

African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 12, July 2024

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

Kimptact Development Initiative Selected as Finalist in the World Justice Challenge 2024

We are delighted to announce that Kimptact Development Initiative (KDI) has been selected as a finalist in the esteemed World Justice Challenge 2024. Their project, "Enhancing Democratic Resilience through Transparent Electoral Justice: Election Petition Tribunal Monitoring (EPTM) Initiative," was recognized in the Justice Institutions category. Out of 424 submissions from 109 countries, their initiative was selected for its innovative approach and significant impact on addressing crucial rule-of-law challenges.

The Election Petition Tribunal Monitoring (EPTM) project, a collaboration between the Kimptact Development Initiative and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, aims to enhance electoral transparency in Nigeria. A key component of this initiative is the EPT Citizen Dashboard, providing real-time access to petition data from all Election Petition Tribunals across the country. Through audits, reports, and engagement with judicial leadership, KDI works to implement recommendations and influence electoral reforms. The impact of the EPTM project is evident with its recommendations influencing amendments in the 2022 Judicial Electoral Manual and the 2022 Electoral Act. Furthermore, the project's advocacy efforts have led to the establishment of additional Court of Appeal Divisions for post-election disputes. With over 37,000 dashboard visits and 403,000 database users, along with direct engagement of over 108,000 citizens via social media, the project has made significant strides in promoting electoral transparency. Looking ahead, KDI plans to expand its methodology and extend its reach to other African countries like Ghana and The Gambia.

We invite all members of the African Judiciary Research Network (AJRN) to celebrate this achievement with us and stay tuned for further updates on our journey and the progress of the EPTM initiative.

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](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/>.

AJRN member profile of the month



Tinenenji Banda is the head of the legal division at the Southern African Institute of Policy and Research (SAIPAR) in Zambia. A dual-qualified attorney (Zambia and New York), she completed her doctorate at Cornell University, and holds LL.M and LL.B degrees from Cornell University and the University of Cape Town respectively. Her broad research interests and scholarship lie in access to justice and dispute settlement systems, both formal and informal. In this thematic area, electoral processes and electoral adjudication are a keen interest, and Tinenenji co-edited a book on *Democracy and Electoral Politics in Zambia* (Brill Publishers, Leiden) which can be viewed here <https://brill.com/view/title/57421>.

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.

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.

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_.

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, Associate 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, Senior Lecturer in Law, SOAS, University of London, UK; comparative constitutionalism, human rights, courts and politics, Cameroon; le14@soas.ac.uk; @lauraEnonchong.

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 behavior, 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.

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. 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

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

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, judicial reform, election petitions, Kenya, Malawi, 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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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