

Legal Futures at The Horniman Museum and Gardens Call for participation

[The Horniman Museum and Gardens](#) is an unusually rich site where living, non-living and no-longer-living plants, animals, humans and artefacts are held in a range of different collections. How might we use those collections to develop legal futures capacity among academic researchers, and with what benefits and risks? We (Amanda Perry-Kessaris, University of Kent, and Elen Stokes, University of Bristol) are collaborating with a diverse team of legal scholars to find out.

By completing a series of structured tasks, participants will be prompted and facilitated to consider the roles that law plays in constituting possible futures, whether by accident or design ('legal futures'); to develop their own 'legal futures capacity' (ability to work on, with, and through legal futures); and to consider how engagement with legal futures in curated contexts might support the development of legal futures capacity of others within academia and beyond.

To find out more about the project, and our collaborators, see the [project website](#).

How to apply

If you are an early career scholar (including post-graduate researcher), and are interested in participating, please address the following prompts on up to one side of A4:

- Describe how a museum or archive has impacted upon how you think about law (broadly construed).
- Outline what roles are played by 'the future' or 'futures' in your field of legal interest.

Email your response to Elen Stokes <elen.stokes@bristol.ac.uk> **and** Amanda Perry-Kessaris <a.perry-kessaris@kent.ac.uk> by 19 June 2026.

What will participants be asked to do?

Participation is voluntary. Participants will be invited to attend the following events:

- Orientation Meeting (online): 10:00 on 8 September 2026
- Workshop ([The Horniman Museum and Gardens](#)): 10:00 – 16:00 on 10 and 11 September, 2026
- Refection and Refinement Meeting (online): date and time TBC.

Participants will also be invited to contribute to a co-produced, open-access, 'Field Guide to Investigating Legal Futures at The Horniman'.

We look forward to enriching the event with adaptations to accommodate diverse needs.

We will fund reasonable UK travel and accommodation costs.

Funding and ethics statement

This project is funded by the Socio-Legal Studies Association. It is governed by the [University of Kent Research Ethics Policies and Practice framework](#). If you are invited to participate, you will be provided with a Participant Information Sheet to inform your decision on whether to consent to participating.