



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.

## REST IN PEACE, DEAR CATHY



It is with the deepest shock and sadness that we share the news that Cathy Powell passed away this last weekend. Dr Cathy Powell (Associate Professor and Head of Department of Public Law) passed away on Saturday 15 February at age 56, after a very brief illness.

An alumnus of UCT (BA 1991, LLB 1993), A/Prof Cathy Powell has been a valued member of the Faculty community since her student days, having served as a member of NUSAS (National Union of South African Students) and as a member of the Law Students Council. Cathy joined the Faculty in 1999 as a lecturer in public law, after completing her LLM at Humboldt University and teaching legal English at the Zaenker School in Berlin. Promoted to senior lecturer in 2004, and to associate professor in 2018, Cathy was Head of the Department of Public Law from January 2023 to 15 February 2025. In addition to holding degrees from UCT and Humbolt University, Cathy earned her SJD from the University of Toronto.

A/Prof Powell was a respected scholar, known for her teaching and research in constitutional law and international law. She was highly sought after for public commentary by the media on matters pertaining to both constitutional governance and the use of force in international law. Over her long career at UCT, A/Prof Powell has taught many students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Cathy also played a leading role in broader university policy structures including as chair of Senate's Animal Ethics Committee. She is known and widely respected within the university for her fearlessness and for standing up for what she believed was right and just.

The Faculty will hold a memorial to remember and celebrate Cathy's life this coming Thursday 20 February at 12.30 – 14.00 in Kramer Lecture Theatre 3. We welcome members of the university community to attend.

## FACULTY NEWS

In light of Cathy Powell's passing, this issue of *Faculty Fortnight* lists very briefly what will be covered in the next issue. It is the start of a brand new academic year, and already so much has happened. In addition, there is a backlog of news items gathered since the last issue for 2024 of *Faculty Fortnight* from 12 December.

So there is much news to share - many events have taken place, conferences have been held, colleagues have travelled and presented papers, books and papers have been published, awards have been won. It is our hope that this fortnightly newsletter conveys some of the energy and output of our fantastic colleagues in the Faculty, including our two law clinics – with great support provided by our Faculty administration team.

The list below is therefore a snapshot of some of the news waiting to be shared in more detail.

**PLEASE NOTE: 28 February 2025** | Start of the month of Ramadan.

### AWARDS

- **2024 Franco-German award for Human Rights and Rule of Law** | On 10 December 2024, this recognition was awarded to Dr Melanie Judge, Adjunct Professor in Public Law, for her activism around and scholarship on the rights of LGBTQ people.
- **International Alliance of Research Universities Early Career Collaboration Grant** | Dr Cecile de Villiers has just been awarded this early career collaboration grant and is visiting the Australian National University this month.
- **Law Schools Global League Grant** | Dr Cecile de Villiers and A/Prof Melanie Murcott have just been awarded a 3-year project grant as part of a team of five researchers.
- **Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) Scholarship for PhD studies** | Wandile Zondo has been awarded the prestigious OMT Scholarship for 2025/2026.

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

- **Seminar** | *The South African Constitution as a 'constructive revolutionary' case* : Weds 19 February, Faculty Common Room, 16h00 – with James Fowkes and Nomfundo Ramalekana.
- **Webinar** | *The intersection of climate change, health and public international law* - Dr Cecile de Villiers will be part of a webinar on this topic, to be held Thursday 20 Feb 2025 at 18h00 SAST. More information on the webinar and details for free registration is available on this [page](#).
- **Conference: Call for Papers** | *SDG+10: A Global Legal Stocktake of Achievements, Opportunities and Challenges* - University of Southampton Law School hosts this conference in September 2025. The call for papers is out – deadline 28 Feb 2025. Contact Hwon Lee on [klin18@soton.ac.uk](mailto:klin18@soton.ac.uk) for more information.
- **Race, Refuge and Repair: Rethinking migration from the Global South** | call for abstracts deadline was 14 February 2025. The conference will be held at UCT Law in May 2025.

### PAST CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

- **Workshop** | *Understanding the Just Transition through the lenses of Wellbeing, Justice, and Equity* - A/Prof Melanie Murcott hosted a workshop on this topic, in partnership with University of Amsterdam, on 30 January 2025.
- **Conference** | *Continental harmonisation of cyber law in Africa: Players, priorities and prognosis* – Prof Caroline Ncube delivered the opening keynote address at the African Cyber Law conference held in Johannesburg on 4 – 5 February.
- **Conference** | *Criminal Justice Reform in Africa* - Centre for Criminology hosted a one-day conference with Notre Dame Law School on 7 February 2025.
- **Conference** | *Alchemical Tales – a conference curated in honour of Albie Sachs* – UCT co-hosted with Stellenbosch Law and UWC Law, a 3-day conference from 12 – 14 February in honour of Justice Albie Sachs and in celebration of Albie's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. A big celebration event was held on the afternoon of Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> to launch the Albie Collection (a conspectus of the life, love, law, literature and laughter of Albie Sachs).
- **Conference** | *Use of Force : Military Action with consent* – A/Prof Hannah Woolaver hosted the @ILA\_official Committee at UCT on 13 and 14 February for thought provoking discussions on military interventions.

### PUBLICATIONS

- **Acta Juridica – Call for Proposals** | General Editor Salona Lutchman has put out a call for proposals for a topic or theme for the 2027 issue of Acta Juridica. Proposal deadline: 19 March.
- **Publication** | Prof Mohamed Paleker : recently co-authored a book titled *Comparative Civil Procedure* (2025) published by Edward Elgar in the United States.
- **Publication** | A/Prof Fatima Osman : *Bwanya v Master: A Softening of the Doctrine of Precedent – Constitutional Court Review*, Jan 2025.
- **Publication** | Dr Justice Mavedzenge : *Towards a framework of reparatory measures for the enslavement and colonisation of the African people*
- **Media article** | Prof Hugh Corder : *Will the last person to leave the SA Post Office please switch off the lights*
- **Faculty Transformation** | the Faculty Transformation report for 2024 is now available at this link.

### NEW STAFF

- **Private Law – new colleagues** | The Faculty welcomes two new colleagues into the Private Law Department, namely Anthea-Lee September-Van Huffel and Richard Cramer.
- **Faculty Finance – new colleagues** | Thabi Magwada and Leona Grobler are sharing responsibility as Interim Finance Manager for the Faculty until a new Finance Manager is appointed. Both of these colleagues work fulltime elsewhere at UCT.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SHORT COURSES

UCT staff and students get 50% discount off Law@work course fees (excluding 2-hour webinar courses and mediation courses). Review courses at <https://law.uct.ac.za/law-at-work/courses/course-overview>.

### IF YOU ARE PLANNING A SYMPOSIUM OR CONFERENCE IN THE FACULTY

As the Faculty gets progressively busier, our resources are likely to become strained. Please bear in mind that although we are able to hold conferences and gatherings in the Faculty, we are nevertheless not a conference centre and can be constrained by some practical limits. Conference hosts must ensure that they have sufficient staff support for events to run smoothly. For those hoping to use the **Level 4 staff kitchen** please come and consult with the Dean's PA and the Marketing Office about what facilities are actually available (eg. overnight storage etc) as we need to ensure that staff are able to access the kitchen regardless of conference-related catering activities, while also ensuring that your catering is well-accommodated and provided without a hitch. If you need a Faculty-specific checklist of key logistics items that should be on your planning schedule for your conference, please ask **Law Marketing** as this can provide a useful guide for those less familiar with UCT systems and processes. Let's work together to ensure that we are always able to put our best Faculty foot forward!



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

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