CALS Research Assistant, Muhammad Nurshazny Ramlan, attended the 2019 Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Conference held from 3 to 5 April 2019 at the School of Law, University of Leeds. The annual conference is organised to provide an opportunity for those in the field of socio-legal studies to disseminate knowledge and network with others in the field.

As a part of the conference’s newly-launched ‘Environment, Law and Governance’ stream, Shazny presented his paper entitled ‘Religious Law for the Environment: Comparative Islamic Environmental Law in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia’ for the panel on ‘Reconceptualising Climate Change A’. The presentation provided an opportunity for Shazny to share the use of Islamic law in Southeast Asia as a response to environmental problems such as climate change, as well as an evaluation of the challenges and limitations to its praxis.

*Shazny presenting his paper to audience of the ‘Reconceptualising Climate Change A’ panel.*
Shazny with his co-panellists: (from left) Daniel Kim (PhD Candidate, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, The George Washington University) and Dr Kate Wilkinson Scott (Senior Lecturer, School of Law, De Montfort University Leicester)

He shares his experience at the events:

“There is no doubt that I enjoyed learning new things during my attendance of a variety of panel sessions scheduled throughout the three-day conference. However, the people whom I met and networked with, both from my own field and beyond, and between sessions and during social events I participated in, are the main highlight.

They were genuinely passionate about what they do and curious to know what others were doing, and were always happy to talk to anyone regardless of seniority and research field. And what made it even more interesting was the fact that the conference was multidisciplinary. This means that I had the opportunity of being in interesting conversations with sociologists, psychologists, historians, and researchers of health policy, among others.

But I am especially happy to have made new friends from the environmental law stream. Through our casual conversations before and after each panel of the stream, we recognised how we all shared the same objective(s) to solve the same problem(s) albeit in different ways. I personally will be keeping in touch with them to exchange each other’s papers and presentation slides, with hopes of future collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Not forgetting that the environmental law stream runs for the first time ever this year, I am also proud to be a ‘pioneer’ panellist of the stream, and hope to be a part of it again next year.”

Muhammad Nurshazny Ramlan