

African Judiciaries Research Network newsletter, no. 1, August 2023

Profile of the month



Dr Martha Gayoye is a lecturer in law at Keele University. Her research focuses on courts and judges in Africa, judicial diversity and women judges, and gender and constitutions in the Global South. Publications include Gayoye, M. (2022) Why women judges really matter: The impact of women judges on property law outcomes in Kenya. *Social & Legal Studies* 31(1), pp.72-98; Gayoye, M. (2023) Gendered Constitutionalism in Postcolonial Africa: Towards a Decolonial Gendered Citizenship. *VRÜ Verfassung und Recht in Übersee*, 56(1), pp.213-240, [0506-7286-2023-1-213.pdf \(nomos-elibrary.de\)](https://nomos-elibrary.de/0506-7286-2023-1-213.pdf); and Gayoye, M. (2023) Gendered Constitutionalism in the Global South. *VRÜ Verfassung und Recht in Übersee*, 56(1), pp.115-126, [0506-7286-2023-1-115.pdf \(nomos-elibrary.de\)](https://nomos-elibrary.de/0506-7286-2023-1-115.pdf).

Opportunities to write opinion pieces/blogs on African judiciaries

AJRN has teamed up with [Democracy in Africa](https://democracyinafrica.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://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](https://theconversationafrica.org/) 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](https://www.theelephant.info/write-for-us/) 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/>.

Conference/workshop calls

The **British Institute in Eastern Africa** (BIEA) invites applications for support in organising an academic workshop to be held before the end of February 2024, either at the BIEA in Nairobi

or elsewhere in East Africa. The workshop should focus on disciplines in humanities and social sciences in Africa and involve researchers from Africa and the UK coming together for a day or more. Workshop grants can be used to facilitate participation either by covering the cost of international or local travel for participants or contributing towards event space hire costs. Suitable outputs include a funding application for a collaborative research project; collaborative publication or special issue journal; or similar. Priority will be given to applications that display a substantive partnership that will outlive the single event; that involve early career scholars; and which focus either on research methods or which speak to one of the BIEA's strategic [research themes](#). The maximum amount available is £2,000 with up to £4,000 per workshop available in exceptional circumstances which would require specific justification. For further details on the call and how to apply see <https://biea.ac.uk/call-for-applications-workshop-grant-2023-2024/>. The deadline is **15 September 2023**.

Recent publications by network members

Gayoye, M. (2022). Why women judges really matter: The impact of women judges on property law outcomes in Kenya. *Social & Legal Studies*, 31(1), 72–98

Brett, P. (2022). The New Politics of Judicial Appointments in Southern Africa. *Law & Social Inquiry*, 1-31. doi:10.1017/lsi.2022.47

PhD success

Congratulations to **Thalia Gerzso** on the successful defence of her PhD at Cornell titled "Judicial Resistance: The Role of Courts During Electoral Disputes". Thalia's dissertation seeks to identify the conditions under which courts in non-democratic regimes take the risk of denouncing electoral irregularities. To answer this research question, Thalia develops a novel theory of judicial resistance. More specifically, she argues that institutional reforms create incentives for courts to engage in judicial resistance when institutional reforms (1) shield the judiciary from the executive branch and (2) mobilize judicial support networks. To test her theory, Thalia leverages original data from 318 electoral disputes and semi-structured interviews conducted in Kenya and Senegal.

In September, Thalia will join the Department of Government at the London School of Economics as a Postdoctoral fellow. During her fellowship, Thalia will turn her dissertation into a book manuscript by adding two additional case studies: Benin and Malawi.

Other news

A recent [Legal Brief](#) draws attention to a [Business Day report](#) that highlights the severe shortage of judges in South Africa, and [News24 report](#) on the possible impeachment of Judge Nkola Motata in South Africa.