

LAW AND JUSTICE IN THE 1960s: NEGLECTED STORIES FROM A FAMILIAR DECADE
Call for papers for a one-day online conference 25 February 2027

Conference Directors:

Professor Rosemary Auchmuty, University of Reading, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Professor Fiona Cownie, Keele University, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Following our successful online conference and edited book 'Law and Justice in the 1950s: Case Studies from a Neglected Decade' we are calling for papers for a one-day online conference on Law and Justice in the 1960s: Neglected Stories from a Familiar Decade.

In contrast to the 1950s, the 1960s have been extensively mined by legal historians as well as doctrinal scholars, so the decade has not been, like the 1950s, 'neglected'. But while many of the legal events of the 1960s are familiar (the Profumo affair, homosexual law reform, abortion law reform, first higher-court women judges, Race Relations legislation, divorce law reform etc), we are looking for *neglected* stories from that decade: legal events or events with legal consequences that are *not* familiar, or unfamiliar approaches to one of those familiar events, which bring out a different aspect to that which has already been discussed. We are looking for contributions which place law in its historical context. Our focus is on the UK, and we encourage contributors to uncover untold stories, or to analyse familiar stories in a different way.

You might find it helpful to look at the 1950s collection which is free to read (open access)

<https://uolpress.co.uk/book/law-and-justice-in-the-1950s/>

Please send abstracts of up to 200 words to r.auchmuty@reading.ac.uk and f.cownie@keele.ac.uk by 1 December 2026.

If you would like to attend the conference (whether giving a paper or not) please click on the following link to register your interest. Further details will follow. There will be no fee.

[Event Booking Form - Birkbeck, University of London](#)

This event is co-hosted by Birkbeck, University of London and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

