This stream aims to attract those with an interest in any of the variety of systems theories, and related approaches (network theories for example), with application to law, and socio-legal questions. The term ‘systems approaches’ is designed to be inclusive, recognising both the variations within more well-known systems approaches while not excluding other, more novel, methods. Proposals from disciplines related to law, which bring their experiences to bear on socio-legal questions, are also welcomed. The stream is particularly interested in the possibility of cross-pollination, and critical dialogue, between systems approaches, although individual papers need not pursue this goal.

While the core aim of the theme is to encourage inter-theory discussion, papers making use of a single systems approach in isolation with a view to advancing scholarship in that area welcomed. Similarly, papers speaking against the utility of a particular theory (or systems theories generally) to law or related matters, are invited.

Outlets to foster inter-theory debate under the systems theory umbrella internationally, and particularly within the United Kingdom, are somewhat uncommon. This stream hopes to generate a critical and lively conversation between and within all branches of systems (and related) theories with a view to furthering those theories in law both individually, and collectively. It is hoped that in generating such an inter-theory, inter-disciplinary, conversation it will be possible to make clearer connections and distinctions between their related ideas, and expose further possible uses for their frameworks (or limits to those frameworks).

It is my intention that the stream will help build upon existing research relationships and lead to a sustained network of scholars beyond the conference.

Work at any stage of completion will be considered.