Faculty Fortnight
UCT Law Faculty News & Updates
26 March 2025

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.

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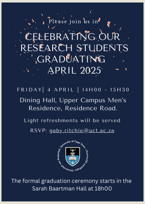
* Lectures, Seminars, Conferences & Events * Publications * Engaged Scholarship and Socially Responsive Law * Announcements & Notes *

FACULTY NEWS

Autumn Graduation - Friday 4 April 2025

CALL TO ACADEMICS – Please join the Law Faculty's Graduation Platform Party! This year's Autumn graduation see the Law Faculty having its own graduation ceremony rather than the ceremony-sharing that has been the norm.

Please also join us in celebrating our Research degree graduands at 14h00 in the UCR Dining Hall, and celebrating our LLB and coursework-based postgrads at 16h00 also in the UCR Dining Hall.



Please join us in

CELEBRATING OUR RESEARCH STUDENTS GRADUATING APRIL 2025

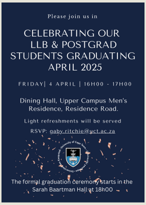
FRIDAY| 4 APRIL | 14H00 - 15H30

Dining Hall, Upper Campus Men's Residence, Residence Road.

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP: gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za

The formal graduation ceremony starts in the Sarah Baartman Hall at 18h00



Please join us in

CELEBRATING OUR LLB & POSTGRAD STUDENTS GRADUATING APRIL 2025

FRIDAY| 4 APRIL | 16H00 - 17H00

Dining Hall, Upper Campus Men's Residence, Residence Road.

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP: gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za

The formal graduation ceremony starts in the Sarah Baartman Hall at 18h00

The Faculty's current Postdoc cohort

Did you know we have at least TEN postdocs in the Faculty at the moment? So who are these colleagues, and what are they busy with?

As UCT's Research Hub website explains: *Postdoctoral research fellowships are normally awarded to individuals within five years of having achieved a doctoral degree. Postdoctoral research fellows (PDRFs) are individuals who undertake research and gain professional experience for a future academic career, under the mentorship of a host/principal investigator. Fellowships are negotiable up to two years after which extension of tenure may be considered for up to a maximum of five years… The purpose of the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship is to provide an opportunity for experiential learning in research, which may serve as a path for further academic and professional development. Postdoctoral research fellowships are provided by several different sources, including the University's Research Committee, the National Research Foundation (NRF), the Medical Research Council (MRC) and a number of other external foundations and agencies. These fellowships are non-taxable, unless they comply with the guidelines for "open scholarships" as set out by the South African Revenue Services. In essence, this means that* fellowships must be granted without fringe benefits, and that *no services are required of the successful candidate in return for the fellowship.*

In the Faculty (and at the risk of leaving anyone out) the following postdocs are working with their principal investigators -

Prof Ada Order
Dr Yakubu Nagu
Dr Raisa Nyorongo
Dr Julieth Gudo

Prof Caroline Ncube
Dr Elfas Torerai
Dr Charlene Musiza
Dr Ghati Nyehita

Prof Michelle Louw
Dr Sebastian Krafzik

Prof Hanri Mostert
Dr Wafiq Davids

Prof Jaco Barnard-Naude
Dr Thapelo Teele

Assoc Prof Kelley Moult
Dr Sisanda Mguzulwa

We will be doing a series of profiles on our postdocs, in support of their research endeavours and to provide a platform for them to share a bit about themselves and their research work. To find out more about postdoc work, opportunities and processes at UCT, have a look at the Research Office's site.

**If we are home to postdoc fellows not listed above, please email gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za

FACULTY CALENDAR

26 March | Seminar - The failures of others: Justifying institutional expansion in comparative public and international law. With Professor Hailbronner. March 26 @ 16h00 Faculty Common Room
27 March | Book Launch - Centre of Criminology hosts the launch of David Africa's Lives on the Line.
4 April | Faculty Graduation @ 18h00, Sarah Baartman Hall

- Phd celebration:14h00 in the UCR Dining Hall
- LLB and Master's: 16h00 in the UCR Dining Hall

10 April | Launch of 2024 Acta Juridica – 17h30 OR Moot Court, with refreshments afterwards

28 – 30 April | *Rounding the Cape Storms or Good Hope for the Law at Sea* ? – international conference hosted by IMEL

29 – 30 May | *Race, Refuge and Repair: Rethinking migration from the Global South* - two-day international colloquium.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

The Failures of Others: Justifying institutional expansion in comparative public and international law

Prof Michaela Hailbronner (University of Münster)

Date
Wed, 26 Mar 2025

Time
16:00

UCT Law Faculty Common Room, 4th Floor, Kramer Law Building

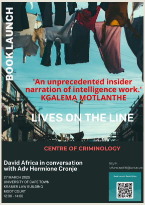
CENTRE FOR LAW AND SOCIETY

The Centre for Law and Society is pleased to invite you to join a seminar with **Professor Michaela Hailbronner** (University of Münster) on her forthcoming book ***The failures of others: Justifying institutional expansion in comparative public and international law***.

She writes: *Arguments from failure – arguments that an institution must expand its powers because another institution is failing in some way "to do its job" - are commonplace. From structural reform litigation where courts sometimes assume administrative or legislative functions, to the Uniting for Peace Resolution of the UN General Assembly such arguments are offered in justification for unorthodox exercises of public power. But in spite of their popularity, we lack a good understanding of these arguments in legal terms. This is partly because failure itself is a highly malleable concept and partly because arguments from failure blur into other more familiar legal doctrines about implied powers or emergencies. We can do better. We should recognize arguments from failure as a distinct concept of public law and understand that contemporary constitutional theory offers us tools to evaluate such arguments in different settings.*

Michaela Hailbronner is a Professor of German and International Public Law and Comparative Law at the University of Münster. Michaela completed two German law degrees at the University of Freiburg and the Kammergericht of Berlin before doing an LL.M. and a J.S.D. (doctorate) at Yale Law School (LL.M. 2010 and J.S.D. 2013). She is Co-President of the International Society of Public Law, involved in a number of international collaborations as well as part of the advisory board of the International Journal of Constitutional Law (ICON) and World Comparative Law (WCL/VRÜ).

Date: Wednesday 26 March 2025
Time: 16h00
Venue: Law Faculty Common Room, 4th Floor, Kramer Law Building
Light refreshments will be available.



BOOK LAUNCH
'An unprecedented insider narration of intelligence work.' KGALEMA MOTLANTHE
LIVES ON THE LINE
CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

David Africa in conversation with Adv Hermione Cronje

27 MARCH 2025
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
KRAMER LAW BUILDING
MOOT COURT
12:30 - 14:00

RSVP:
lufuno.sadiki@uct.ac.za

Book Launch
Lives on the Line by David Africa

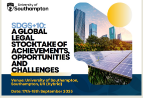
Please join the Centre of Criminology's book launch event on 27 March. The author, David Africa, writes as a former member of the covert police intelligence unit that investigated and cracked the PAGAD G-Force cases.

Africa is joined by discussant, Adv Hermione Cronje (LLB Alum) who previously headed the Investigative Directorate.

When: 27 March
Time: 12h30 – 14h00
Venue: Moot Court
RSVP: Link

SDG+10
A Global Legal Stocktake of Achievements, Opportunities and Challenges

This is a reminder that the deadline for the SDG+10 conference CfA has been extended to 31 March 2025. Please send your abstracts to Hwon Lee (kl1n18@soton.ac.uk). This conference will take place on 17-18 September 2025. *PLEASE NOTE:* Southampton Law is willing to fund the participation of two UCT law academics.



University of Southampton

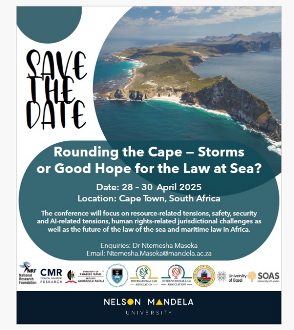
SDGS+10: A GLOBAL LEGAL STOCKTAKE OF ACHIEVEMENTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Venue: University of Southampton, Southampton, UK (Hybrid)

Date: 17th-18th September 2025

Rounding the Cape Storms or Good Hope for the Law at Sea?

Dr Denning Metuge is the UCT Law host for this upcoming international conference, taking place on 28 - 30 April and organised in partnership with Dr Dusty-Lee Donnelly (University of KwaZulu-Natal); Prof Natalie Klein (University of New South Wales); Dr Ntemesha Maseka (Nelson Mandela University) (assistant to the chairperson); Prof Iriniapanicolopulu (School of Oriental and African Studies); Prof Anna Petrig (University of Basel); and Prof Patrick Vrancken (South African Research Chair in the Law of the Sea hosted by Nelson Mandela University) (chairperson).



SAVE THE DATE

Rounding the Cape – Storms or Good Hope for the Law at Sea?

Date: 28 - 30 April 2025

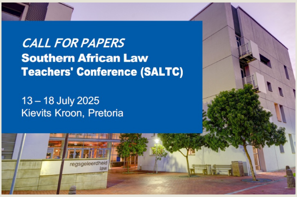
Location: Cape Town, South Africa

The conference will focus on resource-related tensions, safety, security and AI-related tensions, human rights-related jurisdictional challenges as well as the future of the law of the sea and maritime law in Africa.

Enquiries: Dr Ntemesha Maseka

Email: Ntemesha.Maseka@mandela.ac.za

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



CALL FOR PAPERS

Southern African Law Teachers' Conference (SALTC)

13 – 18 July 2025

Kievits Kroon, Pretoria

regsgeleerdheid
law

Reflections on constitutional supremacy in Southern Africa: reviewing the impact on law teaching and learning, research and practice

The University of Pretoria's Faculty of Law, in collaboration with the Society for Law Teachers of Southern Africa (SLTSA), is proud to host the Southern African Law Teachers' Conference (SALTC) in July 2025. This conference aims to enhance scholarly discourse and promote critical discussions on the significance of constitutional supremacy in shaping legal education and practice in Southern Africa.

This invitation is to law scholars, educators, practitioners, and policymakers to collaboratively explore the effect of constitutional supremacy on legal teaching methodologies, curriculum design, research, and professional practices.

Registration and fees

Registration fees for the conference are R 6 000. Fee includes Teaching & Research workshop for ALL delegates. Participants whose abstracts are accepted for presentation will be provided with banking details and the payment process for conference registration.

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline: 28 March 2025
Notification of acceptance: 11 April 2025
Full papers: 31 October 2025
The selected Full papers will be considered for publication in a special issue in De Jure Law Journal. Submit to salawteachersconf@up.ac.za

The full call was shared by the Dean on email on 19 March.

5th International Conference on Punishment in the Global Peripheries
11 – 13 December 2025, UCT Law Faculty

The Faculty's Centre of Criminology is this year's host for this annual international conference. Submit an abstract of up to 300 words and a one-paragraph biography by 15 April 2025 to punishmentperipheries@gmail.com. Contact the Centre of Criminology for more information on this gathering.

Past conferences, seminars & events

CLS Research Associate, Tatiana Kazim, and @EElawcentre's Anjuli Maistry, recently attended a conference on women in African judiciaries. They presented on the role of women judges in adjudicating child rights cases in South Africa.

Wits School of Law
Where cutting edge lawyers are made

PUBLICATIONS

Namibia celebrates presidential rhetoric

On 6 February this year a State function was held in Windhoek, Namibia, to celebrate a publication by UCT Rhetoric Studies PhD graduate in Rhetoric Studies (2009), **Dr Audrin Mathe**, currently Executive Director in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Namibia. His book, *Whispers of Freedom: The Political Odyssey of Hage G. Geingob* is a thorough history, from the heart and the mind, of the life of former President of Namibia (2015-2024), Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, of his powers of persuasion deployed for the common good of his nation.

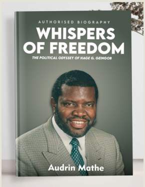
The event was held under the aegis of President Mbumba and the Speaker of the Namibian National Assembly. The President made the point that *Whispers of Freedom* together with biographies of founding President Sam Nujoma (who passed away two days after the celebration))and second President Hifikepunye Pohamba, help give shape to a Namibian collective national narrative.

Dr Mathe honed his rhetorical skills at the White House Press Office before embarking on his doctoral dissertation (on rhetoric and constitution writing). He recalls this, when he joined his mentor's office: "*I had prided myself for my writing skills. But on my first day at work, I had to revise the prime minister's (as President Geingob was then) remarks nine times before he was satisfied, at 11pm. All that which I thought I knew was thrown out of the window in a matter of hours. My new boss was more demanding than I had been told. That was just the beginning*". Rhetoricians take note!

Distinguished Professor Philippe-Joseph Salazar was kindly asked to write a Foreword. He comments: "*A book remains to be written – perhaps by Audrin Mathe? - on how African decolonization stalwarts found in the North, be it the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, Britain, France too and often the United States, a refuge. Through determination, they turned exile into a new departure and thus defined new horizons for their emerging nations*".

The Centre for Rhetoric Studies is immensely proud of its enduring engagement with Namibia: Dr Jairos Kangira, former Dean of Humanities at UNAM, Dr Frieda Nanyeni-Kanyemba, director at IUM (Centre for Languages & Communication), alongside Dr Mathe, all form a brilliant cohort of Namibian doctoral graduates, and achievers in their own right.

Dr Mathe's volume is published by Penguin.



WHISPERS OF FREEDOM

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

National Small Claims Court

Prof Mohamed Paleker has been appointed as the chairperson of the *National Small Claims Courts Committee* appointed by the Minister.

Paleker reports: "We are looking into the operation of small claims courts, addressing logistical issues, collaborating with external parties to resolve problems, and recommending legislative changes".

Corlia Kok, Director: Judicial Support and Planning, Court Administration Branch, at the DOJ, co-ordinates the committee work.

Judgement from Acting Judge Waheeda Amien

Prof Waheeda Amien has a recently reported judgment from her stint in 2024 as Acting Judge in the Gauteng High Court – see Greyvensteyn and Other v Commissioner of South African Revenue Service and Others (B2495/2023) [2025] ZAGPPHC 128 (12 February 2025).

Edward Kieswetter, SARS Commissioner, commented "*This precedent-setting decision reaffirms SARS' legal authority to discharge its work of collecting all revenue due to the state in an efficient and effective manner. Importantly, was the court's reiteration that the provisions that allow SARS to determine third-party liability, repatriation of foreign assets and restrictions of travel are lawful and constitutional*". More information is available on Business Day.

Senior Court Administrators short course

8 to 12 September 2025

Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town

Contact jifa@uct.ac.za

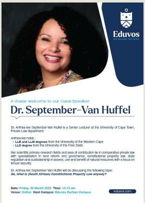
JIFA
JUDICIAL INSTITUTE FOR AFRICA

JIFA Short Course

Calling all senior court administrators: JIFA is offering an intensive Senior Court Administrators short course at the Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town from 8–12 Sept 2025. Email jifa@uct.ac.za by 28 March 2025 to register.

Here's why you should attend JIFA's Senior Court Administrators short course: Cost: $850 / ZAR15,000 per delegate Includes: 5 days of facilitation, course materials, teas, lunch, and a UCT certificate on completion. Delegates are responsible for flights and accommodation — we can recommend affordable guesthouses nearby.

What you'll learn on JIFA's Senior Court Administrators short course: Courts & the Separation of Powers Measuring & Managing Court Performance Managing Case-Flow Leadership & Strategic Planning Procurement, Budget & Fundraising Ethics & Combatting Corruption Research, Information & Communication Managing HR & Diversity.



Eduvos
Your Education. Your Future.

A Vossie welcome to our Guest Speaker:

Dr. September-Van Huffel

Dr. Anthea-lee September-Van Huffel is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Town, Private Law department.

Anthea-lee holds :
- **LLB and LLM degrees** from the University of the Western Cape
- **LLD degree** from the University of the Free State.

Her scientific primary research fields and area of contribution lie in comparative private law with specialisation in land reform and governance, constitutional property law, state regulation and custodianship in access, use and benefit of natural resources with a focus on tenure security.

Dr. Anthea-lee September-Van Huffel will be discussing the following topic:
So, what is (South African) Constitutional Property Law anyway?

Date: Friday, 28 March 2025 **Time:** 10:15 am
Venue: Online **Host Campus:** Eduvos Durban Campus

eduvos.com

Dr Anthea-Lee September-Van Huffel will be delivering a guest lecture at Eduvos on Friday 28 March, titled So, what is (South African) Constitutional Property Law anyway.

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 pratical 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!

Shaping the future
@UCTLaw

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 – we'd really like to hear from you.