

**SLSA**  
Socio-Legal Studies Association

**US** UNIVERSITY OF  
**SUSSEX**  
BRIGHTON

# SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

## Conference Information



[www.sussex.ac.uk/collaborate/events/slsa](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/collaborate/events/slsa)

[slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk)

**We are looking forward to welcoming you to the University of Sussex campus in Falmer, Brighton for the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Annual Conference from Monday 30 March – Wednesday 1 April 2026. This pack contains lots of useful information for your visit. Please save it for reference throughout the conference.**

Welcome from the Sussex conference team

The Sussex Law School is looking forward to hosting the SLSA Annual Conference 2026. This event is the highlight of the year for those in the field of socio-legal studies who wish to share knowledge and network with colleagues.

The first of the new 1960s British universities and surrounded by the striking South Downs National Park, the University of Sussex has been at the forefront of global and disruptive teaching and research for decades. The university has state-of-the-art facilities, and with research centres specialising in human rights, gender, sustainability, trade policy, crime, and technology, as well as expertise across several other areas, the Sussex Law School has an interdisciplinary and vibrant research environment that allows us to push the boundaries of the discipline. Our strong commitment to equality, inclusion and sustainability is reflected in the conference planning, in which we have been supported by the Visit Brighton team.

Organising a conference of this dimension is a considerable endeavour and requires the input of many people. Huge thanks are due to all Sussex colleagues in the web design, finances, IT, communications and other professional services teams who have supported various aspects of the conference. The organising committee was also supported by the excellent work of Gofaone Koorapetse as senior coordinator of the conference, several student helpers, and the regular and valuable guidance of the SLSA board, especially its chair, Smita Kheria. Thanks are also owed to previous organisers, particularly Liverpool, who kindly shared their experience and tips.

Finally, a huge thanks to all sponsors for supporting bursaries, streams, publication stands and other aspects of the conference.

We wish everyone a wonderful time at SLSA 2026 @ Sussex!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nuno Ferreira". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nuno Ferreira  
Academic lead organiser

Welcome from the SLSA

On behalf of the SLSA Board of Trustees, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Conference 2026 at the University of Sussex.

The SLSA has been running an Annual Conference since the Association was founded in 1990. The Annual conference is central to the SLSA's charitable mission, particularly our commitment to disseminating socio-legal research and fostering scholarly exchange. It remains a unique opportunity for socio-legal academics from across the UK and around the world to share ideas, build connections, and strengthen our community.

The University of Sussex last hosted the SLSA Annual conference in April 2011, and we are delighted to return 15 years later. That earlier conference holds particular significance for me. As a nervous newcomer, I took part in the special plenary that year on *The past, present and future of socio-legal studies*, where I spoke about my hopes for empirical research in my field and my uncertainty about finding my place in the socio-legal community as an outsider. The SLSA played a pivotal role in helping me overcome both challenges, so returning to Sussex for this year's annual conference, my first as Chair, feels both deeply personal and a genuine privilege.

We are all excited to be visiting the vibrant city of Brighton and gathering at the University of Sussex campus, an ideal setting for our plenary on *Protest and Progress*. With almost 700 papers across a total of 41 streams and current topics, the conference promises to be an exciting and stimulating event. As well as papers across the breadth of socio-legal topics, there will be a postgraduate session on the first day, a poster display throughout the conference, and several special sessions, including an update on REF2029 with Professors Rosemary Hunter, Chris Ashford, Jo Bridgeman, and Kieran McEvoy.

The conference is not only a vital forum for advancing socio-legal research, it is also a chance to come together socially. Delegates will gather for an informal reception on the first evening and a gala dinner on the second, where we will announce our annual prize winners. This year, I am especially honoured to present the SLSA Prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community to Professor David Sugarman, Professor Emeritus of Law at Lancaster University. He is not only a prolific and distinguished scholar, but also a generous colleague who has mentored, supported, and inspired socio-legal scholars over many years. We also look forward to awarding the SLSA Article Prize, the Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize, the Hart SLSA Book Prize for Early Career Academics, the Socio-Legal Theory and History Book Prize (sponsored by *Social & Legal Studies*), the SLSA Impact Prize, and the SLSA Poster Prize. The shortlists for prizes exemplify the outstanding quality of work being produced in our field and demonstrate that socio-legal scholarship continues to thrive.

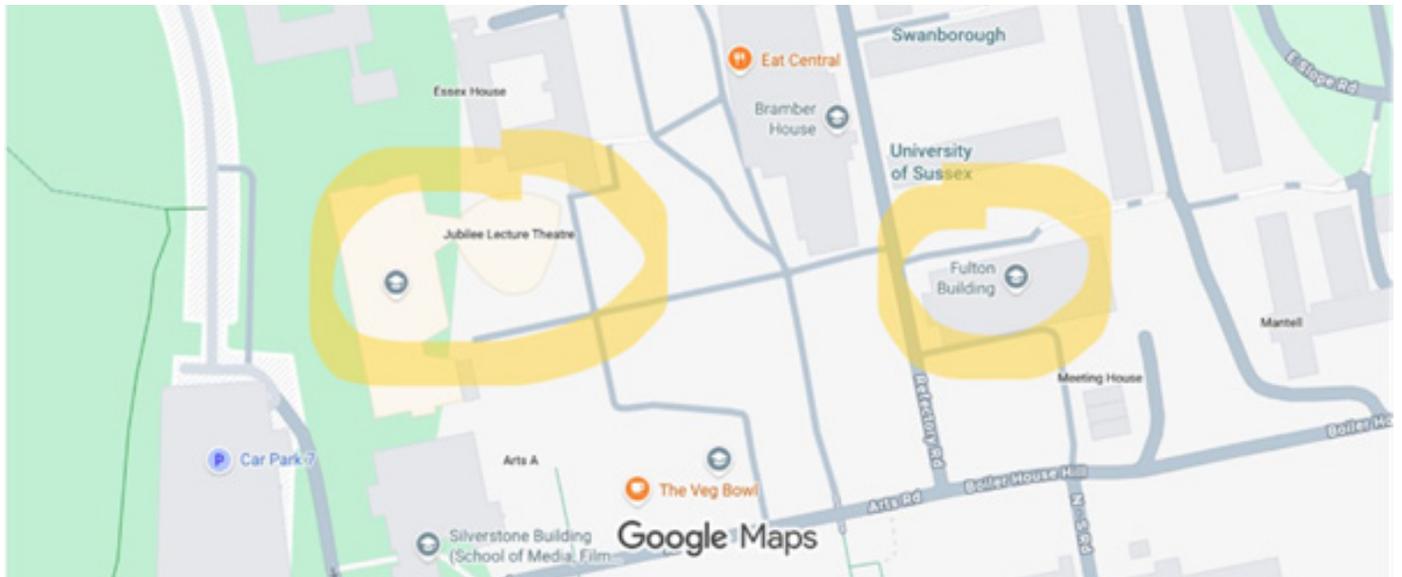
On behalf of the whole Board, I extend my warmest thanks to the organising committee at the University of Sussex, particularly Professors Nuno Ferreira and Amir Paz-Fuchs, for their generosity, patience, and tireless work in bringing this conference to life.



Smita Kheria  
Chair, SLSA

## Conference Venue

The conference will be held in the Fulton and Jubilee buildings on the University of Sussex campus. You can find the venues by using the campus map shown below. Both buildings are on raised areas and are accessible by both steps and ramps. They also have automatic doors.



## Registration

Registration is in the Fulton lobby from 8.30am on Monday with hot drinks and pastries. Delegate name badges can also be collected here. The registration desk will remain open for the duration of the conference until 2pm on Wednesday 1 April.

In line with the University's sustainable approach, no printed programmes, tote bags or stationary will be provided. We therefore recommend that you consult the programme on Oxford Abstracts. If you require a printed programme as a reasonable adjustment, please contact us: [slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk).

## Getting Here

Our campus can be reached easily by personal or public transport. Full travel details are available on the [University of Sussex website](#).

[Falmer train station](#) is partially accessible, but may not be accessible for all.

A shuttle bus is provided free of charge from Brighton to our campus. Although primarily for delegates who indicated a need under access requirements, there will be capacity for other delegates who wish to take advantage of the service. Timetable details as follows:

### MONDAY

11.30am: Pick up from Old Steine (Stop S4, near [Revenge Nightclub](#)) going to Fulton Building [at the bottom of Boiler House Hill at the University of Sussex](#).

6.30pm: Pick up from [the bottom of Boiler House Hill](#) outside Fulton Building and returning to the Old Steine

### TUESDAY

8.30am: Pick up from Old Steine (Stop S4, near [Revenge Nightclub](#)) going to Fulton Building [at the bottom of Boiler House Hill at the University of Sussex](#).

5.45pm: Pick up from [the bottom of Boiler House Hill](#) outside Fulton Building and returning to the Old Steine

### WEDNESDAY

9am: Pick up from Old Steine (Stop S4, near [Revenge Nightclub](#)) going to Fulton Building [at the bottom of Boiler House Hill at the University of Sussex](#).

1.30pm: Pick up from [the bottom of Boiler House Hill](#) outside Fulton Building and returning to the Old Steine

Those not using the shuttle bus are encouraged to take public transport or active travel options where possible in line with [the University's sustainability strategy](#). Fulton and Jubilee buildings are a 10 minute walk from Falmer train station. Those travelling by bus should disembark at the North South Road bus stop on campus which is a 2 minute walk from Fulton and a 5 minute walk from Jubilee.

Parking is available on campus for those driving. See our [Parking for Visitors web page](#) for details.

## Conference Schedule Summary

The following are the primary activities taking place across the three days of the conference:

### MONDAY

8.30am:	Registration with refreshments
9am-12pm:	Postgraduate panel session
12-1pm:	Lunch
1-2.30pm:	Welcome & Plenary panel session
2.45-4.15pm:	Panel session 1
4.15-4.45pm:	Refreshments
4.45-6.15pm:	Panel session 2
7.30pm:	Informal reception at Brighton Palace Pier

### TUESDAY

9-10.30am:	Panel session 3
10.30-11am:	Refreshments
11am-12.30pm:	Panel session 4
11am-12.30pm:	Poster presentations and judging
12.30-2pm:	Lunch
1-2pm:	AGM
2-3.30pm:	Panel session 5
3.30-4pm:	Refreshments
4-5.30pm:	Panel session 6
7pm:	Formal dinner at The Grand *arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

### WEDNESDAY

9.30-11am:	Panel session 7
11-11.30am:	Refreshments
11.30am-1pm:	Panel session 8
1-2pm:	Lunch *packed lunch
AFTERNOON:	Optional tours and events *details overleaf

## Full Programme

The full programme is available [at Oxford Abstracts](#). Click on the title for each session for details about the papers being presented in that session. Remember to change the day for the details of the sessions on different days.

## Conference Participation

Mobile phones should be on silent mode before entering a session as a courtesy to speakers and other delegates.

Smoking – including vaping - is not allowed inside or within 10 meters of any university building.

The plenary session will be live-streamed and can therefore be watched remotely. There is also an online poster display. Papers are divided into panel sessions that correspond to 'streams' and 'current topics', each of which is made up of contributions with a related thematic focus.

## Paper Presentations and Posters

For paper presentations, you must follow the instructions sent by email from stream / current topic convenors. Please check the time slot and location of your panel session and make a note of these. We advise participants to email PowerPoint presentations - along with any other presentation related files - to themselves and have them available to download ahead of each session.

Throughout the Conference, delegates will be able to view the poster display on the lower ground floor of Fulton building. Poster authors will present their work individually and be available for questions on Tuesday between 11am and 12.30pm [Panel session 4].

There will also be an online poster display available all throughout the Conference and beyond, and all posters will be accessible via Oxford Abstracts.

## Postgraduate Researcher Sessions

Postgraduate researcher-specific sessions will take place on Monday morning with no requirement for additional registration and all general conference arrangements apply, ie. parking, accessibility, etc.

If postgraduate researchers are unable to travel due to exceptional circumstances (for example, the ongoing conflict in the Middle East), PGR organisers may be able to offer online attendance for postgraduate researcher-specific sessions only. Please contact SLSA PGR reps, Diksha Sanyal [diksha.sanyal.23@ucl.ac.uk] and Camilo Cornejo Martinez [c.cornejomartinez@lancaster.ac.uk] if you need to access postgraduate researcher sessions remotely.

Although accessibility needs were asked about during conference registration and PGR organisers will be present during postgraduate researcher-specific sessions to support participants, attendees to these sessions are welcome to contact the SLSA PGR reps in advance with any specific requests. These will be accommodated as far as is possible.

## Plenary

The Conference plenary session takes place from 1-2.30pm on Monday in [the Jubilee building's Large Lecture Theatre](#) on the theme 'Protest and Progress', focusing on the legal regulation of various forms of protest and protest's social value in effecting change for progress, however 'progress' may be conceptualised. Speakers will build on their experiences of protest in contexts such as environmental, LGBTIQ+ rights, and pro-Palestinian/anti-genocide causes. The session will be live-streamed with the link available at Oxford Abstracts.

Optional activities will relate to this theme of protest, including [a workshop on archival materials on protest](#).

## Other Special Sessions

The Conference programme includes a number of stand-alone sessions, such as 'Meet the Author' sessions on 'SOGIESC Migration and Asylum' and 'Language and Justice', a session on 'REF 2029', and a display on the 'Law and the Humanities Infrastructure Map'.

Full details can be found in the programme.

## Sponsors and Publishers' Stands

We have the honour of welcoming a wonderful range of sponsor publishers to the Conference, including Bristol University Press/Policy Press, Hart/Bloomsbury, Taylor and Francis/Routledge, Palgrave/ Springer, Edinburgh University Press, and Cambridge University Press.

Other sponsors include Barbri Global, Elsevier, Legal Action Group, Legal Aid Practitioners Group, The Centre for the Study of Corruption / Governance & Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (University of Sussex), Journal of Law and Society / Wiley, SCMR (Sussex Centre for Migration Research) / JEMS (Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies), Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly, Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, and Edward Elgar Publishing, which support various conference streams and events.

We are very grateful for the generous support of all sponsors.

Attending publishers have stands located in G15 Fulton throughout the conference. Don't miss out on visiting our publisher stands and talking with our sponsors!

## Catering

To ensure a smooth dining experience for a large conference, help reduce food waste and accommodate the diverse dietary preferences and needs of delegates, all on-campus catering is meat-free (as indicated on our conference website). Fish or meat options will be available at evening events off-campus. Dietary preferences and additional requirements for these events were collected during registration. Delegates have received further updates by email which we encourage you to review carefully.

Lunches and refreshments are served in G15 Fulton (ground floor) and G30 (social space) Jubilee. Please try to use both buildings for your breaks; if you find that one venue is particularly busy and food options are limited, try the other. If your dietary requirements are not sufficiently catered to by the vegetarian food available, person-specific meals can be collected from the Fulton registration desk.

Both Fulton and Jubilee buildings have water fountains/coolers. There is one on each floor in Fulton through the doors after the staircase, and one on each floor in Jubilee, including the ground floor by the toilets behind the staircase. A water dispenser will accompany all meals.

See [the Campus facilities web page](#) for details of shops, cafes and other on-campus facilities.

## Social Events

There are two social events in Brighton during the Conference: an informal reception on Monday at Brighton Palace Pier and a Gala Conference Dinner on Tuesday at The Grand Hotel. Due to strict venue capacity limitations, places at these events were allocated on a first-come, first-served basis during registration.

All delegates allocated a place at one or both social events have been informed by email. If you have not received an email we have not been able to allocate you a place. No physical tickets are provided for these events. For more details, refer to your email or check with the registration desk.

Schedule and travel details pertaining to the social events are on [the Programme page of the Conference website](#).

If you have a place at a social event but are no longer able to attend, please let us know as soon as possible at [slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk) so that we can re-allocate your place.

At the event on Brighton Palace Pier, delegates can buy a wristband to go on rides at a discounted rate on presentation of their conference identification. If your dietary requirements aren't met by the fish and vegan options served, alternative fare can be collected at a food station clearly signposted.

There is no formal dress code for Tuesday's dinner at The Grand and delegates are welcome to dress as casually or formally as they wish. Delegates should collect a table place card indicating their dietary requirements at the registration desk by the banqueting hall.

Winners of SLSA annual prizes (book prizes, an article prize, an impact prize, and the prize for contributions to the socio-legal community) will be announced and presentations of certifications made at the Gala Dinner. In addition - and as in previous years - all postgraduate researcher posters submitted by PGR members of the SLSA will be entered into a poster prize competition with the winner also announced at the Gala Dinner.

## Wi-Fi

Freely available throughout campus [via Eduroam and the O2 network](#).

## Photography

SLSA and the University of Sussex will take photographs throughout the Conference, including during the plenary session which is live-streamed. If you do not wish to be in any photographs, please collect a sticker from the registration desk and place it on your badge to indicate to photographers to avoid you. We will check all photography following the conference and do our best not to use pictures that feature people with stickers on badges.

## Social Media

The Conference has been - and will continue to be - promoted via the University [[LinkedIn](#)] and Sussex Law School's [[LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)] social media accounts.

The SLSA will also be posting during the Conference to their [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#) accounts.

We have created the hashtag #SLSA2026 and encourage delegates to use this on any posts you share during the Conference.

## The Gym

The [Sussex Sports Centre](#) is offering the discounted rate of £5 per day to conference delegates. It is open from 7am-10pm. If you would like to use the gym, please email us [slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk] by 1pm on 23 March.

## Storage

Ask at the Fulton registration desk if you require storage or the use of a locker.

## Childcare and Breastfeeding

114 Fulton can be utilised for breastfeeding and childcare. Childcare requirements were collected and recorded at the registration stage and organisers have liaised with relevant delegates individually regarding childcare services. If you have childcare requirements but have not previously informed us, email slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk or inform colleagues at the registration desk. If your requirements cannot be met by the Conference, you may wish to contact local nurseries and childminders, such as [Wrap Nursery](#) and [Brighton Tinies](#).

## Optional Tours

On Wednesday afternoon, delegates are welcome to join one of the following optional activities:

- **History From Below**  
An archival workshop on protest. Choose 2-3pm or 3-4pm.  
[Register in advance for free at eventbrite.](#)
- **Self-guided Tours of Brighton**  
Details of self-guided, thematic tours can be found on the [Discover Brighton website](#).
- **Alternative Brighton Walking Guides**  
In partnership with VisitBrighton, you can book an “alternative walking tour” with a Blue Badge Tour Guide at [Brighton Walks](#). Advance booking required and fees apply.
- **Marc Gardiner Tours**  
Enjoy the best of bohemian Brighton in a 90-120 minute walking tour in English or French.  
Advance booking required and fees apply at [Marc Gardiner Tours: Brighton & Hove](#).

## Fire Alarms

There will be a fire alarm test on Wednesday at 9.45am in Jubilee building and at 10.30am in Fulton building. Apologies in advance for this inconvenience. If a fire alarm sounds outside of these times, please follow the green fire exit signs and do not use any lifts.

## Medical Assistance

The [University Pharmacy](#) is located on campus in front of the [Student Centre](#).

If you require assistance with a minor injury or medical issue, please contact the University's Medical Centre: 01273 249049.

If you require more urgent medical assistance, contact NHS Direct on 111 - or 999 for emergencies.

## Other queries

Please refer to the [conference website](#) for more information about the Conference, including accessibility, religious/spiritual/meditation facilities, and campus services.

If you have any queries that are not addressed in this document or on our website, email [slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:slsa2026@sussex.ac.uk) or ask colleagues at the Fulton registration desk or one of the student helpers around campus.

**We look forward to welcoming you to Sussex!**

**The University of Sussex and the SLSA 2026 Organising Committee**