

BRITISH LEGAL HISTORY CONFERENCE
1–4 JULY 2026
NOTTINGHAM

DRAFT PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 1 JULY – DAY ONE

12 NOON TO 1:30 PM – REGISTRATION AND LUNCH

1:30 PM TO 3 PM – PANEL SESSION I

Panel A

- ‘The Legislation of the Devon Stannary Parliament, 1474–1600’ – Jonathan McGovern, *Xiamen University*
- ‘The Authority of the Majority and the “Common Wealth” in Bye-law Litigation in the Reigns of Elizabeth and James’ – Declan Noble, *University of Cambridge*
- ‘A Law Unto Themselves? Mercantile Networks, Urban Government and Commercial Law in Southampton (c. 1440–1510)’ – Femke Gordijn, *Tilburg University*

Panel B

- ‘Laws that Govern & Laws that Don’t: Selden’s Platonising *Ius Commune*’ – Andrew Cecchinato, *University of Nottingham*
- ‘Hugo Grotius’s *De Iure Belli ac Pacis* in Britain’ – Matthew Cleary, *Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law*
- ‘*Ius (Commune) Feudale*: Sovereignty between Scotland, England and France; Continental Reflections on the Thought of Thomas Craig of Riccarton (1538?–1608)’ – Christian Zendri, *University of Trento*

Panel C

- ‘Madness, Marriage and the Machinery of Governance: The Curious Case of the Lunatic’s Marriage Act (1742)’ – Saskia Lettmaier, *University of Hamburg*
- ‘Blundering in the Shadow of the Law: Excuses for Bigamy in Nineteenth-century England and Wales’ – Rebecca Probert, *University of Exeter*
- ‘Clandestine Love, Colonial Law: Transplanting English Marriage Norms to India and New South Wales’ – Udita Ghosh, *University of Hamburg*

Panel D

- ‘Municipal Meta-discretion and the Boundaries of the Old Poor Law’ – Daniel Lucas, *University of Nottingham*
- ‘Poor Law Pamphleteering: Discussions and Disagreements on Poor Law Governance in Nottinghamshire’ – Charlotte May, *University of Nottingham Special Collections*
- ‘Christian Governance and the Factory Question: Lord Ashley and the “Civil-Punitive” Framework in Nineteenth-century British Factory Acts’ – Prakhar Ganguly, *Max Planck Institute of Legal History and Legal Theory*

3 PM TO 4 PM – BREAK

4 PM TO 5:30 PM – PLENARY SESSION I

‘Andrew Dewar Gibb 1888-1974: Legal/Political Nationalism and Fascism’
Hector MacQueen, *University of Edinburgh*

5:30 PM – RECEPTION

THURSDAY 2 JULY – DAY TWO

9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM – PANEL SESSION II

Panel A

- ‘Lordship and Reform in the Parliaments of Edward I’ – Matthew Steilen, *University of Buffalo*
- ‘Law and Governance in Thirteenth-century Legislation: The Statute of Westminster I (1275) as a Case Study’ – Jason Taliadoros, *Deakin University*

Panel B

- ‘Examinations on Commission in the Jacobean High Court of Admiralty’ – Graham Moore, *The National Archives*
- ‘Admiralty Jurisdiction, Prize Cases and Juries during the War for American Independence’ – Sally Hadden, *Western Michigan University*

Panel C

- ‘Visions of Imperial Governance in Inter-war London’ – Donal Coffey, *Maynooth University*
- ‘Westminster and Catholic Influences: South Asian Legacies? Constitutional Thinking and Irish Upper Houses’ – Martin O’Donoghue, *Max Planck Institute for Legal History and legal Theory*

Panel D

- ‘State, Society and Administrative Justice in Twentieth-Century Britain’ – Robert Thomas, *University of Manchester*
- ‘Transforming Local Governance into Local Government’ – Rhiannon Ogden-Jones, *University of Cambridge*

10:30 AM TO 11 AM – BREAK

11 AM TO 12.30 PM – PLENARY SESSION II

‘The Aftermath of Civil War in Medieval England: Dealing with Traitors and Crown Enemies from Magna Carta to the Wars of the Roses’
Sophie Ambler, *Lancaster University*

12:30 PM TO 1:30 PM – LUNCH

1:30 PM TO 3 PM – PANEL SESSION III

Panel A

- ‘“The Queen Greeteth You Well”: Experiencing Equity’s Injunctions at Litigant Level’ – Laura Flannigan, *Ohio State University*
- ‘Law and Governance of English Manors in the Age of the Black Death’ – Finn Cadell, *University of Nottingham*
- ‘Navigating Disruption: Chancery’s Pragmatic Governance through its Decree and Order Books (1650s)’ – Simon Lambe, *University College London*

Panel B

- ‘English Merchants and the Governance of Bankruptcy Law’ – Fleur Stolker, *University of Cambridge*
- ‘Foreign Merchant Communities (*nations mercatorum*): Jurisdiction and Governance (Low Countries and England, Fifteenth to Sixteenth Centuries)’ – Dave De ruysscher, *Tilburg University*
- ‘Good Governance and Insolvency Litigation: Early Modern Amsterdam vs England’ – Maurits den Hollander, *Tilburg University*

Panel C

- ‘Scots Lawyers in the Scottish Enlightenment: Pleading, Precedent and the Perfection of the Union’ – Brandon Clydesdale, *University of Edinburgh*
- ‘Justice and Governance in Transition: The Scottish Justiciary Court during the Interregnum (1649–1660)’ – Stephanie Dropuljic, *University of Exeter*
- ‘Opening the Black Box: *Solatium* in Historical Scots Law’ – Jonathan Ainslie, *University of Aberdeen*

Panel D

- ‘The Old Age and Widows’ Pensions Act 1940 and the National Spinsters’ Pensions Association’ – Teresa Sutton, *University of Sussex*
- ‘Views of English Legislators on the Property Emancipation of Married Women, 1857–1882’ – Eva Bažantová, *Charles University*
- ‘Law as a Tool of Social Governance in Jane Austen’s Novels’ – Nichola McNulty, *Bath Spa University*

3 PM TO 4 PM – BREAK

4 PM TO 5:30 PM – PLENARY SESSION III

‘S.F.C. Milsom’s *The Legal Framework of English Feudalism: 50th Anniversary Panel*’
John Hudson, *University of St Andrews*; George Garnett, *University of Oxford*; Alice Taylor,
King’s College London

6 PM – RECEPTION AT WOLLATON HALL

FRIDAY 3 JULY – DAY THREE

9:30 AM TO 11 AM – PANEL SESSION IV

Panel A

- ‘*Quid est territorium?* William of Drogeda († 1245) on Jurisdiction’ – Bruce Brasington, *West Texas A&M University*
- ‘Tenure by Service: Land Law and Governance in England and Italy, c. 1150–1250’ – Attilio Stella, *University of Verona*
- ‘Incorporeal Rights in Gross in Thirteenth- and Fourteenth-century England’ – Giorgia Bucaria, *University of Cambridge*

Panel B

- ‘A Crowning Mercy? The Coronation Pardon in English History’ – Krista Kesselring, *Dalhousie University*
- ‘The Seventeenth-century Origins of Judicial Review by *Certiorari*’ – Kevin Costello, *University College Dublin*
- ‘Removal of Judges by Parliamentary Address and the Shaping of English and American Judicial Independence’ – Hugh L. Brady, *University of Texas*

Panel C

- ‘Path Dependence and the Stuart Constitution’ – Anthony Kreis, *Georgia State University*
- ‘Politics and the Common Law from the Glorious Revolution to Wapole’ – TT Arvind, *University of York*; Christian Burset, *Notre Dame University*
- ‘Revolution Controversy and the Turn to Constitutional History in late Eighteenth- to early Nineteenth-century British Constitutional Thought’ – Even Yi-Ying Chao, *University of Cambridge*

Panel D

- ‘The Worst Trickster Story Ever Told: Native America, the Supreme Court and the US Constitution’ – Keith Richotte, *University of Arizona*
- ‘Law and Convention: Entrenchment and the 1707 Acts of Union’ – Robert Brett Taylor, *University of Strathclyde*
- ‘Lord Bentinck in India: English Laws and the “Great Mistake”’ – Raymond Cocks, *University of Keele*

11 AM TO 11:30 AM – BREAK

11:30 AM TO 1 PM – PLENARY SESSION IV

‘The Inconvenient Achievements and Inadequacies of Protecting Legal Rights in Early Modern England’
Onyeka Nubia, *University of Nottingham*

1 PM TO 2 PM – LUNCH

2 PM TO 3 :30 PM – PANEL SESSION V

Panel A

- ‘Philippe de Beaumanoir: Eyewitness and Artisan of Customary Law’ – Ada Kuskowski, *University of Pennsylvania*
- ‘Characters not Caricatures: The Courtroom Artistry of Samuel Platt’ – Richard W. Ireland, *University of Aberystwyth*
- ‘Judicial Writs and Court Sealing Practices 1272–1327’ – Ryan Rowberry, *Georgia State University*

Panel B

- ‘Star Chamber and the Governance of the Ecclesiastical Polity’ – Ian Williams, *University of Oxford*
- ‘The Elizabethan High Commission Reconsidered’ – Adam Forsyth, *University of Cambridge*
- ‘Estreats of Fines in the Court of Star Chamber, 1558–1641’ – Daniel F. Gosling, *The National Archives*

Panel C

- ‘From Land to Liberty: Immigration and Property Rights in the US Declaration of Independence’ – Joshua C. Tate, *Southern Methodist University*
- ‘Forfeiture and Restoration of Land in Early Modern Ireland: Legal Reform, Political Necessities and the Misunderstanding of their Norms in the Present Law’ – Derek Whayman, *University of Reading*
- ‘“Myserably distressed, & most wrongefully oppressed”: Women challenging law and governance in seventeenth-century Ireland’ – Emma Lyons, *University College Dublin*

Panel D

- ‘An Intendedly Scientific Feeding of the Mill: *Seeing like a State* in F.W. Maitland’ – Poppy Kershaw, *University of St Andrews*
- ‘The Two *Horae ferales* of John Mitchell Kemble: Burial, Governance and Legal Memory in Early Northern Europe’ – Michael Stuckey, *Victoria University*
- ‘English Juries in the “Forests of Germany”: Legal Categories and Continental Imagination in the Nineteenth Century’ – Tereza Ottova, *Charles University*

3:30 PM TO 4:30 PM – BREAK

4:30 PM TO 5:30 PM – PANEL SESSION VI

Panel A

- ‘Christianity, Brehon Law and Governance in Medieval Ireland’ – Mark Flatley, *Technological University of the Shannon*
- ‘Reassessing the Development of English Outlawry before c. 1000’ – Jake Stattel, *University of Cambridge*

Panel B

- ‘Colonial Property and the History of Unconscionability’ – Julia Rudolph, *North Carolina State University*
- ‘Usury Theory and the Doctrine of Consideration’ – Ciara Kennefick, *University of Oxford*

Panel C

- ‘A New Generation of Governors: Natural Law and the Eighteenth-century Revolution in Common Law Education’ – Matthew Parish, *University of Cambridge*
- ‘Governing Eighteenth-century Property Law through Language: A Report on a Research Project’ – Łukasz Jan Korporowicz and Stanisław Goźdź-Roszkowski, *University of Lodz*

Panel D

- ‘Reverse Burdens in the Archive, before and after *Woolmington*’ – Kay Crosby, *Newcastle University*
- ‘The Arbitration Courts of Revolutionary Ireland, 1917–1920’ – Thomas Mohr, *University College Dublin*

6:30 PM – CONFERENCE DINNER

SATURDAY 4 JULY – DAY FOUR

9:30 AM TO 11 AM – PANEL SESSION VII

Panel A

- ‘Learned Law and Judicial Practice in the Crown of Aragon’s Islands (Fifteenth–Sixteenth Centuries)’ – Anna Floris, *University of St Andrews*
- ‘Challenging Authority in the Secular Courts of the Diverse Medieval Mediterranean’ – Jennifer Pearce, *Nottingham Trent University*

- ‘Law and Governance in the Shadow of the Plague?’ – Marju Luts-Sootak and Merike Ristikivi, *University of Tartu*

Panel B

- ‘Yorkist and Early Tudor Legislation of Uses’ – Ashley Hannay, *University of Manchester*
- ‘Power and Persuasion: Tudor Preambles and the Common Law Courts’ – Joanna McCunn, *University of Bristol*
- ‘Law and Governance during Henry VIII’s Royal Progresses’ – Anthony Musson, *Historic Royal Palaces*

Panel C

- ‘Suing the State in Georgian England’ – Michael Lobban, *University of Oxford*
- ‘The Origin of English Banking’ – David P. Waddilove, *Notre Dame University*
- ‘Law, Governance and Accountability: The Company Limited by Guarantee in Historical Perspective’ – Jeanne Y. Nel, *Monash University*

Panel D

- ‘Apartheid as a Form of Governance’ – Victor Kattan, *University of Nottingham*
- ‘Classical Thought, Private International law and Constitutional Change: “Constitutional” Dimensions of the Construction of a Discipline’ – Nikitas Hatzimihail, *University of Cyprus*
- ‘Historic Approaches to Disaster Law: The League of Red Cross Societies and the International Relief Union, 1921–1932’ – Christy Shucksmith-Wesley, *University of Nottingham*

11 AM TO 11:30 AM – BREAK

11:30 AM TO 1 PM – PLENARY SESSION V

“Medieval Mayhem”: Dismemberment, Mutilation and Mutation in Legal History
Gwen Seabourne, *University of Bristol*

1 PM TO 2 PM – LUNCH