

Socio-Legal Studies and the Humanities

A One-Day Conference

Hosted by the Socio-Legal Studies Association,
with the support of the Institute of
Advanced Legal Studies

9.30am-4.00pm, Wednesday, 5th November 2008

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Keynote Speaker

Melanie L. Williams, Professor of Literary Jurisprudence, School of Law, Exeter University, author of *Secrets and Laws – Collected Essays: True Tales of Law, Lives and Literature* (2005), and *Empty Justice: One Hundred Years of Law, Literature and Philosophy* (2002).

Aim

The Socio-Legal Studies Association recently adopted a new strap-line to sum up the spirit of the Association: 'Where law meets the social sciences and humanities'. This conference will provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information specifically on the relationship between the humanities and socio-legal studies. The field of humanities (including literature, history, cultural studies, and the arts), which use methods that are largely analytic, critical and speculative – rather than the mainly empirical approaches associated with the sciences – offers opportunities for productive engagement with socio-legal studies.

Rationale

The Association conceives of socio-legal studies as embracing 'disciplines and subjects concerned with law as a social institution, with the social effects of law, legal processes, institutions and services and with the influence of social, political and economic factors in the law and legal institutions' (Socio-Legal Studies Association, First Re-Statement of Research Ethics, para. 1.2.1). The aim of this conference is to address these elements of socio-legal studies with particular reference to the humanities, and, perhaps, to break away from what Douzinas and Nead call "the excessive logonomocentrism" of modern literary jurisprudence.

Opportunity for Publication

Selected papers may be considered for publication in an edited collection on socio-legal studies and the humanities.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be e-mailed by **16th July 2008** to the Academic Coordinator:

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to whom enquiries may also be made, tel. +44 (0)28-9036 6374.

