

Representation and Justice: Law, Media and Popular Culture Workshop

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The RCSL Working Group on Law and Popular Culture invites submissions for a workshop at the University of Strathclyde School of Law on 3rd and 4th September 2026 exploring the relationship between representation, justice, and popular culture.

Popular culture plays a central role in shaping public understandings of law, justice, crime, rights, punishment, and belonging. Film, television, news media, social media, gaming, celebrity culture, and digital platforms do not simply reflect legal realities, they actively construct and contest them.

Questions of representation are deeply tied to questions of power. Cultural narratives shape who is seen as legitimate, dangerous, credible, victimised, criminalised, protected, or excluded. At a time of variously described as characterised by intensifying political polarization, platform governance, and global inequality, the politics of representation has become central to struggles over justice and legal legitimacy.

This workshop explores how law and justice are represented, mediated, imagined, and challenged across contemporary popular culture.

We welcome interdisciplinary contributions from sociology of law, sociology, political science, criminology, media and cultural studies, legal studies, anthropology, gender studies, race and postcolonial studies, and related fields.

We are particularly keen to support PhD students and early career researchers. We are also exploring the possibility of offering hybrid and online participation options in order to widen accessibility and international engagement.

Topics may include:

- Research methods for law and popular culture studies
- New developments in legal television
- Legal institutions and legal agency
- Crime, punishment, and popular media
- Celebrity trials and justice as spectacle
- Migration, borders, and exclusion
- Protest movements and visual culture
- True crime and public understandings of justice

- Digital media, platforms, and legal legitimacy
- Representation, victimhood, and credibility
- Race, racism, and legal representation
- Gender, sexuality, and mediated justice
- Colonialism, memory, and historical injustice
- Surveillance, policing, and visibility
- Alternative and resistant representations of justice
- Differences between countries in visual representations of the law

We welcome theoretical, empirical, methodological, and creative approaches, including work-in-progress papers.

Proposed abstracts of max. 250 words should be submitted **before Friday 10th July** via an MS Form available at [Representation and Justice: Law, Media and Popular Culture Workshop Abstract Submission – Fill in form](#)

Registration will be online via the University shop. The links will be sent to attendees following acceptance of abstracts.

The workshop will run on a break-even basis of £50 per person to cover catering and organisational costs. A subsidised registration rate will be available for PhD students and early career researchers.

Further queries can be directed to hass-law-research@strath.ac.uk