

# LPS Newsletter

The School of Law, Politics and Sociology

Highlights of the Spring & Summer terms 2014



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## Quick news..

Welcome to the new Head of Sociology Jo Moran-Ellis and new Head of Politics Francis McGowan.

Luke Martell gave his professorial lecture on 'Alternative Societies' on the 14th May

We're moving! You will have received an information sheet with all the key points including your new room number and moving date.

Well done to Anita Orme for her 100km walk between London & Brighton to raise money for her Local Hospice, St. Wilfrid's.

Professor Shute, Professor Richard Vogler and Dr Mark Walters attended a joint Renmin University of China and Sussex Law School Colloquium on Criminal Law and Procedure in March.

Congratulations to Mary Lee who beat 250 nominees from universities throughout England and Wales to be named Law Lecturer of the Year in a national awards scheme.

Mary Lee, Teaching Fellow in the Sussex Law School, received the LawCareers.Net Award for Law Lecturer of the Year at a ceremony in London on Thursday (22 May).

Mary commented: "I am thrilled by the award and want to thank students for taking the time to fill out the survey and for making such generous comments about my teaching."



Mary Lee receives her award as Law Lecturer of the Year from LawCareers.Net publisher Matthew Broadbent

The finalists party is being held on Friday 13th June from 12pm, join us for some World Cup themed fun plus food and drinks! Degree classifications will be available with individual module results available on Sussex Direct on Tuesday 17th June.

The School of Law, Politics and Sociology

### Final Year Results Party 2014

Friday 13 June Friston Foyer  
Results published at 12 noon

Join us for a World Cup Party!

US University of Sussex

Degree class and individual module results available on Sussex Direct  
Tuesday 17 June at 4pm





Congratulations to Dr Verona Ni Dhrisceoil who graduated with a PhD from University College Cork, Ireland on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

And to Dr Aisling O'Sullivan who graduated with a PhD on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the National University of Ireland, Galway.



Sue Millns was invited by the Open Society Foundations to a two day meeting in their Barcelona office on March 27-8, to share her research findings on electoral participation of non-national EU citizens in other Member-States with a group of their grantees working on 'Boosting Voter Mobilisation' of mobile Europeans in the upcoming EP elections. The grantees were all selected from countries with low voter turn out, i.e. most of the post-communist countries plus the UK.

### Funding news

Professor Chris Marsden (PI) and Dr Andres Guadamuz (CI) in Sussex Law School have won funding from European Commission Directorate General JUSTICE for a two-year study into how to make European (and British) law more accessible to citizens. Access to law is a basic requirement for the rule of law that online tools – such as the smartphone app used in this project – can finally make into a reality. Sussex will lead the initial comparative analysis of law, society and institutional developments towards the open access model, past developments and prognosis for the future. The total project value is €684,300



## Dates for the diary..

**13th June:** Finalists results released.

**18 July:** Researching Sex and Intimacy in Contemporary Life: An interdisciplinary Symposium.

**1st September:** Lizzie Seal will be convening a one day seminar at Senate House in London entitled 'The Cultural Life of Death in Punishment' funded by the Socio-Legal Studies Association.

**4th-6th September:** Critical Legal Conference organised by Tarik Kochi and Kim Brayson will be held in Fulton.

### Student success!

Dominic Griffin and Jason Pinkerton travelled to Puerto Rico to represent England and Wales in the International Client Consultation competition on Friday 11th April. The competition was held at the InterAmerican University in Puerto Rico. Dominic and Jason (third year law students), took part in two interviews and did a fantastic job, but in the face of strong competition did not make it through to the semi finals.

The competition was won by Ireland with the Netherlands and USA as joint-runners up.

Their participation in the international competition has been possible thanks to generous sponsorship by The Client Interviewing Competition, DMH Stallard (who also sponsor the Sussex Law School internal competition) and the Solicitors' Regulation Competition.



*Dominic Griffin and Jason Pinkerton*



The annual politics UG trip to Berlin took place from 17-22 March. 18 students plus Dan Hough (Politics), Kim Brayson (Law) and Kai Oppermann (Politics) spent six days in the German capital, speaking to a range of politicians and political activists. The group also managed to fit in a day in Leipzig, as well as visits to the Stasi memorial in East Berlin and the Holocaust Memorial in central Berlin. It was not, however, all work, work, work, as all those, for example, who saw Adam Ahmet's marvellous karaoke rendition of Jay Z will testify. Video evidence is available for those who wish to know more!

### LPS in the news

Sussex Law Professor Craig Barker has defended the international law of diplomatic immunity as part of an ITV documentary entitled 'Exposed: Inside the Diplomatic Bag' shown in March. Professor Barker was invited to contribute to the programme as the UK's leading expert on the subject of diplomatic law.

He was asked in the programme to explain the importance of diplomatic immunity as a tool of international diplomacy. Professor Barker agreed that it was possible for diplomats to abuse their privileges and immunities but highlighted the rarity of such events. He also noted the importance of diplomatic immunity as a tool for the protection of individuals serving the United Kingdom abroad.

The programme was presented by investigative reporter Mark Williams-Thomas and featured an undercover investigation into an accountant working within the Nigerian High Commission in London who had claimed that he was able to smuggle stolen art out of the United Kingdom using his diplomatic connections. The programme included a wide-ranging review of the extent and purpose of diplomatic immunity.

Dr James Hampshire (senior lecturer in Politics), was a speaker at a panel discussion on 'Immigration: Asset or Liability' organised by the Democracy Forum at the House of Commons.

The panel, held on 20th May, was chaired by Sir Peter Luff MP and the panellists were Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (The Independent), Alex Betts (Oxford), Michael Keith (Oxford), Alp Mehmet (Migration Watch), and Dr James Hampshire (University of Sussex).

Dr Hampshire gave a talk on European migration and Britain's relations with the EU and was also interviewed by NDTV, an Indian news channel, about Indian student migration.

Sussex Law student Beenish Saeed has won the Outstanding Diplomacy award at the Harvard World Model United Nations 2014.

Beenish, a second-year LLB student and member of the Sussex Model United Nations Society, won the award thanks to her debate on how to resolve the pressing problem of income inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Beenish said: "We decided to enter and participate as delegates in order to take the Sussex Model United Nations Society one step ahead of its predecessors.

"The topics for debate - from resolving Income Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean and Drone Usage without a War Declaration to addressing Mental Illness and Ethnic Conflict - were also of great interest to all those who participated.

"The conference also encompassed a wide variety of social events that helped us in establishing new friendships and making memories that will last a lifetime."



*Sussex Model United Nations Society*

INHS held their very successful inaugural conference on campus in May entitled Understanding Hate Crime: Research, Policy & Practice on 8th / 9th May in Fulton. There were panel discussions, papers, and problem solving activities and a talk from guest speaker was Peter Tatchell.



LPS is currently recruiting for 18 new academic posts - 13 in Law, 1 in Politics and 4 in Sociology.

### LLM Postgraduate party

Law Professor Richard Vogler hosted a very successful LLM/Postgraduate garden party in Lewes on Sunday 25th May, luckily with fabulous weather!

Thanks very much to Chris Turnbull for all her hard work in helping with the organisation.

A very loose coalition of the LLM International Trade Law and International Commercial Law and others won the football 4-3 but were nearly disqualified for hitting innocent spectator Mark Walters on the head with a long kick up field.



*LLM and Postgraduate students plus Law faculty*



A reminder that the Energy and Environment pages can be found on the internal website.

There is information on: recycling; bike information including details of the interest-free loans scheme; and videoconferencing - cut your carbon emissions by considering an alternative to travelling by plane. There is also a 'sustainable living guide' The LPS Environment Officer is Luke Martell.

The INHS held a competition for students registered on the Hate Crime and the Law module. Students were asked to submit blog pieces on a contemporary topic relating to hate crime or hate studies. Out of the 24 submissions three winners were selected:

- >Omar Begg for his piece on Islamophobia in the media
- >Ali Khan for his piece on the use of Reparative Therapy for gay people as a form of homophobic oppression
- >Jenna Morris for her piece on the use of the anti-Semitic word 'Yid' used against Tottenham Football players/fans

You can find the blog articles at:  
[www.internationalhatestudies.com/blog/](http://www.internationalhatestudies.com/blog/)