

African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 5, December 2023

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 8 January 2024) please email 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.

Grant success and call for papers, Judicial reform in Africa, Workshop in Lusaka and online, February 2024

The African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) and Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR) have been awarded a British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) workshop grant to hold a one-day hybrid workshop on judicial reform in Africa in Lusaka, Zambia, on 15 February 2024. The workshop will facilitate a comparative discussion of the history, motivations, nature, achievements and shortcomings of judicial reform across the African continent. The organisers welcome papers that touch on any aspect of judicial reform in Africa (single country or comparative analyses) as well as papers that highlight why judicial reform may be so important and/or challenging. If you are interested in presenting at the workshop please send a paper title, 300 word abstract and details of your institutional affiliation to g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk by **20 December 2023**.

AJRN @ African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) 2024

The AJRN's proposal for a stream on African judiciaries at the next ASAUK conference, which will be held in Oxford on 29 to 31 August 2024, has been accepted. People can submit abstracts to the stream via the ASAUK website <https://asauk.net/>. Just select "submit your abstract" and then - once you've set up an account and added your paper title etc- select "African judiciaries" as the stream that you're submitting the abstract to. The deadline for submissions is **20 April 2024**. Please note that if you are applying for a visa it will be important to submit earlier.

Stream proposal: African judiciaries:

From the nullification of presidential elections in Kenya and Malawi to rulings on the constitutionality of public protest and presidential initiatives and rights of marginalised groups, African politics is becoming increasingly judicialized. How the courts deal with these cases, whether they act independently and impartially, why different stakeholders bring cases, how they argue them and how they respond to controversial rulings, and whether justice is seen to be done, will help to determine the future of African judiciaries, democracy and stability. Despite their importance, African judiciaries remain relatively understudied. The African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) welcomes papers on any aspect of African judiciaries. This includes the history of courts, judicial reforms and current practices; how judges behave both in and out of courts and explanations of their decision making; the ways in which different actors – from governments to lawyers and litigants – engage with, use and respond to, the courts; the relationship between different legal systems; and public perceptions and understandings.

AJRN @ 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. The conference will be hosted by the University of Portsmouth from **26 to 28 March 2024**. Authors wishing to present at the conference (whether in person or virtually) should visit the conference [website](#) where you will find descriptions of the streams and current topics that make up the conference. Submission of abstracts should be made via [Oxford Abstracts](#) by **12 January 2024**.

Recent publications by network members

Erllich, Aaron, Nicholas Kerr, and Saewon Park (2023) Weaponizing post-election court challenges: Assessing losers' motivations. *Electoral Studies* 86 (2023)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2023.102676>

Gerszo, Thalia (31 October 2023) Kenya's courts were under political pressure: How a constitutional reform empowered judges. *The Conversation*.

<https://theconversation.com/kenyas-courts-were-under-political-pressure-how-a-constitutional-reform-empowered-judges-215820>

Opportunities to write opinion pieces/blogs on African judiciaries

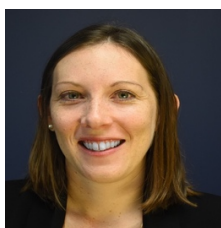
AJRN has teamed up with [Democracy in Africa](#) to launch a new series of opinion pieces on African judiciaries and democracy. For details on how to write an article for **Democracy in Africa** go to <http://democracyin africa.org/join-the-new-african-judiciaries-research-network-ajrn-today/>.

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/>.

Profile of the month



Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Justice and Rule of Law at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, a congressionally funded academic institution of the United States Department of Defense. She leads the design, implementation, and research of programs for the organization's rule of law and security sector governance portfolio, as well as the countering transnational organized crime portfolio. Previously, Kelly was an Advisor in the Research, Evaluation, and Learning Division at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work on judicial training and grassroots legal empowerment took her to a wide range of West and Central African countries. Fluent in French, Kelly has also designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, and on West Africa and Area Studies at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Her book, *Party Proliferation and Political Contestation in Africa: Senegal in Comparative Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), is based on 18 months of research in Senegal. Her other work has been published in *African Security*, *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Trends in Organized Crime*, *The Washington Post*, *Democracy in Africa*, numerous edited volumes, and American Bar Association white papers. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

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. 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; @GabrielleLynch6.

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

Network members

NB: If you want to be included in the list of network members in future newsletters and the website, please send a photo and 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.

Olum Lornah Afoyomungu, Ph.D. student, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Feminist Legal Jurisprudence, African human rights system; afoyomungu2012@gmail.com, @ALornah.

Prof. Stephen Brown, Professor of Political Science, University of Ottawa, Canada; LGBTQI+ rights, decriminalization of homosexuality, strategic litigation, Botswana, Kenya; brown@uottawa.ca; @StephenBrown3.

Prof. Hugh Corder, Professor Emeritus of Public, University of Cape Town, South Africa; judicial politics, administrative law and justice, southern Africa. Hugh.corder@uct.ac.za.

Dr Charlotte Cross, Senior Lecturer in International Development, The Open University, UK; policing, crime and criminalisation, lawfare, Tanzania; charlotte.cross@open.ac.uk; @CrossCharlotte_.

Justice Dorothy A. DeGabriele, Judge of the High Court, Malawi, Current PhD Scholar, University of Warwick, UK; Law and Development, Governance and Electoral Justice, Courts and Politics within SADC, Dorothy.Degabriele@warwick.ac.uk; @a_degabriele.

Dr. Pilar Domingo, Senior Research Fellow in the Politics and Governance group, at ODI, UK: rule of law; judicial politics; access to justice, human rights; p.domingo@odi.org.uk.

Prof. Charles Manga Fombad, Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law and Director of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa (ICLA), Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. Comparative African constitutional and legal history, especially issues of legal harmonisation in Africa. charles.fombad@up.ac.za;

Dr Martha Gayoye, Lecturer in law, Keele University, UK; courts and judges in Africa, judicial diversity and women judges, gender and constitutions in the Global South.

Dr. Thalia Gerzso, Postdoctoral Fellow at the London School of Economics, UK, political institutions, judicial behavior, democratic processes, electoral contention, Kenya, Senegal; www.thaliagerzso.com; t.gerzso@lse.ac.uk; @thaliagrz.

Bekezela Gumbo, Principal Researcher, Zimbabwe Democracy Institute; Lecturer of comparative politics in Africa, Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe; PhD student, Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of the Free State, South Africa; judiciary and democratic transition, competitive securitocratic states regimes, Sub Saharan Africa; bekegumbo@gmail.com / gumbob@africau.edu.

Tim Fish Hodgson, International Commission of Jurists' global lead on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Disability and Access to Justice. Former clerk to Justice Zakaria Yacoob at the Constitutional Court of South Africa and previously worked for the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa and SECTION27; @TimFish42.

Prof Cora Hoexter, part-time Professor, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; judicial behaviour, non-judicial functions, judicial discipline; cora.hoexter@wits.ac.za.

Richard Adebisi Ige, Master of Science Student (Comparative Politics), University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Political corruption, African election, Democracy, Good Governance; richardige6@gmail.com.

Dr. Ryan Jablonski, Associate Professor of Political Science, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK; Electoral integrity, voting, international development, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda. r.s.jablonski@lse.ac.uk @ryan.jablonski <http://ryanjablonski.com/>.

Tanveer Rashid Jeewa, Constitutional Law Lecturer and LLD Candidate, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; constitutional property law, socio-economic rights, human rights, decolonisation of law, constitutional law; tjeewa@sun.ac.za; @tanveerjeewa.

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Justice and Rule of Law, Africa Center for Strategic Studies/National Defense University, USA; rule of law in Africa, access to justice, security sector governance and oversight, Senegal, Central African Republic; catherine.l.kelly.civ@ndu.edu; @catherinelkelly

Dr Mariam Kamunyu, British Academy International Fellow, Cardiff University, UK: African human rights system; feminist judgments; African feminism; gender responsiveness/ gender transformation; state accountability; mariam.kamunyu@gmail.com; @mariamkmarr.

Walter Khobe, Lecturer, Department of Public Law, Moi University, Kenya; Public Law in Kenya, African Comparative Constitutional Law; Judicial Politics in Kenya; ochiengwally@yahoo.com; @ochiengwally.

Diana Kisakye, PhD Candidate (Political Science), Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), University of Bayreuth, Germany; judicial politics, sub-regional courts, development politics and policy, regional integration; Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi; Diana.Kisakye@uni-bayreuth.de; LinkedIn: Diana Kisakye.

Prof. Dan Kuwali, Extraordinary Professor of International Law and International Affairs, University of Pretoria, South Africa/Lund University, Sweden; strategy, use of force, governance, Malawi, Africa; kuwali.d@up.ac.za

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

Monte McMurchy, Rector American Christian Liberal Arts University Congo—UCI, Kinshasa, DR Congo; institution building, electoral process/procedure, judicial subordination; montemcmurchy@sympatico.ca; @diplomat15 and @montemcmurchy.

Barbara Shitnaan Magaji, JI & Coady Fellow, Abuja Nigeria; judicial accountability, human rights, gender, citizen advocacy; biemaigari@gmail.com; @Shitnaan.

Prof. Mark Fathi Massoud, Professor of Politics and Director of Legal Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz and Visiting Professor, University of Oxford Faculty of Law; rule of law, colonialism, state-building, religion; mmassoud@ucsc.edu; mark.massoud@law.ox.ac.uk; @ProfMassoud.

Prof. Maame A.S. Mensa-Bonsu, Associate Professor of Law, Ashesi University, Ghana; Judicial review, judicial behaviour, judicial amendments, Supreme courts, Ghana, Nigeria, West Africa.

Sfiso Benard Nxumalo, Stipendiary Lecturer of Law and DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford, UK; constitutionalism, human rights, politicisation of the judiciary, South Africa, United Kingdom, African Union; Sfiso.nxumalo@law.ox.ac.uk; @sfiso_benard.

Mikhail Nyamweya, Master of Science student in African Studies, University of Oxford; Governance and democracy, Kenya; mikhailnyamweya@gmail.com.

Prof Collins Odote, Associate Professor of Law and Associate Dean Faculty of Law, University of Nairobi; c.odote@uonbi.ac.ke; @profodote.

Evans Ogada, Lecturer in Public International Law and Human Rights, University of Nairobi; Researcher in Constitutional Law, Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law; ogadae@yahoo.com; @EOGADA

Mohamed Abdi Sallah, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, Constitutional and Public Admin Law practitioner, Election Petitions/Dispute Resolution; mohdabdisallah@hotmail.com.

Prof. Sharifah Sekalala, Professor of Global Health Law, University of Warwick. Justiciability of health rights, digital rights and women's rights. The role of the judiciary in public health emergencies. @sharifasekalala

Dr Peter Slinn, sometime Head of Law School, SOAS, Univ. London, Vice-President Commonwealth Legal Education; implementation of Commonwealth Latimer House principles; independence of judiciary; judicial relationship with other branches of government; slinndocs@hotmail.com.

Prof. Ann Stewart, Professor of Law, University of Warwick, UK; judicial behaviour; gender and age discrimination, Kenya, Tanzania, East Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Southern Africa; ann.stewart@warwick.ac.uk.

Lucianna Thuo, Lecturer, Kabarak Law School, Kenya, inclusion, women in law, electoral dispute resolution, Kenya; lwambui@kabarak.ac.ke; @LuciannaThuo.

Prof. Tukala Celestin Tshimande, political scientist, Faculty of Social, Administrative and Political Sciences and the Centre for Political Studies, University of Kinshasa, DRC; electoral sociology, sociology of political parties, the judicial system; tukala.cele@gmail.com.