



the Law Faculty's internal newsletter to keep you posted on things you might have missed and events, publications and initiatives to look out for.

### In this issue

This is the last (abbreviated) Faculty Fortnight for a few weeks.

With most staff focused on exams, invigilating, marking and processing, Faculty Fortnight will be on hold for a few weeks until the start of Semester 2. The next issue after today will be on Tuesday 23 July 2024.

**Keep sending your news, photographs, updates and publications in the meantime!**

### ELECTION DAY - 29 May 2024

**Em Prof Hugh Corder** tells us all we need to know about voting tomorrow in his recent Daily Maverick article, titled *The electoral system has changed significantly this year – here's what you need to know*.

Prof Corder writes: *For the first time since 1994, the general pattern of how we will vote will change on 29 May 2024. In addition, the method by which seats are allocated, both provincially and nationally, has become more complex, consequent on the presence of independent candidates running for office. Great ignorance about the format of the poll abounds in the voting public, even among highly literate people.*



*Why have these changes been made, and how will the system operate?*

Read the full article [HERE](#).

### Race-Religious Discrimination in South Africa's Hindu Marriages



**Prof Waheeda Amien**, currently on sabbatical, has just had a paper published in the recent *AJIL Unbound* issue of the *American Journal of International Law AJIL Unbound* from a recent symposium on Rabiya Akande, *An Imperial History of Race-Religion in International Law*. In this paper (linked [here](#)) Prof Amien looks at, amongst other things, the non-recognition of Hindu marriages in South Africa. Amien writes that while South Africa is known historically for racial apartheid, it is less well known that other forms of discrimination also existed, including religion, culture, gender, and sexual orientation. These discriminations manifested in religious marriage laws.



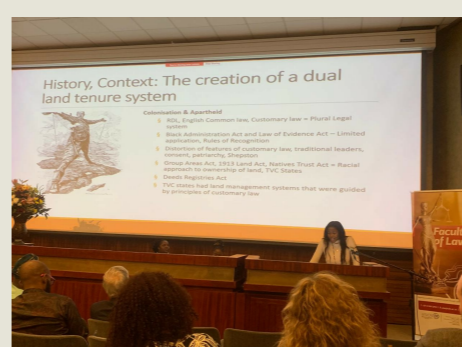
### LARC attends the International Interdisciplinary Security of Land Tenure Conference

**Katlego Ramantsima, Nokwanda Sihlali and Thandolwethu Nkopane** - researchers from UCT Law's Land & Accountability Research Centre (LARC) - participated in the *International Interdisciplinary Security of Land Tenure Conference (IISLT)* convened by the UFS Law Faculty from 6 - 8 May 2024. The conference aimed to address the pervasive issue of insecure land rights plaguing rural communities in South Africa, despite constitutional safeguards and landmark legal decisions.

Papers from various disciplines that intersected with the security of land tenure in rural land communities were welcomed with the acknowledgement that security of land tenure requires an interdisciplinary approach that is conscious of the intersectionalities between property, environmental law and conservation, customary law and succession, gender and traditional practices; natural resources and socio-economic rights; agriculture and land reform including poverty; politics and governance.

The conference sought to explore solutions for the complex challenges surrounding land tenure security internationally. The conference's theme was *Transforming the rural land economy: the creation of secure land rights for the enhancement of rural livelihoods and sustainable development*. The conference was held in collaboration with national and international research partners such as *Anglia Ruskin University* in London, UK; *Imo State University* in Owerri, Nigeria; the *National University of Lesotho's* United Nations Development Programme Human Rights Chair; the Law Faculty of the *University of Ilorin*, Nigeria; the *University of Stellenbosch's* Department of Private Law; and the *Free State Centre for Human Rights*. Other closely associated research collaborators are the *Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI)* and the *UFS Centre for Development Studies*.

At the conference, LARC researchers presented their working paper that is provisionally titled *The Complexity of South Africa's Dual Tenure System: A Legacy Unresolved*. The paper looks at the outcomes of past and present legislation in protecting those with customary land rights. It analyses the conceptual differences between common law and customary law property regimes. With the aid of practical cases from work done by LARC in the former homelands, this working paper posits that current laws aimed at securing land tenure do not adequately engage the existing customary systems, nor do they help secure the land rights of rural citizens. The paper proposes that what is needed is an actively committed state to reform the current tenure system, and a legal framework that can fully secure the land rights of rural citizens.



**Law@work/GetSmarter** is urgently looking for a course convenor for the practical labour law short course, and are offering to pay R10 000 per course. Information about the course can be found on the [Law@work](#) website.

This particular course is 8 weeks long and runs four times a year. Remaining dates for 2024 are:  
1-Aug-2024  
10-Oct-2024

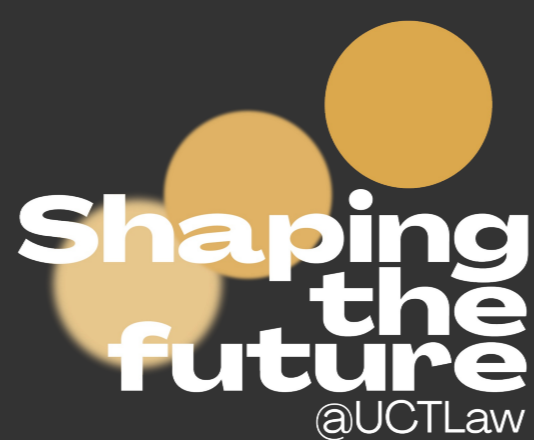
Course conveners are responsible for approving or denying appeals and signing-off on provisional and final grades.

For more information and for the approval guidelines, please contact Don Coue.

### ANNOUNCEMENT & NOTES

#### FACULTY DROP-BOX | REMINDER

In the interests of inclusivity and being able to share any concerns you may have about the Faculty, the Transformation Committee runs a Vula site on which you can share these concerns. If you are new and are not on this Vula site, please email Benjamin.cronin@uct.ac.za and you will be added. Generally, what the TC is looking for via this channel is feedback of a more general or structural nature on matters relating to inclusivity/transformation which the TC can work on going forward as part of its operations. Share your thoughts - visit the [INCLUSIVITY DROPBOX](#) on vula.



Got something to share? Have thoughts on what we should include in Faculty Fortnight?

Please send your news & ideas to [gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za](mailto:gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za) - we'd really like to hear from you.