

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER No 94

SLSA

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2021

VIRTUAL CARDIFF 2021

With cameras instead of campus and buffering instead of buffets, the SLSA Annual Conference 2021 was a different experience to normal.

Between 30 March and 1 April, Cardiff hosted the first SLSA online annual conference with challenging, fascinating and thought-provoking presentations across the three days. A dedicated conference platform hosted over 765 delegates from 42 countries and included 491 abstracts in 40 subject streams. The platform remained open until 30 April to allow delegates to browse over 400 pre-recorded presentations and return to view the plenary sessions.

These explored the theme of 'Resilience, Resistance and Reform in Wales, the UK and the World'. The opening plenary on 'Human Rights, Social Justice and COVID-19' included contributions from Professor Lawrence Gostin (Georgetown University), Ann James (disability and social welfare campaigner) and Professor Michael Fakhri (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food). The second plenary session with Dr Patricia Tuitt discussed 'Socio-Legal Studies in a Time of Emergency'. Two roundtable plenaries debated 'Race, Place and Nation in the UK' with Gaynor Legall (Tiger Bay & The World) and Dr Nadine El-Enany (Birkbeck, University of London) and 'Decolonizing the Law School – Lessons from the Life and Work of Paul Robeson' with Professor Penelope Andrews (New York School of Law, Chair of the Law and Society Association), Professor Daniel Williams (Swansea University) and Dr Foluke Adebisi (University of Bristol).

A special resources section on the platform allowed those themes to be explored through an online graphic novel on the 1919 Cardiff Race Riots by Kyle Legall, accompanied by specialist content by the National Archives and Glamorgan Archives on the social context of the riots. The South Wales Miners Library, Swansea University, and the Paul Robeson Wales Trust provided a link to their brand-new online exhibition on Paul Robeson and Wales to accompany the final roundtable. Cardiff University's Special Collections and Archives provided new recordings displaying items in their collections relevant to the conference theme. To complement the *Journal of Law and Society* stream, the publishers, Wiley, produced a special online edition of the journal with a selection of articles ranging from 1974–2021. The authors of these articles discussed their current work through a series of eight live sessions in the conference programme.

The conference was hosted with support from the *Journal of Law and Society*, *Social and Legal Studies*, the Learned Society of Wales, and we were delighted to also host two seminars sponsored by the *Modern Law Review*. We're also grateful to the exhibitors who joined the conference on the platform's exhibition pages.

The Cardiff team also wishes to particularly thank stream convenors for their dedication and commitment in rising to the challenges of an online conference and ensuring that presenters had the best opportunities to discuss their work while maintaining the engaging atmosphere of an SLSA conference. We are looking forward to seeing you all in person at York in 2022. *Diolch yn fawr! The Cardiff Team*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As announced in last summer's newsletter, SLSA membership fees will increase on 1 July 2021.

The full membership fee will be £50 and the student membership fee will be £25 (retaining the first year free for new student members). This is the first increase in the fees since 1 July 2011 and is roughly in line with inflation.

Members can pay their fees by bank transfer, standing order or Paypal. If you are currently paying by standing order, please make sure that you are paying the correct amount.

CHANGES TO THE SLSA BOARD

The SLSA AGM was held on 31 March 2021 during our virtual Cardiff conference.

Three trustees stepped down: Emilie Cloatre, Roxanna Dehaghani and Antonia Layard. Four others were re-elected for a second term: Smita Kheria, Ed Kirton-Darling, Jessica Mant and Flora Renz. It was therefore necessary to carry out elections to appoint three new trustees from the nominees. The SLSA chair was delighted to welcome Beverley Clough, University of Leeds, Sabrina Germain, City University of London, and Mitchell Travis, University of Leeds, to the Board. The Board also has a new vice chair, Chris Ashford of Northumbria University.

SLSA ANNUAL PRIZE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIO-LEGAL COMMUNITY

The prize was launched in 2011 and the winner of this prestigious award receives £500 and lifetime membership of the Association.

SLSA members are warmly invited to submit nominations for this year's prize. Nominators should simply state in 100 words why the person they are nominating would be a worthy recipient of the prize. Visit the **prizewinners' page** to find out why the previous winners were chosen. Nominations should be sent to **admin@slsa.ac.uk** by Monday 6 September 2021. The prize is funded by a private sponsor.

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Newsletter sponsorship

The *Socio-Legal Newsletter* is sponsored by a consortium of law schools interested in promoting socio-legal studies in the UK. If your institution would like to become involved in this initiative, please contact SLSA Chair e [Rosie Harding](mailto:Rosie.Harding).

Newsletter academic sponsors are: Birkbeck; Cardiff Law School; Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford; Keele University; Kent University; Leeds Beckett University; the LSE; Northumbria University Newcastle; Queen Mary University of London; Queen's University Belfast; University College London; University of Birmingham; University of Exeter; University of Leeds; University of Leicester; University of Liverpool; University of Nottingham; University of Sheffield; University of Strathclyde; University of Sussex; University of Westminster; University of York; and Warwick Law School.

The newsletter is also sponsored by the *Journal of Law and Society*.

SLSA 2021 PGR activities

Vicky Adkins reports on a highly successful day for our PGRs, learning new skills, making new connections and focusing on their own wellbeing.

The SLSA Board was pleased that on 29 March 2021 this year's virtual Annual Conference could still encompass the PGR activities, a host of talks and networking sessions specifically aimed at postgraduate students. Tahir Abass and myself, as PGR reps of the SLSA, wanted to maintain an essence of togetherness in this year's activities despite their delivery taking place online. We also wanted to acknowledge the particular struggles PGRs have faced over the past year, as well as providing useful insights into the unique journey of undertaking a PhD.

As a result, following an informal welcome from ourselves and a warm video welcome from SLSA Chair, Professor Rosie Harding, the first session of the day was titled 'Doing a PhD in a pandemic: prioritising wellbeing in challenging times'.

This session was delivered by Dr Emma Jones of the University of Sheffield and was a great start to the PGR activities. In particular, Emma shared hints and tips for maintaining wellbeing during PhD studies, provided an opportunity for us to practise some breathing exercises as well as allowing room for PGRs to share their own plans for managing their wellbeing going forward.

Following a short break, Professor Phil Thomas from the *Journal of Law and Society* and Professor Chris Ashford from *The Law Teacher* delivered a session titled 'Publishing in academic journals demystified'. Phil and Chris both provided invaluable insight into not only how the peer review process actually works, but also what journal editors are looking for and how this can differ depending on the journal to which you are submitting your work. PGRs also had an opportunity to ask any questions in relation to publishing their research.

Following lunch, we were joined by three ECRs, Dr Elizabeth Chloe Romanis (Durham University), Dr Alex Green (Leeds Beckett University) and Dr Rosie Fox (University of Leeds). Each of them shared their journeys into academia and were very candid in recounting their experiences and answering PGRs' questions. Following this, and in a final session for the PGR activities, the attendees were given an opportunity to network with each other in break-out rooms. It was of particular importance to Tahir and me to ensure that a space, albeit virtually, was created for PGRs to get to know each other and make connections that we hope will help them throughout their PhD journeys.

During this networking session, the PGR poster competition also took place in a separate room. The submissions for this year were incredibly high quality with a range of fascinating research topics. Congratulations to this year's winners, Caoimhe Kiernan and Lara Tessaro. Special thanks also to our poster judges Antonia Layard, Rebecca Moosavian and Simon Flacks. A short evening quiz also took place, which provided some light-hearted fun and further opportunities for networking.

Tahir and I are very grateful to all speakers and attendees who took part in this year's PGR activities, and we are also thankful to the team at Worldspan, behind the provision of the virtual platform, that assisted in the hosting of the day's events.

At the end of this year's SLSA Annual Conference, Tahir stepped down as a PGR Rep of the SLSA. As the continuing PGR rep for the SLSA, I would like to personally thank Tahir for his guidance (and laughs!) during our time working together. On behalf of the SLSA Board, I would like to also thank Tahir for his time and commitment and the support he has provided to the SLSA PGR community. Details about how you can apply to become a PGR Rep are now available on the **w SLSA website**. Closing date: **30 July 2021**.

SLSA PRIZES 2021

The SLSA's annual prizes were announced during our Annual Conference 2021, hosted virtually by Cardiff Law School.

Hart Book Prize

- Nesam McMillan (2020) *Imagining the International: Crime, justice, and the promise of community (The Cultural Lives of Law)*, Stanford University Press

Hart-SLSA Prize for Early Career Academics

- Seán Columb (2020) *Trading Life: Organ trafficking, illicit networks, and exploitation*, Stanford University Press

SLSA Theory and History Prize

- Nadine El-Enany (2020) *(B)ordering Britain: Law, race and empire*, Manchester University Press

SLSA Article Prize

- Helen Stalford and Kathryn Hollingsworth (2020) "'This case is about you and your future": towards judgments for children' *Modern Law Review* 85(3): 1030–1058

SLSA Poster Competition

There are two winners this year:

- Caoimhe Kiernan, 'Can affects inspired by the global feminist judgment projects influence the gender composition of judiciaries?'
- Lara Tessaro, 'Cosmetic compositions: enacting matter, time, and law with Canadian cosmetic product labelling (1933–)'

AcSS: call for nominations

As a member of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), the SLSA can nominate eminent socio-legal scholars for appointment as academicians. Full details of the process are available on the **w AcSS website**. The paramount requirement is that the nominee be 'a leading figure in their field and have already left a clear mark on it'. Send nominations (max 500 words) to Vanessa Munro **e v.munro@warwick.ac.uk** by **Monday 11 October 2021**.

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SLSA SEMINARS

In 2020 our seminar organisers were faced with unprecedented difficulties and were forced to rethink their meticulous event planning. They met the challenge in imaginative and innovative ways!

HYPHAE: zine of the unseen

Back in 2019, the SLSA awarded a grant for a workshop, 'Interdisciplinarity as Resistance', co-organised by Rose Parfitt (Kent Law School) and Gothenburg University's Matilda Arvidsson (Law) and Hjalmar Falk (Literature, History of Ideas and Religion). A response, in part, to the global far-right resurgence, its objective was to discover whether radically interdisciplinary forms of collaboration might yield more effective forms of resistance.

In March 2020, therefore, some 30 socio-legal scholars, artists, composers, poets, filmmakers, curators, cartoonists, art historians and others were preparing to travel from Mexico City, Brighton, Johannesburg, Figeac, New York, Melbourne, Berlin and elsewhere to Konstepidemin, a huge, vibrant art space in central Gothenburg, once home to the city's Epidemiological Hospital, now dedicated to 'infect[ing] society with art'. In March 2020, however, the universe had a more traditional kind of epidemic up its sleeve – one that would trigger an unprecedented exacerbation of familiar patterns of inequality and, perhaps inevitably, a further strengthening of the far-right.

With the crisis still raging over a year after it killed off that workshop, it's hard to see any kind of silver lining in this miserable cloud. Still, in the weird light it has cast on the world-as-we-once-knew-it, some things have become more visible. For those involved in this project – whether thrown abruptly into unemployment (as with many of the artists) or confronted with a doubled working week (the experience of many academics) – one thing this experience has clarified is the significance, and complexity, of the relationship between 'working' and 'not working'.

Thanks to the SLSA's immense generosity and the wonders of the internet, these collaborators have been lucky enough to be able to treat this sad and, at times, extremely violent 14-month period as a kind of chrysalis within which slowly to change the project's form.

Part-zine, part-platform, part-channel, part-archive, HYPHAE (when it finally hatches out, online, in August 2021) responds directly to – having itself grown out of – the changes and continuities of the 'Covid era'. Co-designed by Rose and the Art/Law Network's Lucy Finchett-Maddock (Sussex Law School), it aims to draw attention to that which has been created in, salvaged from and understood about this simultaneously new-and-old social, legal and cultural reality, while in doing so contributing as little as possible to the additional burdens that reality has placed on all of us.

For example, if the shift from a partly physical into a largely digital cosmos has taught us anything, it is surely that raw text – words on a blank screen – has serious limitations when it comes to interaction and communication. As this suggests – and as socio-legal scholars and cultural practitioners have long pointed out – image, sound, form and movement can do things that words cannot. Unlike a blog, a journal or an online workshop, therefore, HYPHAE's content will be oriented towards what the internet does best – namely image, sound, form and movement, rather than unadulterated words or text. The idea, in line with the project's original objective, is to offer a platform to radical forms of interdisciplinary collaboration, with the aim of developing

new forms of resistance to the dynamics and legacies – now turbo-charged – of anthropocentrism, colonialism and capitalism.

Or, to give another example, one of the unexpected features of 'lockdown' has been the permission it has given many to do and learn things (again, often online) which they were unable to do or learn before. However, it remains the case that few people have the physical or emotional capacity, right now, to take on any new commitments. The idea with HYPHAE, therefore, is not to demand new work but, instead, to offer people an irregular platform on which to perch what they're already doing, examine it from a new angle, and introduce it to new audiences/potential collaborators.

Together with the zine's overarching working/not-working theme, this approach of co-producing new frames of reference with which to engage with contributors' already-underway projects generates a deliberately broad platform, ranging from the fruits of straight-up procrastination (like those HYPHAE Goats, left) to multiform manifestations of what Lefebvre called the 'critique of everyday life' (cf 'Sticker Book', a series of stickers by Birmingham-based artist Antonio Roberts aimed at upending taken-for-granted assumptions about the images routinely aimed at children; or the podcast 'Labouring', a conversation among socio-legal scholars, artists, sociologists and art historians interrogating the newly enhanced tension between productive and reproductive labour led by Helena Chávez Mac Gregor (UNAM/SOMA, Mexico City) and Prishani Naidoo (SWOP, Johannesburg) – both forthcoming).

And so, like an aperture specially engineered to pick out the socio-legal and cultural implications of the invisible labour that sustains everything we produce, HYPHAE will feature a mixture of static and interactive content – both invited and unsolicited – from lino-cuts to documentaries to masterclasses to memes. This content will be released regularly and disseminated freely. Most importantly of all, it will be produced in collaboration with the HYPHAE team and other participants, drawn from right across the spectrum of law, social science, arts and humanities. Proposals and ideas are warmly invited; check w HYPHAE.xyz for details and more.

Rose Sydney Parfitt, Kent University and
Lucy Finchett-Maddock, Sussex University



Covid-19 and Birthing Services: Socio-legal Reflections and Lessons

Anna Nelson (Manchester) and Elizabeth Chloe Romanis (Durham) used their SLSA Seminar Competition award to organise two online workshops. The events were highly successful and Anna and Elizabeth also provided four SLSA Blog posts, including images that were live-scribed during the events. See the [SLSA Blog](#) for full details.

Critical Perspectives on Land Registration

This workshop was originally envisioned to be held as a one-day, in-person event at Birkbeck in April 2020. Due to the global pandemic, it was split into a series of three 90-minute seminars, delivered on 30 October 2020, 20 November 2020 and 22 January 2021. Our decision to split the workshop in this way was motivated by a desire to keep the event as accessible as possible. All of the seminars were free to attend and were open to the public.

Our aim was to bring together scholars working on land registration across a range of disciplines and methodological approaches. In so doing, we hoped to diversify the voices writing about land registration, as well as bring scholars across the disciplines into dialogue. Eight papers in total were presented across the three seminars. The presenters included a mix of early career and more established scholars.

The first seminar, titled 'Creating and Shaping Land Through Registration or Registration Through Land', opened with a paper from Felicitas Sommer (Martin Luther University in Halle Wittenberg) on land registration in Germany, followed by Flora Vern's (Lyon Catholic University) paper on the interaction of property theory and land registration in England and France. The third paper was given by Bill Acre (University of Western Ontario) and Matteo Maciel (independent) and focused on disputes over the Six Nations of Grand River's title in Ontario.

The second seminar, titled 'Technology and Registration, Registration as Technology', saw Tara Mulqueen (University of Warwick) unpack the effects of registration on nineteenth-century cooperatives, while Alison Clarke (University of Surrey) discussed the distorted picture of land registration in England, and Simon Cooper (Aston University) explored the ways in which land registration changed and did not change to suit local conditions.

In the third seminar, Desmond Fitz-Gibbon (Mount Holyoke College) explored the emergence of land registration in England through the lens of capitalist development, and Sarah Keenan (Birkbeck University of London), looked at how the introduction of platform real estate is changing proprietorship. Sarah Hamill (Trinity College Dublin) acted as discussant, drawing together common themes across the series of seminars as a whole.

Across the three seminars, the discussion both in the papers and in the question periods was incredibly rich. The papers presented ranged across time periods, jurisdictions and methodological approaches. A recurring theme was the sheer complexity of land registration and its effects and the need for a variety of tools and approaches to excavate its effects and goals. Questions of power and the constitutive nature of law's interaction with land and people reverberated across the three seminars. In addition, links were shown between land registration and the registration of corporate bodies. As such there is scope to ask further questions about registration as a legal tool; its aims and effects; and whether it is or can be compatible with an emancipatory property law.

*Sarah Keenan, Birkbeck, University of London,
and Sarah Hamill, Trinity College Dublin*

Future SLSA events

Annual Conferences

- University of York, 6–8 April 2022
- University of Ulster, 4–6 April 2023

SLSA seminars and workshops

- Art/Law Network Online Seminar Series: Enabling and disabling mobilities, 7 July 2021
- Art/Law Network Online Seminar Series: Migrant in art, 21 July 2021
- Art/Law Network Online Seminar Series: Borderlands, theory and the everyday, 4 August 2021
- Art/Law Network Online Seminar Series: Value of art – artist showcase, 18 August 2021
- Art/Law Network Online Seminar Series: Art, law and the border(s) in Ireland, 1 September 2021
- Art/Law Network Online Seminar Series: Migrant artists' rights: policy and practice, 15 September 2021
- Decolonising the Criminal Question: Colonial Legacies, Contemporary Problems, University of Warwick, 16–17 September 2021
- Mental Capacity in the Context of Sexual Relationships and Intimacy, **date and venue tbc**

SLSA GRANT SCHEMES

Applications are now open for the next round of SLSA Research Grants and PhD Fieldwork Grants.

Applications are invited from fully paid-up SLSA members (or those registered as free student members), wherever they live. Applications must be made using the Application Package on the **SLSA website**. The deadline is **31 October 2021**.

Research summaries from this year's round of new projects follow, plus three reports from completed studies.

Race, crime and justice in Britain, 1870-1955

Lizzie Seal, University of Sussex, and Esmorie Miller, London South Bank University, £1135

The research is original. Very little is known about race, crime and justice in Britain before the mid-twentieth century, consistent with a wider lack of attention to histories of race in Britain before the 'Windrush era'

Previous research has examined the experiences of Black people in the criminal justice system in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and the racialisation of capably sentenced men of colour in the twentieth century. No existing research addresses race, crime and justice in the period more widely.

There is an urgent need for analysis of historical patterns of crime, victimisation and sentencing as they pertained to people of colour. Alongside identifying these patterns, the research will produce life narratives of everyday experience and will analyse how understandings of crime and victimisation were interwoven with colonially derived narratives of race. Narratives, stories and rich detail are essential to provide new knowledge about race, crime and justice in the past and will help to contextualise these issues in the present, meaning the research is innovative. **Phillips et al (2020: 439)** highlight the need to overcome the '[c]riminological amnesia' regarding race, colonialism and criminal justice in Britain and argue 'the contemporary contours of race' can only be understood via reference to the past.

The research has contemporary relevance. The **Lammy Review (2017)** identified that people of colour are over-represented in the present-day criminal justice system, particularly in prisons, and recommended significant reform to counter racial bias and discrimination. People of colour are also over-represented as victims and experience forms of racist victimisation. This contemporary picture needs to be historicised. Globally, the issue of race and criminal justice has upsurged. Protests led by Black Lives Matter over the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others in the United States extended to other countries, including Britain. Black Lives Matter emphasises the importance of recovering histories of race and injustice to end racism in the present.

Healing through justice? Empirically evaluating the mitigating effect of the civil party system on the harms suffered by Cambodian victims of sexual and gender-based crimes

Marie Wilmet, European University Institute, £1000

This research project constitutes the empirical case study of my PhD which investigates the contribution of victims' procedural rights to the mitigation of the harms of victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It adopts a socio-legal approach to the intersection of two highly debated issues in international criminal law: the role of victims in international criminal proceedings and the need to enhance accountability for SGBV.

Due to the lack of conviction for SGBV crimes in international criminal tribunals providing for robust victims' rights, this intersection has only been explored occasionally in the field and mostly from a theoretical point of view. On 16 November 2018, however, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) found Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan guilty of inter alia the crime against humanity of forced marriage and rape in Case 002/02. Because of the Court's civil party system, the case forms a unique and unprecedented opportunity to empirically evaluate the contribution of victims' procedural rights to the mitigation of the harms of SGBV victims.

The objective of the research is therefore to listen to the voices of the Cambodian victims of SGBV under the Khmer Rouge regime and to document their experiences as civil parties in the ECCC proceedings. Through the case study research method, the project will attempt to reach the following objectives: 1) decipher the participatory rights and the right to reparation available to civil parties at the ECCC proceedings as compared to other international and hybrid criminal courts; 2) understand the SGBV victims' capacity to exercise participatory rights in the ECCC's Case 002/02; 3) consider the role of SGBV civil parties in devising Case 002/02's reparations measures and the impact of these measures on their lives; and 4) get insight on the SGBV civil parties' perspective of the procedural rights and their ability to attenuate the harms suffered as a result of the crimes.

New methodologies in feminist legal studies: legislative drafting project

Eithne Dowds, Queen's University, Belfast, £1500

Following the significance of feminist judgment projects globally, feminist attention is increasingly turning to legislative drafting as a new and innovative methodology. Efforts have been directed towards demonstrating how traditional legal methods, such as legislative drafting, can provide feminists with a valuable opportunity to

rethink and rewrite the law from a feminist perspective thus bridging the divide between theory and practice. The current project aims to explore the potential of feminist legislative drafting within the context of Northern Ireland. In this jurisdiction, legislative reforms on key areas of feminist research have recently taken place or are presently being discussed (eg sexual offences, abortion, domestic violence) and longstanding legislative areas and legacy concerns stand to be approached anew from feminist perspectives (eg the Northern Ireland Bill of Rights, the Northern Ireland Act). This makes Northern Ireland an ideal case study for exploring the challenges and opportunities presented by feminist legislative drafting as a new methodology.

The overarching aims of this research are as follows:

- a to gain an insight into the views of academics, practitioners and activists on feminist engagement with the law and specifically the legislative process;
- b to investigate what a feminist approach to legislative drafting might involve – both in the Northern Irish context and more generally – and what general guiding principles of this work might be; and
- c to make new connections between feminist theorising and legislative practice which challenge and enhance the knowledge and skills of feminist academics as well as actors involved in the legislative process.

These aims will be met through the following objectives:

- a to arrange a half-day online workshop with feminist legal scholars who have engaged in legislative drafting to discuss their work and the potential for a feminist approach to legislative drafting;
- b to arrange a half-day online workshop with feminist activists and legislative drafters in Northern Ireland to explore their role/contribution to the legislative process; and
- c to draft guiding principles related to the processes and outcomes of feminist legislative drafting.

Colonial folklores in legal archives: caste and gender deviant categorisations in colonial India

Gee Semmalar, Kent Law School, £1000

This study is an exploration of the processes of state classification in nineteenth-century colonial India at the points where caste and gender deviance intersect. It will be specifically focused on how *hijras* or 'eunuchs' (or those who we today refer to as transgender women) are classified through caste categories under British and caste colonisation in the juridical and administrative classificatory processes of the state. What happens to these classificatory systems when gender deviance and caste opacity frustrate attempts at fixity? At a broader level, the study seeks to analyse how power operates at the point of collusion of caste and gender in the production, reproduction and conceptualisation of the category of the ideal native subject and/or citizen. Specifically, it examines what is conventionally thought to be state (census, legal texts and laws) and non-state (academic, travelogues, ephemera like fair/freak show posters) knowledge production exercises and the challenges to the same when it comes to the categorising of gender deviance. State and non-state are not seen in this study as fixed but as fluid terrains whose contours are often difficult to define or separate, often talking to and against each other. By relying on legal archival sources, this study will be a critical intervention in gender and sexuality studies, legal and archival scholarship and critical colonial studies from India. By using anti-caste historiography and

an interdisciplinary lens, this study takes inspiration from the interventions of critical race theory in law and hopes to take forward the cultural turn in archival studies.

Transforming Social Justice through activism

Suhraiya Jivraj, Kent Law School, £1500,

How can 'activism' – the use of creative expression by activists – transform and develop social justice? Drawing on methodological insights from existing literature on arts, social justice and education I will co-facilitate a series of activism workshops for social justice activists engaging in arts-based methods. The aim of these workshops and the project is to:

- 1 build the capacity of participants' social justice work through creative methods
- 2 Collect primary participative data to analyse the role and impact of the use of creative methods in social justice projects and in so doing;
- 3 set up a collective of 'artists' providing a supportive research network to co-develop creative, arts-based approaches to social justice and education.

This project draws on and contributes to a long history of creative work informing social justice activism in the Global North. In fact, 'igniting change at the intersection of art, culture and social justice' is a key method within critical race theory (CRT) which uses story-telling as a way to 'counter-narrate' experiences of racialisation and also reimagine alternatives. Less well known, however, is the role, potential and impact of creative work produced by diasporic marginalised communities on tackling racial inequalities in (former) European colonial centres. This novel and timely project builds upon my work on decolonising the curriculum and developing antiracist pedagogy to develop scholarly insights into the transformative potential of creative practices as part of antiracist approaches to social justice including within education. It does so through the solidarity praxis of scholarly-activist co-production.

Reimagining the role of civil society in transitional justice processes relating to Soviet repressions in Russia

Selbi Durdiyeva, Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University, £2000 (£1433.70 used)

I am very grateful for the fieldwork research grant provided by the SLSA for my PhD research on the role of civil society in transitional justice (TJ) processes in Russia. Methodologically, my study was divided into desk-based research and semi-structured interviews. I examined the role of three civil society groups in Russia: Memorial, an NGO (in Moscow and Saint Petersburg), Butovo (a site-specific centre administered by a parish of the Orthodox Church of Russia on a mass burial and former execution site) and a nationalist group from a Siberian town that erected a monument to Stalin. By focusing on diverse civil society groups, such as an NGO, religious group and a far-right group, I aimed to examine a broad trajectory of roles civil society can undertake in TJ.

My research has demonstrated that civil society can perform such functions as lobbying and advocating for TJ, aiding and providing their expertise with the formal state-run processes, substituting formal TJ measures, creating alternative frameworks to TJ where the measures are not accessible and do not serve the justice aims pursued, as well as acting as a counter-TJ agenda, that is, adopting a role of TJ spoilers. I have conducted 26 in-person semi-structured

Navigating citizenship law: a critical theory from Europe's last empire

Marcelo Carvalho Loureiro, Birmingham University, £1000

This research aims to critically redescribe citizenship law in the Lusophone colonial context by exploring the connection between slavery, 'whiteness' and the creation of multiple sub-citizenship statuses.

By the end of the nineteenth century, Portugal still engaged actively with slavery in Africa, America and Asia. Under British pressure, slavery was abolished empire-wide in 1869. During this process, British-Portuguese treaties established a framework for the full liberation of slaves through schemes of apprenticeship and 'civilisation'. This scheme, which in British law lasted roughly until 1839, continued to be applied in Portugal under different names until the end of the empire in 1975.

The initial status of 'apprentice' was later transformed into other legal statuses intended to subalternise Black and mixed-race people. Freed slave, servitors, rural workers, colonists and finally *Indígena Africano* (African indigenous) were legal sub-citizenship statuses created to diminish the political and legal expression of non-white Portuguese people. 'African indigenous' people were not legally regarded as citizens and had to undergo an administrative procedure to transition from 'indigenous' to citizen.

In engaging with the non-white practice of citizenship through the study of slavery and legal indigeneity, the project aims to redirect the debate on modern citizenship law to the surviving logics of coloniality intrinsic to it. To achieve that, this research engages in recognising and documenting the role of nationality law in creating and reinforcing liminal statuses for Black and non-white people. This is done via archival work and critical redescription. Both methods aim to propose an updated socio-legal theory on citizenship law capable of accounting for the subalternity suffered by non-white people and the inherent colonial and white framework of modern postcolonial citizenship law.

interviews with Memorial and the Butovo Centre. Due to the issues of access, I was not able to interview the far-right group. To remedy this, I have consulted its openly available publications on social media (taking into account the ethical considerations of using internet data of this sort) and secondary interviews.

I initially intended to use the fieldwork funding to visit, together with Saint Petersburg and Moscow Memorial, the former Solovetsky labour camp, one of the first labour camps in the country, located in the north-west of Russia. I also intended to visit another mass burial and execution site north of Saint-Petersburg – Sandarmoh – and attend and observe the Memorial Days conducted by civil society in August of 2020 in Russia. Unfortunately, the pandemic has altered my plans; the Memorial Days and visits were cancelled as Russia experienced high rates of infections in the summer of 2020. However, my project's general aims and scope had not changed, and I still managed to make two shorter visits to engage with the civil society groups I am studying. I used the funding to visit the Moscow Memorial office in February of 2020, attend one of their major events – an exhibition opening dedicated to the victims of labour camps – and conduct interviews and collect some data from the observation of the event. I also benefited from a two-week visit and follow-up interviews to Saint Petersburg Memorial in December 2020. The ability to have follow-up interviews was indispensable due to the ever-evolving nature of civil society and particularly

in light of the introduction of new amendments to the law on non-commercial organisations in Russia. The visit allowed me to draw on how the restrictive 'foreign agent' legislation hinders the ability of civil society to engage with TJ measures.

My research findings demonstrated that civil society can be a principal TJ actor and can run the TJ measures despite the reluctant state. Difficult political climates often resulted in civil society organisations seeking creative and unexpected solutions in their piecemeal, grassroots, non-official approaches to TJ, which, nevertheless, have much potential.

Judging the failed mother: women suspected of killing their newborn children and the courts

Emma Milne, Middlesex University, £2987.19

I write this report having submitted the final manuscript of my book *Criminal Justice Responses to Maternal Filicide: Judging the failed mother* (Emerald forthcoming). The study assessed transcripts from criminal court cases of women suspected of killing their newborn children, heard between 2010 and 2019 in England and Wales. The research was made possible through the SLSA research grant, with the funding allowing me to expand the number of cases I analysed. My doctoral research involved assessment of seven cases from 2010 to 2014. Using SLSA funding, I was able to purchase eight further cases from the period of 2015 to 2019.

A little-known fact of court hearings is that, while the criminal hearings are generally open to the public to attend, the recording of what occurred in the courtroom is far less accessible. Court transcripts from the Crown Court are Crown Copyright, but the courts do not hold the recordings of proceedings, nor do they produce transcripts. Instead, this is the purview of transcription companies, who are engaged by the Ministry of Justice. Thus, to complete research using transcripts from criminal court hearings, a researcher needs to apply for permission from a judge, and then pay a fee to the transcription company to cover the cost of producing the transcript. The cost of the transcript can vary hugely, dependent upon whether the defendant pleaded guilty, and so only a sentencing hearing is available, or if a full trial was conducted. One estimate I received for the prosecution and defence closing remarks, the judge's summing-up and verdict and the sentencing hearing totalled £1365. Thus, this form of research is an expensive endeavour.

However, it is a cost that I believe is worth paying due to the richness of the source of data. Key findings from my research are that women who are suspected of killing their newborn children are incredibly vulnerable. In all 15 cases in the study, the women experienced a 'crisis' pregnancy – the context surrounding the pregnancy resulted in the woman facing a crisis that she felt she could not address. As such, she concealed and/or denied her pregnancy from herself and the people around her, resulting in her giving birth alone, often in a state of shock and confusion. Despite her level of crisis, clear expectations were expressed during the court hearings that the women should have acted as 'good' mothers and 'responsible' pregnant women. An experience of crisis was not considered enough reason to defeat 'natural' and 'inherent' motherhood and mothering that supposedly accompanies becoming pregnant. Clearly, mother-blame now starts at conception, if not before.

The consequence of such narratives of 'appropriate' behaviour of pregnant women within these criminal cases means that there is limited room for the criminal law and criminal justice to recognise the vulnerable position of an

accused woman nor the social causes of her actions. It is she and she alone who is to blame for her actions. Her poverty, experiences of violence and abuse, and crisis pregnancy are deemed to offer little excuse for her failure as a 'mother'. Thus, this study provides yet more evidence of the failures of the criminal law to work for women.

The role of mediation in improving participation in the Court of Protection

Jaime Lindsey, University of Essex, £2970

It has been argued that mediation might provide a better justice experience than litigation, particularly for lay participants in proceedings, and that mediation can provide a more flexible and participatory environment for resolving a wide range of disputes. Building on this, my research project, generously funded by an SLSA research grant in 2019, investigated the use of mediation in Court of Protection (CoP) proceedings, the jurisdiction that deals with disputes that arise under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA). Mediation had been increasingly argued for in the CoP to resolve disputes about best interests, but there was little evidence to support its use. Furthermore, there are many challenges in mediation's effective implementation in this jurisdiction, not least the difficulty of involving participants whose mental capacity is likely to be impaired. As a result of the subject matter of CoP cases, the subject of proceedings is categorised as a 'vulnerable' witness and so facilitating their voice and participation is a challenge that must be met if mediation is to be expanded here. This research was one of the first studies to look at mediation's use in this area of English legal practice and sought to uncover both the strengths and weaknesses of mediation's potential given this context.

The research involved an online survey of solicitors and barristers and virtual interviews with legal and mediation professionals with experience of mental capacity law mediations. This primary research was also supplemented with a stakeholder roundtable, and a report outlining the key themes from the event was published in 2020. The original focus of the research was intended to be the use of mediation to improve participation. However, as the research progressed it became clear that participants were also highlighting a range of other benefits, including the flexibility that mediation can provide; the advantages of giving participants process and outcome control; the perceived improvement in the working relationship between the parties; and the reduced cost and speed of resolution. In addition to these benefits, the research found that many participants had concerns about securing substantive justice through mediation. This concern was that, in mediated disputes about best interests under the MCA, parties may agree something based on what serves their own interests, rather than focusing on what is in the best interests of the subject of the proceedings, and, furthermore, that this is a bigger risk than in litigation because of the lack of judicial oversight in mediation. Overall, therefore, the research suggested that mediation has the potential to provide real benefits for this area but will likely require effective safeguards to protect against some of the risks identified through this project.

This research is due to be published in a chapter within my monograph titled 'Reimagining the Court of Protection: access to justice in mental capacity law' which is due to be published with Cambridge University Press in its Bioethics and Law series in 2022. I am incredibly grateful to the SLSA for funding this research and for the association's flexibility and support during a challenging period for carrying out empirical research.

ROBERT BOCKING STEVENS 1933-2021

A personal appreciation of a pioneering socio-legal scholar

David Sugarman explores the work and influence of a pioneering socio-legal scholar.*

Ground-breaking, irreverent, critical, innovative, thoroughly researched, iconoclastic, inspirational, entertaining and highly readable. Robert Stevens' scholarship was all these things and, as I hope to demonstrate, much more.

His work includes probably the first three books in England co-authored by a lawyer and a social scientist: *The Restrictive Practices Court* (RPC) (Stevens and Yamey 1965) written with Basil Yamey, an economist with whom he co-taught the first ever course in England on Restrictive Trade Practices, *Lawyers and the Courts: A Sociological Study of the English Legal System, 1750-1965* (LATC) (Abel-Smith and Stevens 1967) and *In Search of Justice: Society and the Legal System* (ISJ) (Abel-Smith and Stevens 1968), both written with Brian Abel-Smith, a sociologist. Interdisciplinarity was allied to advocacy of a socio-legal perspective, a sustained critique of hallowed legal institutions and argument for fundamental reform driven by a concern for justice and the public interest.

These publications were notable in focusing on how lawyers, courts, legal aid and legal education operated in practice and in their deployment of social science evidence. Robert made extensive use of material buried in the National Archives and statistics. He called attention to the lack of systematic information on the operation of the legal system and the need for better and more up-to-date data. Uniquely for the time, LATC and ISJ drew on over 400 interviews with judges, lawyers and academics. Robert's writing was underpinned by a strong sense that the contemporary legal system and contemporary issues needed to be understood in their historical context. His work was also enriched by a comparative perspective that,

whilst rarely central, considered England and America through each other's eyes.

RPC critiqued Parliament's failure to be sufficiently clear about the goals of its new law on monopoly and competition and the judiciary's preoccupation with masking the unavoidably discretionary and creative aspects of their work. LATC was the first major critical social history of the English legal system from the Industrial Revolution to modern times and remains a leading work in the field. It argued that, whilst modest, ad hoc reforms had been slowly introduced, fundamental reforms necessary for the proper operation of a modern legal system had been held back largely by the weighty representation of lawyers in Parliament, respect for the judges, the overly narrow role and aspirations of academic law and legal scholarship and, in particular, the self-interested protectionism of the legal profession. ISJ follows on from LATC, analysing the contemporary world of the law and legal administration. It argued that patchwork reform is not enough and proposed a wholesale reconstruction of the legal system.

RPC, LATC and ISJ pre-dated the world of legal education and scholarship in England as we know it today. There were no new or 'alternative' university law schools, no British journals exclusively devoted to law and society, no Socio-Legal Studies Association and no tradition of empirical legal research. In this context, Robert's achievement seems even more remarkable.

Of his several other books and over 50 articles that he authored, probably the most important for socio-legal scholars are those on the judges, the House of Lords and politics, and legal education. In a series of penetrating books and essays (notably, Stevens 1979, 1993, 2002) he argued that the concept of 'judicial independence' had become a mystique that unduly insulated the judiciary from criticism and reform, inhibiting much-needed discussion about accountability, transparency and what he regarded as the inevitable interplay between the judiciary and politics. It was in this context that he examined the changing role of the judiciary over the second half of the twentieth century, encouraging judges to be more open about their activities. Assessing this body of work, Alan Paterson described Robert as 'the doyen of judicial commentators'.

Robert's history of American legal education (Stevens 1983) used legal education as a window on the legal system and society. It celebrated the social mobility offered by law schools but worried that mass education might compromise quality and that the organisational replication of the Harvard model threatened institutional and educational diversity.

In 1994 I interviewed Robert as part of a project on the history of modern English legal education and scholarship, and his interview threw valuable light on his life and work (Sugarman 2009). He told me how his grandmother made him learn and recite the Chartists' 'People's Charter' of 1838; how he 'grew up in a family without any books' where 'money was always a problem'. His passion for history was kindled by his history teacher at Oakham School, and he found his legal studies at Oxford 'dull and uninteresting after Oakham'. He enjoyed legal practice in America and in England, but keenly felt the lack of money and connections necessary to make it at the Bar. Yale's LLM programme (1957-1958), where he graduated top of the class, and teaching at University College Dar es Salaam fired his interest in writing about law socio-legally. It was at Dar that he first met William Twining, with whom he conjured up a series of 'counter-textbooks' – the Law in Context series – to subvert and transform the prevailing orthodoxy in English legal education. And it was at Dar that he first met and 'fell very much under [the] influence'

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The constitution of non-monetary surplus values – Gunther Teubner

It's all or nothing: consent, reasonable belief, and the continuum of sexual violence in judicial logic – Ashlee Gore

'It's torture for the soul': the harms of image-based sexual abuse – Clare McGlynn, Kelly Johnson, Erika Rackley, Nicola Henry, Nicola Gavey, Asher Flynn & Anastasia Powell

Queer temporalities and transgender rights: a Hong Kong case study – Marco Wan

In the name of prevention? Policing 'social dangerousness' through arrest in China – Enshen Li

In ambiguous times and spaces: the everyday assemblage of lay participation to Argentine courthouses – Santiago Abel Amietta

Dialogue & debate

'It is not 30 pesos, it is 30 years': reflections on the Chilean crisis – John Charney, Pablo Marshall, Emilios Christodoulidis, Daniela Accatino, Paz Irrázabal & Fernando Muñoz

of Richard Titmuss and Brian Abel-Smith, both pioneering British social policy researchers and advisors and chroniclers of and campaigners against social injustice.

While the importance of LATC and ISJ was immediately recognised, they were also (as Robert recalled) ‘bitterly attacked’. Apparently, the Bar Council’s decision to withdraw support for a study to have been conducted by Abel-Smith on the social background of the Bar related to the publication of LATC.

Why so much hostility? Almost everything about LATC and ISJ was alien to the world of law books: their subject matter, orientation, the focus on the economic and financial dimensions of the legal system, on cost-effectiveness and public interest; their avowedly sociological orientation; their irreverent style; being written for the general public as well as academics, lawyers and judges; and the fact that Abel-Smith was both a sociologist and closely associated with the Labour Party. The notion of law as a social science, and the importance of the social sciences, was extremely controversial at the time. Robert claimed that he was told that ‘he’d never get an academic job in England’. Perhaps this at least partly explains why his subsequent work was less polemical, while still challenging the status quo. During his Mastership of Pembroke College, Oxford, he sparked controversy when he told the students that Oxford was ‘bourgeois’ and chided ‘middle-class parents’, who had ‘become accustomed to a free university education’.

Robert was celebrated for his loud ties and throaty chuckle. He led a rich and amazing life that included being a full-time Professor of Law at Yale (1959–1976), an Honorary

Fellow at Oxford’s Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, a prominent university administrator, and a legal practitioner in England and the US. That he was also a highly productive and seminal legal scholar is remarkable. His work was vital to the broadening of English Legal System and Legal History; and along with that of Zander and others, he played a crucial role in opening up the administration of justice to public scrutiny and helped to lay the foundations for the reforms in professional ethics and organisation which took place over the subsequent decades.

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- * David Sugarman FRHistS, FAcSS, is Professor Emeritus at the Law School, Lancaster University, Senior Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, and Senior Associate, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford.
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THE MOUNTAINS OF METAPHOR

A resource for researchers

How would you describe the way you approach your research? Not your topic or methodology, but your processes. Are you always dodging setbacks and racing to catch up? Or are you climbing a mountain, skirting rock falls, avoiding storms and keeping a fixed eye on the summit?

The chances are, if you’re anxious about deadlines and worried about falling behind, you could be (subconsciously) playing a game of snakes and ladders. What if a different working metaphor could support you better?

Human thought processes are largely metaphorical, and the narrative that we choose can either enable or disable. Getting the right working metaphors, and therefore helpful, positive mental models, can offer grounding and perspective both for the researcher and for those with whom they wish to communicate. While the **Higher Education Statistics Authority** estimates that 25,000 researchers graduate with a PhD annually, there remains little autoethnographic or even simple reflective literature on the process.¹ The *Mountains of Metaphor* is a visual account of a simple metaphor in the form of an online, interactive game, and offers a tool for communicating how we do research, how we stay focused, and how we overcome obstacles along the way.

The narrative in the game is based on the story of my PhD journey, through swamps, forests and storms, but also taking in beautiful views, new communities and uncharted ‘territory’, and could apply to any large research project. Additionally, the supplementary resource pack explores why appropriate metaphors are crucial to the success of

a project along with map elements for you to design and craft a visualisation of your own ‘journey’. This might offer a starting point for dialogue between new PGRs and their supervisors about the journey they are about to undertake together, as well as encouraging deeper self-awareness and reflection by researchers about how we conceive, communicate and perform our research projects.

You can visit the **Mountains of Metaphor** at wldr.legal, or the ‘less textual legal gallery’. Set up and run by Emily Allbon, this is an online showcase for legal learning and communications focusing on alternative visual modalities. In applying design principles to legal education, content can become more accessible and engaging, and the *Mountains of Metaphor* project applies this theory to the process of undertaking a significant piece of research.

Huge thanks are owed to Emily for supporting the project, as well as to Howard Richardson for the interactive web design, and to voiceover artist Tegan Harris in bringing the story to life. We would love to hear how you have used the resources, along with any feedback. Why not send us a postcard from your research journey?

- 1 Latest graduation figures are for 2017/2018. There are some accounts by education scholars, but a paucity within the socio-legal field.

Journal of Law and Society (autumn 2021)

- ‘Tick the box and move on’: compartmentalization and the treatment of the environment in decision-making processes – Caer Smyth
- Finding a way to live with the past: self-repair, informalism, and reparations in transitional justice – Sunneva Gilmore and Luke Moffett
- Neoliberalism, family law, and the devaluation of care – Anna Heenan
- Remote rituals in virtual courts – Meredith Rossner

Research Handbook on Socio-Legal Studies of Medicine and Health (2020) Marie-Andrée Jacob & Anna Kirkland, Edward Elgar £195 480pp

This timely Research Handbook offers significant insights into an understudied subject, bringing together a broad range of socio-legal studies of medicine to help answer complex and interdisciplinary questions about global health – a major challenge of our time.

Access to Justice for Vulnerable and Energy-Poor Consumers: Just energy? (2021) Naomi Creutzfeldt, Chris Gill, Marine Cornelis & Rachel McPherson, Hart £70 384pp

This book offers a novel socio-legal approach to access to justice, alternative dispute resolution, vulnerability and energy poverty. It poses an access to justice challenge and rethinks it through a lens that accommodates all affected people, especially those who are currently falling through the system. The authors use energy poverty as a site of vulnerability and examine the barriers to justice facing this excluded group.

Legal Recognition of Non-conjugal Families: New frontiers in family law in the US, Canada and Europe (2021) Nausica Palazzo, Hart £85, 248pp

This book argues that insufficient recognition of new families is a legal problem that needs fixing in light of recent evolutions in family patterns and normative conceptions of 'family'. People increasingly invest in relationships outside the model of the marital family. Despite this, Western jurisdictions retain the marital family as the relevant basis for allocating family law benefits, rights and obligations.

Religion and Marriage Law: The need for reform (2021) Russell Sandberg, Bristol University Press £40 128pp

Marriage law in England and Wales is a historical relic which reflects a bygone age. Successive governments have made a series of progressive but ad hoc reforms, most notably the introduction of civil partnerships and same-sex marriage. However, this has resulted in a legal framework which is complex and controversial, especially in relation to religion. This book provides the first accessible guide to how contemporary marriage law interacts with religion and identifies pressure points in relation to non-religious organisations and unregistered religious marriages.

Rosa Luxemburg and International Law: call for abstracts
To mark the 150th anniversary of Rosa Luxemburg's birth, this project will bring together scholars in law, political economy, social science and beyond to celebrate and reflect on her work and its contribution to international legal debates. See [w website](#). Call closes: **31 July 2021**.

Global Social Challenges: call for papers
Submissions are invited for this new online open access journal, published by Bristol University Press. Editors in chief are: Shenggen Fan, Siddharth Mallavarapu, Bronwen Morgan, Sue Scott, David Simon and Julie Thompson Klein. See [w website](#) for details.

Reflecting on Blackstone's Tower

Fiona Cownie and Emma Jones have co-edited a special edition of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies' journal *Amicus Curiae* available online from **22 June 2021**. Contributions reflect upon William Twining's seminal 1994 publication, *Blackstone's Tower: The English Law School*, highlighting both continuities and developments in legal education since its publication in 1994. There is a free **online launch event** on **6 July 2021**, featuring Professor Twining 'Revisiting Blackstone's Tower' with contributions from Foluke Adebisi, Chris Ashford, Anthony Bradney, Richard Collier, Jessica Guth, Abigail Pearson, David Sugarman and Steven Vaughan. There will be ample time for questions and discussion

International Journal of Law in Context: Special Issue in Celebration of Peter Fitzpatrick and his Scholarship

This special issue celebrating the life and work of Peter Fitzpatrick is guest edited by David Sugarman and Abdul Paliwala with contributions from David Sugarman, William Twining, Eve Darian-Smith, Sundhya Pahuja, George Pavlich, Upendra Baxi, Patricia Tuitt, Sara Ramshaw, Ben Golder and Abdul Paliwala. See full **table of contents** for details and journal **website**.

New Centre for Socio-Legal Studies blog: Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies

The Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford, has launched **Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies** (Twitter: @OxfordCSLS), a new blog dedicated to promoting dialogue between socio-legal scholars from around the world. The Centre is keen to work with the SLSA and its members on this initiative. See **announcement** for full details.

Journal of Law and Society (Summer 2021)

- From contestation to conviction: terrorism expertise before the courts – Tasniem Anwar and Marieke de Goede
- Law and the construction of Jewish difference – Mareike Riedel
- Guilty pleas in children: legitimacy, vulnerability, and the need for increased protection – Rebecca Helm
- Legal mobilization without resources? How civil society organizations generate and share alternative resources in vulnerable communities – Mark Aspinwall
- The provenance of what is proven: exploring (mock) jury deliberation in Scottish rape trials – James Chalmers, Fiona Leverick & Vanessa E Munro
- Independent separate legal representation for rape complaints in adversarial systems: lessons from Northern Ireland – Mary Iliadis, Olivia Smith & Jonathan Doak
- The paradox of human rights and three forms for its unfolding – Nico Buitendag

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- The travels of a set of numbers: the multiple networks enabled by the Colombian 'Estrato' system – Fernando León Tamayo Arboleda & Mariana Valverde
- Napoleonic legacies, postcolonial state legitimation, and the perpetual myth of non-intervention: family code reform and gender equality in Mali – Brenda K Kombo
- 'Rightificating' coercion – a critical perspective on the transformation of state-driven coercive care – Jonna Rennerskog
- Restorative justice, crime victims and penal welfarism: mapping and contextualising restorative justice policy in Scotland – Giuseppe Maglione
- Body memories as a neglected legacy of human rights abuses: exploring their significance for transitional justice – Janine Natalya Clark
- The international criminal trial as a site for contesting historical and political narratives: the case of Dominic Ongwen – Filip Strandberg Hassellind

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