News and Events

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IALS News

IALS Library Legal Fiction Collection

Since 1947 the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies has been a repository of facts and an inspiration for authoritative legal research. In August our new legal fiction collection was launched. Visit us to celebrate nearly 2500 years of lawyers and the legal system being depicted, analysed and satirised, and to complain when your personal favourite has not been selected for inclusion by IALS library staff. Thrillers, mysteries, literary fiction, philosophy, social commentary, science fiction, even a romance or two–all tastes are catered for as long as you have some level of interest in the law and its associated structures and influences. All this and (for us) generous loan periods. The collection is housed in new book carousels near the Enquiry Desk on the 2nd floor of the library. All books in the collection can be found on IALS Library Search; they will have a classmark beginning SZ, which can be searched on Library Search to find a full list.

News from The Law and the Humanities Hub (LH*ub*)

Over the past year, LH*ub* has developed research infra-structures and scholarly networks in Law and the Humanities. The Four Nations Law and Humanities Forums brought together early career researchers across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, Queen's University Belfast, Cardiff University, and the University of Warwick. Participants presented a mix of written papers and creative work, including dance, theatre and film-based pieces which spanned the intersections between law and history, philosophy, literature, poetry, art, architecture, performance, linguistics, cultural and media studies, and other humanistically informed disciplines.

LH*ub* networks have had quite a year. The Dance and Legal Materialities Network has advanced innovative work on embodiment, movement, and decolonial approaches to law through workshops and creative provocations; the Power, Justice and Imagination: Creative Writing

for Legal Research collaboration has explored the contribution of creative and literary methods to legal scholarship and will hold an event at the National Maritime Museum as part of the Being Human Festival; and the Law and Environmental Humanities Network has built conversations around law, ecology, and environmental justice, and is starting a year of reading groups and film screenings. We are looking forward to the launch of the new LH*ub*–IHR History and Law Seminar, which will strengthen connections between legal and historical scholarship, and the Half-Baked Series, an experimental forum of flash sessions designed to support emerging ideas in a collegial and interdisciplinary setting.

National Training Networks

During this past year the doctoral programme at IALS launched several national training networks to further support students in training in specific and popular areas of legal research. Over 50 legal academics and practitioners from across the United Kingdom and beyond have agreed to participate in planning and delivering educational events for students and early career researchers. These networks form part of the School of Advanced Study's national training remit funded by Research England.

The National Training Networks established thus far are: Financial Regulation; Access to Justice; International Law; Law and Technology; and Legislative Drafting and Policy. These networks join our already established Law and Humanities Hub (LHub) in providing national leadership for training researchers in law. Planning is underway for the first series of training events which will be available through the IALS events page.

Upcoming Events

Bloomsbury Walk and Building Tour

Date: 5 November 2026, 11:00am to 1:00pm

The walk will focus on the history of the Bedford Estate and on the multiple transformations of 17 Russell Square from an early 19th-century elite family home, then a hostel for colonial subjects, its near destruction by bombing in 1944 or 1945, and its reinvention as a prestigious modernist building designed by Denys Lasdun.

This event is free to attend, but advance registration is required.

See website for details.

Ecologies of Care Reading Group: The Rulers: Corporate Power in the Age of AI and the Cloud by Cecilia Rikap

Date: 23 November 2026

Venue: IALS Conference Room

See website for details.

Information Law and Policy Centre Annual Lecture and Keynote Panel

Date: 26 November 2026

Venue: IALS Council Chamber

Theme: Humans in the Loop: Human Agency in the Age of AI

Speaker: Professor Adams-Prassl, Professor of Law and Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Law, Oxford University, Fellow of Magdalen College, and Senior Research Associate of the Institute for Ethics in AI.

See website for details.

Podcasts and Videos

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.