

## African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 15, October 2024

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 4 November 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).

### **Call for papers: Women in African Judiciaries, University of Witwatersrand, 17-18 March 2025**

The AJRN, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and School of Law, University of Witwatersrand are organising a two-day event at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg on 17-18 March 2025. The first day will be in-person only event and will bring together women judges from across Africa (including a number of ICJ commissioners), state officials, civil society leaders, and academics to discuss women's experiences on the bench and to celebrate the life and work of the late Justice Yvonne Mokgoro (South Africa's first black women judge and an ICJ Commissioner) and appointment of Justice Maya as South Africa's first female Chief Justice. The second day will consist of a hybrid academic workshop on women in African judiciaries. If you would like to present research on women in African judiciaries on the second day, please send a **paper title and 300-word abstract to Cathi Albertyn ([cathi.albertyn@wits.ac.za](mailto:cathi.albertyn@wits.ac.za)) and Gabrielle Lynch ([g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk)) by Friday 15 November 2024.**

Papers are welcome on any aspect of women in Africa judiciaries including:

- Judicial appointments and promotions;
- Experiences of women judges on the bench;
- Institutional and societal discrimination;
- Gendered harassment and persecution;
- The impact of women judges on gendered analyses and gender justice; and
- The role of international and regional law standards and guidance.

### **Recent publications**

**Bosire, C. (eds) (2024) *Judicial financial independence in Africa: A study of eleven sub-Saharan countries*. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.**

While the general principle of judicial independence has been a subject of scholarly inquiry and policy attention over many years, the subject of judicial financial independence, and specifically, the mechanics of it has not received equal attention. This book explores the frameworks, policies, and practices of financing and resourcing judiciaries in Africa, and the relation of the country practices to the pillars of judicial independence.

Using the eleven country case studies covered in the book: Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, and Namibia, the book explores different aspects of judicial financial independence. These include recognition and entrenchment of judicial financial independence in normative frameworks, the process of determination resource needs for judiciaries, approval of budgets, control and management of resources allocated to the judiciary, and accountability and reporting on the utilization of

resources allocated to the judiciary. The chapters in the book demonstrate the complex relationship between financial independence and effective administration of justice.

The introductory and concluding sections of the book draw common and unique trends in the eleven countries in the themes identified. These include: the different approaches to budgeting, control and management of resources and the institutional mechanisms for funding judiciaries. This is followed by and concluding observations on the specific themes.

The main objective of the book is to stimulate discussion on how to enhance the financial independence and autonomy of courts and judiciaries in the region. Through this publication, we hope to spark a broader conversation that includes not only the judiciary in one country, but also other judiciaries across the continent, policymakers, and stakeholders committed to strengthening the rule of law in Africa.

**Mavedzenge, J. A.** (2024) A critical review of jurisprudence on the adjudication of presidential election petitions in Africa. *Journal of Comparative Law in Africa* 11(1): 1-30

**Milej, T. and E. Ogada** (2024) *Upholding judicial independence in Kenya: Challenges, context and solutions*. Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.  
<https://shop.freiheit.org/download/P2@1796/897789/Policy%20Paper%20Judicial%20Independence%20EN.pdf>

**Schultz, U., M. Tabeth and A. Sherr** (2024) *Women judges: Appointments, career chances and barriers*. Abingdon: Routledge. With chapters on Nigeria and South Africa. For information and a 20% discount code go to  
<file:///Users/poskam/Downloads/Author%20Flyer%20Women%20Judges%20GBP.pdf>.

**Williams, E. W.** (2024) *Primitive Normativity: Race Sexuality, and Temporality in Colonial Kenya*. Durham Duke University Press, 2024.

## 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



Trishula R. Patel is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Denver. Her current book project focuses on the history of Indians in Zimbabwe, where she was born and raised. She has a Ph.D. in African history from Georgetown University, a B.A. and M.A. in history from the University of Pennsylvania, and an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University. In previous lifetimes, she has worked as a journalist for publications including *The Washington Post* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, a high school teacher in Zimbabwe, and a photographer.

She currently teaches courses on precolonial and modern African history, the legal history of land reform, race and segregation in African contexts, mobility and migration within and beyond Africa, modern South Asian history, and methods of oral history and archival fieldwork in the global south. Her published works include the history of cricket in Zimbabwe, Indian diplomats in Central Africa, Mahatma Gandhi's legacy outside the subcontinent, and xenophobia and nativism in 21st century Africa. One chapter of her current book project focuses on Indian legal challenges to segregation in Southern Rhodesia in the 1950s and 1960s, and she plans to expand that into a second book connecting legal histories of racial discrimination and white supremacy in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, and the United States.

### 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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