

African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 6, January 2024

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 5 February 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.

AJRN @ Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Conference 2024

A stream proposed by Martha Gayoye has been accepted for SLSA 2024, entitled 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. SLSA is also offering **bursaries** to attend – for details see [BURSARIES | SLSA 2024](#). The deadline for bursary applications and abstracts (via [Oxford Abstracts](#)) is **12 January**.

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://asa.uk.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.

Workshop on Judicial reform in Africa, Lusaka and online, 15 February 2024

The African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) and Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR) will hold a one-day hybrid workshop on judicial reform in Africa in Lusaka, Zambia, on 15 February 2024 funded by the British Institute in Eastern Africa. The workshop

will facilitate a comparative discussion of the history, motivations, nature, achievements and shortcomings of judicial reform across the African continent. The call for papers has now closed, but if you would like to attend the workshop in person or online please contact g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk.

Recent publications by network members

Sekalala, S. & D. Uberoi (2023) Regime Shifting by Multinational Corporations within Constitutional Courts in Developing Countries: Analysing Tobacco Litigation. *African Journal of Legal Studies*, 15(4): 456-485.

Sfiso Benard Nxumalo. S. B. (2023) The Analytical Reasoning Defects in Thubakgale. 1 *Constitutional Court Review* 13 <https://journals.co.za/doi/full/10.2989/CCR.2023.0011>

Opportunities to write opinion pieces/blogs on African judiciaries

AJRN has teamed up with [Democracy in Africa](http://democracyinafrica.org) to launch a series of opinion pieces on African judiciaries and democracy. For details on how to write an article for **Democracy in Africa** go to <http://democracyinafrica.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



Ann Stewart is a Professor in the Law School at the University of Warwick. She has been committed to supporting the development of gender and law scholarship in Africa for many years through collaborative projects including with colleagues in Norway and Southern and Eastern Africa. She has a long association with the Southern and Eastern African Regional Centre for Women's Law housed within the Faculty of Law at the University of Zimbabwe. Her

present research is on gender and ageing in the African legal pluralist context with a particular case study of Kenya.

‘Gender and ageing in African plural legal contexts’ (forthcoming 2003) in S. Irudaya Rajan (ed) *Handbook of Aging, Health and Public Policy*.

‘Are woman-to-woman marriages meeting social care needs in rural Kenya? *Lacuna* 2023 <https://lacuna.org.uk/economy/are-woman-to-woman-marriages-meeting-social-care-needs-in-rural-kenya/>

‘The law of woman-to-woman marriage: Stories from the court room’ *Lacuna* 2023 <https://lacuna.org.uk/justice/the-law-of-woman-to-woman-marriage-stories-from-the-court-room/>

‘Reflecting on research and media coverage of Kenya’s woman-to-woman marriages’ *Lacuna* 2023 <https://lacuna.org.uk/blog-archive/reflecting-on-research-and-media-coverage-of-kenyas-woman-to-woman-marriages/>

with Ambreena Manji) (2022) ‘I Built this House on my Back’ A Historical Perspective on Care and Property in East Africa’ in Sam Adelman & Abdul Paliwala (eds) *Beyond Law and Development: Resistance, Empowerment and Social Injustice* Routledge 2022 pp 99-116

with Jennifer Lander (2018) *Transforming gender relations in an Ageing World*. HelpAge International

Gender Law and Justice in a Global Market (2011) Cambridge University Press.

AJRN webpage

The AJRN 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.

Dr Sophie Andreetta, FRS-FNRS Research Associate, University of Liège, Belgium; legal professionals, courtroom ethnography, legal consciousness, migration, Belgium, Benin. @SophieAndreetta

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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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