

## African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 3, October 2023

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 6 November 2023) please email [g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk). Similarly, if you have suggestions of people who we should contact about joining the network or would like to unsubscribe from the newsletter please email [g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk).

### New AJRN webpage

The AJRN now has a webpage (<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/ajrn>) where we will be uploading the newsletters as well as information on events, opinion pieces and members. **If you want to be included in the list of network members on the website and future newsletters, then please send a photograph and a bio in the standard format (see below)** with details of positions and institutional/organisational affiliation, up to 5 keywords on relevant research interests, and contact email/Twitter handle to [g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk). E.g.

Prof. Gabrielle Lynch, Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Warwick, UK; judicial behaviour, election petitions, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia; [g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk); @GabrielleLynch6.

If you have already sent a bio for the newsletter, then please just send a photo for inclusion on the webpage.

### Profile of the month



Justice Dorothy A DeGabriele: LLB (Hons); (University of Malawi); LLM (University of London), current PhD Scholar at University of Warwick, is a Judge of the High Court in Malawi and an Advisor on the SADC Electoral Advisory Council. She formerly served in Malawi as a Chairperson for the Prison Service Commission, Chairperson for the Industrial Relations Court, Justice Advisor, and later Governance Advisor for the then Department for International Development (DfID), National Coordinator for the National Juvenile Justice Forum which spearheaded alternative punishment for children in conflict with the law, and an Advisor of the Paralegal Advisory Service. Her PhD research covers the area of governance, electoral justice and the role of courts in adjudicating electoral dispute in Malawi. She has previously researched the areas of children in conflict with the law, HIV/AIDS in Malawi Prisons, and primary justice. Her areas of research interest include criminal law, child justice, electoral justice, human rights, courts and politics, labour law, constitutional law and law and development.

## Call for papers for an AJRN stream at the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) Biennial Conference 2024

The next ASAUK Conference will be held on 29 to 31 August 2024 at Oxford Brookes University, UK with a focus on “generation and regeneration”. See <https://asauk.net/african-studies-association-of-the-uk-biennial-conference-2024-call-for-hosting/> for further details. The AJRN is hoping to organise a thematic stream on “African judiciaries”. So far, the AJRN has received abstracts on a wide range of exciting topics including judicial leadership, feminist judging, dissenting judges, the judicialization of politics, strategic litigation, electoral disputes, the role of the courts in electoral violence, and public opinion of the courts. However, it would be great to receive some more abstracts so that we can have a larger stream of panels. If you are interested in joining and presenting your work on African judiciaries at ASAUK 2024, please **submit a paper title, short abstract (up to 300 words), and details of your institutional affiliation** to [g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk) by **Thursday 27 October**. Unfortunately, the ASAUK have not yet shared details of registration fees or bursaries. Please share this call with any colleagues or students who may be interested.

## Conference/workshop calls

### Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Conference 2024

A stream proposed by Martha Gayoye has been accepted for SLSA 2024, titled Populism, Courts and Social Change. AJRN members are encouraged to look out for the call for papers to be announced in a future newsletter.

## Recent publications by network members

Kamunyu, M. ‘Article 1: Definitions’ in A Rudman, CN Musembi & TM Makunya *The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa: A Commentary* (2023) Pretoria University Law Press.

Kamunyu, M. & F Viljoen ‘Articles 27 and 32: The interpretative mandate under the Maputo Protocol’ in A Rudman, CN Musembi & TM Makunya *The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa: A Commentary* (2023) Pretoria University Law Press.

**Lynch, Gabrielle** (13 September 2023) Kenyans don’t trust the courts: The main factors behind this trend. *The Conversation*

In this piece for *The Conversation Africa*, Gabrielle looks at why- despite widespread reforms, stand-out cases and largely positive personal experiences- public confidence in the Kenyan judiciary has decreased over the past 20 years. <https://theconversation.com/kenyans-dont-trust-the-courts-the-main-factors-behind-this-trend-212710>.

## New posts

**Congratulations to Mariam Kamunyu** who has recently been appointed as a [British Academy International Fellow](#). Mariam will be hosted by Cardiff University’s School of Law and Politics under the sponsorship of Professor Ambreena Manji. [While at Cardiff, Mariam will work on ‘Theorizing African Feminist Judgements’.](#)

## Opportunities to write opinion pieces/blogs on African judiciaries

AJRN has teamed up with [Democracy in Africa](http://democracyin africa.org) to launch a new series of opinion pieces on African judiciaries and democracy. For details on how to write an article for **Democracy in Africa** go to <http://democracyin africa.org/join-the-new-african-judiciaries-research-network-ajrn-today/>.

The AJRN has also been in touch with **The Conversation Africa** and **The Elephant** and is happy to report that:

**The Conversation Africa** welcomes articles on African judiciaries that are based on research. These can be republished anywhere in the world under a Creative Commons licence, giving your work a wider reach and introducing it to new audiences. You can pitch your idea for an article [here](#). You can subscribe to the Conversation Africa newsletter [here](#).

**The Elephant** welcomes articles of 1,500-3,500 words on African judiciaries. The Elephant is a popular online Kenyan news platform which seeks well researched, honest critiques, critical essays and sharp-eyed perspectives on a broad range of topics addressed from a Pan African lens. For details on how to submit a pitch and write for *The Elephant* see <https://www.theelephant.info/write-for-us/>.

## Network members

**NB: If you want to be included in the list of network members in future newsletters, please send a bio in the standard format (see below) with details of positions and institutional/organisational affiliation, up to 5 keywords on relevant research interests, and contact email/Twitter handle to [g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk).**

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