

**Lancaster University
13:00 to 14:00**

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of AGM 2015

3. Officer reports .1. Chair (RH)

.2. Vice Chair (RHarding)

.3. Treasurer (MOB)

.4 Membership (SB)

.5 Recruitment (LH)

.6. Newsletter & Website
(MS)

.7. International Liaison (SC)

.8. PG Representative (CB)

.9. Social Media (JH)

.10. Webmaster (JM)

4. Newcastle Conference 2017 (NGR and KC)

5. Elections (KJB)

6. Any Other Business

Agenda Item 3.1 Chair's Report to AGM

This has been another busy and successful year for the SLSA.

Conferences

- The Annual Conference at Warwick University attracted a record number of attendees and made a healthy profit for the Association.
- The Annual Postgraduate Conference was hosted by the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. As in previous years, the conference was oversubscribed and feedback from the students who attended indicated that it continues to be highly successful and valued. The 2017 conference venue is yet to be determined, but it is likely to be in London.
- A one-day socio-legal training conference on Sources and Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice, organised in conjunction with IALS, the British Library and the British Society of Criminology, was held in November 2015. It included an outstanding line-up of speakers and, as with the annual conference, was our best-attended annual training day yet. Some of the papers from the day will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Legal Information Management*. The next training day in the series will be held on 25 November 2016 on the theme of socio-legal sources and methods in international law.
- The SLSA Annual Conference 2017 will be held at the University of Newcastle. We undertook a site visit to Newcastle, which offers excellent facilities, a great central space, and an outstanding conference dinner venue at the Discovery Museum.
- The SLSA will be hosting a reception at the LSA annual meeting in New Orleans in June. All SLSA members attending the conference are warmly invited. Further details will be provided via the e-bulletin. As previously indicated, the SLSA is co-sponsoring the LSA Annual Meeting to be held in Mexico City in June 2017. Michael Thomson is the SLSA representative on the program committee for Mexico City. The SLSA will also participate in a joint meeting with the Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand and Canadian Law and Society Association scheduled to be held in Sydney in December 2018. Jen Hendry and Sharon Cowan are our representatives on the planning committee for this conference.
- Following a good response to our call for expressions of interest in hosting future SLSA annual conferences, we are pleased to announce that the Annual Conference for 2018 will be held at the University of Bristol. We are in the process of finalising arrangements for 2019 and should be able to make an announcement shortly.
- We are proposing to conduct a review of streams and themes following the Lancaster conference and would welcome any thoughts members may have on this subject.

Prizes and Competitions

- We again received strong fields of applications for the book and article prizes. All of the prize-winners are participating in author-meets-reader sessions during the conference, together with last year's Theory and History book prize winner, who was unable for personal reasons to attend last year's conference. The prizes will be officially conferred at the conference dinner.
- This year's prize for contributions to the socio-legal community has been awarded to Martin Partington.
- The postgraduate student poster competition will be judged on Wednesday afternoon.
- We awarded 3 research grants (from 31 applications) and 1 PhD Fieldwork grant (from 21 applications). The total sum awarded was £8,973. Although this was less than in previous years, our focus was on the quality of the applications rather than any need to limit spending. In connection with the fieldwork grants, we undertook some research on the sources and levels of funding available to pay for fieldwork for non-DTC PhD students, the results of which will be fed into future grant rounds.
- We received 16 applications for the seminar competition and funded 3 of them, to a total of £9,510 – the same amount as last year.
- Two new funding schemes – the mentorship scheme and research methods training bursaries – were launched during the year but are awaiting their first recipients.

Learned Society Activities

As a Learned Society, we receive frequent invitations to contribute or respond to various initiatives in socio-legal studies, legal education, the higher education sector and law reform. This year these included:

- Legal Education and Training issues – we continued to participate in the Law Learned Associations LETR Working Group, the Bar Standards Board (BSB)'s Academic Stage Working Group and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)'s Law Subject Benchmarking Review Group. We responded to the QAA's consultation on its draft revised subject benchmark statement for law, and to the BSB's consultation on the future of training for the Bar.
- Postgraduate and doctoral training – We responded to the BIS consultation on support for postgraduate study. The national network of ESRC DTCs with socio-legal pathways have collaborated in the development of an advanced training course on socio-legal methodologies and methods. The SLSA is supporting this initiative and the Chair will attend as an observer at the first masterclass to be held in May 2016.
- Funding bodies – we attended the ESRC's annual meeting with learned societies and responded to invitations to nominate new members of the ESRC Peer Review College (we made 29 nominations) and to nominate members of the Peer Review College for the competition for Doctoral

Training Partnerships and Centres for Doctoral Training. We also made a submission to Lord Stern's review of the REF.

- The Law Commission – we attended the annual meeting between the Law Commission and the learned societies in Law. We are pleased that Law Commission representatives have once again accepted invitations to participate in relevant conference streams to talk about current projects, and we have also made a full conference place available to a Law Commission research assistant from the criminal law team.
- The Academy of Social Sciences – we participated in the Academy's CEO and Chief Officers' Group and continued to support the Campaign for Social Sciences. We were asked by the LSA to recommend a speaker for a session at their New Orleans annual meeting on lobbying activities for the social sciences in the UK, and Robert Dingwall has kindly agreed to take up this invitation.
- The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies – we were consulted on the design and potential focus of IALS' Open Access Books project.

SLSA Archive at IALS

Cataloguing of all the papers currently held in the SLSA Archive at IALS has been completed. Further papers will be deposited from time to time, and we are in discussions with IALS about the archiving of electronic materials.

SLSA Newsletter, Website and *new* Blog

- We gained additional newsletter sponsorship from the University of Leicester.
- Streams and themes now have the opportunity to create their own web pages as part of the SLSA website. Several streams and themes have expressed an interest, although creating the pages is taking longer to implement.
- The SLSA is pleased to announce the advent of a socio-legal blog which is intended to be a site for information and conversations about issues of current socio-legal interest. It will provide scope for longer items than are able to be included in the weekly e-bulletin, while publishing more immediately than the SLSA newsletter. A flyer in the conference packs provides details of how to contribute. The blog will have a 'soft' launch after the conference.

SLSA Admin

- In the past year we have instituted a paid administrative position for the SLSA, and an administrative email address – admin@slsa.ac.uk – as the first point of contact for all general enquiries, and the address for submissions, applications and enquiries for all of our prizes, competitions and funding schemes. We were fortunate to recruit Nathan Emmerich to the role, who provides administrative support on a flexible, consultancy basis. This has

made a significant difference to the workloads of the Chair, Membership Secretary, Webmaster, and the chairs of prize and grant committees. We will formally review the position after its first year of operation, but thus far it appears to have been a welcome and successful initiative.

SLSA Executive Committee

- On behalf of the SLSA I should like to extend a heartfelt vote of thanks to those members of the Executive Committee who have resigned during the year or are stepping down at the AGM: Helen Carr (Kent), Ben Livings (UNE) and Gethin Rees (Newcastle).
- I should also like to warmly thank and congratulate Charlotte Bendall (Essex) who is stepping down from her very successful tenure of the role of Postgraduate Representative. And I extend a warm welcome to Natalie Corbett (Exeter and MoJ) who will be taking over this role after the AGM.
- A big vote of thanks and appreciation is also due to Sarah Blandy who after several years of keeping tabs on membership subscriptions is stepping down as Membership Secretary.
- Rosie Harding was elected as the new Vice-Chair of the SLSA.
- Sharon Cowan (Edinburgh) has been co-opted onto the Executive as the Scottish Representative, pending her formal election to the role at the AGM. Sharon has taken over the role of International Liaison Officer on the Executive.
- Nikki Godden-Rasul and Kevin Crosby (Newcastle) have been co-opted onto the Executive as representatives of the 2017 annual conference host institution.
- Lydia Hayes has taken on the role of Recruitment Secretary.
- We have drawn up a document which explains the processes of the Executive Committee and what is involved in being a member of the Executive. This was published in the Spring newsletter and is also available from the Executive page of the website.

Rosemary Hunter

Chair, SLSA

30.03.16

Agenda Item 3.2 Vice Chair's Report to the 2016 SLSA AGM

Since being elected as Vice Chair of the SLSA at the May 2015 executive committee meeting, I have supported the Chair and the SLSA across a range of activities. The main focus of my work this year has been in: co-ordinating the most recent rounds of Expressions of Interest to host the SLSA annual conference; overseeing the judging of the excellent nominations for the Article Prize 2016; and chairing the seminar competition sub-committee. Some more detail on each of these is provided below.

Expressions of Interest to Host the SLSA Annual Conference: We are grateful to all of the prospective conference organising teams who expressed an interest in hosting the conference in future years. The 2018 conference will be hosted by the University of Bristol. We are still in discussion with possible hosts for 2019. We will hold another round for expressions of interest to host the conference in 2020 and subsequent years in due course. When we do, it is likely that we will make some amendments to the information on the SLSA website to make clear that an outline conference budget is a required element of an expression of interest in hosting the conference.

Article Prize: The nominations to the 2016 Article Prize were extremely high quality, and there was much to commend about all of those shortlisted. A total of 18 nominations were received. The quality of the nominations is testament to the flourishing socio-legal community in the UK and internationally. Many congratulations to all those who were nominated and shortlisted, and especially to our Article Prize winner for 2016, Lynette Chua.

Seminar Competition: As in previous years, we had a very strong field of applications to the seminar competition. This year, the total £10,000 budget was split between 3 seminars, representing an 18% success rate from the 16 applications. If we had funding available we could have supported many more applications, as most submissions were of high quality. Congratulations to Natasha Hammond-Browning and Claire Lougarre (University of Southampton) for the 'Reproductive Futures: Reproductive Choices?' seminar; Davina Cooper (University of Kent) for the 'Imagining the State for Progressive Politics' workshop; and Ania Zbyszewska (University of Warwick) for the 'Labour Law for a Warming World?: Exploring the intersections between work regulation, ecology, and Sustainability' seminar. Details of all of the SLSA supported seminars for this year will be advertised online and in the newsletter.

Rosie Harding, March 2016

Agenda Item 3.3 Treasurer's Report

To be provided separately by MOB at AGM.

Agenda Item 3.4 Membership Secretary's Report

This will be my last AGM as Membership Secretary. Maebh Harding has kindly agreed to take over, and will be working with me over the next few months to transition the role after September 2016.

Since the 2015 AGM I have continued to work with Jed Meers, the SLSA Webmaster, on streamlining the electronic system for applications, membership data, and records of subscription payments. Many thanks to Jed for his enthusiastic commitment to this process, and the time he has put in to sort out glitches in the online system. It makes collecting membership subscription payments, in particular, much easier for me and the Treasurer to deal with.

Since April 2015, 122 new members have joined, meaning that the SLSA now has a total of 1637 members:

565 active full members

383 active postgraduate members

334 free members (HoD positions etc)

There are also 355 'expired' members, which include those who have moved institutions but have not updated their details, those who have a duplicate account, and those with little information or no payment history, etc. It's a significant and ongoing task is to reduce the number of these 'expired' members, and to ensure that all members are paying the right subscription amount, into the right bank account. Details are on the website, and periodically included in the Newsletter.

Thanks to those members who have sorted out your payments during the past year. We very much rely on members to enter their details and keep them up to date, so that the SLSA website can fulfil its function as a valuable resource and reference point for all our members.

Sarah Blandy

Agenda Item 3.6 Newsletter and Website Report

Socio-Legal Newsletter

- **Issues 76 (summer 2015 20pp), 77 (autumn/winter 2015 20pp), 78 (spring 2016 16pp)**

The newsletter has had another successful year and continues to receive a great deal of support from members. Newsletter copy deadlines and publication dates are advertised on the website and via the weekly ebulletin. If anyone has any bright ideas for different types of content, new series, one-off features etc then I'm always happy to hear them. I'm also trying to include more pictures where possible but they are hard to come by.

- **Sponsorship:** The sponsorship scheme was renewed in 2013 for a third cycle and since last year's report the University of Leicester has joined. The 19 sponsors for 2013–2016 are: Birkbeck; Cardiff Law School; Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford; University of Exeter; University of Kent; University of Liverpool; Leicester; London School of Economics; Newcastle University; Northumbria University Newcastle; University of Nottingham; QMUL; Queen's University Belfast; University of Sheffield; University of Strathclyde; University College London; University of Warwick; University of Westminster; and University of York. All sponsors are committed to three years at £500 per year to support the costs of publishing and distributing the newsletter. Note that the scheme is in the final year of its cycle and so we will need to contact sponsors before the beginning of the next academic year to ask them to renew their sponsorship. The SLSA also receives support from the *Journal of Law and Society* and Hart Publishing.
- **Back issues:** A limited number of back issues are available. Please contact me if you would like any back issues for distribution at events or in your departments.
- **Advertising:** Despite having to cut their budget, Routledge-Cavendish booked the back page for two of the issues mentioned above. In addition, Palgrave booked an inside page in the autumn issue to publicise their socio-legal series and we had two inserts from Hart and one from Taylor&Francis. The total advertising revenue was £2650, up £150 on the previous year. Again, if anyone has ideas to increase our revenue from this, they are welcome to contact me. If you have a book coming out, you may be able to persuade your publisher to book an insert or even a page!
- **Circulation:** The newsletter distribution is organised as follows: SLSA mailing list (1400 per issue – up by 100 from last year); SLSA delegate packs (500 in spring issue – up 50 from last year); three times a year with the JLS (electronic insert). As mentioned in last year's report, we are no longer sending newsletters to the LSA's annual meeting. However, we have arranged for delegates to be given a link to a special welcome page on our website this year where they can

download a link to the spring issue and read some introductory information about the SLSA. We will be able to track how many visitors we have to the page to see how successful this is.

SLSA website and ebulletin

The website continues to be central to the SLSA's work and the weekly ebulletin and news pages mean that it is constantly updated and is well visited by members.

On the technical side we have had a few sticky moments, but I will leave Jed to deal with those in his report. However, I do think that sorting these out should be a priority. It is very worrying when the site becomes unavailable as has happened two or three times since Christmas. Although it has been restored relatively quickly each time, I am never sure whether I will get my most up-to-date version back. I think that any additional support that could be offered to the technical team would be extremely valuable.

As always, if you spot any errors or out-of-date material on the website, please don't hesitate to contact me so that I can sort things out as quickly as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank SLSA members and all the Exec for their help and support over the past year and I look forward to another productive and enjoyable 12 months.

Marie Selwood

Agenda Item 3.8 Postgraduate Representative

My officer's report is as follows:

1. I have conducted my annual recruitment campaign, in an attempt to attract new PG members;
2. I have (as usual) used social media, in addition to my PG list (which currently has 138 subscribers), to circulate details of events taking place that might be of interest to the PG community;
3. I have encouraged postgraduates to write pieces for the SLSA newsletter;
4. I attended this year's PG conference in Oxford;
5. I have organised, for the third year running, the 'buddy up' scheme at the annual conference. Eight postgraduates were 'buddied up' with an academic this year.

I will now be stepping down from my position as the postgraduate representative, and Natalie Corbett will be taking my place. I will ensure a smooth handover in this respect.

All good wishes,

Charlotte

Agenda Item 3.9 Social Media Report

Chatter remains steady enough but it does tend to be the same folk all the time so I'll have to have a think about including other voices.

Facebook closed group: 709

Facebook official page: 706

Twitter followers: 2063

We rather limped towards 2000 followers but then zoomed to the next 50-odds; not sure why that was. Incidentally, Twitter follower 2k was Kate Galloway (Macquarie), and as her prize she chose the Changing Concepts of Contract edited collection from the Palgrave Macmillan Socio-Legal Studies series. Many thanks again to Dave Cowan for donating this book.

The conference hashtag is #slsa2016. This is on a lot of the official documentation going to delegates, so I'm expecting decent traffic. I'll be keeping an eye on it throughout the conference but it would be good if members could make a point of using the hashtag - thanks!

Jen Hendry

Agenda Item 3.10 Webmaster Report

Website Downtime

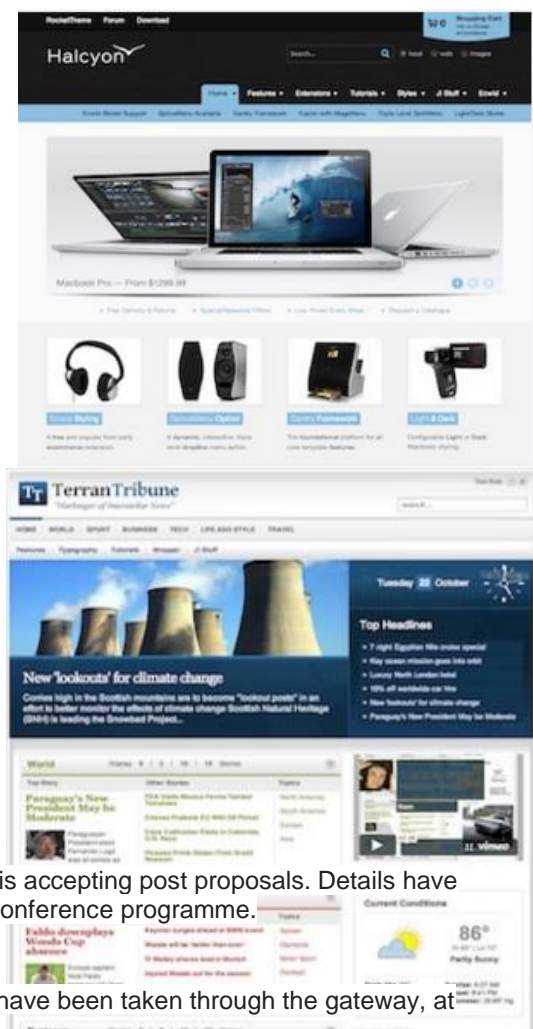
There have been a few instances downtime on the SLSA website which have required technical support to resolve. Our JOOMLA developer is working on a clone, and in the course of this process – a partial rebuild, of the current site on his developer server, which would allow for:

1. Testing of new patches and updates before they go live on the main site.
2. A more effective restoration process (should the worst ever happen!).
3. The ability to migrate to the new version of JOOMLA more safely and to spread this over a longer period of time.
4. The ability to try out new templates for the main website on a working demo.
5. An opportunity to iron out current issues with the functioning of the present website.

There is further ongoing development work to undertake to get this clone site functioning effectively.

Website Templates

Once the clone on the development server has been completed, it will be possible to try new templates for a re-design of the look of the website. Some example compatible re-designs are shown below (pics are hyperlinked to demo sites). Once the development server clone is completed, an appropriate template can be identified for applying to the demo site (including changing the colour scheme, adding CBSubs functionality etc), before being transitioned to the main website.

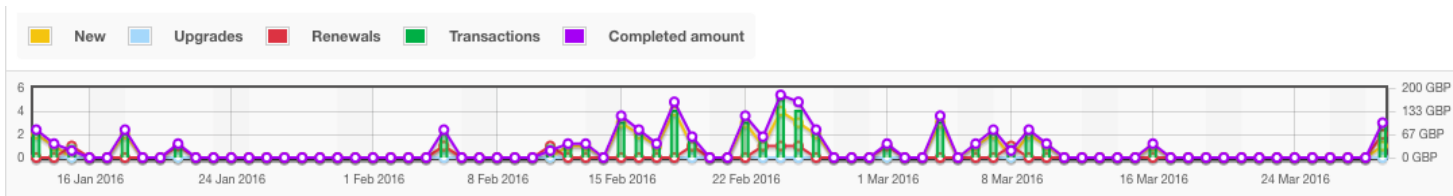


SLSA Blog Extensions

As detailed at the last committee meeting, the SLSA blog is accepting post proposals. Details have been circulated at the conference via a leaflet and in the conference programme.

SLSA Payment Gateway

Since the last committee meeting, a total of 55 payments have been taken through the gateway, at a total of £2,060.



Agenda Item 4 Newcastle Conference SLSA Conference 2017

This is a brief update document regarding the SLSA conference at Newcastle University, 5-7 April 2017.

Since our last update document in January, we have had a site visit, attended by colleagues from Newcastle, as well as Rosemary Hunter and Mark O'Brien from the SLSA executive committee.

We currently have 142 rooms reserved at various hotels in Newcastle city centre. At the site visit, we agreed that we would look to reserve approximately fifty more rooms. We are liaising with NewcastleGateshead tourist board (who we are working with for hotel reservations) to see if this will be possible.

We have all the seminar rooms, lecture theatres etc. booked for the conference. During the site visit, we agreed that we would explore the possibility of also having a family area.

On the financial side of things, we have a meeting booked with the school administrator where we will discuss the financial agreement between the SLSA and the university (i.e. whether the formal agreement needs to be with the school or with the university). We are also going to explore costs for various additional items, such as EasyChair and the conference website. We will have a finalised budget by the time of the SLSA executive committee meeting in September.

NGR & KC