Faculty Footnote

UCT Law Faculty News & Updates
14 April 2025

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

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FACULTY CELEBRATION

28 – 30 April | *Rounding the Cape: Storms or Good Hops for the Law at Sea* – | international conference hosted by UWC
29 – 30 April | *Cape Town Human Rights Reframing migrants from the Global South* | two day international colloquium
29 June – 5 July | *Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition* - the annual moot court competition for students, scholars and judges from across Africa

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

Race, Refuge and Repair: Reframing Migration from the Global South

Registration is now open!
Register HERE

The colloquium is hybrid and free of charge. In-person and online registration is open, but places are limited, so register early.

Papers discussing Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Egypt, France, Mauritania, Libya, Italy, Spain, Greece, Malta, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Kenya, Uganda, Syria, the Andean states & the European Union. Plenary speakers include Prof Sphenjwenkosi Zondi, (University of Johannesburg), Prof Mary Bosworth (University of Oxford), Prof Ayesha Omar (University of Cape Town), Prof Ashwin Ramanathan (UWC), Jonathan Klaaren (WITS University), Dr Nonkululeko Nkoncenya (UCT), Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng (Maynooth University), Commissioner Tshepo Madlingozi, Ruth Ntlokwa Sienne (Stellenbosch University), Francesca Bastow (University of Oxford) and Dr Uthara Gunaratna (University of Sheffield).

The keynote address, titled 'Corporate Border Imperialism', will be delivered by Professor E. Tendayi Achiume, Professor of Law, Stanford University with discussants comments from Bulelwa Ntsham Kaplan (University of Johannesburg) Tshepo Madlingozi and chaired by Dr Lukoto Sadiko.

The colloquium is co-hosted by the Centre for Criminology and the Refugee Rights Unit at UCT Law, the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), and Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford, in collaboration with the Centre for Law and International Governance at Stellenbosch University, the Institute for Human Rights at the University of Johannesburg, the Law Academy, the Constitution Trust and the Dullah Omar Institute at UWC, King's College London.

Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition
Cape Town 29 June – 5 July 2025

The 34th edition of the Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition will take place in Cape Town. This prestigious international competition will be hosted by the Faculty from 29 June – 5 July 2025.

The *Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition* is the largest gathering of students, academics and judges around the theme of human rights in Africa. This annual event brings together all law faculties in Africa, whose top students compete against each other in a week-long moot court. The theme is Challenge Advocacy, Human and Peoples' Rights. The Competition continuously projects new generations of lawyers to argue cases of alleged human rights violations before the African Court.

Since its creation in 1991, 100 universities from 47 African countries have taken part in this permanent feature on the African legal education calendar.

In 2024, the 33rd edition was hosted by the University of Rwanda in Kigali, Rwanda. 61 teams from 28 African countries participated in 2024. We have yet to confirm the number of universities participating in this 34th edition being hosted by the Faculty.

The hyperlinked year for this forthcoming competition will beside issues on migration and human rights, statelessness, and civil and political rights.

Rounding the Cape | Storms or Good Hops for the Law at Sea?

Dr Donna Pemmer (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town) is convening a two-day, 28 - 30 April and organised in partnership with the Bucks Law Society (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Prof Natalie Klein (University of New South Wales), Dr Jessica Whyte (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney), Professor Ian Ward (Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne), Professor Ashley Hong (University of Basel), and Prof Patrick Vrancken (South African Research Chair in the Law of the Ocean) to Nelson Mandela University (Ombelanqa).

Post conferences, seminars & events

On 15 April the Faculty hosted a court-side celebration to commemorate the publication of Acta Juridica 2024: Titled Constitutionalism and Labour Law in Times of Transition, the volume was edited by **Professor Dennis Davis** AJA and **Professor Andrew Chaskalson**.

It was evident from those who shared words of recognition that the Prof Chaskalson had an immense impact on the shape of current South African labour law and, in fact, on many who now run successful labour law practices.

Speakers at the launch include **Prof Rosemary Owiny** who endorsed scholars and guests, **Eunice Lukhanyo** (General Editor of the Acta Juridica Journal), **Dr Bernie Fanoulis** (South African Jurisprudence Journal Editor) and **Judge Sandile Ncube**, Deputy President of Labour Court. The keynote speech was delivered by **Judge President Mandisa Maya** (President of the Labour Court and of the Labour Appeal Court). The contributions made by Chaskalson JA extend beyond South Africa, to the practice of labour law the world over, and to the extent of our current legislative framework related to labour.

UCT participation in symposium on African Perspectives on International Climate Change law

Nadine Nyamugenda (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town) **Ackelbeck** (Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the African Climate Governance Unit (Chaire Change, Environment and Development, participated in a symposium titled 'African Perspectives on International Climate Change Law' on 10 April, hosted by the Chaire Change, Environment and Development, under the supervision of **Associate Professor Maryam Muzenda** (Institute for Marine and Coastal Research).

The symposium was hosted by the University of the Western Cape on 9-10 April, in collaboration with the Sustain Green Institute, Global Environmental Law Centre, Climate Justice Research Centre, and the Law, Society and Climate Centre. The event aimed to foster a critical engagement with the ongoing discourse on the future of the Paris Agreement, by centering African perspectives in the broader conversation on climate governance. Drawing, the rights of future generations, and mitigation and adaptation law & policy. Native and Christians were invited to present papers as part of this emerging conversation, with the goal of developing a shared intellectual space for African legal scholars researchers as part of this long-term project, and to promote interaction between diverse scholars and practitioners in the area of climate change law.

Nadine presented a paper on integrating environmental considerations in regional trade law, with particular focus on the EU's proposed use of mirroring a human rights based approach that would integrate environmental, economic and environmental considerations in regional trade law, with the aim of reducing environmental pollution. Christopher's paper concerned the intersdependence of human and environmental rights in climate litigation, with particular focus on the challenges for climate litigation in Africa, with illustrative focus on interdependence research can contribute to address challenges.

Litigation challenges such as a lack of black accountability, the exclusion of courts to promote environmental justice, and narrow litigation strategies. The papers provided a rich and important African perspective on the contemporary and distinctive climate change issues that Africa faces, and will by, and how the continent should chart global legal claims.

PUBLICATIONS

TransAfrica : The Languages of Postjuvenilia

Distinguished Professor Philippa Dawson Kenyon has recently published her article titled, 1992, Reading the Signs of the time, in the book TransAfrica: The Languages of Postjuvenilia, edited by Chantal Zabus and Chris Dunton (Dak'Ababa, 2025).

The book's synopsis, **available on the Bloomsbury site**, explores the iconic transformations of African literature, from oral traditions to contemporary multimodal/life-writing, interviews, film, visual art in English, French, Arabic and other potential African languages, and the meanings which Africans have transcendentally imagined, from the Transatlantic Slave Trade to the Anthropocene. Postjuvenilia and visual dissidence on the African continent has produced a total culture at the crossroads of Western discourse and local African naming practice.

TransAfrica is an unprecedented attempt at identifying the new postjuvenile which post and transgender Afrikanin have used in the first two decades of the 21st century to refer to themselves and remember their dead. In the days of African narratives, the novel,

poetry, and legal and religious authorities were the dominant genres. Today, in the age of gender-related (queer, trans, non-binary) celebrity literature, resulting in a new literature of self-representation, coming from Morocco, Egypt, Somalia, Algeria, Uganda, Madagascar, Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, conclusions for a culture-specific and history-specific type of gender diversity and sexuality, and a transcultural literature confronting Euro-American models, thereby exposing a turn of the third millennium in the age of African open-ended identities.

The publication comprises 12 essays. A rare standard article, focused on the South African contributions, will be available in due course.

FACULTY RESEARCH

The Faculty Research Committee invites applications for Call for Regional and International Visiting Researchers in the Faculty, being equal opportunity for regional and international visiting researchers for a period of up to three months. The applicants receiving the visit UCT Law between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to enable the Faculty to host regional and international scholars, organisations/institutions research exposure across the faculty, and to enhance mentorship capacity by way of visits and seminars.

The available funding allows for visits by one international and one regional visitor each year. Due to limited funding, applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Please **see the attached Call for Regional and International Visiting Researchers. Be excited to submit nominations by filling in the application form** (attached form and detail from Lerissa Nilgen).

Applications/ nominations should be submitted to **Lerissa Nilgen** with the supporting documentation referred to in the form. **Nominations close at 17:00 on 30 April 2025.** Please ensure that the form is signed by the relevant supervisor/ HoD. After a competitive basis, the following criteria will be prioritised when assessing applications:

1. **The academic and scholarly profile of the proposed visiting researcher** • The proposed visiting researcher must have an established track record of excellence in research and teaching, as evidenced by a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals / regional journals, or in internationally / regionally published edited collections by top rated publishers or internationally / regionally published monographs, and a record of teaching excellence in the relevant discipline. The proposed visiting researcher must profoundly have an established track record of success in the supervision and / or external examining of research degrees such as Masters by dissertation and PhD.

2. **A formal project proposal** • The proposed visiting researcher must submit a formal project proposal, which should be approximately 1000 words in length and more than 800 words for the research to be executed during the tenure of the visit. Proposals must clearly set out key benchmarks, milestones and deliverables that are realistic and achievable in the time period of the visit. Preference will be given to colleagues in terms of the proposed research and its relevance. • The proposed visiting researcher must clearly set out the ways in which the research will be disseminated, including seminars, but is not limited to, one-on-one, lectures, presentations and publications.

Expectations • The proposed visitor must be willing and able to provide mentorship in emerging researchers during the tenure of the visit. Evidence of an established track record of success in the mentoring of colleagues at the proposed visiting institution is a strong advantage. • The proposed visiting researcher must clearly identify the relevant mentees in advance of the visit and demonstrate the identity of mentees to the visitor in advance of the visit. • The proposed visitor must present at least one faculty Seminar during the tenure of the visit as a core of their duties for reflection on the research that they will conduct during the tenure of the visit. It is expected that the visitor will use the time spent in the Faculty to develop a strong foundation for a good lecture in appropriate undergraduate and postgraduate courses. • Tangible research output, such as publication in an international journal or book following the visit, is a strong advantage. • Preference will be given to the visitor who can demonstrate therein as having been completed under the auspices of the Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town.

NOTE: There will only be one call per year, so best to get your application in as soon as possible if you are hoping to host an international or regional visitor in the next year.

Post-doctoral fellowship in social justice research

1 June 2025

Are you interested in pursuing further research on social justice, including gender, race and intersectionality? Do you want to be part of a vibrant community? The Ardenkloof University Faculty of Law has a post-doctoral fellowship available. The fellowship is awarded for a year under the Fellowship Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Corporeality the Law Trust Research Chair on Social Justice.

The primary responsibility of the successful applicant will be to conduct research in a specified area of social justice, including, but not limited to, the Law, Society and Climate (LSC) Centre, Poverty and Gender (PG) Project. The additionally broader mandate in the economy, including social security, housing, education, health and land.

The post-doctoral fellow will also expected to publish in accredited academic journals and attend as well as present in academic conferences. They will also assist with postgraduate supervision, research administration tasks and short courses.

For a comprehensive view of the CSJ's research areas
see https://landclimate.uct.ac.za/.

To apply, please send the following documents by email to Ms Diane Galloyo at gallodiane@uct.ac.za by 1 May 2025:

INTERNATIONALISATION

Dr Gospatrick Mutlebo, Department of Law, University of Fort Hare, hosted a group of a number of international research and teaching visits he has lined up – this time from Universities in Germany and Germany. Hosted by **Prof Harry Rubenstein** (Professor of Business and Commercial Law, Faculty of Law, UCT), the presentation a research workshop and delivered lectures for the Ardis Academy course to a diverse cohort of postgraduate students, focusing on research ethics, research methodology, resource development, extraction capitalism, comparative perspectives on land, and contemporary land litigation and meaningful engagement.

Following the Copenhagen leg, Dr Mutlebo also made a turn at the Dickson Poon School of Law in London, UK.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The UCT Law Clinic and International Collaboration

On 3 April the **UCT Law Clinic** hosted its first ever roundtable discussion with the Ombudsman for Financial Services Providers, Advocate Caroline Ncube, to discuss dynamic international collaborations for the Law Clinic. The session brought together final-year Legal Practice students with their peers from Southampton for a rich and vibrant exchange of ideas and insights. The session was led by Advocate Ncube and Professor Oliver, Barnes and Opportunities – a lively and important topic in the world of legal education and access to justice. Representing UCT with passion and insight were:

Dawid Kosse, director and court-room lecturer at the Clinic
Nadia Fourmanoir, a visiting student from Michigan Law School & current intern at the Clinic
Grace Hammond, intern at the Clinic, and
Annie Dingemse and Cardea Edwards, both Legal Practice students.

The students explained regulatory frameworks, shared experiences across jurisdictions, and identified both the challenges and the exciting prospects for collaboration. The session ended with a shared commitment to deepening these efforts for further international collaboration and student-led legal innovation.

This roundtable marks a significant step forward in developing global conversations in legal education and clinical legal work. We're proud of our students and excited about what's to come!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES
UCT staff and students get 50% discount of candidacy/course fees (excluding 3-hour webinar courses and mandatory courses). Review courses at https://law.uct.ac.za/law-uct-workshops/course-overview.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A SYMPOSIUM OR CONFERENCE IN THE FACULTY
Please be mindful of the Faculty's limited resources and capacity when planning events. Events are intended to be low-cost and sustainable and performing in the faculty, we are nevertheless not a conference centre and can be overstretched by too many events. Please consult with the Faculty's Marketing Officer about what support the events to run smoothly. For those hoping to use the **Council of Jubilee** venue, please confer and consult with the Dean's PA and the Marketing Officer about what support is available and what is possible. Please also be considerate of the Faculty's staff and other to assess the relative regardless of conference related activities, activities, while also ensuring that your catering is well-accommodated and provided without a hitch. If you need a flexible number of attendees of key-topics items that should be on your planning schedule for your conference, please see **Law Marketing** for a list of the Faculty's preferred suppliers, and the relevant Faculty's 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 Footnote?

Please send your news & updates to the Faculty's mailing list and we'll only link to back from you.

Sharing the Knowledge
Building the Future
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