

## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### News from the IALS Library

#### **IALS Library Satisfaction Survey 2023**

The Library's annual survey once again demonstrated that our members are highly satisfied with their experiences of IALS Library. The highest rating was awarded for "overall satisfaction with IALS Library", with a satisfaction rating of 98.2%. This result underscores our commitment to providing an excellent library service for the postgraduate legal research community. The survey also highlighted other areas of success, including the helpfulness of library staff (97% satisfaction), legal research training sessions (96.1% satisfaction), study facilities (92.4% satisfaction) and range of books (92.3% satisfaction).

#### **Elgar 2022 e-book Collection**

The Library has purchased the Elgar Law 2022 e-book Collection, which consists of 155 titles on the ElgarOnline platform. This brings the total number of titles available to IALS library members via the ElgarOnline platform to 1082!

#### **IALS Archives Guides**

To make the archives more accessible, IALS Archivist, Clare Cowling, has been working on a collection of [guides](#) highlighting the material held for various subjects and countries. More guides are under construction and will be added soon. For more information on the archives and a complete list of collections, see the [archives pages of the website](#).

#### **New ScanTent**

It's time to say goodbye to blurry book images taken on your phone! The Library's new ScanTent is designed to help take high-quality images of books using a smartphone. Install the app, place the book inside the tent, and the LED lights will enable readers to take crisp and clear images. Readers can find the ScanTent and full instructions for using it at the photocopying area on the 2nd floor of IALS Library.

#### **Quiet contemplation room**

IALS has opened a room for quiet contemplation. Located on the ground floor of the IALS building, this room is open to all our users,

for quiet contemplation, reflection, meditation, or prayer.

### Term-time opening hours

- ◇ Monday-Friday:  
9:00am-11:00pm
- ◇ Saturday: 10:00am  
to 8:30pm
- ◇ Sunday: 12:30pm to 8:30pm

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## Selected Upcoming Events

### Sir William Dale Centre, Sixth Law Reform Project Workshop—Reforming the Law: Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities in Small Jurisdictions

**Venue:** Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR

**Date and time:** 3 November 2023, 2:00pm-5:30pm

**Lead Speakers:** Dr Enrico Albanesi, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Genova, and IALS Associate Research Fellow, University of London; Jonathan Teasdale, IALS Associate Research Fellow, University of London, and former Lawyer with the Law Commission for England & Wales.

See [website](#) for details.

### ILPC Seminar—Fighting Algorithms: Challenging Automated Government Decision-Making in Comparative Context

**Venue:** online via Zoom

**Date and time:** 8 November 2023, 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Speaker:** Dr Yee-Fui Ng, IALS Visiting Research Fellow

**Chair:** Dr Nóra Ní Loideáin, Senior Lecturer in Law and Director, Information Law & Policy Centre, IALS

Significant technological advances in artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data analytics over the last two decades have enabled the widespread automation of decision-making in government in Western liberal democracies. However, automated government decision-making can have adverse effects upon vulnerable populations who are the intended recipients of government social programmes, yet at the same time the least able to address errors in government decision-making. This talk presents preliminary findings from a comparative book project analysing legal challenges automated government decision-making in the United States, United Kingdom (UK) and Australia.

See [website](#) for details.

### **ILPC Annual Lecture and Conference 2023—Human in the Machine: Digital Rights and AI**

**Venues:** 23 November in-person at Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR; 24 November online via Zoom

**Dates and times:** 23 November 2023-24 November 2023, 9:30pm-5:00pm

**Annual lecturer:** Robert Spano, former President of the European Court of Human Rights

**Keynote speakers:** Professor Kingsley Abbott, Institute of Commonwealth Studies; Professor Jeremias Adams-Prassl, University of Oxford; Natalie Byrom, Director of Justice Lab; Fanny Coudert, European Data Protection Supervisor; Kashmir Hill, Technology Reporter, *New York Times*; Professor Christopher Millard, Queen Mary University of London; Graham Smith, Bird & Bird; Steve Woods, Former Deputy Information Commissioner, Information Commissioner's Office

**Topics to be covered:** artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and innovation; biometric identification and surveillance; end-to-end encryption and data security; UK Data Protection and Digital Information Bill; European Union AI Act; algorithmic bias and human oversight; AI and predictive policing.

See [website](#) for details.

### **Inns of Court Fellow's Seminar—Can Judges Make Better Decisions?**

**Venue:** IALS Council Chamber, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR

**Date:** 30 November 2023, 5:00pm-6:15pm

**Speaker:** Hon Justice James O'Reilly, Federal Court of Canada

**Chair:** Professor Carl Stychin, Director, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

Scholarly writing in the area of behavioural economics and psychology has pointed out flaws in the way people make decisions, including unconscious biases and cognitive illusions. Judges are not immune from these kinds of errors. Can they avoid them?

See [website](#) for details.

### **IALS Fellow's Seminar—Foreign Relations in Pre-Colonial Africa: A Case Study of Portuguese–Benin Kingdom Diplomatic Interactions**

**Venues:** online via Zoom

**Date and time:** 6 December 2023, 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Speaker:** Dr Eghosa O Ekhaton, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Derby/IALS Visiting Research Fellow

**Chair:** Professor Susan Breau, IALS Senior Associate Research Fellow

This seminar focuses on the diplomatic interactions of “pre-colonial” Benin which is in now in present day Nigeria. Benin Kingdom was one of the most important states in the forest region of West Africa in the pre-colonial era. Benin was a recurring topic in contemporary Western or European writing and had ambassadors posted to Portugal in the precolonial era. Due to the trade with its neighbours and foreign (distant) states/empires, precolonial Benin became a very rich and powerful Empire in the 15th-17th centuries. Portugal had a massive influence on the culture, economy and trade, religion, and language of pre-colonial Benin amongst other influences, some of which are still in existence to date in present-day Benin City. Benin Kingdom had an effective legal system in the pre-colonial era, and this was also exemplified by the diplomatic interactions between precolonial Benin and Portugal in the 15th and 16th centuries.

See [website](#) for details.

### **The Director’s Seminar Series—The Hidden Histories of the Pinochet Case**

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR

**Date and time:** 6 February 2024, 5:00pm-6:30pm

**Speaker:** David Sugarman, Professor of Law Emeritus, Lancaster University Law School; Senior Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

**Chair:** Professor Carl Stychin, Director, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

Autumn 2023 marked the 25th anniversary of Augusto Pinochet’s arrest in London and the subsequent decisions of Britain’s top court denying Pinochet’s claim as a former head of state to immunity. It was the first time that a former head of state had, while travelling abroad, been arrested on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, and where that former leader’s claims to immunity were rejected by a domestic court. Hugely controversial, Pinochet’s arrest and the “Pinochet precedent” changed the meaning of international justice, giving a massive fillip to human-rights movements, galvanizing victims and their loved ones, activists and lawyers. This lecture brings into the open the hidden histories of the Pinochet case. It reveals what went on behind the scenes, in law and in politics. Drawing on a unique set of 250 interviews with victims, non-governmental organisations, activists, judges, lawyers, politicians, government officials and journalists during or shortly after the case, and exhaustive archival research.

See [website](#) for details.

## Podcasts

Selected law lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences hosted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in the School of Advanced Study are recorded and accessible for viewing and downloading.

See [website](#) for details.

## SAS IALS YouTube Channel

Selected law lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences hosted by IALS in the School of Advanced Study are recorded and accessible for viewing and downloading.

See [website](#) for details.