School News

**SLSA Annual Conference 2016**

Between 5th and 7th April 2016 Lancaster University Law School welcomed around 500 delegates from across the world for the Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference 2016. The Conference saw more than 500 papers presented, along with 20 posters, across 53 streams. For the first time at an SLSA Annual Conference, we were able to offer support to allow a number of charitable organisations to attend to share their work with delegates, and build links for future collaboration. The organisations sponsored were the Birchall Trust, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Scottish Refugee Council, South Lakes Citizens Advice and Survivors Manchester. This support was in addition to a Postgraduate Travel Fund, finances for which were provided by the *Journal of Law and Society* and the *Social & Legal Studies Journal*, and a Hardship Fund. We are very grateful for all the work the Conference team, the Online Store team, University Catering and our student ambassadors did in the run up to, and during the Conference itself, as well as to all of the stream and theme conveners who organised and chaired their individual sessions. We also want to thank the Conference sponsors for their continued support. Without all of these people, the Conference could not have been the success that it was.

Although the weather was typically Lancastrian, we hope all of the delegates who attended enjoyed their time at Lancaster University.

**ILA Annual Conference 2016 at Lancaster**

On 8th-9th April Lancaster Law School hosted the International Law Association’s annual British Branch Spring Conference. The two-day event brought together a hundred international law academics and practitioners to explore the theme of ‘Non-State Actors and Changing Relations in International Law’. The theme is significant because non-state actors raise vital questions about the identity and trajectory of international law. While they may be important actors on the international stage and hold key rights in international law, they are marginalised both within the international law-making process and in many venues for its enforcement.

On the first day, the conference sought to systematically address these tensions by exploring, the impact of non-state actors for the structure of international law. Parallel panels addressed the state/non-state divide; private actors and public functions; and the significance of non-state actors for sources, responsibility, the implementation of obligations and dispute settlement. On the second day, the panels investigated particular actors: corporations, international organisations, organised armed groups and terrorists.

The conference was opened by Professor Cedric Ryngaert (Utrecht). In the evening of the first day a panel discussion with Andrea Bianchi (Geneva), Penelope Neville (20 Essex Street) and Marco Odello (Aberystwyth) in the Shire Hall of Lancaster Castle was followed by the conference dinner with a speech by Sir Michael Wood (International Law Commission). The closing speaker for the conference was Sir Nigel Rodley (Human Rights Committee).

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18th Annual Iredell Lecture delivered by Professor Sir John Baker Q.C., F.B.A.

The Iredell Lecture was given on 10th March. Professor Sir John Baker spoke on “Magna Carta: Its Resurrection 1216-1616” to a wide audience of academics, students and members of the general public. His major argument centred on the assertion that the really important aspects of Magna Carta established themselves *after* it was first sealed by Bad King John in 1215. Sir John, who is Downing Professor Emeritus of the Laws of England in the University of Cambridge and amongst the most distinguished of all historians of the common law, stands in a distinguished line of Iredell Lecture speakers including John Langbein, Lawrence Stone, Douglas Hay, Dame Olwen Hufton, Morton Horwitz, Sir Hilary Beckles, Sir Robert Rees Davis and Amanda Vickery.

Catherine Easton takes over as editor of the European Journal of Current Legal Issues

Catherine Easton has taken over from Prof Philip Leith as general editor of the European Journal of Current Legal Issues, which has just published a special issue on public law and police accountability: [http://ejocli.org/](http://ejocli.org/) It is Europe's oldest online open access legal journal and publishes high-quality peer reviewed articles. The publication’s move to Lancaster University School of Law highlights and enhances the department's active, international research profile. Further information can be found at: [http://webjcli.org/article/view/438/563](http://webjcli.org/article/view/438/563)

Knowledge Exchange/ External Engagement

Sarah Kingston was cited in written submissions to the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into prostitution in March 2016. She also made an invited contribution to the Liberal Democrats’ Sex Work Policy Working group in October 2015 and to the House of Commons evidence gathering symposium on the decriminalisation of prostitution in November 2015. Her research was cited in a report from the debate.

David Millman’s book, *Sealy and Milman, Annotated Guide to Insolvency Legislation* was cited in the High Court by Edward Murray QC (sitting as a Deputy Judge) in *Morby v Gate Gourmet Luxembourg SARL* [2016] EWHC 74 (Ch) at para [47].

James Summers was a judge for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Competition, UK National Rounds, at Gray’s Inn London, 12-13 February.

Law Staff in the Media

Sarah Kingston appeared on *France 24* on 14th April discussing the new French legislation banning paying for sex.

Siobhan Weare spoke to *LBC Radio* on 11th April about the case of Kathryn Smith who was found guilty of murdering her daughter.

James Summers spoke to *BBC Radio Five Live, BBC Radio Scotland* and BBC local radio on 21st January about the report into the killing of Alexander Litvinenko. He spoke to them again on 17th March about John Kerry’s accusations of IS committing genocide.
Mooting: Internal Finals and Inter-varsity
The last week of term saw the culmination of both of the internal Mooting Competitions here at Lancaster, with both finals held in Lancaster Magistrates Court. Well done to all of the teams that took part throughout the competition, with special mention to the winners of the competitions. Congratulations also to the two students who won the Best Advocate awards; one of them will now have the opportunity to go on the Frank Burns mini-pupillage at Kenworthy’s Chambers in Manchester.

The day after the finals also saw the first Lancaster University Inter-Varsity Moot against York, with the winners from the Main Competition representing (and winning) for Lancaster. Well done to all of the participants, and to Kristian for organising this. Thanks also to everyone who has given up their time to help with the judging and clerking throughout the competitions.

VIS Moot
For the first time, Lancaster University VIS Moot Team flew to Vienna to take part in one of the largest mooting competitions in the world. They did a great job in representing both the University and the Society, and congratulations go to all of the team and coaches. For those interested in taking part next year, keep an eye on the VIS Moot Team page on Facebook, as well as emails and lecture announcements, as details on the application process will be released over the Summer Term.

Socials: Trip abroad and Law Ball
Lent term also saw two of the biggest events of the social calendar; the Trip Abroad, and the Annual Law Ball. The former went to Amsterdam this year, and everyone involved had a great time experiencing the culture of the famous city. The Law Ball was held at the Lancaster House Hotel, and was one of the biggest yet; attendees were treated to a lovely three course meal, along with live entertainment, casino tables, candy floss, professional photography, and more. An official after-party was also held in town at Apothecary, meaning that the festivities lasted well into the early hours. Everyone in attendance had a great night; thanks to all of those who were involved in the organisation for their work.

Elections
Congratulations and thanks go to the outgoing Exec. Committee for all of their hard work over the last year; they have done a great job at continuing to expand and develop the Society. However, it is now time to pass over the reins to the next Exec. The full list of new committee members can be found on the Law Society’s website – http://lulawsociety.co.uk

Good luck to all those elected.

Pro-Bono: School Moot
This year also saw the continuation of the Annual Schools Mooting Competition, in which local schools are invited to receive coaching, and later take part in a mooting competition at the University. The competition is a great way for students in the local area to learn about both Law and Lancaster, as well as providing members of the Society the opportunity to have an enjoyable time whilst adding to their CV. The Law Society is intending to expand the range of Pro-Bono events on offer next year, particularly in the local area; details on how to get involved in this project (and many more) will be announced online and in lectures as soon as they are available.

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