA who are early or mid-career researchers and not currently undertaking a PhD.

Full details are available at [w research training grants](#). There are three annual deadlines for this scheme: **1 October**, **1 February** and **1 June**.

## ‘Law, Society, Policy’: call for proposals

‘Law, Society, Policy’ – a new book series from Bristol University Press edited by Rosie Harding – seeks to offer a new outlet for high-quality, socio-legal research monographs and edited collections with the potential for policy impact.

Cutting across the traditional divides of legal scholarship, ‘Law, Society, Policy’ offers an interdisciplinary, policy-engaged approach to socio-legal research which explores law in its social and political contexts with a particular focus on the place of law in everyday life. The series seeks to take an explicitly society-first view of socio-legal studies, with a focus on the ways that law shapes social life and the constitutive nature of law and society.

The series will be international in scope, engaging with domestic, international and global legal and regulatory frameworks. It will be open to scholars engaging with any area of law, provided their focus is grounded in social and policy concerns. Please see [w website](#) for details.

## Books

***From Catholic Outlook to Modern State Regulation* (2019)** Maebh Harding, Intersentia £59 220pp

This book focuses on the development of marriage law in Ireland from 1937 to the present day, examining the relevant historical legal background to changes in the law in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. It draws on legal sources and historical and empirical evidence about the reality of family life in Ireland, to raise broader questions about the appropriate role of law in establishing, preserving and developing inclusive social understandings of marriage. The impact of accurate empirical data about family life, external international influence and sustained activism as drivers in achieving meaningful social change is also evaluated.

The history and development of Irish marriage law since the founding of the Irish state has received little critical academic attention and this work makes a significant contribution to the fields of European family law and legal history. The book is timely and resonates not only with recent critical work about the development of Irish family law but also with broader debates about marriage and the role of state regulation that are currently taking place in numerous jurisdictions around the world.

***International and National Perspectives on Child and Family Law* (2018)** Gillian Douglas, Mervyn Murch and Victoria Stephens (eds), Intersentia £69 360pp

Professor Nigel Lowe is the leading expert in international family law, with a worldwide reputation for his work in child law, international family relocation and child abduction. His career, spanning more than 40 years, has produced a huge body

of literature and is internationally influential and of particular importance within Europe. A collaborative effort by members of the judiciary, practitioners and fellow academics from both the UK and other jurisdictions, this volume is a recognition of the impact of his work. It covers key issues in international child and family law including those in which Professor Lowe’s work has been particularly influential, namely adoption, wardship, parental responsibility, children’s rights, international family relocation and the 1980 Hague Convention on International Child Abduction.

***Law and Gender in Modern Ireland: Critique and reform* (2019)** Lynsey Black and Peter Dunne (eds), Hart £95 244pp

*Law and Gender in Modern Ireland: Critique and reform* is the first generalist text to tackle the intersection of law and gender in this jurisdiction for over two decades. As such, it could hardly have come at a more opportune moment. The topic of law and gender, perhaps more so than at any other time in Irish history, has assumed a dominant place in political and academic debate. Among scholars and policy-makers alike, the regulation of gendered bodies and the legal status of sexual and gendered identities is now a highly visible fault-line in public discourse.

This edited volume directly addresses modern Irish debates on law and gender. Providing an overview of the existing rules and standards, as well as exploring possible options for reform, the collection stands as an important statement on the law in this jurisdiction, and as an invaluable resource for pursuing gendered social change.

***Sexuality and Transsexuality under the European Convention on Human Rights: A queer reading of human rights law* (2019)** Damian A Gonzalez-Salzburg, Hart £60 248pp

This book undertakes a critical analysis of international human rights law through the lens of queer theory. It pursues two main aims: first, to make use of queer theory to illustrate that the field of human rights law is underpinned by several assumptions that determine a conception of the subject that is gendered and sexual in specific ways. This gives rise to multiple legal and social consequences, some of which challenge the very idea of universality of human rights. Second, the book proposes that human rights law can actually benefit from a better understanding of queer critiques, since queer insights can help it to overcome heteronormative beliefs currently held. Discount price: £48 – order from **Hart** online using the code CV7 to get 20 per cent off your order.

***Social Mobility and the Legal Profession: The Case of the English Bar* (2018)** Elaine Freer, Routledge £120 224pp

This book will be crucial reading for students across a variety of disciplines. A broadly socio-legal text, using a mixed-methods design combining grounded theory with an in-depth case study, this research explores a rarely seen facet of the legal profession, providing a look into an oft-hidden world: that of the English Bar – a notoriously secretive profession, traditional, elite and suspicious of research. The case study evaluating an outreach programme sheds light on how this fascinating world operates when trying to engage in progressive steps. Through the eyes of a professional association seeking to improve socio-economic diversity in the profession through instituting an access programme focused on work experience, it examines not just how professional association action may succeed or fail, but why.

### ***Social and Legal Studies* 28(4) (August 2019)**

In the absence of the rule of law: everyday lawyering, dignity and resistance in Myanmar’s ‘disciplined democracy’ – Alex Batesmith and Jake Stevens

Political violence at a time that is past? Engaging with non-participation in transitional justice in Cambodia – Julie Bernath

Human rights and the grammar of corporate social responsibility – Ciarán O’Kelly

The restorative justice apparatus: a critical analysis of the historical emergence of restorative justice – Giuseppe Maglione

Polyphonic legality: power of attorney through dialogic interaction – Rosie Harding and Elizabeth Peel

### **Socio-legal publications**

If you would like details of your latest monograph, edited collection or journal special issue included in the publications section of the next newsletter, don’t forget to send details to the editor, Marie Selwood at [marieselwood@btinternet.com](mailto:marieselwood@btinternet.com).

**After the Act: Access to family justice after LASPO** (2019) Mavis Maclean and John Eekelaar, Hart £50 208pp

*After the Act* describes the aftermath of the recent removal under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) of public funding from legal services in family matters other than in defined cases such as child protection and domestic abuse. Through analysis of the policy context, interviews with key players, observation of services provided by lawyers, students, lay support workers and the advice sector, the authors outline the work being done and the skills being used in a range of settings. The book raises questions not only about access to family justice, but about the role of law in family matters in an increasingly post-legal society.

**Re-imagining Labour Law for Development: Informal work in the global north and south** (2019) Diamond Ashiagbor (ed), Hart £65 296pp

The aim of this book is to explore labour law's conceptual and normative narrative. If labour law is informed by the wider political and economic landscape within which it operates, then, given the declining prevalence of the post-war model of full employment within a formal welfare state regime, what shape does or should labour law assume in response to the transformation of the political economy in countries of the global north? Correspondingly, what is the proper role to be played by labour law and labour relations institutions in the development process within industrialising countries of the global south, where informal employment has long been, and remains, the predominant form? Drawing on the expertise of leading labour law scholars, this collection addresses those questions by examining the growth and continued prevalence of informality. Offering research that is both empirically grounded and doctrinally astute, the book explores the changing character of labour law in the global north and south.

**Gender, Work and Social Control: A century of disability benefits** (2019) Jackie Gulland, Palgrave Socio-Legal Series £79

This book uses previously unknown archive materials to explore the meaning of the term 'incapable of work' over a hundred years (1911–present). Nowadays, people claiming disability benefits must undergo medical tests to assess whether or not they are capable of work. Media reports and high-profile campaigns highlight the problems with this system and question whether the process is fair. These debates are not new and, in this book, Jackie Gulland looks at similar questions about how to assess people's capacity for work from the beginning of the welfare state in the early twentieth century. Amongst many subject areas, she explores women's roles in the domestic sphere and how these were used to consider their capacity for work in the labour market. The book concludes that incapacity benefit decision-making is really about work: what work is, what it is not, who should do it, who should be compensated when work does not provide a sufficient income and who should be exempted from any requirement to look for it.

**Indigenous Justice: New tools, approaches, and spaces** (2018) Jennifer Hendry, Melissa L Tatum, Miriam Jorgensen and Deirdre Howard-Wagner, Palgrave Socio-Legal Series £88 xvi & 232pp

This highly topical collection of essays addresses contemporary issues facing indigenous communities from a broad range of multi- and interdisciplinary perspectives. Drawing from across the social sciences and humanities, this important volume challenges the established norms, theories and methodologies within the field, and argues for the potential of a multidimensional approach to solving problems of indigenous justice. Stemming from an international conference on 'Spaces of Indigenous Justice', *Indigenous Justice* is richly illustrated with case studies and comprises contributions from scholars working across the fields of law, socio-legal studies, sociology, public policy, politico-legal theory and indigenous studies. As such, the

editors of this timely and engaging volume draw upon a wide range of experience to argue for a radical shift in how we engage with indigenous studies.

**Routledge Handbook of Socio-Legal Theory and Methods** (2019) Naomi Creutzfeldt, Marc Mason, Kirsten McConnachie (eds), Routledge £175 405pp

Drawing on a range of approaches from the social sciences and humanities, this handbook explores theoretical and empirical perspectives that address the articulation of law in society and the social character of the rule of law. The vast field of socio-legal studies provides multiple lenses through which law can be considered. Rather than seeking to define the field of socio-legal studies, this book takes up the experiences of researchers within the field. First-hand accounts of socio-legal research projects allow the reader to engage with diverse theoretical and methodological approaches within this fluid, interdisciplinary area. The book provides a rich resource for those interested in deepening their understanding of the variety of theories and methods available when studying law in its broadest social context, as well as setting those within the history of the socio-legal movement. The book brings together younger contributors and some of the most well-known names in the socio-legal field. It offers a fresh perspective on the past, present and future of socio-legal studies that will appeal to students and scholars with relevant interests in a range of subjects, including law, sociology, and politics.

## Journals

**International Journal for Court Administration:** call for papers

The *International Journal for Court Administration* (IJCA) is an on-line journal published by the International Association for Court Administration. It focuses on contemporary court administration and management, providing a platform for the professional exchange of knowledge, experience and research in those areas for a diverse audience of practitioners and academics. IJCA is an open access journal, and its articles are subjected to a double-blind peer review procedure. For further details, visit the [IJCA website](#).

**'Legal design for practice, activism, policy and research'** (2019) 46(2) *Journal of Law and Society* 185-210 by Amanda Perry-Kessaris

This article is one of the outcomes of an SLSA research grant in 2016. Available on [SSRN](#) or [DOI](#).

### ***Social and Legal Studies* 28(5) (October 2019)**

'A crime of almost unspeakable cruelty and wickedness': gender, agency and murder in Scotland – the case of Jeannie Donald – Anette Ballinger

Testimonial injustice and vulnerability: a qualitative analysis of participation in the Court of Protection – Jaime Lindsey

Action between the legal and the illegal: a-legality as a political-legal strategy – Carys Hughes

Prosecuting domestic abuse in England and Wales: Crown Prosecution Service 'working practice' and new public managerialism – Antonia Porter

Mods as lightning rods: a typology of video game mods, intellectual property, and social benefit/harm – Mark Kretzschmar and Mel Stanfill

Review of the field: review of legal history – Sarah Hamill

- **INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL MANAGEMENT STUDIES CONFERENCE: 'BEING OPEN TO CARE, BEING OPEN ABOUT CARE'**  
27–29 June 2019: Open University, Milton Keynes  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **MONSTROUS ONTOLOGIES. POLITICS, ETHICS, MATERIALITY**  
1 July 2019: Roehampton University, London  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **FEMINISMS IN THE ACADEMY 2019**  
2 July 2019: Leeds Beckett University, Leeds  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF DISCLOSURE – A WAY FORWARD?**  
3 July 2019: Bristol Law School, UWE Bristol  
See [w website](#) for details. This event has been organised under the SLSA's **Seminar Competition** (see page 5 for further details).
- **TAX POLICY CONFERENCE 2019**  
9 July 2019: University of Cambridge  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **APPLIED LEGAL STORYTELLING**  
9–11 July 2019: University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **ECONOMICS IN LAW: LAW IN ECONOMICS**  
11 July 2019: Leicester Law School, University of Leicester  
Please see [website](#) for further details and booking.
- **METHODS AND DATA IN SENTENCING RESEARCH: QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
11–12 July 2019: University of Sheffield  
Please see [w website](#) for details. Closing date: 27 June 2019.
- **SOCIO-LEGAL METHODOLOGY MASTER CLASS**  
29–30 July 2019: St Catherine's College, Oxford  
See [w webpage](#) for details. The SLSA is a co-sponsor of this event alongside the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, the Economic and Social Research Council and the *Journal of Law and Society*.
- **EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: EUROPE AND BEYOND – BOUNDARIES, BARRIERS AND BELONGING: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**  
20–23 August 2019: Manchester Metropolitan University  
The ISA Research Committee on the Sociology of Law Session, Democratic Deficit and Judicial Power in Europe, is being organised by Jacek Kurczewski and Mavis Maclean. Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **UACES 49TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
1–4 September 2019: University of Lisbon, Portugal  
UACES is the academic association for contemporary European studies. See [w website](#) for details.
- **TELEVISION DRAMA, LAW AND NATIONAL IDENTITY**  
6 September 2019: University of Westminster, London  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **EARLY CAREER LEARNING AND TEACHING SYMPOSIUM**  
10–11 September 2019: Cloth Hall Court, Leeds  
See [w website](#) for details of this joint ALT/University of Leeds event.
- **EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
12 September 2019: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **DECOLONISATION AND THE LAW SCHOOL**  
13 September 2019: Law School, University of Bristol  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **BRAZIL–JAPAN LITIGATION AND SOCIETY SEMINAR 2**  
16–17 September 2019: University of Sao Paolo, Brazil  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW IN CONTEXT: EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP – CALL FOR PAPERS**  
17–18 September 2019: Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford  
Please see [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 10 July 2019.
- **SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES IN GERMANY AND THE UK: THEORY AND METHODS**  
23–24 September 2019: Humboldt University Berlin  
The keynote lecture will be delivered by Professor Dr Susanne Baer (German Constitutional Court). Please see [w webpage](#) for details. This is an SLSA co-sponsored event.
- **WORDS LAYING DOWN THE LAW: TRANSLATING ARABIC LEGAL DISCOURSE**  
7–8 October 2019: Atrium Conference Room, Aga Khan Centre, London  
Please see [w website](#) for details.
- **SECOND INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM ON ORGANIZED CRIME**  
9 October 2019: Bristol Law School, University of the West of England  
Please see [w webpage](#) for details.
- **THE FUTURE OF THE COMMERCIAL CONTRACT IN SCHOLARSHIP AND LAW REFORM**  
11 October 2019: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London  
See [w website](#) for further details.
- **A WORKSHOP ON VULNERABILITY AND THE ORGANISATION OF LABOUR: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
25–26 October 2019: Newton Building, Nottingham Trent University  
Please see [w website](#) for details of cfp and registration. Call closes: 17 July 2019.
- **THE IEL COLLECTIVE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE**  
6–7 November 2019: University of Warwick  
Save the date. See [w website](#) for further details.
- **DIGITAL RIGHTS IN BREXIT: CHANGES AND CHALLENGES**  
22 November 2019: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London  
Please see [w website](#) for further details.
- **LSAANZ CONFERENCE: SURVIVE, THRIVE, DIE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
5–7 December 2019: South Cross University, Gold Coast Campus, Australia  
Please see [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 31 July 2019.
- **CRIME JUSTICE AND SOCIAL HARMS: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
31 March–1 April 2020: Keble College, Oxford  
Organised by the Howard League for Penal Reform. Please see [w website](#) for details. Call closes: 2 December 2019.
- **LEGAL DESIGN: CONCEPTS, METHODS, NORMS AND EXAMPLES**  
April 2020 tbc: City University of London  
Please see [w webpage](#) for details. This is an SLSA **Seminar Competition** event (see page 5 for further details).
- **MODERN STUDIES IN PROPERTY LAW 2020: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
15–17 April 2020: Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
Please see [w website](#) for further details. Closing date: 30 August 2019.
- **INTERDISCIPLINARITY AS RESISTANCE**  
23–25 April 2020: Konstpedemin Arts Centre, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Please see [w website](#) for details. This is an SLSA **Seminar Competition** event (see page 5 for further details).
- **GENOCIDE AND LAW: COMMUNICATING THROUGH VISUAL ARTS AND LANGUAGE: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
26–28 June 2020: Poznan, Poland  
21st International Roundtable for the Semiotics of Law and the 15th Conference on Legal Translation and Interpreting and Comparative Legilinguistics. Please see [flyer](#) for details. Closing date for abstracts: 28 February 2020.



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