

African Judiciaries Research Network (AJRN) newsletter, no. 9, April 2024

If anyone has any **information that they would like included in the next newsletter** (to be circulated the week of 6 May 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.

Call for applications – British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) 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), 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 GBP500 and GBP1,000, but up to GBP1,500 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, was 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:

<https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/scr/>.

ICJ Legal Principles

In January 2024, the short documentary film titled “Beyond Siracusa: Human Rights in Times of Public Health Emergencies,” was launched. The film looks at the [2023 Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights Public Health](#) (PHE Principles), developed by experts through a process led by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the Global Health Consortium (GHLC). The film looks at the underlying motivation for the PHE Principles, including the imperatives for action compelled by the onslaught of the COVID 19 Pandemic, as well as the drafting process itself. See <https://www.icj.org/principles-and-guidelines-on-human-rights-and-public-health-emergencies-featured-in-new-documentary-film-and-blog-symposium/>.

On International Women's Day 2024, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) launched a new set of legal principles elaborated by jurists for a human rights-based approach to criminal laws proscribing conduct associated with sex, reproduction, drug use, HIV, homelessness and poverty. See <https://www.icj.org/icj-publishes-a-new-set-of-legal-principles-to-address-the-harmful-human-rights-impact-of-unjustified-criminalization-of-individuals-and-entire-communities/>

Recent publications by network members

Kisakye, Diana. 27 March 2024. On “hanging out” with judges: Reflections on researching “up”. *Frontiers of Socio-Legal Studies*. <https://frontiers.csls.ox.ac.uk/hanging-out-while-studying-up/>

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/>.

Profile of the month



J. Jarpa Dawuni is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Howard University, Washington D.C. She is a qualified Barrister-at-Law before the Superior Courts of Ghana. She holds a Doctorate in Political Science from Georgia State University. Her primary areas of research and advocacy include law and development, judicial politics, women and the legal professions, gender and the law, international human rights, democratization and women's civil society organizing. Her books include: [*Intersectionality and Women's Access to Justice in Africa*](#) (Rowman and Littlefield, 2022), [*Gender, Judging and the Courts in Africa: Selected Cases*](#) (Routledge, 2021), [*International Courts and the African Woman Judge: Unveiled Narratives*](#) (Routledge, 2018) co-edited with Judge Akua Kuenyehia, and [*Gender and the Judiciary in Africa: From Obscurity to Parity?*](#) (Routledge, 2016), co-edited with Gretchen Bauer.

She is the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit organization, [*Institute for African Women in Law*](#). She is the [*Founding Director of the Howard University Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership*](#) made possible by a \$1million gift in 2020. She is a multi-award winner. In 2022, she was the proud recipient of two WOZA Women in Law Awards—*Global Transformation Leadership* and *Best in Thought Leadership, Innovation and Academia* awards. In 2020, she received the [*Women in Law-Austria Justitia Awards in the International Academic*](#) category for her scholar-activism in advancing women's rights and women's issues in law. In 2021, she was named by [*Courtroom Mail-Nigeria in their top 100 women law*](#) firm owners for her work in promoting global awareness of African Women in Law through research, mentoring and advocacy.

In 2016, she was the recipient of President Obama's Volunteer and Service Award for her work on the Board of the African Research Academies for Women. She is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar, a Fulbright Scholar, a Carnegie African Diaspora Scholar, a Fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS), and a Fellow at the Center for Democratic Development (CDD) Ghana. She has been a Visiting Professor in the UNESCO Peace Masters Program at the University of Jaume 1 in Castellon, Spain, and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law at the Washington College of Law at American University in Washington, DC. She was a Visiting Scholar at Queens University, Kingston, Canada in 2018, and the University of Copenhagen iCourts Program in Denmark in 2015. She sits on several boards, including the African Studies Association.

Jarpa is also the Principal Investigator (with three other colleagues) on a US National Science Foundation (NSF) grant – Comparative Demographic Variation Among Women Judges. The project will compare the experiences of Black and Afro descendant women judges in eight countries—Columbia, Cost Rica, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Ivory Coast, South Africa, US and UK.

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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