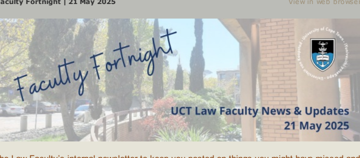

the Law Faculty's internal newsletter to keep you posted on things you might have missed and events, publications and initiatives to look out for.

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* Engaged Scholarship & Socially Responsive Law *
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FACULTY NEWS

The A-Rated Distinguished Professor Salazar does it again!

The Dean this week announced that **Distinguished Professor Philippe Salazar** has retained his NRF **A rating**.

"As you know," wrote Prof Chirwa, "an A rating is given to an academic whom *all or an overriding majority* of reviewers recognise as *a leading scholar in their field internationally for* the high quality and impact of their research outputs. It takes a long time to produce work of the kind that leads to A rating, and it is even harder to maintain a record of exceptional research productivity and quality. Please join me in congratulating Prof Salazar on retaining such a remarkable rating. He serves as a distinct inspiration to all of us."

Distinguished Professor Salazar is Director of the Faculty's Centre for Rhetoric Studies, and is a former director in rhetoric and democracy at Jacques Derrida's foundation, Collège International de Philosophie, Paris.

Distinguished Professor Salazar is a life fellow at UCT and has *held a continuous A1 rating since the academic research rating agency of South Africa's inception.*

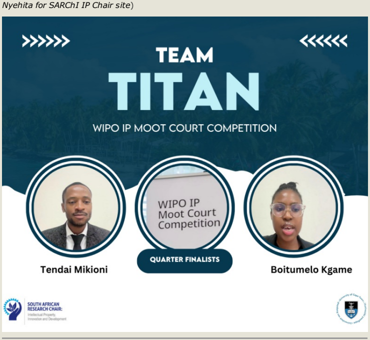
Student News - Moot Participation

WIPO's Intellectual Propery Moot Court Competition

The Faculty joins the SARChI IP Chair, Prof Caroline Ncube, in celebrating UCT Law's *Team Titan*, who represented the institution at the inaugural World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) **Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition** and advanced to the quarterfinals. This global event drew participants from 16 universities across the world to engage in legal debates around Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and their implications within intellectual property law.

Representing UCT as *Team Titan* were **Tendai Mikioni**, doctoral researcher under the SARChI IP Chair, and **Boitumelo Kgame** who is doing Prelim B. After excelling in the online preliminary rounds held in February 2025, *Team Titan* were among the 12 teams selected to move forward to the main competition stage. The main competition took place at WIPO Headquarters in Geneva from 23–25 April 2025, with *Team Titan* participating virtually in the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals on 23 April, *Team Titan* argued two intellectually rigorous cases. First, they went head-to-head with the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and later, with the University of Tehran, Iran. The moot problem focused on a timely legal scenario: whether the use of Generative AI trained on datasets containing culturally significant material to create NFTs violates the copyright of the original creators. *Team Titan* drew on their skills in legal research, drafting, and oral argument to craft persuasive submissions addressing the interplay between IP law, NFTs, generative technologies, and cultural heritage.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Tendai Mikioni, Boitumelo Kgame, and the broader UCT community that supported Team Titan in this achievement. (*Text by Ghati Nyehita for SARChI IP Chair site*)



The William C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot

Between 11 - 17 April 2025, another team of UCT Law mooters travelled to Vienna to participate in the *32nd Vis Moot*. **Amohelang Molefi** and **Kerrin Baker** were selected through an interview process with the UCT Moot Society (chaired by Jay Krok), initially to participate in what is termed the *East Africa Pre-Moot*. Making it into the finals of this pre-moot, and taking home the cup for 2nd Place, the team then headed to Vienna where they came 113th out of 381 teams.

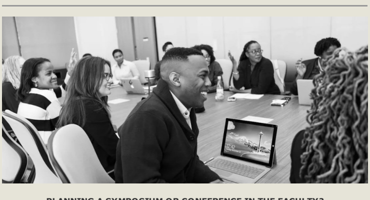
"I am so grateful," commented Amohelang, "I am now joining the team as a coach to pass on the opportunity!".

Bleow: The UCT Vis Moot Team 2025, with Kerrin Baker (left) and Amohelang Molefi (right).

FACULTY CALENDAR

26 May | Start of consolidation and mid-year exams
29 – 30 May | *Race, Refuge and Repair: Rethinking migration from the Global South* - a two-day international colloquium
12 June | *Celebrating the career of Em Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit* (venue TBC)
29 June - 5 July | *Christof Heyns African Human Rights Moot Court Competition* - the most important gathering of students, scholars and judges on human rights in Africa
21 August | Annual Rabinowitz lecture, with Professor David Bilchitz, Professor of Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Law, University of Johannesburg
8 October | ADRU's inaugural *Annual Arbitration Lecture*, with OluFunke Adekoya
16 October | Ben Beinart Memorial Lecture, with Professor Geraint Howells, Executive Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, University of Galway

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS



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 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 are providing catering in Kramer spaces other than the Pius Langa Quad, the Level 2 Foyer, or the Faculty Common Room, *please discuss first with the Head of Department or Unit Manager responsible for that space* to ensure that the needs of everyone who uses that space are still accommodated during your gathering.

If you need a Faculty-specific checklist of key logistics items that should be on your planning schedule for your conference/ colloquium/ gathering, 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!

Constitution Review Roundtable

The Constitutional Commitment to Social Justice: A Constitution Reivdw Conversation for a Re-Imagined South Africa

Date: Thursday 22 June 2025
Time: 17:00 – 19:00
RSVP HERE or you can JOIN AT THIS LINK

Centre for Social Justice, Stellenbosch University | Enquiries: Tseyisi@sun.ac.za

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

The keynote address for this colloquium, titled *'Corporate Border Imperialism'*, will be delivered by **Professor E. Tendayi Achiume**, Professor of Law, Stanford University with discussant comments from South African Human Rights Commissioner **Tshepo Madlingozi** and chaired by **Dr Lufuno Sadiki**.

The colloquium is co-hosted by the Centre for Criminology and the Refugee Rights Unit at UCT Law, the Refugee Studies Centre (ODID), and Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford in collaboration with the Centre for International Governance and Dispute Resolution at King's College London. The event has been supported by the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust and the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. Further information is available on the Oxford site.

Dr Nicola Palmer commented in her invitation to Faculty staff: "It would be wonderful to see you at any of the panels that may spark an interest. The keynote address, by **Prof Tendayi Achiume,** will undoubtedly be a highlight as Tendayi is a wonderful speaker."

Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit

The African Climate & Development Initiative (ACDI) is a partner in the *Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit* hosted by the United Nations Human Rights and the University of Oxford, convened by the International Universities Climate Alliance (IUCA). The Summit brings together convening global experts from various sectors to discuss impacts, obligations and effective responses and solutions to the human-rights climate crisis. ACDI and UCT are part of a worldwide education coalition contributing to the 24-hour global plenary, which will be co-delivered by universities and partners across the world and broadcast live across time zones on 5 June.

Championing human rights-based research and teaching towards climate justice in Africa

When:

5 June 2025, 10:00 - 12:00 SAST

Where:

Environmental and Seminar Room 5, Geographical Sciences Building, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town and Online (Zoom)

Associate Prof Melanie Murcott will be participating in the morning panel, from 10h00 - 12h00 SAST, titled **Setting the Scene: Framing human rights, climate action and climate justice from an African perspective.** This session seeks to respond to the following issues:

How do the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement promote human rights and climate justice globally, how are these recognised in parts of Africa, and how are courts addressing the climate crisis through a human rights lens?

How do climate vulnerabilities and inequalities affect governance and action across scales in Africa, and what distinct role can African universities play in response?

2nd International Conference on Children's Rights.
The Global Digital Future we Seek: Artificial Intelligence, Online Safety and Children's Rights in the Digital Environment.

A three-day conference will be held at the Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, from 09-11 September 2025, with around 100 participants attending the event in person. Online participation will be considered by the organisers.

The conference will focus on the following topics:
Artificial intelligence, data protection and children's rights, privacy and safety online Safer school environments and child rights-based cybercultures Children's rights, digital parenting and the changing family The digital environment and child participation The platform economy, kidfluencing and children's rights Non-state actors, business and children's rights Gender and children's rights in the digital environment Children with disabilities and other situations of vulnerability Institutional mechanisms for protecting children in the digital sphere Cross-cutting topics

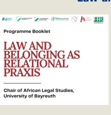
To find out more about this conference, read the conference blog.

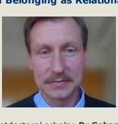
Past Conferences, Seminars and Events

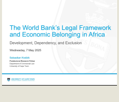
Transforming Animal Protection Legislation in South Africa

On 5 and 6 May 2025, **A/Prof Melanie Murcott** participated in a colloquium titled *'Transforming Animal Protection Legislation in South Africa: A constitutional imperative'*. Melanie's presentation was titled *'The value of a decolonial lens for animal law'*. She shared her research on transformative environmental constitutionalism and the need to resist binary thinking around humanity's relationships with the more-than-human world, given that we exist in a complex, single socio-ecological system.

Law and Belonging as Relational Praxis







On 7 May Commercial Law postdoctoral scholar, **Dr Sebastian Krafzik,** presented a paper online at a conference on *Law and Belonging as Relational Praxis*, hosted by the Centre for African Legal Studies at the University of Bayreuth. His presentation focused on the *World Bank's Legal Framework and Economic Belonging in Africa.*

Dr Krafzik commented, "As I explored the governance and financial structures, it became evident that the World Bank's architecture was never truly designed with Africa in mind. Unfortunately, it tends to perpetuate a system of dependency and exclusion, often sidelining the very individuals it aims to support. However, this also presents a moment of optimism. We have the chance to rethink economic belonging. Alternative models, such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), illustrate the potential for a more equitable, African-led approach. Yet, we must aspire for even more. What we need is a post-conditionality model of development law, one that views Africa not merely as a policy subject but as a co-author of global economic rules."

"Imagine a future", continued Dr Krafzik, "where local institutions play a transformative role, not just in financing growth but in reshaping the legal architecture to foster inclusion, economic dignity, and genuine belonging. If we aspire to reclaim economic belonging as a right rather than a privilege, we must ensure that law serves not only markets but also people, emphasising dignity alongside efficiency. Now is the time to begin reimagining pathways of growth and justice from within the continent itself. Together, we can create a bold new vision that empowers Africa and its people."

Dr Krafzik extended his gratitude to Prof Dr Thoko Kaime and his team at the Chair of African Legal Studies, UBT for organising a conference filled with motivating presentations.

Intellectual Property in Focus

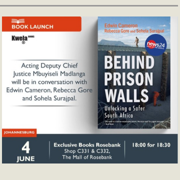
On Weds 7 May, **A/ Prof Lee-Ann Tong** invited Spoor & Fisher to visit the Faculty to chat to students about Intellectual Property Law in practice, and career options in this specialist legal field. Delivering a guest lecture to the afternoon's IP class, Spoor & Fisher partner **Herman van Schalkwyk** spoke on key aspects of patents.

This spotlight on IP was linked to global **WORLD IP DAY** on 26 April, and served as a focus point for students interested in pursuing this field.

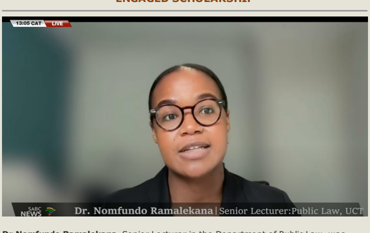
PUBLICATIONS

Rebecca Gore, Research Associate at the Faculty's *Centre for Law and Society*, has co-authored a new book with Justice Edwin Cameron & Sohela Surajpal on prisons in South Africa (hot off the press, copies available at bookstores from 31 May).

Says co-author Sohela Surajpal on twitter, the book takes the reader "behind prison walls, describing how our country treats the 160 000 people locked up in our name and how we can do better".



ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP



Dr Nomfundo Ramalekana, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Law, was recently interviewed on SABC News regarding the Democratic Alliance's court challenge against the Employment Equity Amendment Act. As explained by the news programme anchor, the DA's case seeks to have the amended Act to be declared constitutionally invalid "on the basis that it gives the Minister of Labour the power to set sectoral employment equity targets that the party [DA] says amount to racial quotas, and are rigid and would worsen the country's unemployment crisis." Dr Ramalekana explains her perspective on the Act, and on the legal interpretations at the centre of the DA's case, with regard to "targets" and "quotas". Head to youtube for the full interview.

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.

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.