



African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 30, January 2026

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If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 5 January 2026) 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.

Workshops & conferences:

Transformative Equality Jurisprudence in Africa Conference, Nairobi, 30-31 March 2026

The University of Nairobi Faculty of Law, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the South African Research Chair in Equality, Law and Social Justice, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, and the AJRN are organising a two-day conference on transformative equality jurisprudence in Africa on 30 and 31 March 2026. Programme to follow soon.

African judiciaries stream, African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) conference, Durham, 10-12 September 2026

The AJRN is organising a stream of panels on African judiciaries at the ASAUK biannual conference on 10-12 September 2026. If you would like to submit an abstract or panel, please go to the submission portal and select the “African judiciaries” stream.

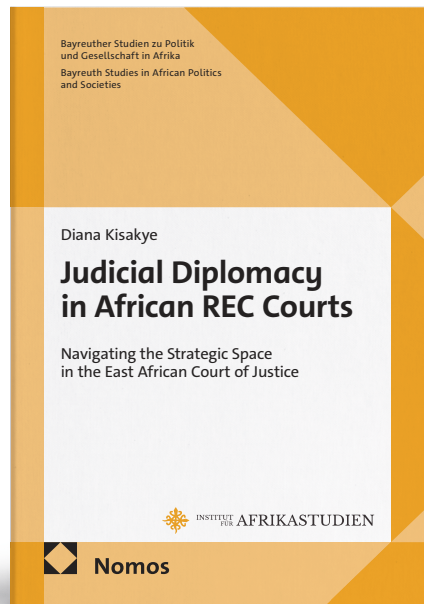
<https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/abstract/eyJpdil6IkxESkiOU01UWFpDQzJsa3U4UWQ5UWc9PSIsInZhbHVlIjojWjJhNTRpLzQrM014Tzd6MytaOTROQT09liwibWFjIjojNWQxNjA1MGM2MTNiYTU1NmUyZTcwM2U2ZWwWjg4NzJkOTkzNjA2NDRmYjZkZU4ZGY1YjEyMjc1M2E0NWVhNCIsInRhZyI6IjI9.> The deadline for individual paper and panel submissions is **30 April 2026**.

Stream abstract: African politics and societies are becoming increasingly judicialized. How judicial actors deal with cases and litigants, 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. This stream 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 opinion. The stream is organised by the African Judiciaries Research Network in collaboration with the British Institute in Eastern Africa.

Publications:

Recent publications by AJRN members

Miyandazi, V. (2025). The Role of Kenyan Courts in Tackling Persistent Inequalities: Navigating Deference and Accountability. *German Law Journal* 26(2): 234-254.



**Judicial Diplomacy
in African REC Courts**
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2025, 317 pp., pb., € 84.00

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(Politik und Gesellschaft in Afrika /
Politics and Society in Africa, vol. 16)



This book offers an intricate account of the legal, socio-economic, and political considerations that young international courts go through while trying to establish institutional authority. Drawing on a wealth of original ethnographic and archival data, it advances our understanding of international adjudication beyond prevailing

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Opportunities to write on African judiciaries

The **Commonwealth Judicial Journal** is always looking for articles on issues of interest to judicial officers across the Commonwealth. Articles should normally range from 2,000 to 3,500 words in length. Any references and/or citations should be integrated in the main body of the manuscript, as footnotes/endnotes will normally be removed. Hyperlinks should not be embedded in manuscripts submitted for publication. Papers should be submitted to info@cmja.org. All manuscripts received are evaluated by the Editor in consultation with the editorial board.

AJRN has teamed up with [Democracy in Africa](http://democracyin africa.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://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 information:

AJRN member profile of the month



Prof. Dunia Prince Zongwe is an author, an academic, and a consultant, who currently serves as an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Namibia. A distinguished scholar whose research bridges the theory of decoloniality, the economics of law, international law, and constitutional rights, he has gravitated toward exploring African judiciaries. Specifically, he scrutinises how courts across the continent engage with international law, constitutional principles, and emerging technologies.

Prof. Zongwe holds a Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Cornell University, as well as an LL.B. (*cum laude*) and B.Juris (*cum laude*) from the University of Namibia (UNAM). He also earned certificates in humanities from Université de Montréal and

in higher education from Rhodes University. He received several merit scholarships and awards, including notably a ‘Highly Productive Researcher’ award from Walter Sisulu University in 2022, and the Law Society of Namibia (LSN) Prize for Best LL.B Student in 2007, and the UNAM Vice-Chancellor’s Medal (twice).

Prof Zongwe has held academic positions at Alliance University (India), Walter Sisulu University (South Africa), and UNAM. In 2025, he taught for a week as a visiting academic at the University of the Western Cape. He serves as a Fellow of the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR), Contributing Expert to the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index, and Editor-in-Chief of the Namibia Law Journal.

His scholarship on judiciaries includes ‘A Chronicle of How Judges Internalised International Law in Namibia’ (*South African Yearbook of International Law*, 2019) and two chapters: one assessing the independence of the Zambian Supreme Court through the lens of Africa’s evolving court systems, published in *The Supreme Court of Zambia at Fifty* (2025); another dealing with the Namibian Supreme Court’s post-independence dignity jurisprudence, published in *Namibia’s Supreme Court at 30 Years* (2022).

He has contributed entries on the Namibian Supreme Court to the Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law (2024) and penned multiple peer-reviewed case commentaries for the SAIPAR Case Review, unpacking landmark judgments from Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia.

In October 2025, Prof. Zongwe participated in the SAIPAR/AJRN “Judiciary and Democracy in Africa” conference in Lusaka, Zambia, presenting work that uses decoloniality and Ubuntu to prescribe principles for recalibrating the well-established, colonial *sub judice* rule against the emancipatory possibilities of press freedom in African postcolonies.

Prof Zongwe’s ongoing research involves gathering empirical data—through a questionnaire, interviews, and focused engagement with a group of supreme court justices from various African countries—on the adoption (or resistance) of generative artificial intelligence in judgment writing. This pioneering study investigates how Africa’s apex courts are steering through the technological transformations reshaping legal practice worldwide.

Beyond academia, Prof. Zongwe contributes as a television legal analyst for the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), appearing regularly on programmes such as *The Wheels of Justice* and *Namibia Connects* to discuss court decisions and the issues they raise for general audiences. His commentary has covered constitutional law, electoral integrity, bail law, contempt of court, and foundational questions about public finance and the judiciary’s role in democratic governance. He has also shared his expertise with international media, for example, Deutsche Welle and Reuters.

Fluent in English and French, Prof. Zongwe co-authored *Ubuntu in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* (LexisNexis, 2024) and authored *International Law in Namibia* (Langaa, 2019). In addition, he has edited volumes on central banking and law reform. His work reflects an abiding commitment to understanding how African courts can weave together justice, constitutionalism, and development while drawing on indigenous philosophies and reckoning with contemporary urgencies.

Contact: dzongwe@unam.na | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/dunia-prince-zongwe-758536155

AJRN webpage

Apologies that the AJRN website (<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/ajrn>) is out of date – this is due to personnel changes at Warwick (the website host) – but it will be updated over the next few months.

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 list of network members below) with details of positions and institutional/organisational affiliation, up to 5 keywords on relevant research interests, and contact email/social media handle to g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk.

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

Network members

Nahaja Adam, LLD Student, University of Pretoria, South Africa, Equality law jurisprudence, Law and Religion, Human Rights law, nahajaadam@yahoo.com

Prof Cathi Albertyn, NRF South African Research Chair in Equality, Law and Social Justice, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; gender, women and the judiciary, judicial diversity, feminist jurisprudence, South Africa; <https://www.wits.ac.za/equalitychair/>; cathi.albertyn@wits.ac.za

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

Ugochukwu Anthony; Law Graduate, University of Nigeria; Nigerian Law School, Abuja; Legal research, international law, Military-Industrial Complex, Finance, electoral justice, public governance; ugochukwuanthony69@gmail.com

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

Dr. Emmanuel Lohkoko Awoh, Visiting Researcher, African Studies Centre Leiden, The Netherlands; governance and authority, ethnic conflict, political legitimacy, hybrid political orders, legal pluralism, Cameroon; lohkoko80@gmail.com

Pamela Baloyi, Law Student, University of Witwatersrand, Speaker at 6th International Social Justice Conference; pamybaloyi@gmail.com; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pamela-baloyi->

Dr. Tinenenji Banda, Associate Director (Law and Justice), Southern African Institute of Policy and Research; adjudication, (formal and informal) dispute settlement mechanisms, legal pluralism, governance; bandatinenenji@gmail.com.

Phionah Birungi, Chief Magistrate, Judiciary, Uganda and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; phee3000@gmail.com

Dr. Peter Brett, Senior Lecturer in International Politics at Queen Mary- University of London; rights, courts, judges, legal mobilisation, Namibia, South Africa, Burkina Faso; <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/politics/staff/profiles/brettpeter.html>; p.brett@qmul.ac.uk

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

Dr Frangton Chiyemura, Lecturer in International Development, Department of Development Policy and Practice, The Open University, UK; African electoral politics, Southern and Eastern Africa; <https://www.open.ac.uk/people/fc3523>; fc3523@open.ac.uk

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_.

Thandiwe Daka Oteng, Legal Practitioner with expertise in International Law, International Human Rights Law, Constitutional Law, Corporate law and Governance. Served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Director-International Law and Agreements in the Attorney-General's Chambers of Zambia. X: @ThandiweOteng Email: thandiwe_daka@yahoo.co.uk

Prof. J. Jarpa Dawuni, Professor of Political Science at Howard University, Washington D.C; Executive Director of the Institute for African Women in Law; law and development, judicial politics, women and the legal professions, gender and the law, international human rights, democratization and women's civil society organizing; director@africanwomeninlaw.com.

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.

Dr Patrick Dzimiri, Associate Professor, Department of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Venda, South Africa; human rights, electoral politics, human security, humanitarian affairs, and community-specific investigations; patrick.dzimiri@univen.ac.za.

Dr Laura-Stella Enonchong, Reader in Law, SOAS, University of London, UK; comparative constitutionalism, human rights, courts and politics, Cameroon; le14@soas.ac.uk; @lauraEnonchong.

Martha Fakude, Assistant Lecturer in Private Law, University of Johannesburg, South Africa; contract law, indigenous law, child law, legal philosophy, transformative legal education; marthaf@uj.ac.za | @mrthafakude

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, lecturer, University of York, UK, political institutions, judicial behaviour, democratic processes, electoral contention, Kenya, Senegal; thalia.gerzso@york.ac.uk; @thaliagrz.

Naomi Gichuki, Kenyatta University; Governance, Access to Justice, Human Rights and Regional Integration; gichukinyambura@gmail.com

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.

Dr Esther Gumboh, Senior Lecture, Faculty of Law, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa; criminal justice, penology, prisoners' rights, South Africa, Malawi; esther.gumboh@mandela.ac.za; @EstherGumboh

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 Lupwana Jean Jacques Kandala, Senior Law Lecturer (SL) and former Chairperson of the School of Law Higher Degree Committee at the University of Venda and a Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg; international human rights, criminal and environmental law, interaction between climate change and human rights, states' responsibilities under international law; Lupwana.kandala@univen.ac.za

Kachana Katazo, Project Manager Legal Aid Initiative, Zambia; dispute resolution, social protection, labour law, human rights; kachanakatazo@gmail.com; www.linkedin.com/in/kachana-katazo-585bb423b.

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. O'Brien Kaaba, lecturer, School of law at the University of Zambia and senior research fellow at the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR); adjudication of presidential election disputes in Africa; human rights; constitution making; administrative law; okaaba@yahoo.com

Prof. Winifred Kamau, Professor of Law, University of Nairobi; gender and judging, women's rights, alternative justice systems, criminal justice, Kenya, Africa; wkamau@uonbi.ac.ke, <https://law.uonbi.ac.ke/basic-page/prof-winifred-w-kamau>

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.

Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI), Nigeria; Election Petition Tribunal Monitoring, electoral justice, rule of law, judicial reforms, good governance; info@kimpact.org.ng, emiadebayo@kimpact.org.ng, bidowu@kimpact.org.ng, oluwafemijohnadebayo@gmail.com

Prof. Sarah Kinyanjui, Professor of Law, University of Nairobi, Kenya; judges & technology, sentencing, restorative justice, child justice, prisons reform, anti-discrimination; sarahk@uonbi.ac.ke

Dr Diana Kisakye, Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Political Science), University of Bayreuth, Germany; judicial politics, sub-regional courts, human Rights, development politics, regional integration, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi; Diana.Kisakye@uni-bayreuth.de; LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-diana-kisakye-080965206/>

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

Dr Marna Lourens, Project Manager and Researcher, Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University, South Africa; gender and the law, intersectionality, female livelihoods, sex workers' rights; mlourens@sun.ac.za; [linkedin.com/in/marna-lourens-991b8a33](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marna-lourens-991b8a33)

Prof. Gabrielle Lynch, Professor of Comparative Politics, University of Warwick, UK; judicial behaviour, judicial reform, public opinion, Kenya, Zambia; <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/people/lynch/>; g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk; @GabrielleLynch6, www.linkedin.com/in/gabrielle-lynch-595547171.

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.

Dan Mafora, LLM Candidate, University of Cape Town, South Africa; constitutional theory, constitutional change; general jurisprudence, judicial reasoning, comparative constitutional law, legal history, commonwealth jurisdictions, common law theory; danmafora.com; dan.mafora@icloud.com; @dansmywholenam.bsky.social

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

Trésor Muhindo Makunya, Associate Professor of Constitutional and International Human Rights Law in Africa, Faculty of Law, University of Goma & Senior Researcher, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. makunya@unigom.ac.cd X: @TMakunya

Dr. Wesley Maraire, Research Project Manager, University of Bergen, Norway. Access to justice, dispute resolution, decolonial theory, law and society, climate justice. wesley.maraire@gmail.com, Connect on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/wesley-maraire/>. All social networks: @wesleymaraire.

Prof. Mark Fathi Massoud, Professor and Chair of Politics and Director of Legal Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz (USA); politics, religion, law and society, Islam, colonialism, authoritarianism, human rights, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Somaliland; <https://www.markmassoud.com>; mmassoud@ucsc.edu

Dr. Justice Alfred Mavedzenge, Programs Director Africa Judges & Jurists Forum (AJJF) and Adjunct Senior Lecturer of Public Law, University of Cape Town; judicial independence, socio-economic rights, political liberties, and electoral democracy; justice-mavedzenge@africajurists.org.

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.

Dr Agnes Meroka-Mutua, Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law, Senior Researcher and Policy Advocacy, African Women Studies Center; gender and society, law and development, human rights.

Dr Catherine Musuva, Senior Researcher, African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; migration, emigrant voting, democratisation, electoral politics, Kenya, South Africa; catherine.musuva@wits.ac.za.

Olebile Daphney Muzila, Attorney at Law and Partner at Bookbinder Business Law; Lecturer of law at the University of Botswana- judicial reform, justice and equity, law and economics, Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, Zambia; olebilemuzila@gmail.com [Olebile Daphney Muzila | LinkedIn](#)

Dr Gar Yein Ng, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Buckingham, Judicial Studies (politics, law and management), Comparative Constitutional Law, garyeinng@gmail.com

Clement Ngoma, Lecturer in Law at the Copperbelt University, Kitwe, Zambia; Comparative Constitutionalism, International Human Rights, Governance, Public Tax Law, Electoral Justice, Environmental Justice, International Investment; clementngoma11@gmail.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/clement-ngoma-a14233224?utm_

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.

Tshegofatso Nxumalo, Human Rights and Social Justice Activist & Climate Change Intersectional Activist- South African Institute of International Affairs; Human Rights Violations, United Nations, Use of Force, Social Justice in Africa, Racism within Judiciary, Governance. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tshegofatso-nxumalo->

[299a1520b?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=android_app](https://www.facebook.com/299a1520b?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=android_app); tshego.nonja@gmail.com

Mikhail Nyamweya, Political scientist and researcher with a Master of Science in African Studies from the University of Oxford. Judicial politics in Kenya, Africa and International Relations, Decolonial and vernacular approaches to political thought. mikhailnyamweya@gmail.com

Atalia Lesego Nyembe, Practising Senior Associate Attorney, Sekgala and Njau Attorneys; Constitutional Law, Specialised Crimes, Corporate Gender Affairs; NYEMBEATTORNEYSINC@outlook.com, [//linkedin.com/in/atalialesego](https://www.linkedin.com/in/atalialesego)

Joshua Malidzo Nyawa, Litigation Associate for Rule of Law and Good Governance, Katiba Institute, Kenya; Judiciaries, Elections, Comparative Constitutional, Constitutional Law, Human Rights, Administrative Law and Jurisprudence; joshuany6@gmail.com; @joshuamalidzo

Rispah Odanga, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, BCL (Masters in Law) student, University of Oxford. Areas of interest: Comparative Human Rights Law, rispahodanga@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

Christine Muhonja Olando, Doctoral Candidate, Warwick Law School, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. Human Rights Law; Human Rights in Higher Education; Higher Education Policy and Practice; Emancipatory Pedagogy; Intellectual Property Law and Policy; Economic Law and Policy; Public Law; Christine.Olando@warwick.ac.uk

Dr. Trishula R. Patel, Assistant Professor, University of Denver, CO, USA; Southern Africa and Zimbabwe, legal history, British colonialism of Africa, South Asian diasporas in Africa, race and segregation; @trishulapatel; trishula.patel@du.edu.

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

Oscar Sang, PhD Candidate, University of Cape Town, South Africa; comparative constitutional law, parliamentary law, judicial review, separation of powers, judicial behaviour; sangoscar@gmail.com

Dr Chiedza Simbo, Senior Lecturer, School of Law University of Venda, South constitutional law, rule of law, social justice, education, corporate governance, women rights, migration, children's rights, chiedza.univen.ac.za, Chiedza.simbo1@gmail.com, <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/>

Prof Kate Skinner, Professor of African History, University of Bristol, UK: postcolonial legal systems, family law reform, women's rights, Ghana, Togo; kate.skinner@bristol.ac.uk.

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.

Dr. Johannes Socher, Academic Coordinator at the Center for Advanced Studies: Reflexive Globalisation and the Law, Humboldt University Berlin, and Fellow at the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa (ICLA), University of Pretoria; public international law and comparative constitutional law, especially in West Africa; colonial and authoritarian legal legacies; johannes.socher@hu-berlin.de.

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.

Prof Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg, Professor of Political Science, African Politics and Development Policy, University of Bayreuth, Germany; courts and democratic development, judicial networks, appointment politics, career trajectories; alexander.stroh@uni-bayreuth.de; @a2st.bsky.social

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.

Dr Enibokun Uzebu-Imarhiagbe, Senior Lecturer, University of Benin. African History, Women's, Gender, Legal and African Art History. enibokun.uzebu@uniben.edu.

Dr Jessica Walsh, Lecturer in Law and LLM Programme Director, University of Buckingham; judicial discipline and accountability, judicial councils, judicial ethics, political corruption, comparative law, dispute resolution; jessica.walsh@buckingham.ac.uk.

Eshetu Yadeta, PhD Candidate, Bule Hora University, Ethiopia; law in development, judicial training and ethics, and land law; yadetaeshetu@gmail.com.

Prof. Dunia Prince Zongwe, Associate Professor, School of Law, University of Namibia, Namibia; law and economics, decoloniality, African courts, international law, contracts; dzongwe@unam.na; www.linkedin.com/in/dunia-prince-zongwe-758536155