

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER

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SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

www.slsa.ac.uk @slsa_uk



SLSA PORTSMOUTH 2024

From 26–28 March 2024, socio-legal scholars will gather in person and online for the SLSA Annual Conference at the University of Portsmouth.

Portsmouth is a seaside city with a rich naval and literary history: birthplace of Charles Dickens; home to H G Wells and Arthur Conan Doyle; and site of the *Mary Rose*, Henry VIII's warship, which has been painstakingly restored and offers visitors a unique historical experience. The city's seafront is almost four miles long and popular with walkers and runners, as well as sea swimmers.

SLSA 2024 promises a busy three-day programme, likely to attract more than 500 papers across 32 streams and eight current topics. It will take place online and in three buildings clustered together and situated in the university's Northern Quarter. These venues are within short walking distance of the city's two main railway stations. The conference will also include an additional programme of events for PGRs and two plenary sessions.

The theme of the first plenary is 'Shaping the future of legal education: integrating socio-legal approaches in the changing landscape'. This plenary will take place on Tuesday afternoon. It will explore how legal education has developed since 2006 when the Nuffield Inquiry on Empirical Legal Research reported that the professionally influenced curriculum had 'place[d] real constraints on the treatment of law as a "social science" discipline or on interdisciplinary dialogue'. Since 2016, in the UK, universities have had to consider whether they will alter their undergraduate curriculum to adapt to changes in the vocational stages of training for solicitors with the inception of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination. The responsibility of universities across the world to work towards decolonising the curriculum provides a further opportunity for change. At the first plenary, the SLSA will be launching a new project examining the current state of socio-legal approaches to learning and teaching and

will be asking delegates for their support in completing a questionnaire. A drinks reception will follow the plenary.

The second plenary will focus on the crucial contribution made by refugee and asylum-seeking scholars to the foundation and development of socio-legal studies in the UK. With support from the *Modern Law Review* we will hear from and reflect on their experiences and the ways in which they have renewed the legal academy, strengthening our international community. The SLSA is working with the Council for At-Risk Academics to develop this important and timely plenary. Following the second plenary, on Wednesday evening, the conference dinner and prize-giving will be held in Portsmouth Guildhall.

The Poster Competition will allow PGRs to share their work, and the best poster will be awarded a prize at the conference dinner. In addition, PGRs will be invited to a programme of workshops, including a session on interdisciplinary research delivered by academics from Portsmouth University. The PGR programme will also provide important networking opportunities.

The **w website** contains further details, including a draft schedule and travel information. The conference package includes lunches, refreshments, the wine reception on Tuesday and gala dinner on Wednesday but not accommodation. The website provides details of a hotels with rooms at a range of prices within easy reach of the university.

See **pages 14–15** for details of the call for papers

The Conference Team e slsa2024@port.ac.uk

SLSA FUNDING SCHEMES

The SLSA Board regularly reviews the amount of support it gives to members via its funding schemes.

Reflecting the Board's commitment to supporting the socio-legal community and to widening participation at the heart of the SLSA's current strategy, the Board has allocated a total of £42,000 this year for funding seminars, research and fieldwork grants, impact and engagement events, and to support members in developing international links. Each award scheme includes an earmarked fund for precariously employed members. This is in line with the Association's stated objects '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'. We are very grateful to our members and sponsors whose contributions have made this possible. See the **w website** for details of all schemes.

The Seminar Competition is currently open for applications: **see page 5** for details.

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ROSEMARY HUNTER TO RECEIVE SLSA ANNUAL PRIZE

The SLSA Board is delighted to announce that this year's Annual Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community is being awarded to Professor Rosemary Hunter. Rosemary will receive her prize at the SLSA's Annual Dinner in Portsmouth on 27 March 2024. Rosie Harding explains why she nominated Rosemary for the award this year.

I was delighted to hear that Professor Rosemary Hunter has been awarded the prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community 2023. Rosemary has made extensive contributions to the socio-legal community in the UK and internationally throughout her career. She served as Chair of the SLSA for six years, from 2011 to 2017, and I had the pleasure of serving alongside her, and then building on her many achievements for the SLSA. In her time as Chair, Rosemary was dedicated to developing our field in the UK and internationally. She worked hard to create opportunities for scholars at all career stages to access socio-legal research communities and to build an open and welcoming environment for all. She was always, however, particularly focused on creating opportunities for early career scholars and doctoral students, who are the future of our field. The thriving community of socio-legal scholars we have in the UK now is in no small part due to her influence while leading the SLSA.

Alongside her service to the SLSA, Rosemary has also served as a socio-legal expert on the REF2021 law panel, as a member of the ESRC peer review college, and is currently head of Kent Law School. She is an outstanding scholar, who has made a particular impact in the fields of family law and feminist legal studies, making significant contributions to understanding reform of the family justice system, pioneering research into feminist judgment writing, and providing global leadership in that legal research methodology. Rosemary's many achievements have been recognised through her election as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, and through her award of KC (Hon). I am sure that all in our community will agree that Rosemary is a thoroughly deserving recipient of this prize, as our field is all the more rich and diverse because of her extensive contributions to it.

PILOT MENTORING SCHEME

The SLSA Board is delighted to announce that our Pilot Mentoring Scheme was launched in October. Board member Bev Clough provides an update.

The scheme was proposed as part of the SLSA's ongoing equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) work, building upon the **EDI Survey** (2022) to improve community inclusion and diversity by creating channels for the transfer of knowledge from more established socio-legal scholars to those in earlier stages of their careers or those wishing to return following career breaks. Similarly, our **Precarity Survey** (2023) highlighted the importance of helping precariously employed members feel part of a supportive community as they seek opportunities for permanent employment.

The Pilot Mentoring Scheme involves mentors and mentees meeting one-to-one at several points during the year, with a final meeting at the Annual Conference in Portsmouth in March 2024. The mentor relationship offers opportunities for mentees to develop knowledge on how, where, and when to publish, apply for funding, position oneself in the academic labour market, network, engage with the socio-legal community, and so on.

The scheme has proved incredibly popular, and we received a larger number of applications than we could accommodate this year. We see this as a demonstration of the real need for mentoring within the socio-legal community. We look forward to collecting feedback from the Pilot Scheme participants to see how we can build on this experience to take the scheme forward in future years.

We are incredibly grateful to our volunteer mentors for supporting this scheme, namely: Dr Claire Bessant; Professor Naomi Creutzfeldt; Dr Katie Cruz; Dr Agata Fijalkowski; Professor Rosie Harding; Professor Jen Hendry; Professor Caroline Hunter; Dr Fred Motson; Professor Vanessa Munro; and Professor Carl Stychin.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact [e b.clough@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:b.clough@mmu.ac.uk).

Future SLSA Annual Conferences

The SLSA Board is delighted to announce the venues for our 2025 and 2026 Annual Conferences.

- University of Liverpool, 15–17 April 2025
- University of Sussex, dates tbc 2026.

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VSR PhD SCHOOL

The Dutch and Flemish Law and Society Association (VSR), with the Dutch Academy for Empirical Legal Studies, held its two-day PhD School for postgraduate students on 4 and 5 July 2023 at Amsterdam Law School. Lara MacLachlan (SLSA) & Elke Olthuis (VSR) were attendees.

This year the SLSA worked with the VSR to help facilitate more international collaboration within the SLSA PGR community. This involved opening five places at the PhD School for SLSA postgraduate students to attend at a discounted registration rate.

The team did an amazing job of organising a varied programme and creating a welcoming and collaborative atmosphere over two full days of activities. On day one, a wonderful keynote was given by Professor Betty de Hart (VU Amsterdam) who discussed how a career is a succession of choices and how positionality plays a role in how you conduct research. She also took participants through her inspiring career as a socio-legal scholar.

The day continued with four different workshops which ran over two time slots to allow for small groups and mixing. The workshops for the first day focused on methods and included: 'Focus groups', delivered by Charlotte de Kock (University of Gent); 'Practising semi-structured interviews', facilitated by Elke Olthuis (University of Amsterdam); 'The use of anthropological methods in the empirical study of law', delivered by Katrien Klep (Leiden University) and Dorien Claessen (University of Applied Sciences Utrecht); and, finally, Benjamin van Rooji (University of Amsterdam) gave a session on 'Structured interviews'. These fantastic sessions demonstrated the variety of methods applicable to socio-legal research and the trials and tribulations involved in conducting empirical legal work. There was also a speed-dating session in the middle of the day to allow colleagues to mix and get to know each other a bit better.

The second day opened with a keynote from Dr Sinan Çankaya (VU Amsterdam) who spoke about his experience in conducting research with the police. Dr Çankaya

covered a range of issues relevant to PGRs such as our responsibilities as researchers and the challenges of conducting research with institutional bodies.

Due to some weather difficulties in Amsterdam, it was not possible for all speakers and attendees to attend day two in person so the organising committee quickly and efficiently converted the second day to hybrid sessions, and we were treated to some more brilliant workshops. The first session was delivered by Frances Singleton (University of Amsterdam) and covered practical and helpful tips on how to pitch your research to a range of audiences. This was followed by a session from Anna Pivaty (Radboud University) which was created by her and her colleagues Gabriele Chlevickaite (VU Amsterdam) and Anna Goldberg (VU Amsterdam/University of Groningen) who could not participate due to the weather. This session, on 'Empirical research in the context of law', covered a range of strengths and challenges in conducting empirical research and included a lively and engaged discussion with the audience.

Finally, some feedback from one of our SLSA PGR attendees, Jonathan Hasson (Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford):

The PhD research methods workshops have delivered an exceptional learning experience. These workshops, with engaging content and an interactive teaching approach, emphasised practical application and real-time learning, fostering a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. They also facilitated deep connections among participants, further enhancing the experience. The high-quality critiques provided fresh perspectives and insights, enriching the understanding of semi-structured interviews, coding interview transcripts, and structured interviews. I eagerly anticipate applying these invaluable insights in my future work.

A big thank you to the VSR for hosting such an inspiring PhD School and providing a discounted rate for our SLSA PGR attendees. We very much look forward to welcoming some VSR members to our annual PGR Conference in 2024.

SLSA CALENDER 2023/24

December

18 **SLSA Seminar Competition** closing date

January

11–12 SLSA Postgraduate Conference, Northumbria Law School

12 **SLSA 2024**: cfp closing date

18 SLSA Board meeting

29 SLN 102 copy deadline

March

4 SLN 102 publication

26–28 **SLSA 2024**, University of Portsmouth

27 SLSA AGM, Annual Dinner and announcement of prizewinners

May

16 SLSA Board meeting

20 SLN 103 copy deadline

31 **SLSA Impact Grants**: closing date

June

24 SLN 103 publication

NEW SLSA PGR REP

The SLSA's new PGR Rep is Mini Saxena. Here Mini provides a short bio.

I have studied law and worked as a lawyer across multiple jurisdictions, obtaining my first law degree from India, then starting my career at a Magic Circle law firm in London, subsequently moving to a non-profit in rural north India, and finally transitioning into academia by leading an empirical study on legal barriers to accessing abortion in India. More recently, I completed LLMs from SOAS and Harvard Law School, and I am now pursuing my PhD at SOAS while also working as a graduate teaching assistant for criminal law. My doctoral research examines whether and how the law should address conditional consent to sexual relations, ie situations wherein someone consents with conditions attached or based on a deception. My work focuses on the intersections of gender and the law, including areas such as feminist legal theory, sex equality, and gender identity, sexual orientation and the law.

I am an abiding believer in the accessibility of legal research for public benefit and firmly believe in using socio-legal research (including my PhD research) for reform. The opportunity to continue advancing these aims as part of the SLSA is what drew me to the PGR Rep role.

SLSA SEMINAR COMPETITION

Since its launch in 2007, the Seminar Competition has funded more than 50 events. We are delighted to publish here reports of four that have taken place this year, plus a link to the SLSA Blog which will publish an illustrated account of the Fantasy Legal Exhibitions seminar in due course.

Seminar Competition open for applications

This year's Seminar Competition is now open for applications. We are happy to fund stand-alone seminar proposals but also those which can draw on other sources of funding in addition to an SLSA award. The funding can be used to support the delivery of either an individual seminar or short conference, or a series of events. There are no restrictions concerning the subject matter, provided that applicants can show relevance to the socio-legal community. See the [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **18 December 2023**.

To get a taste of the breadth of activities that have been funded under this scheme over the past 16 years, you can visit the webpage where there is a full list of previous [Seminar Competition winners and their events](#).

Fantasy Legal Exhibitions

Victoria Barnes, Brunel University, & Amanda Perry-Kessarlis, University of Kent, £950: 18–19 July 2023

This event took place over two days at four separate London locations: the British Museum; the Postal Museum; Middle Temple; and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. The organisers will be publishing an extended report on the [SLSA Blog](#) in the near future.

Socio-Legal Approaches to Protecting Athletes from Financial and Physical Harm: Challenges, Reflections and Solutions: 9 June 2023

James Brown & Sarah Carrick, Manchester Metropolitan University, £1000

Manchester Law School played host to this one-day sports law conference, the purpose of which was to facilitate interdisciplinary discussion on three different legal areas where the vulnerability of athletes affects their engagement with the law, namely finance, women's sport and concussion. Over 80 people from various disciplines registered for the event, and this allowed us to bring together academics, practitioners and other sporting stakeholders to discuss a number of emerging issues in this rich and diverse field of study. One of the key selling points for the event was the fact that each panel included a non-lawyer and/or an industry expert.

On the morning of the conference, Professor Mark James (Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)) kicked off the event with welcoming words to all delegates. In the first session, chaired by Dr Sarah Carrick (MMU), we heard from Dr Dan Plumley (Sheffield Hallam University) who highlighted a number of important issues on how increased regulation in football could lead to a decrease in competitive balance. Following on from this, Pete Duncan (University of Manchester) offered insight into illicit tax minimisation in UK football, and Gareth Farrelly (Senior Associate, Bermans Law, and former professional footballer) discussed his own personal experiences of how athletes can be impacted by tax-related issues.

The second panel of the day – chaired by Professor Beverley Clough (MMU) – focused on gender-related issues in sport. Here, Dr Alex Culvin (Head of Strategy and Research at FIFPRO, and former professional footballer) discussed the important topic of prize money in women's sport, and Dr Nicolas Scelles (MMU) followed this up with a paper on gender inequality in sport. The panel concluded with Dr Eleanor Drywood (University of Liverpool) discussing her work on safeguarding policies for female child athletes.

The final panel of the day, chaired by Kelly Danielle (MMU), considered the law's role in helping to identify, prevent and treat sports-related concussion. Dr William Stewart (University of Glasgow) began by offering an in-depth overview of the medical risks of concussion. We then heard from Dr David McArdle (University of Stirling) who discussed the law's role in responding to concussion and Dr James Brown (MMU) who provided an insight into the current insurance coverage in amateur football. One of the key points that arose from this panel was the inadequate definition of concussion that is contained within such insurance, and the Football Association was promptly contacted about this matter shortly after the conference.

This is just one example of the important outcomes that arose from this SLSA event. In light of the insightful discussions that took place on the day, we are confident that many presentations could be developed into journal articles, including the potential for collaborative pieces that draw on both legal and non-legal perspectives. Many of these ideas were discussed at the speakers' dinner that evening.

As a final point, it is worth noting that one of the key focus points of the conference was supporting early career researchers and students. As such, we are happy to report that Ailie Mezzetti from the University of Stirling was awarded a £50 travel bursary to attend the event. After advertising the bursary on various social media platforms, the student was awarded the bursary on the basis of both merit and need.

As this was the first time that both recipients of the award have organised such an event, we were delighted with the interest in this conference. Feedback on the day also highlighted that delegates were in favour of the contextual, socio-legal approach that was adopted here. As such, suggestions were made to host a similar event next year. Given the success of this conference, we would be open to hosting other sports law events in the future to further investigate the important issues that were raised on the day.

Law, Narrative and Masterplot: New Research Perspectives: Southampton & Durham Workshops

Chris Bevan, Durham University, & David Gurnham, University of Southampton, £900: 10 May & 7 June 2023

These two SLSA-sponsored hybrid half-day workshops brought together legal academics across diverse disciplines (socio-legal and law-and-humanities experts on interdisciplinary methods and subject areas including property, family and criminal law) to explore how 'masterplots' operate in law. The two sessions were designed to feed into and inform our wider project on 'Law, narrative and masterplot' which will ultimately be captured in an edited collection. As we explored in the workshops, there is a special level or class of narratives, sometimes referred to as 'masterplots' or 'meta narratives' that distinguish themselves from the plethora of other

narratives, stories and myths found in law. In our project, kindly supported by the SLSA, we examine the ‘masterplot’ concept as providing a way of instigating new ways of seeing, understanding and responding to socio-legal problems.

Our starting premise is that there is something significant in the conjoining of ‘master’ with ‘plot’ which prompts further inquiry into the assumptions about, for example, ‘how things usually turn out’, the motivation behind law reforms, the presentation of law by government and the ‘buy in’ to that law amongst citizens. Masterplots as ‘super narratives’ tap into already accepted ideas in society to give the plot and associated law its power. By reflecting from different legal perspectives and disciplines on existing masterplots at play, our project aims to produce original and distinctive legal thought with new insights about law and society.

With the help of the SLSA seminar fund, the two half-day workshops provided an exceptional opportunity for the project’s contributors (drawn from across the UK and the USA) to come together, to share, exchange and test ideas around the masterplot theme. This resulted in deeply engaging, thought-provoking and productive discussions.

The Southampton workshop event saw presentations from Dr Steven Cammiss (Birmingham) and Dr Graeme Hayes (Aston) on ‘The master narrative of the criminal law in protest trials: decontextualising and recontextualising non-violent direct action’; Dr Neil Sadler (Leeds) on ‘Masterplots and interpretive horizons’; Professor Allison Tait and Dr Luke Norris (Richmond, US) on ‘The masterplot of the market’; Dr Lynsey Mitchell (Strathclyde) on ‘A never-ending story: the evolution of Manichean narratives in parliamentary debates on war’; Professor Nina Jorgensen (Southampton) on ‘Time as a masterplot in international criminal justice’; and Dr Ekaterina Yahyaoui (Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway): ‘International law as a story of order, peace and justice: a reading through Kafka’.

The subsequent event at Durham Law School comprised contributions from Professor Richard Walsh (York) on ‘Narrative and case law: the reciprocity of the particular and general’; Dr James Gregory (Birmingham) on ‘The homeownership masterplot in housing policy in England’; Dr Kevin Grecksch (Oxford) on ‘Masterplots and natural resources: property narratives’; Dr Rebecca Shaw (University of Leeds) on ‘Dismantling the masterplot of domestic abuse’; Professor Chris Hilson (Reading) on ‘Masterplots of consumer demand and the energy trilemma: delaying the transition’; Professor Rebecca Probert (Exeter) on ‘Defining marriage: losing the masterplot’; Dr Andy Hayward (Durham) on ‘Cohabitation, legal rationality and the things we do in love’; and Dr Julie Doughty (Cardiff) on ‘Family autonomy and a child’s right to be brought up by their parents – has this been undermined by a child rescue approach?’

We are grateful for the support of the SLSA, and look forward to bringing the project to fruition with the publication of Chris Bevan and David Gurnham, *Law, Narrative and Masterplot* (Routledge, forthcoming 2024).

The Vulnerable Accused in the Criminal Justice System: 13–14 September 2023

Roxanna Dehaghani, Cardiff University, Samantha Fairclough, University of Birmingham, & Harriet Pierpoint, University of South Wales, £1000

There is an ever-growing recognition of the vulnerability of suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings. Yet, several contentious issues remain and often present

barriers in respect of ensuring the proper and timely identification and recognition of vulnerability and responding appropriately to it. The Vulnerable Accused conference was dedicated to exploring these unresolved issues with the aim of moving the conversation forward by bringing together a range of contributors across various disciplines and exploring different aspects of the criminal process.

The conference began with a keynote by Professor Penny Cooper reflecting on progress made, lessons learned and future endeavours. This was followed by three parallel sessions on topics such as neurodivergence, intellectual disability, accused children, confessions, cross-examinations, and rights and safeguards. The first day of the conference was brought to a close with a drinks reception where we launched the edited collection on **Vulnerability, the Accused, and the Criminal Justice System**, which was closely followed by an – incredibly tasty – conference dinner in the hospitable Dilshad restaurant in Selly Oak. Day two began with parallel sessions on supporting and identifying vulnerability and vulnerable defendants, followed later by further parallel sessions on effective participation in police custody and policing, interviewing, and interrogation. Towards the end of the conference, we also held collaborative workshops to provide space to discuss themes emerging from the conference papers and to explore how to take our collaborative work further. The closing session brought the discussion from the two workshops together. We are in the process of compiling a shared folder so that, subject to participants’ consent, we can pool slides, papers and other useful documents with all delegates, with the aim of informing best practice and further stimulating connections and conversations.

The conference brought together discussion across a number of disciplines, namely law, criminology, sociology, psychology, and speech, language and communication, and involved those in academia, policy and practice. As such, it generated lively, reflective and insightful discussions from academic and practitioner delegates and presenters, and we are grateful to those who made the conference possible – the speakers, the delegates, the events team at Birmingham, and the funders. Funding from the SLSA provided vital support for five postgraduate researchers and early career researchers to attend the conference, to gain experience of presenting in a supportive and collaborative environment and to develop vital networks with others post-lockdown.

There are a number of outputs planned and underway, including: a special issue (for which we are inviting contributions); extended abstracts (provided to delegates in advance of the conference) to be published on the **Defending Vulnerability** blog; and a series of blogs written by the SLSA bursary recipients to be published on the SLSA blog. We will also continue this work through the British Society of **Criminology Vulnerability Research Network** and through the Vulnerable Accused work-in-progress sessions. The success of the conference – from feedback received via email and Twitter – was such that we are aiming to organise a biennial event to continue these vital conversations and, hopefully, instigate evidence-informed research and policy and practice change. Further feedback soon to be solicited from delegates will inform our plans going forward.

Note: Funding was also received from the Society of Legal Scholars, the British Society of Criminology, and Universities of Birmingham and South Wales, with support from Cardiff University.

Prisoner Rights: Time for a Rethink?

Greg Davies, University of Liverpool, & Robert Jones, Cardiff University, £1000: 26 July 2023

The University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice hosted this SLSA Seminar on prisoners' legal rights in the UK, in collaboration with Cardiff University. The event featured socio-legal, criminological and other academic perspectives from across the UK's different jurisdictions.

The first panel considered prisoner rights in the round. Professor Susan Easton (Brunel) reflected on some of the major successes and failures of prisoner rights litigation since the introduction of the Human Rights Act 1998. Despite some clear failings, she argued that prisoners' rights should be defended and strengthened rather than abandoned, particularly in light of the UK's strong record of implementing successful prisoner rights claims. By contrast, Professor Sarah Armstrong (Glasgow) argued that prisoner rights reflect a technocratic, rules-based order which conceals the routine violence of prisons and present prisoners' acts of resistance as threats to order and security. Academics, she argued, can play an important role as allies in drawing attention to these acts of resistance in place of rights claims. Dr Robert Knox (Liverpool) situated prisoner rights within the context of industrial capitalism, imperialism and slavery. Rights, he argued, can play a useful role in improving prison conditions, but they need to be situated within a broader project of political contestation which calls into question the social relations from which modern prisons emerged.

The second panel focused on a more specific set of rights issues. Dr Marie Hutton (Sheffield) argued that the right to family life of both prisoners and their families in England and Wales is subordinated to the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme, effectively administered as an instrument of discipline. Dr Sabina Garahan (Essex) called for positive obligations under Articles 2 and 3 ECHR to be used as part of a preventative approach to sentencing, in order to divert individuals suffering with severe mental health illnesses away from prison. Dr Hedi Viterbo (QMUL) offered a critique of youth decarceration discourse; he contended that it centres on scientifically questionable assumptions about age and responsibility which contribute to the entrenchment of carceral treatment for adults.

The final panel considered the efficacy of non-justiciable frameworks around prisoner rights. Dr Isobel Renzulli (Brunel) argued that there may be scope for His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons to play a more prominent role around prisoner rights in its capacity under the National Preventive Mechanism, established under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, but may be impeded by the latter's low visibility and lack of statutory basis. Finally, Dr Robert Jones and Dr Greg Davies considered the various ways in which laws and policies designed to facilitate the free use of the Welsh language are routinely undermined within both Welsh and English prisons.

The papers will feature in a special issue of the *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*, scheduled for publication in December 2025.

Influencing Law Reform: Tips for Effective Engagement with the Law Commission

At this online event, jointly arranged by the SLSA, Society of Legal Scholars and Association of Law Teachers, a Law Commission team explained how academics can engage with the Commission at each stage of one of its projects. SLSA Board member, Emily Walsh, was there.

The Law Commission team – Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law, Professor Nick Hopkins, and lawyers Dr Lawrence McNamara and Roseanna Peck – explained how academics can engage with the Commission at all five stages of a project: namely, initiation, pre-consultation, consultation, policy development and reporting.

Professor Hopkins explained how academic research can sometimes get a project on the Law Commission's agenda by demonstrating a need for reform. Every three or four years, the Commission undertakes a programme consultation and, at this stage, arranges academic events. Engagement with such events can greatly assist in demonstrating the need for reform in a particular area. This may be particularly helpful where academics have ongoing but as yet unpublished research that may be drawn to the attention of the Commission. In addition, it is also possible for academics to make a submission to the Commission outside of the programme consultation.

Dr McNamara explained that, at the pre-consultation stage, the project team will undertake desk-based research and engage with published academic work. However, academics interested in a particular project can also contact a project team at this juncture.

Simultaneously, the Commission also hosts academic events where researchers can discuss ongoing projects

and propose questions that the Commission may wish to include within the consultation stage. A helpful tip for academics is to consider the terms of reference of the Law Commission and to explain the relevance of their academic work to the particular project.

Roseanna Peck emphasised the importance of engaging with the written consultation phase of the process through the online form. She advised that, in addition to answering the questions, it is important to justify responses and also possible to include additional information or evidence by email. She also noted that it may be possible to tweak ongoing research to align it with a specific Law Commission project.

In the final part of the webinar, Dr Rajnaara Akthar explained how she had aligned her Nuffield Foundation-funded research on non-legally binding wedding ceremonies to the Law Commission's work on weddings reform. Dr Akthar explained how her empirical project, which involved many focus group participants, could engage communities that the Law Commission could not reach via a consultation. The timing of the project was such that she could include the Commission's proposals as questions to her participants. One of the outputs of this project was a stakeholder report addressed to, among others, the Law Commission. Dr Akthar emphasised the value of engagement with the Commission from the perspective of securing funding and demonstrating impact and advised colleagues to keep abreast of the Commission's projects so that research can be designed to align with the timing of Law Commission projects.

The session was chaired by Professor Lucy Vickers, Oxford Brookes University. The Law Commission has kindly made available the **PowerPoint presentation** and a recording of the **webinar**.

SLSA GRANTS

Three completed projects report their outcomes and six successful applicants to this year's fieldwork scheme outline their research plans.

Research Grant reports

The right time for rights? Judges and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Australian family law decision-making

Georgina Dimopoulos, Swinburne University, Melbourne, £1485

Georgina has submitted an extended report of her completed SLSA 2022 project to the **SLSA Blog**, published on 6 September 2023.

Rethinking international law from Amazonian onto-epistemologies: the Kukama people and the Amazonian Waterway project

Cristina Blanco Vizaretta, University of Essex, £1000

This research focuses on the nature–culture dimension in the Amazonian territory as an onto-epistemic issue. The main question was to explore how international human rights law (IHRL) operates in the face of the onto-epistemic diversity of Amazonian peoples through a case study of the Kukama-Kukamiria people's efforts to protect the Marañón River against the Amazon Waterway (Hidrovia Amazónica) project in the Peruvian Amazon.

The study employed an interdisciplinary approach theoretically informed by Amazonian studies and critical approaches to international law and human rights. The empirical component used a case study method, based on qualitative analysis of documentary and visual information, and semi-structured indepth interviews. The fieldwork was conducted in a hybrid manner (October 2021–March 2022). Face-to-face interviews (in Iquitos and Nauta, Loreto, Peru) were possible thanks to the valuable support of the SLSA.

The Amazon Waterway project consisted of removing sediment from rivers to enable the navigation of large vessels during the dry season. In addition to generating serious socio-environmental impacts, the project hid a profound conflict in ways of understanding the world. Amazonian indigenous peoples conceive of the territory as a space inhabited by human and non-human entities, a conception that challenges the definition of what we call 'nature'. For the Kukama-Kukamiria people, in particular, different 'categories of people' in a 'plurality of worlds' inhabit the territory. In their worldview, the river is an (aquatic) world, inhabited by beings with their own subjectivity and intentionality; whereas for the project, it was a transport route to be improved for navigability.

The study sought to investigate how IHRL operates in the face of Amazonian onto-epistemic diversity, through an examination of the mechanisms used by the Kukamas to defend the Marañón River: judicial process; prior consultation; and an environmental impact assessment.

The research reveals that, while human rights occupied a central place in these spaces of resistance marked by profound differences in worldviews, they also gave rise to an onto-epistemic cancellation regarding culture–nature relations. The findings allow us to identify that this, in turn, is related to premises underlying the IHRL framework, not necessarily shared by Amazonian societies.

Indeed, the study illuminates the fact that IHRL reflects and reproduces a nature–human dualism with nature understood as something separate from humans: an externalisation of the environment that views it as an

object to be protected. This contrasts with Amazonian onto-epistemology, in particular, that of the Kukamas, for whom the 'river is people'. The case study identified that, through this nature–human dualism, IHRL flattened the Kukama conception of the river.

The research also reveals that IHRL privileges an understanding of diversity as a cultural issue, which, in turn, reflects the idea that there is a multiplicity of cultures, a characteristic feature of modern Western ontology, not necessarily shared by Amazonians, for whom culture is one; nature is multiple. The case study shows that IHRL simplified the river's being for the Kukama by reducing its diversity to a cultural issue. It thus demonstrates that international law's main option for protecting diversity is blind to the onto-epistemic aspects of Amazonian thought and, therefore, contributes to its cancellation by extrapolating basic premises taken for granted by Western society, while also providing evidence of calls for onto-epistemic openness from Kukama leaders in the context of resistance to this project. Thus, it offers an account of attempts to influence IHRL through the Kukama's experience of resistance, which I call attempts to 'Amazonise' international law.

Defence counsel 'Maestro'

Dr Agata Fijalkowski, Leeds Beckett University, £1471

This has been one of the most rewarding projects I have ever worked on, in large part because of its subject matter – the Polish lawyer Stanislaw Hejmowski (1900–1969) and factors that shaped his defence-lawyering strategies. The project offered the chance to research questions in a new and unexplored area for me – archival work. SLSA funding made possible a trip to Stockholm to interview Hejmowski's family and examine his personal effects. Hejmowski was defence counsel in war crimes trials and other political trials. My findings draw on his recently discovered private personal archive and case notes, which have never been revealed in the public domain.

What I discovered was that the defence lawyer is still largely ignored in mainstream literature in international criminal law. I was drawn to rupture as a strategy: a denial of the way the prosecution has framed the terms of the trial. The defence lawyer shifts attention from the accused to show that in fact the state is the culpable party. The strategy was used by Rosa Luxemburg's defence team at her 1914 trial, and it continues to play a part in research in international criminal law and justice by critical legal studies writers.

In 1946, Hejmowski asked the Polish authorities twice if he could be excused from defending German war criminal Arthur Greiser before the first Supreme National Tribunal, as he and his family were victims of atrocities committed by the Germans during the Second World War and the occupation of Poland. The Polish authorities denied his request, and he accepted this decision. Knowing what was at stake (including his own life and what was awaiting the Polish legal profession), Hejmowski's defence identified significant loopholes in the Polish law that was the basis of the charges, a decree from August 1944. His engagement with international law reflected the legal thinking of that time at and about the Nuremberg proceedings and charges, in particular crimes against peace and retrospective justice. His critique of the way the prosecution interpreted relevant provisions was through the lens of a private lawyer. The importance of a record of the atrocities that occurred in Poland was emphasised, and the defendant's culpability was never disputed. Hejmowski's most powerful and prescient point was made about a future Europe where states (re)embrace the rule of law.

In 1956, Hejmowski made his mark at the June Poznań trials of workers who went on strike, resulting in a mass demonstration met by a brutal response from the authorities including fatalities. Hejmowski's speech was transmitted internationally, and it gained him worldwide recognition and respect as he placed the state in the dock. He undermined the prosecution's case based on a law that criminalised actions that breached the rebuilding of a socialist state, noting how this state has been created and going on to ask how the state can purport to support working-class interests when it calls workers hooligans. He reinforced his points drawing on his own experience witnessing the 1917 Russian Revolution; the final nail in the coffin was his reference to Delacroix's 1830 painting, *Liberty Leading the People*, to ask whether the picture's protagonists would be arrested for hooliganism.

This project has resulted in an article about Hejmowski and further applications for funding. It is vital to say that none of this would have been possible without the SLSA understanding that law and humanities is included in its remit and how archival research in interdisciplinary work matters more than ever.

Fieldwork Grant summaries

Indigenous people and 'green extractivism': an ecological justice and legal pluralist analysis of lithium mining at the Salar de Atacama in Chile and solar photovoltaic projects at the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia

Sara Mejia-Muñoz, University of Queensland, £1000

This research examines the relationship between Latin American indigenous peoples and 'green' extractive activities in their territories as part of implementing national and global sustainable development policies. Situating this research in the context of Chile and Colombia and using a decolonial view of ecological justice and legal pluralism, I aim to explore and analyse Latin American indigenous community challenges to 'green' extractive projects in their territories; to determine the intersection of indigenous legal systems and state legal systems in extraction for 'sustainable development'; and to understand different regional dynamics of 'green' extractivism and the practice of sustainable development, ecological justice and legal pluralism.

To achieve the doctoral thesis aims, this research is situated in constructivist epistemology, and a case study methodology with an ethnographic approach has been chosen. The methodological design involves two case studies in which extraction for 'green' energy industries carried out in indigenous territories is a challenge for locals and the state. In Chile, one case study is the extraction of lithium, a light mineral that has high energy storage capacity and is deployed in the manufacture of batteries employed in electric mobility and solar and wind energy technologies. The other case study, in Colombia, is photovoltaic energy, which is a type of renewable energy obtained directly from the conversion of solar energy through modules or panels. This research's decolonial approach allows the theoretical frameworks – resurgence, ecological justice and legal pluralism – to be filled with content according to the thoughts, experiences and understandings of the indigenous communities as part of the case studies.

The first fieldwork stage was conducted in Chile and Colombia between December 2022 and April 2023. It included participant observation, reciprocal socio-legal support work for local indigenous organisations, interviewing community actors in both indigenous

territories, reviewing community-produced documents, and reviewing documentary material in national policy institutions.

Regulating the market for force: an econo-socio-legal exploration of the legitimacy and legality of the use of private military and security companies

Saadat Umar Pirzada, Kent Law School, £1000

This project studies the use of private military and security companies (PMSCs) in developing countries by third countries. It examines the issues of accountability and impunity of PMSCs in relation to the US's use of PMSCs in Pakistan, a major non-NATO ally. This examination is based on analysing the dynamic relation between legitimacy (validity and acceptance of use) and legality ('the property of being law') in the use of PMSCs and law's function as a tool for legitimisation.

It studies the relevant period (ie between 2002 and 2013), during which the US was conducting a 'secret war' in Pakistan that heavily relied on PMSCs. Their use and abuse 'beyond the battlefield' reached a climax with the Raymond Davis incident, where a CIA contractor, owner of Hyperion Protective Services based in the US, murdered two people in broad daylight at one of the busiest intersections in Lahore. His subsequent arrest, trial and (legal) escape offers valuable insights in understanding PMSCs and the structuring of impunity in (international) law.

The project relies on primary data collected by conducting semi-structured interviews with lawyers, journalists, security experts and retired government officers in Pakistan. The interviews focus on the actions of PMSCs in Pakistan, including a detailed examination of the Raymond Davis incident. By using original data, this project aims to, firstly, problematise the place of law in legalising (operationalising and validating) the use of PMSCs despite serious concerns of accountability and oversight and, secondly, reignite the debate on the legitimacy of the use of PMSCs in third countries, particularly developing countries.

Property law and deforestation in the agricultural frontier of the Peruvian Amazon

Pablo Peña Alegria, Green Templeton College, Oxford, £1000

This research explores how small-scale farmers understand and use the law to occupy the forest and expand the agricultural frontiers in the Peruvian Amazon. These are usually poor farmers who migrate from the Andes to the Amazon looking for larger and better land to improve their economic opportunities. They arrive at an ecologically different landscape, where they convert the forest into agriculture using slash and burn practices that drive deforestation, a key source of CO₂ emissions in the context of climate change. In this process, they engage in informal and formal legal practices that produce landownership.

Through interviews with farmers and observation, this research provides a 'law in action' empirical understanding of the role of law in deforestation. It draws from and contributes to the discussions on the role of property in natural resources governance, in particular the role of private property, government regulations and private ordering in forests. And it considers how current legal rules in Peru can be traced back to legal concepts used in colonial times, like *terra nullius*. In addition, this research is framed by the idea that law and space are co-constituted, developed in legal geography.

Studying this phenomenon from a socio-legal point of view fills two key gaps in the broader forest governance literature. First, it addresses a methodological

and thematic gap in the Peruvian environmental law scholarship, which has mostly done doctrinal work and has focused on other groups, such as indigenous peoples, or other environmental problems, such as extractive industries. Second, this research provides much-needed legal analysis of the phenomenon of deforestation, which geography and social-sciences scholarships have only considered superficially. Importantly, by studying the legal consciousness of property in this rural setting and in the context of climate change, this research also has the potential to contribute to the expansion of property law jurisprudence.

Strengthening democratic governance of crime and security in Chile: assessment and possibilities from a deliberative and participatory perspective

Fernanda Maria Díaz, University of Edinburgh, £1000
Several scholars in the criminological field have advocated for increasing deliberation and participation of the public in penal policies, to fortify their legitimacy and moderation. However, limited empirical research has followed, and even fewer *in situ* projects.

In that context, my work intends to understand and evaluate governance practices using a deliberative and participatory approach, and to result in suggesting ways for improvement. For that purpose, I have chosen an ethnographic approximation, given the focus on interactions derived from the governance concept. As my case study, I selected one Chilean city.

I began my fieldwork in March of this year when I landed in Chile. My methodology includes observations and interviews. My first step was successfully getting authorisation for shadowing one key municipal official in the city in the third week of March. Since then, I have been following that official – and some of their workers – a couple of days each week, resulting in both long hours in the office and moving around the city to attend heterogeneous meetings. During these months, this strategy has provided me with the public servants’ point of view of the sites, times, purposes and modalities of interaction between citizens and the state. In addition, it has given me access to spaces and actors modifying the governance of security in the city. In parallel, I developed contacts with social leaders in order to also access their perspective. I am currently about halfway through my fieldwork, attending two days a week in the municipality and in the remainder of my time interviewing community leaders, and attending their meetings and activities. At the time of writing, I expect to finish my fieldwork in August with interviews targeted at achieving a better understanding of what was observed in the field.

Exploring a postcolonial understanding of legal consciousness: legal defiance and religious reverence in Bangladeshi metropole

Arpeeta Shams Mizan, University of Bristol Law School, £1114

This project explores legal consciousness from a postcolonial, non-western perspective that reflects the lived realities of Bangladeshi society, a vast social field of legal pluralism, with multiple normative orders operating at national and local levels and displaying ‘mobilisation of competing sociocultural forces’. In analysing the non-state law normativities, religiosity appears to be a counter framework to legality. My thesis is that, in a South Asian society with deep religious influence, legal pluralism may affect people’s perceptions of law in such

What’s new on the blog?

So far 2023 has been a busy year on the SLSA Blog. Below is just a selection of posts over the past few months.

- **X Gender Passports: On the Horizon for the UK and the ECtHR?** Gizem Guney
- **The Cost of Eating: Contemporary Challenges to the Realisation of the Right to Food in the UK** Katie Morris
- **The Right Time for Children’s Rights? Judges and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Australian Family Law** Georgina Dimopoulos
- **REF2028 – the Emerging Rules and Law UoAs** James Hand
- **The Real Cost of Precarity** Anonymous PhD Researcher and Associate Lecturer
- **Towards a Subversive Legal Education** Russell Sandberg
- **Lost for Words: Performing Verbatim Court Transcripts** Benjamin Thorne & Sean Mulcahy
- **Justice in Drag? What RuPaul’s Drag Race and Dragula can Teach us about Law** Rosie Fox & James Greenwood-Reeves
- **What is the Role of Law Schools in the Project of Decolonisation? Some Reflections on Power and Possibility** Foluke Adebisi
- **Recovering Voices of Socio-legal Reform (and Bringing them to a New Audience)** Sharon Thompson
- **Doing, Talking, and Thinking: Reframing Legal, Economic, and Social Phenomena** Clare Williams

If you have an idea for a blog post, please contact [e blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk).

Social and Legal Studies

Volume 33(1) February 2024

- Governing through scalar elasticity: an analysis of the accountability gap in migration control in the central Mediterranean – Kiri Olivia Santer
- Legal struggles: a social theory perspective on strategic litigation and legal mobilisation – Sonja Buckel, Maximilian Pichl & Carolina A Vestena
- Re-viewing Video Evidence and Police Violence in the Criminal Courts in Turkey – Deniz Pinar Konuk
- A chronotopic evaluation of Autonomous Rog: the spatiotemporalities of a ‘quasi-public’ urban squat – Jenny Kanellopoulou & Nikos Ntounis
- Narrating communist repression in and outside the courtroom: the case of former Prison Commander Alexandru Vişinescu and its resonance with (societally) available ‘narrative worlds’ – Kristine Avram
- Embedding digital economy: fictitious triple movement in the European Union’s Artificial Intelligence Act – Joanna Mazur & Renata Wloch
- Review essay: Lethal force, legal consciousness and the social field of policing – Richard Martin

a manner that religion becomes the basis for constructing legal consciousness. Over six months, I am conducting approximately 60 semi-structured qualitative interviews and participant observations to listen to people's stories and analyse how my interlocutors rationalise and justify law-breaking. The interviews were designed to inquire about various situations through open-ended questions to capture interviewees' attitudes, perceptions of legal authorities and procedures, and experience of using law. The interlocutors were selected through purposeful sampling from religious establishments because regular attendance in congregational prayers is a mark of complying with religious norms, while collecting data from multiple sites allows me to see how local context shapes the social perspective of law in different ways.

The use of thematic analysis developed through data-driven bottom-up analysis will enable me to identify the main patterns underpinning people's ideas of legality. In approaching legality through religion, my project aims to deconstruct the Western epistemology of legal consciousness scholarship and portray how colonial violence produced the modern notions of law, as a tool of governmentality. My thesis expands legal consciousness scholarship to Bangladesh and contributes towards a better understanding of law and society in postcolonial societies from the Global South.

Reararticulating cultural rights in international human rights law using Global South epistemologies: the case of the Irulars

Raghavi Viswanath, European University Institute, £1000

My thesis investigates how cultural rights in international human rights law can be re-articulated in the voices of the Global South. The starting point for the thesis is the ongoing systemic oppression of the Irulars, a semi-nomadic community based in the south of India. The Irulars have been historically criminalised for traditional subsistence activities such as snake and rat catching, prevented from

speaking in their tribal tongue, and displaced from their ancestral lands. Typically, under international human rights law, such treatment would qualify – in addition to other violations – as violations of 'cultural rights'. However, cultural rights are absent from the discourse that has emerged in relation to the Irulars.

I surmise that one reason for the lack of engagement may be that cultural rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – which are the primary human rights treaties binding India – are epistemically limited insofar as they prioritise colonial vernaculars, written mediums and grammars of materiality/uniqueness and fabricated notions of indigeneity. My thesis thinks about what cultural rights would look like if they were re-articulated using Irular epistemologies. Through this recasting exercise, the thesis theorises a revised epistemic framework for cultural rights in the Covenants that can benefit Global South communities more generally.

To this end, I hope to collaborate with the 1100 Irular families based in the Cuddalore and Villupuram districts in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu for three months, from June 2023 onwards. The two districts are suitable sites for my fieldwork because they are home to Irulars who have migrated from various parts of southern India and see different densities of civil society involvement because of their distinct topographies. My fieldwork path will be designed in collaboration with my Irular interlocutors. I have already completed one round of fieldwork during which I visited 26 villages with my interlocutors – the Pazhangudi Paathukaapu Irular Sangam (an organisation that offers legal assistance to Irulars), and STEPS (an organisation that offers financial support to Irular students). The visit has helped me chalk a clear plan for my next fieldwork visit to glean Irulars' understandings of indigeneity, community, culture and rights.

people . . .

In its latest newsletter, the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) announced the appointment of 47 leading social scientists as Fellows of the AcSS. Among them were four long-standing members of the SLSA. They are Professors GITA GILL, Northumbria University; AMANDA PERRY-KESSARIS, University of Kent; JIRI PRIBAN, Cardiff University; and RUSSELL SANDBERG, Cardiff University. The SLSA Board and the Association are delighted to see excellence in the socio-legal field being honoured. For further details of all the newly appointed fellows, see the AcSS [website](#).

Professor DAVID NELKEN, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London, has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Professor Nelken said: 'I am very pleased to be joining the British Academy at a time when its role increasingly involves defending reasonable trust in expertise. Much of my work explores the social and cultural factors that shape the definition of legal problems and solutions and the relationship between legal and scientific truth.' See [website](#) for further details.

SHARON COWAN, Professor of Feminist and Queer Legal Studies, University of Edinburgh, has been elected **Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)**. The RSE Fellowship comprises around 1800 leading experts in the sciences, arts, business, professions and the third

and public sectors with links to Scotland. Sharon, completed an LLB (Hons) from Strathclyde University, and an MPhil in Criminology from the University of Cambridge. She was a researcher at the London School of Economics before going on to complete a PhD at Brunel University, London. After three years as a lecturer at the University of Warwick, Sharon joined the University of Edinburgh in 2004. She is a co-convenor of the **Scottish Feminist Judgments Project**. Her work has made a long-standing contribution to research and teaching on sex, gender and sexuality in the fields of criminal law, asylum law and equality law. Sharon also served on the (then) SLSA Executive Committee from 2015 to 2017.

The winners of the Philip Leverhulme Prize 2023 have been announced. Each prize is worth £100,000 and may be used for any purpose that advances the prizewinner's research. This year's winners in the 'Law' category include: Dr ANNA CHADWICK, University of Glasgow, who received a 2018 SLSA Seminar Competition award; and SLSA members Dr SEÁN COLUMB, University of Liverpool, winner of the SLSA Prize for Early Career Academics in 2020 and a 2014 fieldwork grantholder; Dr SHARON THOMPSON, winner of the Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize 2023; and Professor JOE TOMLINSON, York University. See the Leverhulme Trust [website](#).

Prevent, Surveil and Protect (2023) Kat Langley & Hannah Wishart

More than two decades on from 9/11 and more than 50 years since the start of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, terrorism still poses a threat to the UK, and the laws and policies countering it have expanded hugely over time. But how can states prevent terrorism and protect individuals without affecting traditionally held rights and liberties? In March 2023, the University of Sunderland held a timely event: 'Prevent, Surveil and Protect: The Fight against Terrorism' (partly funded by the **SLSA Seminar Competition**). This e-booklet brings together the two-day event into one publication to raise awareness of UK counter-terrorism laws and policies: **download** or contact the authors e kat.langley@sunderland.ac.uk or e hannah.wishart@sunderland.ac.uk.

Rapid Legal Policy Reactions and How to Do Them: New Best Practice Guide (2023) Maebh Harding & Aoife O'Donoghue (eds), Doing Feminist Legal Work

This free guide provides practical advice from legal academics about how to respond quickly to events or opportunities that could influence legal policy. Scholars and activists will find this research tool empowering and helpful when engaging directly with policy makers and media to address complex issues of law and gender.

The Routledge Handbook of Mega Sporting Events and Human Rights (2023) William Rook, Daniela Heerdts & Shubham Jain £164hb/£34.39eb 530pp

This book explores mega-sporting events (MSEs) and human rights, offering accounts of adverse human rights impacts linked to MSEs, and considers the potential for promoting human rights through such events. With chapters from leading international contributors, the book introduces key concepts and considers how they relate to ethical, social, managerial and governance issues in contemporary MSEs. Use code AFL03 for 20% discount.

Neurolaw in the Courtroom: Comparative Perspectives on Vulnerable Defendants (2023) Hannah Wishart & Colleen M Berryessa (eds), Routledge £48.99hb/£17.09eb 132pp

This collection presents a comparative perspective on interdisciplinary issues that fall under the emerging field of neurolaw. The chapters embrace distinct procedural and evidential issues in the courtroom for vulnerable defendants, such as immature defendants, mentally disordered offenders and unfit-to-plead defendants, through a neuroscientific lens. The work brings together interdisciplinary and leading perspectives to discuss the use and relevancy of neuroscience at trial, and how its use is benefiting vulnerable defendants.

The Asian Law and Society Reader (2023) Lynette J Chua, David M Engel & Sida Liu (eds), Cambridge University Press £89.99hb/£29.99pb/eb

The first reader on Asian law and society scholarship features selections from a wide range of Asian countries along with commentaries by the editors on the theoretical debates and research methods pertinent to the discipline. Organised by themes and topical areas, this reader enables scholars and students to break out of country-specific silos to make theoretical connections across national borders.

Law and Humanities (2024 forthcoming) Russell Sandberg & Daniel Newman (eds), Anthem Press £120hb/£45eb 250pp

This edited collection provides the first accessible introduction to law and humanities. Each chapter explores the nature, development and possible further trajectory of a disciplinary 'law and' field: publication **9 January 2024**.

Inheritance Matters: Kinship, Property, Law (2023) Suzanne Lenon & Daniel Monk (eds), Hart £81hb/£64.80eb 336pp

This book makes a compelling case for placing the social and legal practices of inheritance centre stage to make sense of fundamental questions of our time. Drawing on historical, literary, sociological and legal analysis, this rich collection of original, interdisciplinary and international contributions demonstrates how inheritance is and has always been about far more than the legal processes for the distribution of wealth and property upon death. The volume includes an introduction that presents a critical mapping of the field. Use code GLR AQ7 for 20% discount.

Combining the Legal and the Social in Sociology of Law: An Homage to Reza Banakar (2023) Håkan Hydén, Roger Cotterrell, David Nelken & Ulrike Schultz, Hart £90hb and open access 496pp

This book pays homage to Reza Banakar, exploring the many different areas of socio-legal research that he worked on and influenced. Beginning with a summary of his career and explanation of how he sparked a debate on the identity and aims of legal sociology, it also honours his memory and unique thinking and aims to advance the sociology of law by demonstrating the interconnectedness of the legal and the social from a broad range of perspectives.

Law, Visual Culture, and the Show Trial (2023) Agata Fijalkowski, Routledge £104hb/£31.19eb 198pp

The dispensation of justice during communist rule in Albania, East Germany and Poland was reliant on legal propaganda, making the visual a fundamental part of the legitimacy of the law. Analysing photographs of trials, this book examines how this message was conveyed to audiences watching and participating in the spectacle of show trials. It shows how the legal actors and political authorities embraced new photographic technologies to advance their legal propaganda and legal photography.

Not What the Bus Promised: Health Governance after Brexit (2023) Tamara Hervey, Ivanka Antova & Mark Flear, Hart £85hb/£76.50eb 280pp

This book explains the legal and practical implications of Brexit on the NHS: its staffing; medicines, medical devices and equipment; and biomedical research. It considers the UK's post-Brexit trade agreements and what they mean for health, and discusses the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on post-Brexit health law. Use code GLR AQ7 at checkout for 20% discount.

100 Years of the Infanticide Act: Legacy, Impact and Future Directions (2023) Karen Brennan & Emma Milne (eds), Hart £95hb/£85.50eb 304pp

This book provides the first comprehensive analysis of the Infanticide Act and its impact. The Act, which allows for leniency for women who kill their infants within the first year of life, is unique and controversial, creating a specific offence and defence available only to women who kill their biological infants. The collection brings together leading experts to offer insights into the law's history, workings, impact and legacy. Use code GLR AQ7 for 20% discount.

Women, Their Lives, and the Law: Essays in Honour of Rosemary Auchmuty (2023) Victoria Barnes, Nora Honkala & Sally Wheeler, Hart £90hb/£81eb 320pp

This collection of essays honours Rosemary Auchmuty, a scholar who has fostered the study of women's academic careers and, more politically, advanced progress on gender and equality issues including same-sex marriage and property law. Her research promotes the case of feminist legal history as a way of revealing the place of women and challenging dominant historical narratives that cast them aside.

- **ARISTOTLE (AND ARISTOTELIANISM) ON JUSTICE AND (IN)EQUALITY: CONTEMPORARY PROJECTIONS**
6–7 December 2023: Coimbra, Portugal
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LSAANZ 2023**
6–8 December 2023: University of Technology, Sydney
See [w website](#) for details.
- **4TH ALL INDIA LEGAL HISTORY CONGRESS**
6–8 December 2023: School of Law and Legal Studies, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, India
See [w website](#) for details.
- **MOTHERS, HARM AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONFLICT**
11 December 2023: Moot Court, Main Site Tower, Queen's University Belfast
See [w website](#) for details.
- **'CHANGING LAW, CHANGING LAWYERS': LAUNCH OF THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS RESEARCH GROUP**
11 December 2023: in-person University of Leeds and online
See [w website](#) for details of this free event. All welcome but sign-up is essential.
- **WHITE COLLAR CRIME — CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS**
12 December 2023: online, funded by Society of Legal Scholars
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LEGAL PARTICIPATION FOR LITIGANTS IN PERSON**
13 December 2023: online and Belfast Hilton
Organised by Ulster University's Social Justice Hub. See [online](#) and [in-person](#) registration webpages.
- **2023 ASIAN LAW & SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**
14 December 2023: Sunway University, Malaysia;
15–16 December 2023 — Junior Scholars' Workshop
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW & SOCIETY IN SOUTH ASIA (LASSA) WORKSHOP**
15–17 December 2023: Lahore, Pakistan
See [w website](#) for details.
- **THE CULTURAL TECHNIQUES OF LAW**
17–19 January 2024: University of Helsinki, Finland
See [w website](#) for details.
- **MENTAL DISORDER AND THE CRIMINAL LAW: DOCTRINES OF LEGAL INSANITY**
18 January 2024: Swedenborg Hall, Royal Institute of Philosophy, London
See [w website](#) for details.
- **TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE: THROUGH PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**
18–19 January 2024: University of Bologna, Italy
See [w website](#) for details.
- **THE UNRELIABLE HUMAN MIND: FALSE MEMORIES AND BIASED JUDGMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF LEGAL DECISION MAKING**
24 January 2024: Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt
Speaker: Prof Dr Aileen Oeberst. See [w website](#) for details.
- **THE HIDDEN HISTORIES OF THE PINOCHET CASE**
6 February 2024: IALS Council Chamber, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London
Speaker: Professor David Sugarman. See [w website](#) for details
- **JUSTICE, CARE, RESPONSIBILITY**
8–9 February 2024: Geneva, Switzerland
Theme: 'Rethinking the family from a legal and philosophical perspective'. See [w website](#) for details.
- **CONSTITUTIONAL COMMUNITIES**
8–9 February 2024: KU Leuven, Belgium
See [w website](#) for details.
- **UKRI ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENT 2024**
27–29 February 2024: Institute for Government, London
See [w website](#) for details.
- **ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON THE VIENNA SCHOOL OF JURISPRUDENCE AND THE PURE THEORY OF LAW**
4–5 March 2024: Black Forest, nr Freiburg, Germany
See [w website](#) for details.
- **SOCIAL HISTORY OF CIVIL JUSTICE, 19TH–21ST CENTURIES**
7–8 March 2024: University of Vienna, Germany
See [w website](#) for details.
- **PROPAGANDA AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: INFORMATION SOCIETY PROJECT**
5–6 April 2024: Yale Law School, New Haven CT, USA
See [w website](#) for details.
- **FROM THE UNIVERSITY TO THE GRAND CHAMBER: CALL FOR PAPERS**
9 May 2024: Royal Holloway, University of London
Theme: 'How can academic work on asylum and immigration have greater impact in the European Court of Human Rights?'
See [w website](#) for details of this SLSA-supported Impact Grant event. Call closes: **30 January 2024**.
- **DEEPFAKES AND THE LAW**
20 May 2024: City, University of London, Northampton Square Campus
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING 2024**
6–9 June 2024: Colorado Convention Center, Denver CO, USA
See [w website](#) for details.
- **SHIFTING DYNAMICS IN MEDICAL LAW: NEW SPACES, TEMPORALITIES AND ACTORS**
19 June 2024: Manchester Metropolitan University
See [w website](#) for details.
- **KAFKA'S IMPRINT ON LAW AND THE ARTS, 100 YEARS SINCE *THE TRIAL*: CALL FOR PAPERS**
July 2024 (tbc): University of Southampton
See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: **2 January 2024**.
- **WG HART WORKSHOP 2024: 'HISTORICISING JURISPRUDENCE: PERSON, COMMUNITY, FORM': CALL FOR PAPERS**
26–27 June 2024: Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, London
See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: **4 December 2023**.
- **IVR WORLD CONGRESS 2024**
7–12 July 2024: Seoul, Republic of Korea
Theme: The Rule of Law, Justice and the Future of Democracy.
See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: **31 January 2024**.
- **IS THERE HOPE FOR EQUALITY LAW? 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BERKELEY CENTER ON COMPARATIVE EQUALITY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION: CALL FOR PAPERS**
26–28 July 2024: National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, Bangalore, India
See [w website](#) for details. Call closes: **1 December 2023**.
- **WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY 2024: SAFI ROUNDTABLE ON WOMEN IN LEGAL PHILOSOPHY**
1–8 August 2024: La Sapienza, Rome
See [w website](#) for details.
- **RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW (RCSL) CONFERENCE 2024**
3–6 September 2024: Bangor University, North Wales
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **FÉMINISME, DROIT ET CITOYENNETÉ II/FEMINISM, LAW AND CITIZENSHIP II**
8–10 September 2024: University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris
See [announcement](#) for details.

SLSA 2024 CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

The call for papers for the Socio-Legal Studies Annual Conference 2024 is now open!

The conference will be hosted by the University of Portsmouth from **26 to 28 March 2024**. Authors wishing to present at the conference (whether in person or virtually) should visit the **w conference website**. Submission of abstracts is via **Oxford Abstracts**.

Descriptions of the various streams and current topics that make up the conference can also be found on the

w website. Please choose the most appropriate stream or current topic for your proposed paper and prepare an abstract of max 250 words. Deadline for submissions: **12 January 2024**. Postgraduate researchers wishing to enter the annual Poster Competition should also submit an abstract by this date. Decisions on acceptance/rejection of papers will be made by individual stream/current topic conveners. If you have any questions about the suitability of your idea for a particular stream or current topic, please contact the conveners directly.

Further information about the conference will appear on the website in the coming weeks.

For general queries, please contact the Conference Team: **e slsa2024@port.ac.uk**.

Current topics

Armed conflict, justice and the law

Luke Moffett **e l.moffett@qub.ac.uk**

Em(body)ing the law

Mireia Garcés de Marcilla Musté

e m.garces-de-marcilla-muste@exeter.ac.uk

Zaina Mahmud **e zaina.mahmoud@liverpool.ac.uk**

Law and political economy

Jack Meakin **e j.meakin@leeds.ac.uk**

Dr Manoj Dias-Abey **e manoj.dias-abey@bristol.ac.uk**

Law, machine, and creativity: socio-legal implications of regulating generative AI

Ogulcan Ekiz **e ogulcan.ekiz@swansea.ac.uk**

Mespiti Poolsavasdi **e mespiti@tu.ac.th**

Menopause and the law

Anna Nelson **e anna.ce.nelson1@gmail.com**

New frontiers in legal consciousness studies

Simran Kalra **e simran.kalra@leicester.ac.uk**

Fanni Gyurko **e fanni.gyurko@glasgow.ac.uk**

Stine Piilgaard Porner Nielsen **e sppn@sam.sdu.dk**

Populism, courts and social change

Martha Gayoye **e m.m.gayoye@keele.ac.uk**

Space law, justice and social equity

Gulnur Erol **e g.erol@brighton.ac.uk**

Streams

Administrative justice

Susannah Paul **e susannah.paul@uws.ac.uk**

Chris Gill **e chris.gill@glasgow.ac.uk**

Art, culture and heritage

Janet Ulph **e ju13@leicester.ac.uk**

Sophie Vigneron **e s.vigneron@kent.ac.uk**

Banking and finance

Alison Lui **e a.lui@ljmu.ac.uk**

Priscilla Vitoh **e pav10@leicester.ac.uk**

Children's rights

Ruth Brittle **e ruth.brittle@leicester.ac.uk**

Naomi Lott **e naomi.lott@law.ox.ac.uk**

Civil justice systems and alternative dispute resolution

Masood Ahmed **e masood.ahmed@le.ac.uk**

Constitutionalism in developing democracies

Nauman Reayat **e nauman.reayat@leicester.ac.uk**

Criminal law and criminal justice

Kirsty Welsh **e kirsty.welsh@ntu.ac.uk**

Louise Taylor **e louise.taylor1@open.ac.uk**

Disability, law and social justice

Emily Kakoullis **e kakoullise@cardiff.ac.uk**

Alison Tarrant **e tarrantae2@cardiff.ac.uk**

Empire, colonialism and law

Raza Saeed **e raza.saeed@warwick.ac.uk**

Environmental law

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Equality and human rights law

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Kathryn McNeilly **e k.mcneilly@qub.ac.uk**

Severyna Magill **e severyna.magill@stmarys.ac.uk**

Shahab Saqib **e shahab.saqib@leicester.ac.uk**

Exploring legal borderlands: empirical and interdisciplinary methods

Pedro Fortes **e pfortes@alumni.stanford.edu**

Family law and policy

Charlotte Bendall **e c.l.bendall@bham.ac.uk**

Philip Bremner **e philip.2.bremner@kcl.ac.uk**

Gender, sexuality and law

Alex Dymock **e a.dymock@gold.ac.uk**

Avi Boukli **e a.p.boukli@soton.ac.uk**

Graphic justice: law, comics, and related visual media

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Health law and bioethics

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International economic law in context

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Interrogating the corporation

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SLSA policies

The SLSA is guided in its work by policies approved by the SLSA Board. The latest addition is our Stream Convenor Policy. See [w policies page](#) for the full list.

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Social and Legal Studies

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Special Issue: Democratic Constitutionalism in a Populist Age

Jeremy Webber, Oliver Schmidtke & Eszter Bodnár (eds)

- Introduction – Jeremy Webber, Oliver Schmidtke & Eszter Bodnár
 Understanding populism – Jeremy Webber
 Confronting populism – Daniel M Weinstock
 Learning lessons from the populist defeats: from negative to positive constitutionalism – Anna Śledzińska-Simon
 The ‘will of the people’: the populist challenge to democracy in the name of popular sovereignty – Oliver Schmidtke
 In what sense does right-wing populism pose a democratic challenge for the European Union? – John Erik Fossum
 Jurisdictional relationships: democracy and the administrative state through the lens of *Caring Society v Canada* – Patricia Cochran
 Political constitutionalism and referendums: the case of Brexit – Richard Bellamy

Journal of Law and Society

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Articles

- Caring on the move: the gender care gap and intra-EU mobility – Nina Miller
 Achieving compliance in the use of force: the production and maintenance of an imminent threat in an aerial targeting operation – Alexander Holder
 Critical theory of law of the Frankfurter lawyer Rudolf Wiethoelter – Domenico Siciliano
 The emotional labour of judges in jury trials – Colette Barry
 The making of neoliberal legality: the legal imagination of business elites and the social constitutionalization of ‘free enterprise’ in Latin America – Rodrigo Cordero & Ricardo Valenzuela
 ‘Human rights cities’ in Africa? Rights as strategic resources for urban governance in the developing world – Marius Pieterse
 Five angry men: advocating for and mobilising EU gender equality laws to advance men’s rights – Sophia Ayada

Book reviews

- Shari’a, Inshallah: Finding God in Somali Legal Politics* by Mark Fathi Massoud – John Strawson
Applied Legal Pluralism: Processes, Driving Forces and Effects by Ghislain Otis, Jean Leclair & Sophie Theriault – Paul Schiff Berman
Reimagining the Court of Protection: Access to Justice in Mental Capacity Law by Jaime Lindsey – Mary Donnelly
Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Criminal Law Opinions by Bennett Capers, Sarah Deer & Corey Rayburn Yung – Anna Carline



SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

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University of Portsmouth
26-28 March 2024

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