

LPS Newsletter

The School of Law, Politics and Sociology

Issue 4 Autumn 2013

Edited by Laura Arnold

Send items for the next issue
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Head of School Briefing

LPS has been going through a significant period of growth in the last few years and it is a real pleasure to welcome so many new faculty to the School. This represents the largest influx of academic staff in the history of the three departments and is a testament to the success the School is experiencing.

Our ability to recruit faculty is of course dependent upon our ability to attract high quality students and this September will see the arrival of the largest number of undergraduate students that LPS has ever recruited: more than 550 including more than 150 new overseas undergraduates.

The School has had some notable successes in the National Student Survey 2013, the results of which were published last month.

- Law was in the top ten (out of 98 Law Schools) in more than a third of the 22 questions and for Overall Student Satisfaction it was rated 5th = in the UK.
- Politics and IR were 12th = out of 75 Politics departments for Q. 3- "Staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching" and Q. 11- "I have been able to contact staff when I needed to".
- Sociology was in the top ten for 6 of the questions. It was rated 3rd = in the UK out of 89 Sociology departments for Q. 4- "The course is intellectually stimulating" and for Overall Student Satisfaction was rated 11th = in the UK.



Stephen Shute

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A big hello to everyone joining LPS in September:

Ms Stephanie Berry (Law)

Dr John Child (Law)

Dr Lucy Finchett-Maddock (Law)

Dr Thomas Frost (Law)

Dr Andres Guadamuz (Law)

Dr James Hardie-Bick (Sociology)

Dr Oliver Hellman (Politics)

Ms Emily Lydgate (Law)

Mr Barry Maughan (Law Course Co-ordinator)

Dr Hannah Mason-Bish (Sociology)

Dr Kai Opperman (Politics)

Dr Emanuela Orlando (Law)

Dr Abenaa Owusu-Bempah (Law)

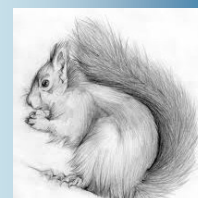
Dr Amir Paz Fuchs (Law)

Prof. Erika Szyzszak (Law)

Miss Lara Walker (Law)

Mrs Joanna Wilson (Law)

Welcome!





LPS Results Day

LPS results day is always an enjoyable occasion and this year was no different. With a Caribbean theme, Friston was transformed into a beach hut and laden with hundreds of balloons. Happy students were everywhere and the party lasted all afternoon, with students taking advantage of the BBQ and drinks. The sunshine even made an appearance too! Congratulations to all our finalists!



L-R Balloons, tropical fruits, Mary and Lynn get into the party spirit.



L-R Student in cap and gown, students checking results, LPS decorations



MA in Corruption and Governance

The MA in Corruption and Governance has doubled in size in a year. 2012-13 saw 11 students take the course and this figure will increase to 25-30 in 2013-14.

Network for Hate Studies

Two Law UG students and three Law PGT students completed a summer vacation scheme whereby they worked as research assistants on the newly launched International Network for Hate Studies.

www.internationalhatestudies.com
They included: (UG) Omar Beg and Miriam Lalani, and (PGT) Kian Tous-simanesh, Nevada-Anne Mcevoy-Cooke, and Stephanie Ndekwe see <http://www.internationalhatestudies.com/about-us/network-research-assistants/>

LPS doctoral researchers focus on professional development

Thirty PhD students participated in the first School of Law Politics and Sociology (LPS) away day for postgraduate doctoral researchers this month. The away day - sponsored by the Sussex ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) Citizenship, Justice and Security pathway - was on the theme of professional development and focused particularly on getting published and post-doctoral research opportunities.

Commenting on outcome of the day, Prof Szczerbiak said: 'I think that the clear message that came through from this day was that, in order to give themselves a chance in an extremely competitive academic jobs market, PhD students needed to build professional development into every stage of the research process and not just leave it until the end. The good news is that LPS puts a lot of time and effort into helping support our doctoral researchers' professional development - both individual supervisors and also through School-level events such as this ESRC-funded away day - and our PhD graduates have a very good record of securing academic jobs

Professorial Lecture Series

Heather Keating is giving a professorial lecture on the topic of 'Responsibility, Childhood and the Criminal Law'.

As the law stands in England and Wales, children are criminally responsible for their harmful behaviour from the age of ten, an age well below that of many other European countries. How is an English 10 year-old responsible enough to be tried in a criminal court when his or her Scottish or Belgian counterpart apparently is not? In reflecting on the age of criminal responsibility, this lecture examines the concepts of responsibility and childhood.

This is an open public lecture and everyone is welcome to attend.

You can book your free place online at: www.sussex.ac.uk/booklecture

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Publications:

30th August - Walters, Mark (2013) "Conceptualising 'hostility' for hate crime law: minding 'the minutiae' when interpreting section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998", *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, doi: 10.1093/ojls/gqt021

Radio:

Dr Susie Scott was part of a special Radio 4 broadcast discussing the work and influence of ground breaking Canadian sociologist Erving Goffman

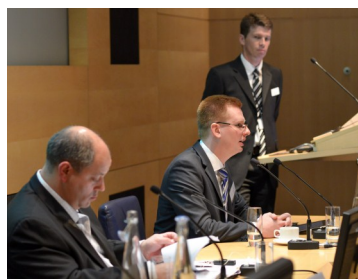
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b039cy07/>

[Thinking Allowed Erving Goffman/](#)

Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption (SCSC) conference

The Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption held its second annual conference at Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf, London on 9th September. To say that the conference did justice to the centre's interdisciplinary ideals would certainly not be an understatement, with speakers from a whole range of disciplines and backgrounds analysing what works in the fight against corruption, what doesn't and why. As SCSC Director Dan Hough noted in his concluding comments, 'events like this will never see 'the answer' unearthed, but the very process knowledge exchange does at least assist us in perhaps moving in the right direction'.

L-R 1. Jeffrey Davidson
Rob Blaszcak and Dan Hough
2. As above
3. Sir Ian Blair



L-R 1. Sussex students
chatting with Tina
Blockside from the
Institute of Money
Laundering Prevention
Officers
2. Stephen Shute with
Sir Ian Blair and Robert
Barrington (Director of
Transparency
International UK)
3. Dan Hough and
Sussex students



LPS Professional Services teambuilding day

This summer the professional services staff ventured into the woods for a team building day and to learn all kinds of useful skills. There were teambuilding activities around communication, collaboration and problem solving. Then Steve, our guide for the day, showed us which plants you can eat in the forest, how to cook sausages on an open fire and how to whittle wood. The day was very educational and a lot of fun was had by all! Thank you to Lynn for organising such a fun team building activity.

Here are some photos of us in action:



Law, Politics and Sociology Webpages

The Law, Politics and Sociology webpages are getting a redesign. The new sites will have a sleek, less cluttered visual, designed with easy navigation in mind. This is going live in the next few days and LPS is the first school to move its webpages onto this new design, with others set to follow at a later date.

Follow your department on twitter:

@SussexLaw

@SussexPolitics

@SussexSociology



Farewell to Marie Dembour

Marie is leaving Sussex to lead the research of the law group from within the Business School at the University of Brighton. We wish her the best of luck!

Here's Marie at her leaving party.

