

# Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER

No 105

**SLSA**

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

[www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk)

## SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

*SLSA 2025 will be hosted by the University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice from 15 to 17 April 2025 for the first time in 20 years.*

More than 990 abstracts have been submitted spanning a wide range of topics and the conference also features a dedicated postgraduate programme, a revamped poster competition, and a session on socio-legal publishing led by a panel of editors of leading socio-legal journals.

Over the three-day conference, our socio-legal scholars will interact with local legal professionals and community organisations, encouraging knowledge exchange across disciplines and sectors. We will be joined by scholars from around the world, who will be sharing their expertise across 33 permanent SLSA streams and five current topics on 'Access to legal advice and legal aid'; 'Animal law, sentience and rights'; 'Dance/law'; 'Defining, defying, and desiring death'; 'The future of human reproduction, parenthood, and families – emerging technologies and the law'; and 'The law(s) of the future'. So, there truly is something for everyone.

The second day of the conference will begin with a plenary titled 'Liverpool and the Legacies of Hillsborough: Arts, Law, Communities and Accountability', generously sponsored by the *Modern Law Review* seminar series. This coincides with the 36th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster, showcasing the Liverpool region's proud history of campaigning for social justice.

The panel brings together pivotal figures from the Hillsborough Justice Campaign, including: leading members of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, Margaret Aspinall and Sue Roberts; acclaimed Liverpool-based writer and producer, Jimmy McGovern; leading socio-legal scholar, Professor Phil Scraton; and Elkan Abrahamson, legal representative to many of the Hillsborough victims' families. Together they will reflect on the collaborative roles of community activism, academic research, the arts, and legal advocacy in pursuing justice for the families affected. The plenary will be held in the Tung Auditorium of the new Yoko Ono Lennon Centre, our state-of-the-art music and cultural centre.

In the evening, the conference dinner and prize-giving will take place at Liverpool's flagship St George's Hall, recognised as one of the finest neoclassical buildings in the world. Like so many city halls of its age, St George's Hall has a problematic past rooted in colonialism and the slave trade. However, it is actively working on becoming a more inclusive space and remains a key congregation point for many campaigns and protests of local and national interest.

Conference attendees will also experience Liverpool's dynamic blend of heritage, art and culture, from the historic Royal Albert Dock and Liverpool cathedrals to its renowned museums and galleries, including the Museum of Liverpool, World Museum and the Bluecoat, FACT, Open Eye and Walker Art Galleries. Dedicated events will be organised, such as a 'Liverpool and slavery' walking



tour, associated with the 'Empire, colonialism and law' stream, exploring the city's history of colonialism and its legacy.

The University of Liverpool is committed to sustainability, and aims to provide a green conference by minimising plastic and paper use and offering a full vegetarian menu with plenty of vegan options. Conference programmes will be available on a dedicated SLSA 2025 conference app, and there will be ample digital screens displaying the programme. We will have a number of water stations across the conference venues and ask delegates to bring their own water bottles or purchase a reusable bottle. All cups, plates and cutlery will be reusable. Liverpool has excellent transport links and is easily accessible by road, rail and air. Conference attendees are encouraged to seek green transportation when travelling to Liverpool.

The School of Law and Social Justice is a leader in interdisciplinary and socio-legal research. With its strong emphasis on social justice, it ranks amongst the leading law schools in the UK. It was ranked in the top 10 for research impact in REF 2021 and hosts an award-winning law clinic which works closely with the local legal profession, courts and tribunals. As host of SLSA 2025, we aim to provide an enriching experience for delegates, continuing the tradition of academic excellence, while showcasing the best that Liverpool has to offer.

**Registration** is open until **28 March 2025**. For more information, visit the conference **w website** or contact [slsa2025@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:slsa2025@liverpool.ac.uk).

*The 2025 Conference Team*

*See page 3 for details of the PGR Activities in Liverpool.*

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## SLSA BOARD NEWS

*The SLSA AGM will take place on 16 April 2025, 13:00–14:00, at the University of Liverpool and online. All members are warmly invited to attend. Documents and online joining details will be circulated nearer the time via the SLSA email list to members.*

Five trustees will be stepping down at the AGM. John Harrington is leaving after eight years, the final three as Chair, and Emma Milne, who has been the Honorary Secretary since 2023, is leaving after five years as a trustee. Beverley Clough, Rebecca Moosavian and Mitchell Travis are also stepping down. In her time on the Board, Bev has served as Co-chair of the EDI Committee and Stream Secretary. Mitch joined in 2021 and has been Chair of the Impact Committee since 2022. Rebecca joined the Board in 2019 and has been Grants Committee Chair since 2022. In addition to taking on specific roles, Board members also serve on working groups, organise one-day conferences and participate in prize judging. The Board is grateful for the valuable service that these trustees have given to the SLSA, and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

The **five** vacancies will be filled at the meeting by election among SLSA members. The SLSA and its Board are enriched by and value the diversity of our community. We welcome inquiries and nominations from socio-legal scholars of all backgrounds, working at all institutions, and regardless of specific employment status. The SLSA is committed to the values of equity, diversity and inclusivity and strives to ensure these principles are reflected in its policy, practice and governance.

Further information about SLSA governance can be found [here](#). We have also created an information pack for members who are interested in becoming trustees. This contains advice on the opportunities and responsibilities which go with the role and is available [here](#). The Code of Conduct is [here](#). The deadline for nominations is **21 March 2025**. Please email your nomination statement to [e admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk).

### SLSA Members' Survey 2024

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent SLSA Members' Survey. A report on the results and how the SLSA plans to implement the feedback you provided will be shared in due course.

*The EDI Committee*

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## SLSA PGR ACTIVITIES AT LIVERPOOL 2025

*As your PGR Reps, we are looking forward to welcoming you for the dedicated PGR Activities at Liverpool! They will be held on the first morning of the conference: 15 April 2025. They are the perfect opportunity to meet other PGRs and get to know some friendly faces before the main conference kicks off.*

We have organised a range of sessions which we hope will be useful for you. The sessions aim to support the development of skills and understanding to aid you in your academic journey. The PGR Activities are a warm and welcoming environment, and we will have short breaks between the sessions to allow us all to mingle and get to know each other better.

The morning will kick off with a short session on publishing led by Professor Phil Thomas, founding editor of the *Journal of Law and Society* (JLS). We are incredibly grateful to the JLS for providing funding for the PGR sessions, and Phil will contribute expert comments based on his vast experience of publishing socio-legal research. Following this, we have a session on research impact, run by our wonderful colleagues at the University of Liverpool – Dr Sean Columb, Dr Jennifer Sigafos and Dr James Organ – who will explain what exactly this buzzword (increasingly mentioned in socio-legal research contexts) actually means. Given the significance of impact for the REF as well as for doctoral research more generally, we hope this session will be insightful for our PGR community. All three speakers are winners of the SLSA Impact Prize: James and Jennifer in 2023 and Sean last year!

The second session will focus on career pathways post-PhD. Feedback from last year's PGR sessions as well as from the PGR Conference and our regular writing groups has shown that SLSA PGRs appreciate strategic and practical advice about how to navigate their careers after they complete the PhD. We will have two ECRs from the University of Liverpool (Zaina Mahmoud and Ellen Reeves) to speak to academic pathways. However, in line with the increasing focus being given to non-academic pathways by UKRI as well as the various Doctoral Training Partnerships, we will also be joined online by Dr Alice Tofts (UCL) speaking on careers in policy.

The final session will shift gears toward a more inspirational theme: the increasing incorporation of arts and humanities into socio-legal studies. The rise of creative methods to undertake socio-legal research and the increasing relevance of art cannot be ignored. This is also reflected in the streams and current topics at the SLSA itself. We have been fortuitous in securing all three convenors of the new 'Dance/law' current topic – Dr Maria Federica Moscati (University of Sussex), Dr Sean Mulcahy (La Trobe University) and Dr Lucy Finchett-Maddock (Bangor University) to speak on this panel. In addition, we have Dr James Greenwood-Reeves (Leeds), who co-convenes the 'Law, literature and the humanities' stream, to speak about zine-making and drag and pedagogy. We hope this session will be an uplifting transition into the main conference for our PGR community!

See the [w website](#) for further details and registration. There is a discounted rate for PGR students.

*Mini Saxena and Diksha Sanyal (SLSA PGR Reps)*

## SLSA SHORTLISTS 2025

The SLSA Board is delighted to announce the shortlists for our prestigious annual book, article and impact prizes. Prizes will be awarded at the SLSA Annual Dinner on 16 April 2025 in St George's Hall, Liverpool.

### SLSA Article Prize

- Lynette J Chua, *“He is still your father’: tetherings, welfare laws, and troubled parental maintenance litigation in Taiwan’* (2024) *Law and Social Inquiry* 49(4): 2213–2244
- Dave Cowan, Alex Marsh & Jennifer Harris, *‘Local authority intervention in private renting: from compliance to hardline enforcement’* (2024) *Journal of Law and Society* 51(3): 390–412
- Laura Lammasniemi, *‘Capacity to consent to sex: a historical perspective’* (2024) *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 44(4): 979–1001

### Hart–SLSA Book Prize

- Catherine Barnard, Fiona Costello & Sarah Fraser Butlin, *Low-Paid EU Migrant Workers: The House, the Street, the Town* (2024) Bristol University Press
- Joanne Conaghan and Yvette Russell, *Sexual History Evidence and the Rape Trial* (2023) Bristol University Press
- Roger Cotterrell, *Jurisprudence and Socio-Legal Studies: Intersecting Fields* (2024) Routledge

### Hart–SLSA Prize for Early Career Academics

- Cressida Auckland, *Values and Disorder in Mental Capacity Law* (2024) Cambridge University Press
- Francesca Meloni, *Ways of Belonging: Undocumented Youth in the Shadow of Illegality* (2023) Rutgers University Press
- Dagmar Myslinska, *Law, Migration and the Construction of Whiteness: Mobility within the European Union* (2024) Routledge

### SLSA Socio-Legal Theory and History Prize

- Joanne Conaghan and Yvette Russell, *Sexual History Evidence and the Rape Trial* (2023) Bristol University Press
- Paddy Ireland, *Property in Contemporary Capitalism* (2024) Bristol University Press
- Jens Meierhenrich, *The Violence of Law: The Formation and Deformation of Gacaca Courts in Rwanda* (2024) Cambridge University Press

### SLSA Impact Prize

- Nicola Barker, University of Liverpool, ‘Challenging the revocation of same-sex marriage in Bermuda’
- Ali Struthers, University of Warwick, ‘School Tasking’
- Mark Walters, University of Sussex, ‘Establishing a new framework of hate crime legislation for Seychelles’

## SLSA SEMINARS 2025

The SLSA Board has announced the winners of this year’s Seminar Competition. Six events will be taking place over the coming months.

- Nic Aaron, University of Hertfordshire, £3000, ‘Sexually violent figures and carceral systems: transphobia, transmisogyny and sexual violence’
- Eithne Dowds, Queen’s University Belfast, £2890, ‘Reforming legal and policy responses to investigating and prosecuting sexual violence’
- Zaina Mahmoud, University of Liverpool, £2875, ‘Decolonising the body’
- Kate Sandford, University of Liverpool, £2567, ‘The politics of law and emotion: addressing overlooked emotions in legal fields’
- Kate Seear, La Trobe University, £3000, ‘Law, drugs and the moving body’
- Danielle Watson, University of Leicester, £2991.62, ‘Disability and rights: the possibilities and limits of rights discourses under neoliberalism’

The next round opens for applications in the summer. To find out more, see [w website](#).

## SLSA BLOG

### Call for guest editors

The **SLSA Blog** is a well-established and widely read channel for discussion on matters of interest to the socio-legal community. It publishes a wide range of posts from both established and emerging academics and others with an interest in socio-legal matters.

The blog is currently seeking guest editors to curate a series of blog posts on a specific topic. Guest editors could be an individual, a group of individuals or an organisation. A series can be between four and ten blog posts. Potential topics can be about anything of interest to the socio-legal community and could include (but are not limited to):

- intersections between law and social sciences/humanities/STEM;
- novel methodologies and approaches to socio-legal work;
- responses to contemporary and emerging legal issues.

Examples of existing blog series can be found on the SLSA blog [here](#). The guest editor’s role will include:

- identifying and liaising with authors;
- reviewing submissions for quality and to ensure compliance with the blog’s guidelines;
- liaising with the SLSA blog editors and reviewing published posts;
- assisting in publicising the posts.

To apply to be a guest editor, please email the following details to [e blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk) on or before **4 April 2025**:

- names and contact details of all proposed guest editors;
- a brief description of the proposed topic (maximum 500 words), including an explanation of why it will be of interest to the socio-legal community;
- details of proposed authors (if known) or details of how appropriate authors will be identified; and
- a timeline for the proposed series.

Contact [e Emma Jones](mailto:emma.jones@slsa.ac.uk), if you have any questions or want to discuss your proposal further.

Please note that we welcome submission of individual blog posts at any time. You can submit your post and/or any queries to [e blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:blogeditors@slsa.ac.uk).

## SLSA EVENTS

### PGR Conference, Manchester Metropolitan University, 9–10 January 2025

*The conference delivered comprehensive sessions designed to enhance PGRs' socio-legal research skills and introduce them to the PhD journey, dividing delegates into two groups to ensure intimate, interactive sessions.*

The six sessions were spread across two days, organised on the themes of 'The supervisory relationship and wellbeing', 'Getting published', 'Research ethics', 'Lifecycle of a PhD', 'Presenting your research' and 'Getting a job in academia'.

The 'Supervisory' session, led by Dr Elisabeth Griffiths (Northumbria University) and Mini Saxena (PGR Rep), created a safe space for participants to explore the complexities of supervisor–student relationships. Through engaging discussions, participants shared their experiences and strategies for building better communication with supervisors, treating PhD studies as professional work and effectively managing multiple commitments.

The 'Research ethics' session featured an expert panel of Dr Hasret Cetinkaya, Dr Seamus Byrne and Dr Caroline Redhead (MMU), who provided insights into the diverse ethical challenges PGRs might encounter. Dr Byrne shared valuable perspectives on the sensitivities of conducting research with children, while Dr Cetinkaya examined the intricate power dynamics of doing cross-cultural research in developing countries. Dr Redhead rounded out the session with an exploration of the field of bioethics and the ethical considerations that come up within such research.

In 'Getting published', Dr Zainab Naqvi (MMU), Professor Phil Thomas (Cardiff University) and Professor Beverley Clough (MMU) guided participants through every aspect of the publication journey, from selecting appropriate journals to navigating the peer review process. Professor Clough emphasised how writing book reviews can contribute to building better academic citizenship and scholarly standing. The day concluded with an inspiring Social Justice Poetry Reception organised by Manchester Poetry Library, followed by a lively conference dinner.

Day two opened with an innovative 'Lifecycle of a PhD' session, facilitated by Beverley, her MMU Colleague Dr Senthoran Raj and Diksha Sanyal (SLSA PGR Rep). Using 'Lego' as a creative medium, participants constructed physical representations of their PhD journeys, leading to meaningful discussions about shared challenges and achievements. This was followed by 'Presenting your research', where Dr Anna Nelson (University of Manchester), Professor Annapurna Waughray and Dr Jenny Kanellopoulou (MMU) shared expert techniques for effective academic presentation by getting participants in small groups to structure a storyline for their research and even try their hand at poetry writing!

The conference concluded with an invaluable session on academic career development, led by distinguished scholars Professor Dave Cowan (Cardiff) and Professor Andrew Francis (MMU), providing detailed insights into the academic job market, sharing practical strategies for building competitive applications and navigating the challenging recruitment process.

Overall, the conference provided PGRs with essential academic skills while creating a supportive environment for professional networking and collaboration. The combination of practical workshops, expert guidance and social activities ensured participants left with

both enhanced knowledge and expanded community networks!

Here is a taste of the feedback from delegates:

I especially appreciated the opportunity to talk with other PGRs and the speakers in the breaks, the interactivity of the speakers with the attendees and the way it was spread out over two days, so it didn't feel overwhelming.

Dr Seamus and his research on children and consent was fascinating. The breadth of the topic and exchange of knowledge was top tier. It was great that we could stay in one room and the speakers rotated instead of us rotating rooms. The conference was disability friendly for those like myself who needed breaks.

The SLSA would like to extend a huge thank you to all the speakers and the organising team at MMU. We are also grateful to the delegates for their wonderful and engaged contributions throughout both days.

*Mini Saxena and Diksha Sanyal (SLSA PGR Reps)*

### SLSA developing International Collaboration on Promoting Socio-Legal Studies in Ukraine, 30 May 2024 online

*Attended by over 30 scholars from Ukraine, the event facilitated exchange between academics from the UK and Ukraine on teaching and research in the field of socio-legal studies.*

The event was hosted by the SLSA in collaboration with USAID Justice for All Activity and Professor Pavlo Fedorchenko-Kutuyev, Head of the Sociology Department, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute.

Dr Olena Akimova (Dean, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, School of Sociology and Law) and Artem Shaipov (Legal Advisor, USAID Justice for All Activity) welcomed the attendees, and Dr Smita Kheria (International Liaison Officer and Vice Chair, SLSA) introduced the SLSA and described its recent internationalisation activities.

Dr Agata Fijalkowski (Leeds Beckett University) kicked off the discussion by presenting her research examining war crimes through the lens of socio-legal studies. She shared the methodology and findings from her SLSA-funded project 'Defence counsel "Maestro"', focusing on the Polish defence lawyer Stanislaw Hejmowski. Professor Stefan Machura (Bangor University) discussed his approach to engaging law students in socio-legal research, by drawing on the experience of his module on Crime and Media, and underlining the wide-ranging benefits for students that enrich their conventional study of the law. Professor Kirsten McConnachie (University of East Anglia, and SLSA Board member), introduced her co-edited collection, *Routledge Handbook of Socio-Legal Theory and Methods*, and then highlighted what socio-legal studies can bring to refugee studies as opposed to a purely doctrinal approach, including her own ongoing work on socio-legal approaches to displacement in and from Ukraine. Professor McConnachie also enabled sharing of 12 electronic copies of the handbook with the participants courtesy of the publisher.

Professor Fedorchenko-Kutuyev then presented a socio-legal perspective on the evolution of the institutions of the Ukrainian state, examining it in the context of the

Soviet and post-Soviet systems and underlining the value of a socio-legal perspective in aiming for tangible policy and political outcomes. Dr Iryna Holubenko (Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, School of Sociology and Law) closed the substantive discussion by underlining the importance of socio-legal research in the field of human rights and illustrating it through human rights policy-making issues in Ukraine, particularly in times of conflict.

The Q&A included a broad discussion on the historical development of socio-legal studies in the UK and the position of socio-legal teaching and research in the current UK higher-education landscape, interest in developing the field in Ukraine and, relatedly, the challenges in undertaking socio-legal research including approaches to overcoming them, and students' perceptions of legal training and the profession.

Since the event, based on further interest from scholars in Ukraine in developing socio-legal studies as a field, Professor Fedorchenko-Kutuyev has been working on plans to establish a Ukrainian socio-legal studies working group under the auspices of the national sociology association. The SLSA looks forward to supporting this initiative.

*Smita Kheria, SLSA Vice Chair*

## Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Human Rights, Brunel University of London, 23 January 2025

*This SLSA-sponsored seminar was organised by Brunel's Human Rights, Society and Arts Research Group.*

Researchers from higher-education institutions across the UK attended the conference and presented their work on topics relating to the intersections between climate change mitigation and adaptation and human rights. The panels comprised participants at all career stages (doctoral students, ECRs, mid-career researchers and established scholars) and across various disciplines

(law, environmental politics, natural sciences and social sciences). The purpose of the seminar was to provide a space for scholarly dialogue on pressing rights issues that are increasingly impacting individuals and communities as the international community accelerates efforts to stem the climate emergency.

### Community rights

The first panel was dedicated to issues of climate adaptation and mitigation in the context of community rights and was chaired by Dr Marcus de Matos. Dr Shona Paterson launched the seminar with a paper on 'Adaptation wordsoup', calling into question the capacity for existing frameworks to achieve transformative adaptation. Heather Urquhart followed with a paper on the dualism inherent in rewilding projects in the Scottish Highlands. Finally, organiser, Dr Colin Luoma, concluded this session with a presentation arguing that global conservation projects replicate settler colonial violence.

### Legal dimensions

The second session focused on the legal dimensions of climate change mitigation and adaptation and was chaired by Professor Alexandra Xanthaki, current United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. Dr Daniel Ogunniyi presented on the nexus between climate change mitigation and modern slavery after which Dr Birsha Ohdedar delivered a paper on transformative climate adaptation, drawing from his broader research on water rights and adaptation on the Indian subcontinent. Dr Patrizia Hobbs finished the day by discussing her work on ecocide, including its opportunities and limitations as a tool to fight against the climate emergency.

The seminar was a good opportunity for scholars and students to network and engage with these critical issues in a relaxed setting and we hope to continue these conversations. This was made possible by the SLSA, which funded travel expenses for ECRs and the catering.

*Colin Luoma, Brunel University of London*

## SLSA CALENDAR

2025

### March

- 3 SLN 105 publication
- 5 SLSA 2025: **standard registration closes**
- 19 SLSA Seminar: **Law's Role in Shaping and Responding to Disability and Motherhood**, Reading
- 28 SLSA 2025: **registration closes**

### April

- 4 SLSA Seminar: **Legal Perspectives on Climate Reparations**, Bristol
- 11 Final ebulletin before spring break
- 15–17 **SLSA 2025**, University of Liverpool
- 16 SLSA AGM 2025  
SLSA prizes presented and annual dinner

### May

- 2 First ebulletin of summer term
- 20 SLN 106 copy deadline
- 29 SLSA Board meeting

### June

- 23 SLSA Mentoring Scheme call for applications  
SLN 106 publication  
SLSA **funding schemes** and **prizes** open for applications and nominations

### July

- Calls for SLSA 2026 current topics and stream convenors open
- 11 Final Friday ebulletin of the summer
- 31 SLSA Mentoring Scheme closes

### August

- Two summer catch-up ebulletins
- 25 SLSA Seminar: **Law, Drugs, and the Moving Body**, Manchester

### September

- 1 Nominations for SLSA Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community close
- 19 First ebulletin of the autumn
- tbc SLSA Board meeting tbc

### October

- 6 Closing date for book, article and impact prizes
- 20 SLN 107 copy deadline
- 31 Closing date for SLSA Grant Schemes

### November

- 24 SLN 107 publication

2026

### January

- tbc SLSA Postgraduate Conference, Cardiff
- 30 March–1 April SLSA Annual Conference, University of Sussex

## SLSA GRANTS

The SLSA Board has announced the latest round of projects that will be supported by our funding schemes. Visit the [website](#) for full details of the schemes and past and current projects.

### Research Grants 2025

- Jonathan Collinson, University of Sheffield, £2900, 'Exploring how the statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children features in the work of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration'
- Charlotte English, University of Westminster, £2135.40, 'Coordinating workers' rights in contemporary content creation: exploring the use of 'intimacy coordinators' in pornography'
- Kate Falconer, University College Cork, £2846, 'The scope for alternative body disposal techniques in Ireland: a socio-legal review'
- Anna Katila, City University of London, £2980, 'Legal and social frames of Sámi experiences: narrative construction of discrimination in truth and reconciliation commission in Finland'
- Teresa Sutton, University of Sussex, £1190, 'Perspectives on the gender pension gap: the Old Age and Widows' Pensions Act 1940 and the National Spinsters' Pensions Association (1935–1958)'

### International Collaboration Grants 2025

- Koldo Casla, University of Essex, £2500, 'Strategic litigation on the progressive realisation of economic, social and cultural rights'
- Jill Dickinson, Leeds Beckett University, £2286, 'Pracademia in law schools – an international community of practice'
- Zainab Lockhandwala, University of Essex, and Monalisa Saha, Burdwan University, £2048, 'Laying the groundwork and building collaborations for multi-scalar studies in the field of environmental law through a socio-legal mapping exercise of sanitary waste management systems in the Eastern Himalayan Region, India'

### Impact Grants 2025

- Andrea Fejős, University of Essex, £1460, 'Training credit unions on the Guide on Affordability Assessment for the British Credit Union Sector'
- Rebecca French, Northumbria University, £1250, 'Postgraduate Research Sex Work Network: interdisciplinary conference and workshop'
- James Greenwood-Reeves, Leeds University, £1495, 'Law's a Drag Research Principles Design Lab'
- Nikhil Gokani, University of Essex, £1332, 'Developing international standards on alcohol labelling to improve consumer protection and public health'
- Amanda Perry-Kessarar, University of Kent, £1497, 'Activating imagination in an island-wide deliberation for Cyprus'
- Zoe Tongue, Leeds University, £1400, 'Reproductive futures: a zine-making project'
- Nazia Yaqub, Leeds University, £1200, 'Can legal developments in adoption law across Muslim states increase child adoption in the UK?'
- Adrienne Yong, £1500, City University of London, 'Domestic abuse in a new immigration landscape – creating a community of practice for migrant victim-survivors of domestic abuse in England and Wales'

### Fieldwork Grants 2025

- James Campbell, Oxford University, £1500, 'The laws of motion: towards a sensational jurisprudence of movement within the court'
- Banaz Kamil, University of the West of Scotland, £1340, 'Navigating justice: a guide for interpreter-mediated hearings in the Immigration and Asylum Tribunals'
- Vendula Kolarik Mezeiova, Oxford University, £1500, 'Are behavioural regulatory tools legitimate? A post-structuralist analysis of tools to promote MMR vaccination in France'
- Preeti Pratishruti Dash, Cambridge University, £1500, 'Criminal law as a site for feminist reforms: analysing the enactment and enforcement of rape laws in India'
- Sophie Quist, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, £1475, 'Encountering blue transformation: a legal ethnography of small-scale fishers' resistance against salmon farming in Norway and Chile'

All these schemes will reopen for applications on 23 June 2025.

## PROJECT REPORTS

SLSA grantholders have been busy completing their funded projects. Here we bring together final reports from five research projects, one impact project and a fieldwork trip.

### Impact grant

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry: perceptions of the survivors, bereaved families and North Kensington community

Natalie Ohana, University of Exeter, £1500

In June 2024, seven years after the Grenfell Tower fire, I led workshops for the Grenfell Tower community at Bay 20, a community centre in North Kensington, London.

#### What were your research questions?

The workshops had two aims: to provide a safe space for the community to process their ongoing struggle for justice and to gain deeper insights into this struggle through

their discussions. They followed earlier workshops in 2019 which focused on the community's experiences with the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. These workshops were part of my research on the inquiry and broader work examining the intersection of law, power and trauma. The research question underlying the work is: what insights can be gained on the relationship between law and social power, when examining this relationship through the prism of law's responses to traumatic events?

#### What did you use the SLSA funding for?

The workshops were funded by the SLSA Impact Grant, the Wellcome Centre, and Exeter Law School. This funding covered various costs, including fees for team members – community builders, an art therapist and a photographer – as well as venue rental and catering, travel and accommodation.

The two-day workshops brought together two groups of 15 participants, including survivors, bereaved families and residents of North Kensington. I co-facilitated these sessions with two community builders, the photographer and the art therapist, three of whom were themselves part

of the Grenfell community. The sessions combined art mark-making followed by open group discussions.

**What did you learn during your research?**

Three key insights emerged from the workshops which will form the basis for my ongoing research: first, understanding the community's perception of institutional discrimination, its manifestations, and its impact on their lives. Second, is the recognition that the Royal Borough of Kensington Council's attitude toward social-housing residents, widely criticised as contemptuous, has not changed since the fire, an attitude which the community sees as the root cause of the disaster. Third, is an understanding of how civil legal proceedings for compensation have fragmented the community and weakened their pursuit of justice.

**What are your next steps?**

Participants expressed gratitude for the space to share and learn from each other, and many called for ongoing discussions. They have since formed a WhatsApp group to support each other on housing issues. The workshops created a meaningful connection between the community and myself, enabling ongoing communication.

The recordings will be transcribed, and both the recordings and the art works will be analysed. Two paths are considered in terms of next steps: integrating the findings into an article on the applicability of the Human Rights Act 1998 for the adjudication of institutional discrimination on the basis of housing; and deepening the understanding of the impact of civil proceedings on the Grenfell Tower community, through one-to-one interviews.

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## Research grants

### Prisoners of war and international humanitarian law in revolutionary Russia, 1917-1929

**Peter Whitewood, York St John University, £1500**

My project focuses on the experiences of POWs in the 'Russian' Civil War (1918–1921), during which over 2 million foreign officers and soldiers were held captive by the Bolsheviks.

**What were your research questions?**

Housing, provisioning and repatriating this huge number of POWs was a daunting logistical challenge for the new Soviet Government, but my project seeks to better explore how, and to what degrees, the Bolsheviks aligned with established international humanitarian law in their management of POWs. Officially speaking, the Soviet Government had repudiated all laws and treaties signed by the Tsarist Government, refusing to be bound by the principle of succession in international law. Historians, writing on the Civil-War era, have most commonly focused on political violence rather than humanitarianism. However, my research shows that the Bolsheviks did, in fact, meaningfully engage with humanitarian laws and principles. It explores this dynamic through three core motivations visible among Bolshevik officials: the value of reciprocity with other foreign governments; a desire to recruit POWs to the Bolshevik cause; and humanitarian impulses alone.

**What did you use your SLSA funding for?**

My funding allowed more archival material to be gathered from the State Archive of the Russian Federation, particularly for Soviet agencies responsible for POWs in the revolutionary years, for instance the Central Commissariat of POWs and refugees. I am also interested in the activity

of the Soviet-controlled Red Cross, which made regular appeals to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva that it, and the Soviet Government, were in perfect alignment with the Geneva Convention. My funding meant that I could access material revealing internal discussion and debate among Red Cross officials.

**What did you learn during the research?**

A striking finding has been the extent to which the Soviet Red Cross defended Red Army atrocities against POWs and civilians while at the same time claiming that the Soviet state operated within international humanitarian laws. There is more to uncover about how exactly the Bolsheviks perceived international humanitarian law and where this intersected with their view on class position; their conspiracy theories about the international order; and where humanitarian principles lay in relation to a perceived struggle between the capitalist and communist worlds. My developing view is that the Bolsheviks saw no contradiction between deploying extreme political violence at class enemies and their claims to uphold humanitarianism.

**What are your next steps?**

Drawing on the materials gathered, I published an article in the *International History Review*: "'A few regrettable cases': civil war violence and the recognition of the Russian Red Cross Society, 1918–21". I am now working on a monograph entitled *Prisoners of War in Early Soviet Russia: Between Humanitarianism and Civil War Violence*.

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### 'Let them in': the road to humanising the EU's asylum policy

**Sylvie Da Lomba, University of Strathclyde, £1333**

This project investigates the framing of the EU's activation of temporary protection for (some) people who have fled the war in Ukraine as an 'hospitable moment' and examines whether this moment can signify a humanising turn in the EU's asylum policy.

**What were your research questions?**

The initial aim of the project was twofold: to explore the recognition of entry to the EU's territory as the foundation of access to international protection there; and to consider whether such recognition could offer a route to reform of the EU's asylum policy. These questions evolved as I developed and applied my theoretical framework.

**What did you use SLSA funding for?**

It funded a visit to Oxford University's Bodleian Libraries. This enabled me to access resources that proved key to constructing my theoretical framework. I also employed a research assistant whose groundwork was very helpful in kickstarting this project at a particularly busy time of the academic calendar.

**What did you learn during the research?**

I drew on Derrida's and Levinas' work to conceptualise true (unconditional) hospitality as the ethical compass that sets asylum policies (in this case, the EU's) on a humanising path. The theorisation of true hospitality as a humanising compass was critical to my formulating two basic interrelated premises on the basis of which I reframed my research questions. First, I understand the humanising of asylum policies as the unrelenting pursuit of true hospitality – hospitality without conditions. The latter can never be fully achieved, but it sets asylum policies on a course to ever greater hospitality towards asylum-seekers and refugees. Secondly, I posit that true hospitality demands that people in need of international



protection be 'let in' so they can make their home in the host's territory. It follows that the 'right to make a home' – rather than the 'right to enter' – becomes the foundation of (ever more) hospitable asylum policies. This framing recognises that access to the host's territory alone cannot humanise asylum policies – where inhospitality is, indeed, meted out to individuals who have been 'let in'. In a first piece, I argue that the EU's activation of temporary protection participates in its hostile environment: the notion that the EU is not destined to become the home of temporary protection beneficiaries is at the core of this scheme; not all persons displaced from Ukraine are eligible for temporary protection; and, rather than marking a humanising shift in the EU's asylum policy, the deployment of temporary protection serves as 'humanising veneer'. In a second piece, I rethink the tenets of the EU's asylum policy through the lens of true hospitality with a view to (re)connecting this policy with today's (and tomorrow's) migratory realities.

#### What are my next steps?

Building on this research, I plan to unpack and challenge the violence that EU and UK asylum laws and policies inflict on asylum-seekers and refugees who arrive 'spontaneously' at Europe's borders.

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## When contract law goes to therapy

David J Carter & Renata Grossi, University of Technology, Australia, £1500

This project considered why the largest professional body of counsellors in Australia (ACA) defines the relationship between counsellor and client as contractual 'and nothing else'. This is also relevant in the UK where the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy identifies contract as a marker of and tool for building appropriate relationships between practitioner and client.

While contract law has been traditionally associated with 'rational', arms-length, commercial relationships, counselling and psychotherapy have been associated with intimate, emotional relationships, work and exchange. What is the significance, therefore, of these seemingly dissonant discourses coming together in the counselling and therapeutic relationship?

#### What were your research questions?

We conducted interviews using a guide developed following a review of contract theory and literature on contract in the counselling domain. The guide focused on these questions:

- 1 How are contracts used in counselling practice?
- 2 What is the content of contracts?
- 3 What is the practical function they fulfil?
- 4 How do counsellors understand the contract?

In addition, participants were invited, and prompted, to reflect on the significance of the contract for the profession and clients and to consider emotional, social or cultural meanings ascribed to contracts.

#### What did you use SLSA funding for?

It funded professional interview transcription and professional editing of an article on the findings (currently submitted for review).

#### What did you learn during the research?

This study shows that contract performs both an 'infrastructural' and 'therapeutic' function. It provides a framework for service delivery and the meeting of professional standards, while simultaneously operating as a therapeutic tool. Importantly, in this self-regulated

setting, the analysis demonstrates how practitioners navigate the 'formality' of contract to advance a broader formation of professional identity.

The ability for contract law to deliver the smooth running of a counselling business is clear and uncontroversial for these counsellors. However, we showed that there is an additional socio-cultural role that contract fulfills, stemming from its rhetorical power, or its 'lived experience'. Contract's power lies in being able to cut through, simplify and then formalise the messiness of human transactions with a set of rules: to create boundaries and marginalise difficult emotions. Contract is formal and, therefore, serious; freely entered into, consented to and therefore sacred – demanding obedience and respect. These are the features that make it fit to perform the broader functions that regulatory bodies, such as the ACA, are charging it with.

#### What are your next steps?

In addition to academic output, our findings are being reported in an article in the ACA's professional journal and a webinar. We are also extending this study to explore two further questions: first, what is contract's role in the management of emotions in this highly emotional setting (contributing to law and emotion scholarship in the context of contract law); second, how does the study expand socio-legal interest in the function and theory of contract law outside the commercial economic market?

### *Journal of Law and Society* Volume 52(1) Spring 2025

#### Articles

Exploring computational approaches to law: the evolution of judicial language in the Anglo-Welsh poor law, 1691–1834 – Simon Deakin & Linda Shuku

Law and conspiracy theory: sovereign citizens, freemen on the land, and pseudolaw – Tarik Kochi

Unchartered territory?: Navigating voice, accountability and prevention in suicide-related domestic homicide reviews in England and Wales – Vanessa Munro, Lotte Young-Andrade & Sarah Dangar

Perceptions of procedural fairness and space for personal narrative: an experimental study of form design – Jed Meers, Aisling Ryan & Joe Tomlinson

Broken bonds: how Covid-19 border restrictions transformed experiences and conceptualisations of citizenship – Kate Ogg

#### Book reviews

*Integrated Offender Management and the Policing of Prolific Offenders* by Frederick Cram – Andy Williams

*Subjectivity Transformed: The Cultural Foundation of Liberty in Modernity* by Thomas Vesting – Marta Bucholc

*The EU and Constitutional Time: The Significance of Time in Constitutional Change* by Massimo Fichera – Paul Linden-Retek

*Not What the Bus Promised: Health Governance after Brexit* by Tamara Hervey, Ivanka Anova, Mark L Flear & Matthew Wood – John Harrington

## Access to justices: a comparative study of research access to the judiciary

**Rachel Cahill-O'Callaghan, Cardiff University, £1500**

I want to thank the SLSA for awarding me a small grant to start to understand access and gatekeeping in the context of judicial research.

### What were your research questions?

I hope to develop a framework which makes visible the many factors, both institutional and individual, that shape the social context in which access is granted and co-operation negotiated. The SLSA small grant allowed me to engage two excellent student research assistants: Catherine Maunder and Juliana Reimberg.

### What did you use SLSA funding for?

The first phase of this comparative project was to build a database of published research which engages judges as research participants. Using a series of search engines and search terms, we identified a sample of 442 English language academic papers and books. A sub-sample, of 100 papers from 21 jurisdictions, was coded based on the methods employed, the data collected and the route of access to the judicial subjects. The majority of primary data published was collected from sitting judges. In the papers and books that gathered this primary data, the dominant method of data collection was interviews, with surveys less frequently used.

### What did you learn during the research?

We all know the level of access required to engage in interviews, yet the analysis confirmed our hypothesis that the factors that mediate access are often omitted from published papers. Of the papers that did discuss any element of access, we identified two key routes. The dominant route was insider access where the author was a judge or had a personal contact within the judiciary who mediated access. Access was also mediated by recognised associations, for example the American Bar Association, American Judge's Association and the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment. Other interesting patterns were observed, including an association between access and 'author' esteem, often professors in highly ranked institutions. The route and the association with esteem may contribute to a hierarchy of access, which privileges senior scholars and those who can circumvent or exert power over the gatekeepers.

### What are your next steps?

We have used this preliminary data to develop a survey instrument which explores judicial access, paying particular attention to the social context and social interactions that mediate access and judicial cooperation.

As part of this research, I would like to draw on the networks of the SLSA and interview/survey those who have engaged with the judiciary as research subjects. Please do get in touch with me at [e cahill-ocallaghanr@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:cahill-ocallaghanr@cardiff.ac.uk) if you would be able to participate.

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## Depicting law, streaming justice: analysing 'transparency' in the webcasted courtroom

**Ozan Kamiloglu, London South Bank University, and Kanika Sharma, SOAS, £1500**

We have recently completed our international comparative project which aimed to analyse judicial engagement with notions of transparency and neutrality by examining the use of cameras in the courtroom. We examined the

implementation of new audio-visual technologies and the recordings they produce, the dissemination of such footage, and how the digitalisation and technological transformation of the courts is changing notions of justice. Focusing exclusively on in-person and hybrid hearings broadcast live to a remote public audience, the project conducted court ethnography in the Supreme Courts of the UK and India.

### What did you use SLSA funding for?

The SLSA funding, in addition to our institutional research funds, allowed us to complete our field work.

### What were your research questions?

- 1 What are the policy and aesthetic reasons that inform the choices made by relevant actors when deciding on the material format of courtroom webcasts?
- 2 How does livestreamed footage of trials contribute to the construction and perception of the courts' claims to impartiality, transparency and open justice? And how does it relate to notions of the rule of law, accessibility and public accountability?
- 3 What impact (if any) do the cameras have on participants' behaviour and performance in the courtroom?
- 4 How does law conceptualise and deal with this new visual archive?

### What did you learn during the research?

Our answers to these questions, drawn from interviews, court observations and primary source research, have led us to conceptualise the technological transformation and digitalisation of the courts from two separate but interrelated theoretical angles.

First, we have conceptualised a second Weberian administrative turn in the course of justice, in which datafication becomes fundamental to the making of justice. And, second, we have rethought the relationship of law to images from the perspective of archives, technologies and class relations in this transformation. Articles based on our ethnographic research are currently under review.

### What are your next steps?

In the course of our research, we also organised a workshop at SOAS in June 2024 under the title 'Marking 100 years of the ban on cameras in courtrooms'. Selected papers from the workshop will soon be appearing in an edited collection (to be published by Routledge).

In addition, we have started an online platform **Court of Images**, where we invite contributions that use images as a starting point to examine the relation between law and images and the aesthetics of justice.

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## Fieldwork grant

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

**Arpeeta Shams Mizan, University of Bristol, £1000**

### What were your research questions?

My dissertation explores legal consciousness from a postcolonial, non-western perspective that reflects the lived experiences of law in Bangladesh, particularly to understand how the people navigate multiple normative orders in their everyday life and whether and how there might be a dissonance between how the state understands law and how the people perceive law.

**What did you use SLSA funding for and what did you learn?**

Throughout my fieldwork I maintained a research diary to document and describe my observations, feelings, confusions and memos. Much of the fieldnotes consisted of observational work not only of the chosen field site and interlocutors but of the social, political and cultural conditions as they were unfolding in Bangladesh. These oscillations produced moments of epistemic and ontological conflicts when I questioned my authenticity and credibility as a researcher and as an academic. The language of the interviews was Bangla whereas my dissertation is in English – invoking questions on authentic representation and production of knowledge echoed throughout the fieldwork.

I visited particular zones in Dhaka, such as the Shaheed Minar, Dhaka University Campus, residential area fish markets and local tea stalls. This combination provided me with thick descriptions and a broader coverage of research phenomena (religious compliance and breaches of state law).

The researcher–participant relationship is often conceived of as hierarchical, where the researcher controls the process. In the traditional Bangladeshi context, a woman interviewing unfamiliar men was not always safe nor practical to elicit a comfortable conversation. To ensure propriety, undergraduate law students acted as chaperones to balance the power equation with male interlocutors.

My six-month long fieldwork produced 63 qualitative interviews and three focus group discussions. Initially, I had intended to concentrate only on interviews, but in attempting to contextualise the observations of older participants who lived through the pre-independence era, I consulted the archives in Dhaka, locating archival materials from the 1920s to 1980s. In short, the fieldwork enabled me to closely observe what legality looks like in a chaotic urban environment where the state does the bare minimum to make people’s lives easy and provided an opportunity to delve into deeper meanings of religion as a lived phenomenon in ordinary lives.

**What are your next steps?**

My project is the first PhD-length empirical work on legal consciousness in Bangladesh. It contributes by expanding the scholarship of postcolonial legal studies by using non-western epistemic and ontological frameworks. My data shows that in everyday life people constantly navigate multiple identities, each corresponding to different sets of normative frameworks which respectively shape their perceptions of law and legality. Although recent scholarship recognises informal non-state legalities as important catalysts for legal consciousness, we need to further explore how legal consciousness shapes up for people living with more than one law, more than one way of conducting everyday life. In approaching legality through religion, my project foregrounds how colonial epistemic violence produced the modern notions of law as a tool of governmentality.

**‘The Morrigan’: a new blog from Doing Feminist Legal Work**

Doing Feminist Legal Work are really delighted to announce that their new blog, ‘The Morrigan’ has launched! Several posts are already up showing some of the variety they are hoping to have on the Blog. The editors invite you to share widely on social media (if you use it) and amongst friends and colleagues. Doing Feminist Legal Work is a network funded by the Irish Research Council under the New Foundations Shared Island scheme, connecting legal scholars across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain addressing emerging issues of gender and law. **The Morrigan** is currently welcoming submissions on different legal feminist issues.

*Maebh, Harding, UCD*

**Feminist Law: new blog – call for contributions**

Feminist Law is an online blog which aims to examine and discuss law from a feminist perspective, especially as it pertains to how the law and legal systems impact women’s lives. The editors are actively seeking contributions to the blog. See [w website](#) for details.

**Law and Humanities Hub at IALS: Invitation to join mailing list**

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies welcomed new Professor of Law and the Humanities, Anat Rosenberg, on **1 September 2024**. Professor Rosenberg has made great progress already in establishing IALS as a hub of activity in Law and Humanities. A mailing list of those with interest (or potential interest) in the field is being compiled: to join contact [LHub mailing list](#).

**Nuffield Foundation: Research, Development and Analysis Fund**

The Nuffield Foundation is inviting applications to this fund which supports projects that inform the design and operation of social policy and practice across its three core areas of Education, Welfare and Justice. There are two rounds a year awarding grants of up to £750,000. The spring round for outline applications is currently open. The closing date is **1 April 2025**. See [w website](#) for details.

**Social and Legal Studies**

**34(1) February 2025**

The lesser of two evils? Explaining Chinese rural migrant workers’ preference for on-demand food delivery work with reference to the legal framework – Ou Lin

Symbiotic justice: hate crimes, police humiliation, and layered legal consciousness in Dalit human rights – Sandhya Irina Fuchs

Justice in contention: the dynamics of legal mobilisation in Caimanes’ environmental struggle – Sebastian Smart

‘Back off! Stop making us illegal!’: The criminalisation of homelessness in Australia – Tamara Walsh, Thalia Anthony, Jane Beilby, Luke McNamara & Julia Quilter

Forced marriage in Australia: building a social response with frontline workers – Jacqueline Nelson & Jennifer Burn

‘The law is too grey’: liminal legality and moral injury in encounters with drug law enforcement – Liam Michaud, Emily van der Meulen, Sandra Ka Hon Chu & Janet Butler-McPhee

## REF 2029 Main and Sub-panel Recruitment: call for applications

The REF main and sub-panels are at the heart of the REF assessment process, and they bring together specialist expertise in each Unit of Assessment (UoA). Within the REF there are four main panels and 34 sub-panels. Applications are invited from individuals wishing to sit on these panels as members or experts. Applicants must have the support of their employing organisation for their appointment, and applications are welcomed from diverse groups. The closing date is **28 April 2025**. See [w website](#) for details.

## Barbara Huber Scholarship Program: Max Planck Institute

This program, based at the Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law in Freiburg, is open to outstanding academics from foreign research institutions for particularly innovative research projects that contribute significantly to scientific progress through new perspectives, questions, or findings in the subject areas of criminology, public law, or criminal law. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **30 September 2025**.

## AHRC catalyst awards

At the end of January 2025 the AHRC opened this new funding stream to support researchers without prior experience of leading a significant research project to accelerate their trajectory as independent researchers, unlock their potential and build leadership and convenor experience. Awards are between £100,000 and £300,000 and it is a rolling scheme with no closing date. See [w website](#) for details.

### people . . .

**PROFESSOR NICOLA LACEY**, School Professor of Law, Gender and Social Policy at the LSE, has been shortlisted for the Oxford University Press Law Teacher of the Year Award 2025. The Law Teacher of the Year award recognises and rewards all-round law teaching excellence. The winner will be announced in June.

**Professor CHARLOTTE O'BRIEN**, University of York, has won a UKRI Celebrating Impact Prize for outstanding public policy impact for the project, 'Supporting strategic litigation to secure EU nationals' post-Brexit rights'. Based at York's EU Rights and Brexit Hub, the project is investigating how EU exit affects the social rights of EU and EEA nationals and their family members in the UK. See [w website](#) for further details.

A research team at the University of Exeter led by **Professor RICHARD MOORHEAD** has also won a UKRI Celebrating Impact Prize. The team includes **DR REBECCA HELM**, **DR SALLY DAY**, University of Exeter, **DR KAREN NOKES**, University College London, and **PAUL GILBERT**, LBC Wise Counsel. 'The Post Office scandal project' was recognised for its outstanding societal impact. See [w website](#) for the full story.

## Gustav Figdor Award for Law, Social Sciences and Economics

In 2025, the Gustav Figdor Award for Law, Social Sciences and Economics is accepting applications from scholars no older than 40 years of age for outstanding scholarly works in the fields of jurisprudence and legal theory published or accepted for publication (peer review) no more than two years before the date of submission. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **20 March 2025**.

## SAFI: new monthly blog

SAFI (the interdisciplinary network for women in legal academia) is now publishing a monthly blog to provide insights into the work of the network and covering topics related to women, their projects and current developments in legal research. See [w website](#) for details. If you would like to contribute a blog post yourself, contact Alma Diamond [e almad@umich.edu](mailto:almad@umich.edu).

## UKELA essay prize

The UK Environmental Law Association is inviting submissions for this annual competition. The 2025 title is: 'Conferring rights on nature is the answer to weak environmental regulation'. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **7 April 2025**.

## Leverhulme Trust: major research fellowships

The Leverhulme Trust invites applications from well-established, distinguished researchers in the humanities and social sciences. The fellowships are particularly aimed at those who are or have been prevented by routine duties from completing a programme of original research. The funding covers replacement salary costs for the duration of the fellowship which can be two or three years. See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: **9 May 2025**.

## New journal – *Cambridge Forum on AI: Law and Governance*

Cambridge University Press has just launched this new open access journal with the publication of the first cluster of content from the inaugural themed issue on 'Comparative Perspectives on the Regulation of Large Language Models'. See [w website](#) for details. There is also a call for papers for a special issue on 'Responsible AI in Public Administration'. Closing date: **31 March 2025**. See [w website](#) for details.

DIDI HERMAN ACADEMIC CONSULTANCY:  
GUIDANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT WITH  
PUBLICATION WRITING, RESEARCH AND REF

I am an interdisciplinary, socio-legal Emerita Professor, ex-Law School head, and REF Submission coordinator/writer (retired in 2021). I now provide independent guidance to departments and individual academics. I work with law schools, including REF2029 preparation, and with individuals as a developmental editor for work-in-progress. I also provide mentorship for academics at all levels of seniority. For further details see: [Didi Herman Academic Consultancy](#).

Advertisement

## SLSA JOURNALS INITIATIVE

*The International Journal of Law in Context is 21 this year. Rebecca O'Rourke, Executive Publisher for Social Science Journals, Cambridge University Press, showcases the journal's past, present and future.*

In 2024 the *International Journal of Law in Context* became a proud sponsor of the SLSA Annual Conference bursary fund and we are delighted to have this opportunity to tell SLSA members more about the journal. This is excellent timing because 2025 marks the journal's 21st anniversary volume.

The journal was founded in 2005 by the late Michael Freeman (UCL) and Carrie Menkel-Meadows (Irvine) as a venue for publishing peer-reviewed research exploring law in the context of other subject areas. It was established as the sister journal publication to Cambridge University Press's successful **Law in Context** book series. In 2014 Penny Andrews (New York Law School), Jane Holder (UCL), Marc Hertogh (Groningen) and David Nelken (King's) took over the journal's editorship (see their 2014 'Editorial') with Heinz Klug (Wisconsin) and Serena Natile (Warwick) replacing Andrews and Holder in the most recent editorial line-up.

Today the journal's aim is the same as back in 2005, to explore and expand the boundaries of law and legal studies. Its scope is wide and it continues to provide a forum for interdisciplinary legal studies and offers intellectual space for ground-breaking critical research. It is not committed to any particular theory, ideology or methodology and invites papers from a variety of standpoints, ideologies, perspectives and methods. It publishes contextual work about law and its relationship with other disciplines, including but not limited to science, literature, humanities, philosophy, sociology, psychology, ethics, history and geography.

The journal publishes around 40 pieces each year with a 2024 acceptance rate of 26 per cent and average final decision time of 73 days in 2024. It received its first Impact Factor in 2020. Alongside research articles, it publishes special issues, special sections and review pieces, as well as its 'Encounters with Books from Other Disciplines' section. This section is novel among law journals and is curated by section editor Maks Del Mar (QMUL) to highlight recent books from other subject areas that pose interesting questions for legal scholarship.

We are celebrating the journal's 21st year by making all research articles published in the journal from 2025 onwards open access (OA). This is a move that enables us to maximise access to the journal for both readers and authors. All research articles publishing from 2025 will be freely available to all readers and we are proud to use an equitable **open access model** that gives all authors the opportunity to publish open access, regardless of their funding status. Most authors will be covered for open access through an agreement between their university and our publisher Cambridge University Press. Others may be covered by the **Cambridge Open Equity Initiative** and any remaining authors without funding for an open access payment will simply have the open access fee waived. We encourage authors to take advantage of this opportunity to increase their readership.

If you are writing a paper or curating a symposium which says something new and exciting about law in the context of other disciplines, please do consider sending your work to the journal following our submission processes found [here](#). Do also look out for a call for participants for our next early career writing workshop in summer 2025; one of the journal's greatest successes is this bi-annual workshop, held together with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in Oxford. We are looking for new voices to be part of our next 21 years.

## Books

### Membership discounts

Don't forget that SLSA members are entitled to discounts from the following publishers when purchasing books online from their websites.

- 30 per cent discount from **Combined Academic Publishers**
- 25 per cent discount from **Bristol University Press/Policy Press**
- 25 per cent discount from **Edward Elgar**
- 20 per cent discount from **Hart Publishing**
- 20 per cent discount from **Routledge**
- 20 per cent discount from **Cambridge University Press**

***Dismantling Barriers and Advancing the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Participate in Cultural Life: A Socio-Legal Analysis*** (2025) Delia Ferri & Ann Leahy, Routledge £145hb, 218pp

The right to participate in cultural life is rooted in international human rights law and, with regard to persons with disabilities, enunciated in article 30 UN CRPD which requires states parties to ensure accessibility of cultural materials, services and activities, and cultural heritage, and to support the creative and artistic potential of persons with disabilities. However, people with disabilities continue to face barriers in cultural participation. On

foot of a pan-European empirical study and a socio-legal analysis, this book discusses the normative content of article 30 CRPD and its implementation. It identifies and categorises barriers to cultural participation, highlighting new paths to operationalising article 30 CRPD.

***Family Law Reform Now: Proposals and Critique*** (2024) Charlotte Bendall & Rehana Parveen (eds), Hart £90hb/£64.80eb

This collection provides a snapshot of big ideas in family law reform. It asks: if you could change one part of family law, what would it be? This question is answered by 10 experts and debated within the volume by expert respondents. The book puts the proposal first, forcing authors (and respondents) to critically engage with what family law should look like, and where development is needed to address the changing landscape of family life. Cultural and religious plurality, the use of technology, and changes in societal attitudes have all had an impact on the continuing evolution of families. As a consequence, the law has some complex challenges to address in its attempt to regulate familial diversity.

***The Slave in Legal and Political Philosophy: Agamben and his Interlocutors*** (2025) Tom Frost, Routledge £145hb/£25.99eb 276pp

The figure of the slave has supported philosophical and legal defences of colonialism, coloniality and the supremacy of the white subject. Yet for Giorgio Agamben, the slave stands as an exemplar of a potential form of future positive political existence. The book reads key

thinkers with whom Agamben engages in his thought and writings and draws on decolonial theory to argue that the lives of people who were enslaved and unfree can point towards a paradigmatic form of political belonging. By reading Agamben in a decolonial direction, we can imagine alternative forms of agency, recognition and subjectivity, which can challenge the necropolitical world of racial capitalism in which we live.

***Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Legal Education* (2025)** Fiona Cownie, Anthony Bradney & Emma Jones (eds), Edward Elgar £230hb/£48eb 428pp

This volume provides a curated overview of legal education, with more than 100 contributions from experts around the world. Entries dissect the contemporary situation, regulation and history of legal education in different jurisdictions, allowing the reader to make informed comparisons (and surprising discoveries). From legal education in different settings to entries on curriculum-related issues and law students, legal academics and support staff, the carefully referenced entries allow readers to explore topics in more depth.

***The Structural Limits of the Law: The Event Horizon of Legality* (2024)** Stephen M Young, Routledge £130hb/£35.99eb 206pp

This book examines how, in response to crises, law tends to construct singular 'events' that obscure the underlying structural causes that any adequate response needs to acknowledge and address. Litigation is the main legal process that constructs events through a narrative that describes what happened and prescribes what should happen. But, through the examination of several cases from a range of jurisdictions, the author argues that the ability to construct and reconstruct legal events is so strong, appealing and powerful that it limits our ability to engage in structural analysis. The difficulty of seeing beyond what is here called 'the event horizon of legality' interprets aspects of life as exceptional rather than structural, as it focuses attention on a limited range of possible causes and so a limited range of possible interventions.

***Inducing Intimacy: Deception, Consent and the Law* (2024)** Chloë Kennedy, University of Edinburgh, Cambridge University Press £199hb 276pp

The author presents a new way of evaluating the regulation of deceptively induced intimacy, namely, sex and sexual/romantic relationships, on the basis of an innovative genealogy of legal responses to this conduct. She traces the development of civil and criminal laws across 250 years, outlining how using deception to induce intimacy has been legally understood, compensated and punished. The book shows how deceptively induced sex has come to be treated more seriously while the opposite is true of deceptively induced relationships and concludes by presenting a new framework for deciding whether and when deceptively induced intimacy should be regulated by law today.

***Deserted Wives and Economic Divorce in 19th-Century England and Wales* (2024)** Jennifer Aston & Olive Anderson, Hart £85hb/£76.50eb 288pp

This book considers section 21 of the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act 1857 and its significant impact on previously invisible married women in the nineteenth century. Tens of thousands of women used section 21 to apply for orders from local magistrates' courts to reclaim rights of testation, inheritance, property ownership and (dependent on local franchise qualifications) ability to vote. The detailed statistical analysis and rich case studies provide a new perspective on the legal status and experiences of married women in England and Wales. Using sources including court records, parliamentary

papers and newspaper reports, this book reconstructs women's experiences of protecting their assets across regions and decades.

***Research Handbook on Social Welfare Law* (2024)** Helen Carr, Edward Kirton-Darling, Jed Meers & Maria Fernanda Salcedo Repolês (eds), Edward Elgar £195 388pp

Presenting diverse understandings of the origins and development of social welfare law, this globally informed handbook embraces the inherent contradictions and complexities within the field. It emphasises the importance of ethical research and inclusivity and recognises the value of historical and contemporary methodologies, illustrating the breadth and depth of modern welfare research and examining approaches that challenge the traditional boundaries of social assistance in practice. Contributors explore timely and fascinating case studies to cut across varied legal and social contexts, informing future research on a global scale.

***Constructing Modern Slavery: Law, Capitalism, and Unfree Labour* (2025)** Judy Fudge, Cambridge University Press £80.00hb/OA 296pp

Modern slavery laws are a response to global capitalism, which undermines the distinction between free and unfree labour and poses intense challenges to state sovereignty. This book argues that instead of being a solution modern slavery laws divert attention from the underlying structures and processes that generate exploitation. Focusing on unfree labour associated with international immigration and global supply chains, it provides a novel socio-legal genealogy of the concept of 'modern slavery' through a series of linked case studies of influential actors associated with key legal instruments.

***Law, Human Rights and Civil Society in Hong Kong: A Workshop Report* (2025)** China Institute (SOAS) & Center for Asian Law (Georgetown Law)

This report outlines a closed-door workshop on law, human rights and civil society in Hong Kong which took place in December 2024 at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London. The workshop examined and debated the current situation in Hong Kong to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

### *Social and Legal Studies*

34(2) April 2025

'How did you get in there and make the law work?'

Feminist activism, doctors and abortion law: the occupation of an hospital – Elena Caruso

Abortion anarchy? The case for abortion decriminalization – Kelly Gordon & Rachael Johnstone

Vexatious or vulnerable: permitted roles for litigants in person in civil courts – Bridgette Toy-Cronin

Affects of objectivity: decision-making practices in the Dutch asylum procedure – Maja Hertoghs

Contemporary legal pluralism, the modern metropole, and immigrant integration: negotiating the law and legal institutions in immigrant contexts – Gulseren Kozak Isik

The punitive state: the making of juvenile delinquents in Portugal – Peter Anton Zoetl

Civil legal services and survivor-defined justice: a qualitative study with US civil legal attorneys for sexual assault survivors – Jane E Palmer, Jacqueline Lee & Emily Michels

- **THE BSLC INAUGURAL ANNUAL JANINE SARGONI MEMORIAL LECTURE**  
5 March 2025: *Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol*  
Theme: Radical Lawyers? Rethinking the law and society canon. Speaker: Professor Linda Mulcahy. See [w website](#).
- **NEXT 100 YEARS: CELEBRATION OF FEMALE TRAILBLAZERS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION**  
5 March 2025: *DLA Piper, London*  
Guests: Dana Denis-Smith, Dr I Stephanie Boyce, Barbara Mills KC, Jon Hayes. See [announcement](#) for details.
- **MINIMUM WAGE: TOOL OF EMANCIPATION OR TOOL OF COERCION? – PANEL DISCUSSION**  
6 March 2025: *City St George's University of London*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **1984: THE YEAR OF ANTI-RACISM: THEN AND NOW**  
8 March 2025: *The London Archives*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **RITUALS OF LAW: LEGAL COSMOPOLIS IN AN EARLY MODERN INDIAN OCEAN PORT**  
11 March 2025: *Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford*  
Speaker: Dr Mahmood Kooria, University of Edinburgh. See [announcement](#) for details.
- **UK IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION AND A HIERARCHY OF MODERN SLAVERY VICTIMHOOD**  
12 March 2025: *Wilberforce Institute, Kingston upon Hull*  
Speaker: Dr Marija Jovanovic. See [w website](#) for details.
- **WHAT IS MISSING WHEN DEFENDANTS DISOWN THEIR ACTIONS?**  
13 March 2025: *UCL Faculty of Laws, London*  
Speaker: Professor Bebhinn Donnelly-Lazarov. See [w website](#) for details.
- **FORENSIC LINGUISTICS AND THE LAW**  
14 March 2025: *Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics*  
Speakers: Dr Edina Harbinja, Dr Lucia Busso & Dr David Wright. See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW'S ROLE IN SHAPING AND RESPONDING TO DISABILITY AND MOTHERHOOD**  
19 March 2025: *University of Reading and online*  
Organiser: Dr Jaime Lindsey. See [w website](#) for details. This event is supported by the [SLSA Seminar Competition](#).
- **FAMILY LAW AS SOCIAL POLICY: TAKING FAMILY PROBLEMS UPSTREAM**  
20 March 2025: *UCL Faculty of Laws, London*  
Speaker: Professor Rob George; Chair: Professor Mavis Maclean. See [w website](#) for details.
- **WHY JUSTICE MATTERS: PERSONAL STORIES FROM LORD DAVID WOLFSON**  
20 March 2025: *central London location tbc*  
See [w website](#) for details of this Support Through Court event.
- **DOING CRIMINAL JUSTICE WITH INTEGRITY**  
20 March 2025: *Edinburgh Centre for Legal Theory*  
Speaker: Professor Paul Roberts, University of Nottingham. See [w website](#) for details.
- **SYMPOSIUM ON ROGER COTTERRELL'S JURISPRUDENCE AND SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES**  
3 April 2025: *QMUL, Mile End Road, London*  
See [w website](#) for details. Organised by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Competition Law and Policy.
- **LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE REPARATIONS**  
4 April 2025: *University of Bristol*  
See [announcement](#) for details. This event is supported by the SLSA Seminar Competition.
- **HOW DO NEW LEGAL RIGHTS EMERGE?**  
7 April 2025: *Birmingham & Midland Institute, Birmingham*  
Speakers: Dr Meghan Campbell and Dr William Mack.  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **PARITY OF ESTEEM AS A CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE IN NI AND BEYOND**  
9 April 2025: *Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, Queen's University Belfast*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **A NEW DIRECTION IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TREATY-MAKING?**  
8–9 May 2025: *School of Law, University of Leeds*  
Theme: Winning against the odds for human rights, equity, and indigenous peoples. See [w website](#) for details.
- **SLAVERY'S LONG GOODBYE: A WILBERFORCE INSTITUTE LECTURE**  
14 May 2025: *Wilberforce Institute, Kingston upon Hull*  
Speaker: Professor Chris Evans. See [w website](#) for details.
- **DYSFUNCTIONAL GOVERNANCE: 'CRISIS', 'SCANDAL', 'TRAGEDY', 'EMERGENCY'**  
15–16 May 2025: *Centre of Law and Society, Cardiff*  
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**  
22–25 May 2025: *Chicago, Illinois, USA*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **CRIMINAL MIND RESEARCH NETWORK LAUNCH EVENT**  
23 May 2025: *Nottingham Trent University*  
See [announcement](#) for details.
- **'WHAT'S NEXT FOR FEMINISM?'**  
29–30 May 2025: *LSE, Houghton Street, London*  
This is the LSExSWIP 2025 Conference on Feminist and Gender Theory. See [w website](#) for details.
- **CONFERENCE ON JUDICIAL ACTIVISM AND RESISTANCE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND BEYOND**  
5–6 June 2025: *Institut d'études européennes, Université libre de Bruxelles*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **LAW AND THE CRITIQUE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
6–7 June 2025: *Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia*  
See [w website](#) for details. Closing date: 13 April 2025.
- **WG HART WORKSHOP 2025: REGULATING THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF CARE**  
11–12 June 2025: *IALS, Russell Square, London*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **SUMMER ACADEMY FOR FEMINIST LEGAL STUDIES 2025**  
13–15 June 2025: *University of Hamburg, Germany*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **RETHINKING GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND THE LAW: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
16–17 June 2025: *Centre of Law and Society, Cardiff*  
Theme: A conversation between feminist scholars in postcolonial South Asia and the UK. See [announcement](#) for details. Call closes: 28 March 2025.
- **UK THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE AND HEALTH CONFERENCE**  
19–20 June 2025: *University of Manchester*  
Speakers: Professor Amy T Campbell, Dr Nigel Stobbs and Dr John Stannard. See [w website](#) for details.
- **RESPONSIBLE AI IN HEALTH CARE**  
10–12 September 2025: *Rotterdam, The Netherlands*  
See [w website](#) for details.
- **FROM BINARY TO BENCH: EMPOWERING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND AI LITERACY IN GLOBAL LEGAL EDUCATION: CALL FOR PAPERS**  
5 November 2025: *University of Reading*  
See [w website](#) for detail. Call closes: 7 March 2025.



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