

## **African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 11, June 2024**

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 1 July 2024) 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).

### **Conference and published proceedings to celebrate the scholarship of Prof Charles Fombad**

To celebrate the scholarship of Prof Charles Fombad, the Centre for Human Rights, and the NRF Chair in International Constitutionalism, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, and the Faculty of Law, University of the Free State, will co-host a conference and co-edit a publication (conference proceedings/volume of essays) to celebrate and reflect on Professor Charles Fombad's ongoing scholarship on comparative constitutionalism in Africa. The conference organisers welcome contributions that focus on various sub-themes including: The separation of powers in African constitutionalism; Judicial appointments in African constitutionalism; Constitutional adjudication in Africa; Legal pluralism in African constitutionalism; and Africanisation of legal education programmes. Abstracts and panel proposals must be sent by email to Shaun De Freitas ([DeFreitas@ufs.ac.za](mailto:DeFreitas@ufs.ac.za)) and Bonolo Makgale ([Bonolo.makgale@up.ac.za](mailto:Bonolo.makgale@up.ac.za)) by **30 June 2024**. For further details see <https://www.chr.up.ac.za/latest-news/3712-call-for-papers-conference-and-published-proceedings-to-celebratethe-scholarship-of-prof-charles-fombad>.

### **International Commission of Jurists-Kenya call for papers for Judiciary Watch Series**

ICJ-Kenya calls for papers from numerous authors across the African Region to dissect the topic of Judicial Independence and Accountability. This consultancy aims to develop a comprehensive publication on the Judiciary Watch Series with a broad African overview. With all the different legislative and constitutional reviews across the region, the publication shall also recommend strengthening relevant institutions to provide a responsive approach to the issues concerning judicial independence and accountability in Africa. The authors or prospective contributors should first submit a 300-500 words abstract. Thereafter, the invitation to develop full papers will be issued to the shortlisted candidates. Interested applicants should submit their abstracts via email to [info@icj-kenya.org](mailto:info@icj-kenya.org) to be received on or before the **10 June 2024**. For further details see <file:///Users/poskam/Downloads/JUDICIARY-WATCH-SERIES-CALL-FOR-PAPERS.pdf>.

### **African Studies Association of UK (ASAUk) Conference AJRN stream**

AJRN is excited to have a stream on African Judiciaries at the ASAUk Conference in Oxford, 29-31 August 2024 with the following panels. The timings of panels are yet to be confirmed, but it would be great if AJRN members who are going to be at ASAUk could come and support their colleagues. There will also be AJRN drinks on the evening of 29 August so please put that in your diary!

### **Panel 1: The judicialization of mega-politics**

Of legal diplomacy, megapolitics and getting SADC'ed: Towards understanding judicial empowerment in Africa's sub-regional courts, Diana Kisakye

The Janus Face of Accountability: How Judicialisation Threatens South Africa's Constitutional Promise, Sfiso Benard Nxumalo DPhil

Judicial Interventionism: Analysing the Role of Courts in Electoral Justice in Malawi, Dorothy DeGabriele

### **Panel 2: Judging elections**

Judicial Peacemakers: The Role of Courts in Preventing Onsets of Electoral Violence, Thalia Gerzso

The Higher the Appellate Court, the Lower the Public Support? Legitimacy and Judicial Design in African Presidential Election Petitions, David Tinashe Hofisi

Assessing the Strategic Motivations of Sub-National Post-Election Petitions in Africa, Nicholas Kerr and Richard Kweitsu

### **Panel 3: Oppositional judges**

'Constitutions without Constitutionalism' and judges' safeguarding of rule of law in Africa, Martha Gayoye

Dissenting judges in Southern Africa's transforming judicial cultures, Peter Brett

Between Conflict and Collaboration in Colonial Africa: Interrogating British Legal Regime and Native Court Influence in Kabba Division, Northern Nigeria, Olasunkanmi Victor Asaju

### **Panel 4: Judges promoting rights**

Courts and socio-economic rights in Kenya: The case of the right to health, Eunice Sahle

Reimagining judgments: an African feminist perspective, Mariam Kamunyu

Swimming Pools, Segregation, and Supreme Courts: Legal Challenges to Segregation in Southern Rhodesia, 1950-1965, Trishula Patel

### **Panel 5: Judges and public narratives**

The Kenyan Courts and Political Narratives, Mikhail Nyamweya

'All Eyes on the Judiciary': Social Media Images, Evidence and Public Perceptions of the 2023 Nigerian Presidential Election Tribunal, George Emeka Agbo

Judges on X: The case of Kenya's Chief Justices, Gabrielle Lynch

### **Panel 6: Justice professionals**

When judges make policy: Exceptional criminal courts and the judicialization of politics in Benin, Sophie Andreetta

Fighting terrorism in African courts. Findings from the work of Benin's prosecutors, Pauline Jarroux

Middlemen as Interagency in between Vulnerable Women and the Formal Justice System: Experiences from Addis Ababa City Administration, Ethiopia, Yihunbelay Teshome Sime

## Recent publications by network members

Dan Kuwali (Editor), *Corruption Proofing in Africa: A Systems Thinking Approach*, Routledge, 2024, available at: <https://www.routledge.com/Corruption-Proofing-in-Africa-A-Systems-Thinking-Approach/Kuwali/p/book/9781032353852>

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

AJRN has teamed up with Democracy in Africa 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/>.

## AJRN member profile of the month



### Professor Collins Odote

Collins Odote is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya with a Doctor of Philosophy in Law from the University of Nairobi. He is currently an Associate Professor of Law and the Associate Dean at the Faculty of Law and Research Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP) both at the University of Nairobi. He is also an arbitrator and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a member of the Law Society of Kenya.

Professor Odote is currently the chairman of the Council of Legal Education.

Professor Odote also serves as the President of the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Africa (ASELLAU), a continental network of scholars focusing on capacity building, research and knowledge exchange amongst universities and lecturers on teaching of environmental law in Africa.

His teaching and research interests include governance, elections, land law, environment, and natural resource management. He links his academic work to policy and governance influence and in this regard is an accomplished consultant, facilitator, public speaker and intellectual. He has consulted for and facilitated high-level meetings for all arms of Government at the national and county level and for non-state actors and international organizations.

Prof Odote has written widely on his areas of expertise. Some of his relevant publications include, 'Overpromising While Underdelivering: Implementation of Kenya's Community Land Act' (2021) *African Journal of Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences*; 'The 2013 Elections and the Peace Narrative (2013-2015)' in Cheeseman, Kanyinga and Lynch (2020) *The Oxford Handbook of Kenyan Politics*; 'Judicialisation of Politics and Kenya's 2017 Elections' (2019) *Journal of Eastern African Studies*; and 'Election Technology, Disputes, and Political Violence in Kenya' (2021) *Journal of Asian and African Studies*.

Prof Odote is currently undertaking research on the role of elites in transition processes and another on the governance of the environmental maritime sector of Kenya.

## 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](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk). E.g.

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**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](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk).

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