

African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 8, March 2024

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

AJRN workshops

The AJRN has organised two hybrid workshops – the first in Nairobi on the judiciary and elections in July 2023 and the second in Lusaka on judicial reform in February 2024. The AJRN is looking for partners to help co-host future meetings preferably on the African continent. If you are interested in collaborating to help organise an AJRN workshop on a broad theme of interest to AJRN members, then please do get in touch with Gabrielle (g.lynch@warwick.ac.uk).

Call for applications – British Institute in Eastern Africa thematic research grants 2024-2025

NB: This call is not AJRN specific but may be of interest to AJRN members.

The BIEA invites applications for funding for original research projects in any discipline in the humanities and social sciences in Africa. The BIEA particularly welcomes applications from researchers or research teams who have limited access to other sources of funds. Priority is given to researchers based in the UK or Eastern Africa (Eastern Africa understood as the eastern half of the continent, rather than as the smaller East Africa), and to projects which engage with one or more of the BIEA's research themes

(<https://biea.ac.uk/researchpartners/>). The BIEA is keen to fund small projects that lay the ground for larger projects. Researchers may include postgraduate students; people who have not followed conventional research careers but whose local knowledge or contacts make them well-fitted to conduct high quality research; and/or collaborative projects which might involve more established scholars but where the resources are ring-fenced for early career or Africa-based project partners. Grants are normally between £500 and £1,000, but up to £1,500 may be awarded. The grant should contribute towards actual research costs and not include institutional overheads, equipment, and applicant's stipend or publication costs. The **deadline for applications is 5pm EAT on 22 April 2024**. For further details see <https://biea.ac.uk/call-for-applications-biea-annual-thematic-research-grants-2024-2025/>,

AJRN @ African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) 2024

The AJRN's proposal for a stream on African judiciaries at the next ASAUK conference, which will be held in Oxford on 29 to 31 August 2024, has been accepted. People can submit abstracts to the stream via the ASAUK website <https://asa.uk.net/>. Just select "submit your abstract" and then - once you've set up an account and added your paper title etc. – select "African judiciaries" as the stream that you're submitting the abstract to. The deadline for submissions is **20 April 2024**. Please note that if you are applying for a visa, it will be important to submit earlier.

Stream proposal: African judiciaries:

From the nullification of presidential elections in Kenya and Malawi to rulings on the constitutionality of public protest and presidential initiatives and rights of marginalised groups, African politics is becoming increasingly judicialized. How the courts deal with these cases, 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. The African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) 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 perceptions and understandings.

SAIPAR Case Review

SAIPAR Case Review provides commentaries on select judgments of the superior courts in Zambia and the wider region. The purpose of the review is to raise the discourse around the jurisprudence of these important courts and in so doing, stimulate debate on topics of legal significance and hopefully, make a significant contribution to the legal press in the region. If you're not already aware of this excellent resource do take a look at <https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/scr/>.

Recent publications

Nyekwere, E. H., Nnawulezi, U., Adiyatma, S. E., Balarabe, K., & Rouf, M. A. (2023) Constitutional and Judicial Interpretation of Environmental Laws in Nigeria, India and Canada. *Lex Scientia Law Review* 7(2): 905-958.

Opportunities to write opinion pieces/blogs on African judiciaries

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/>.

Profile of the month



Patrick Dzimiri is an Associate Professor in the Department of Arts and Social Sciences, at the University of Venda, South Africa. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Pretoria. He has vast expertise in teaching Global Politics and Development Studies and has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, including book chapters. He has read papers at numerous local and international conferences. He has supervised thirteen Masters and five PhD candidates. Having researched broadly on issues relating to human rights, electoral politics, human security, and humanitarian affairs. Of late, his research focus has shifted slightly towards community-specific investigations, with the target of yielding tangible society and people-oriented research outcomes in areas of migration politics, governance and development, sustainable livelihoods, and inequalities in multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-ethnic social settings. His research focus resonates with goal 16 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which aim to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Patrick is passionate about the interface between governance, elections and democracy and is currently working on a book project on *The Judicialisation of Elections in Africa: Emerging Trends and Trajectories*.

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

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