

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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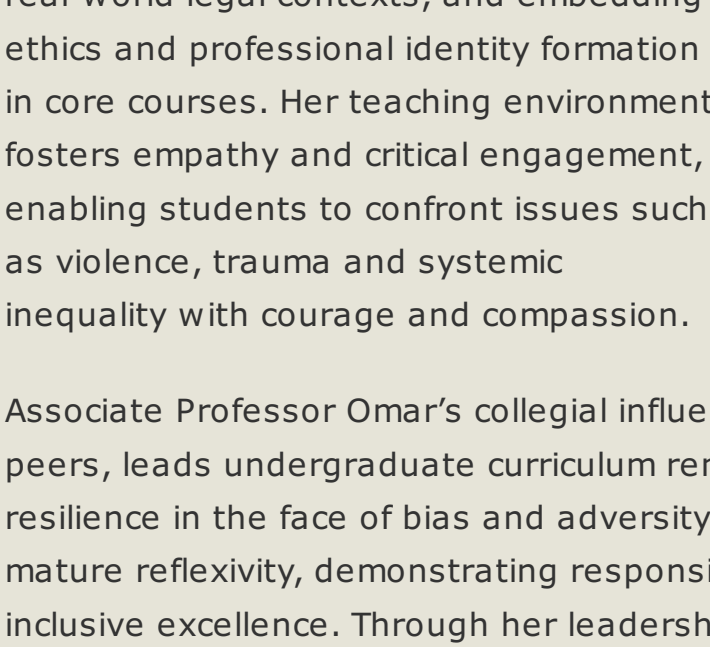
FACULTY NEWS

STAFF NEWS
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

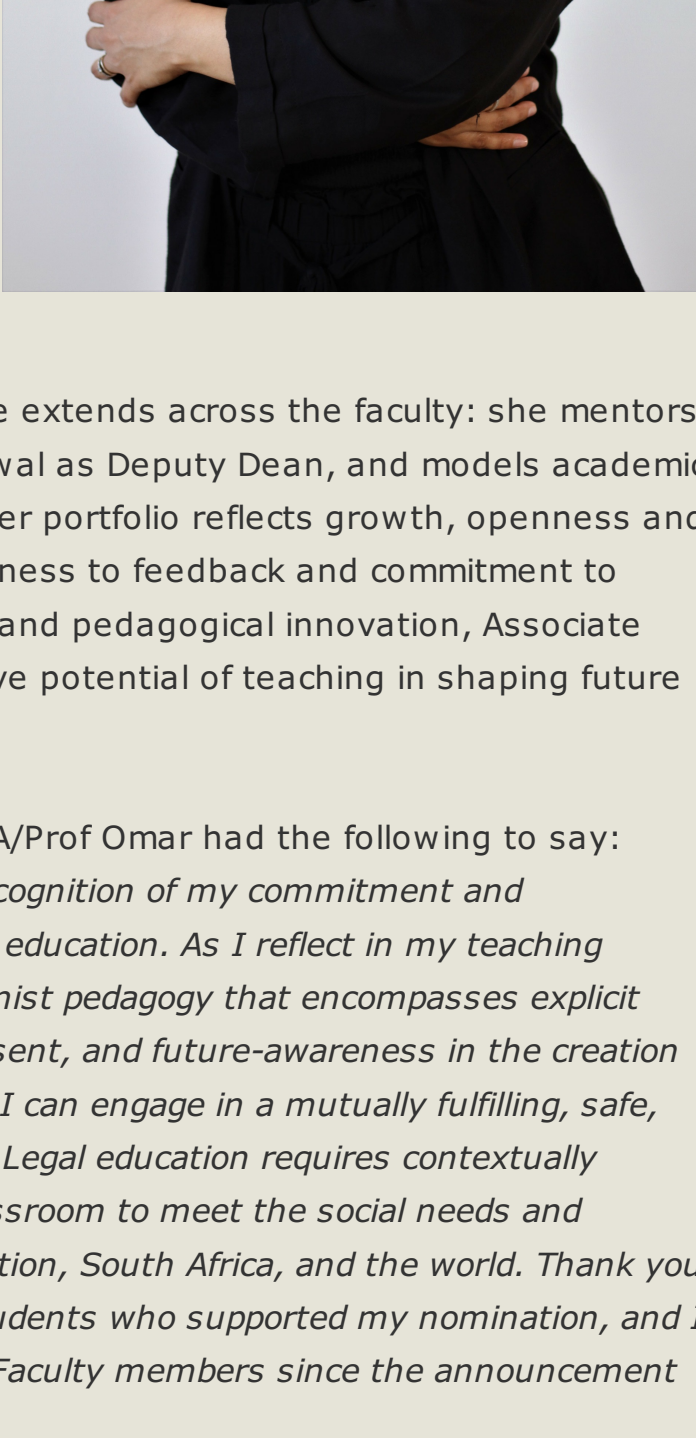
Congratulations to **Associate Professor Jameelah Omar**, Deputy Dean Undergraduate, on being recognised with a *Distinguished Teacher Award* for 2024. Each year, UCT honours members of our academic community whose teaching embodies excellence, innovation and a profound commitment to student learning. The *Distinguished Teacher Award* (DTA) is the university's highest recognition of teaching, celebrating educators who exemplify the transformative power of education through their pedagogy, leadership and scholarly engagement.

Awardees are selected through a rigorous review by the DTA Committee, which assesses nominees against criteria of excellence, inclusivity, curriculum renewal and impact on students and colleagues. The committee also considers how nominees situate their practice within national and global contexts, advancing teaching and learning as a scholarly and socially responsive endeavour. The DTA thus affirms the centrality of teaching and learning to UCT's academic mission and the university's ongoing commitment to transformation, intellectual rigour and human dignity in education.

The 2024 awardees exemplify the depth and diversity of teaching excellence at UCT and include **Associate Prof Jameelah Omar** who, through this award, is celebrated for her transformative approach to legal education, distinguished by intellectual integrity, inclusivity and reflective leadership. A/Prof Omar's teaching philosophy, rooted in feminist pedagogy and a commitment to social justice, intertwines theory and practice, challenging students to see law as a living discipline responsive to human experience.



A/Prof Omar has pioneered innovative curriculum design in the Faculty of Law, introducing the *Legal Shadowing Programme* that connects students with real-world legal contexts, and embedding ethics and professional identity formation in core courses. Her teaching environment fosters empathy and critical engagement, enabling students to confront issues such as violence, trauma and systemic inequality with courage and compassion.



Associate Professor Omar's collegial influence extends across the faculty: she mentors peers, leads undergraduate curriculum renewal as Deputy Dean, and models academic resilience in the face of bias and adversity. Her portfolio reflects growth, openness and mature reflexivity, demonstrating responsiveness to feedback and commitment to inclusive excellence. Through her leadership and pedagogical innovation, Associate Professor Omar exemplifies the transformative potential of teaching in shaping future generations of legal professionals.

In discussing the significance of this award, A/Prof Omar had the following to say: *This award is very meaningful to me for the recognition of my commitment and contribution to teaching and the future of legal education. As I reflect in my teaching portfolio, my teaching approach "adopts a feminist pedagogy that encompasses epistemic historical awareness, groundedness in the present, and future-awareness in the creation of shared learning spaces where students and I can engage in a mutually fulfilling, safe, but critical teaching and learning relationship". Legal education requires contextually responsive engagement in and outside the classroom to meet the social needs and challenges that face the profession, the institution, South Africa, and the world. Thank you to all the colleagues, external partners, and students who supported my nomination, and I am deeply appreciative of the warm wishes of Faculty members since the announcement of the award.*

CONGRATULATIONS, A/Prof Omar!

DIRECTORS: INTERNATIONALISATION AND RESEARCH

The Dean is very pleased to announce the following appointments:

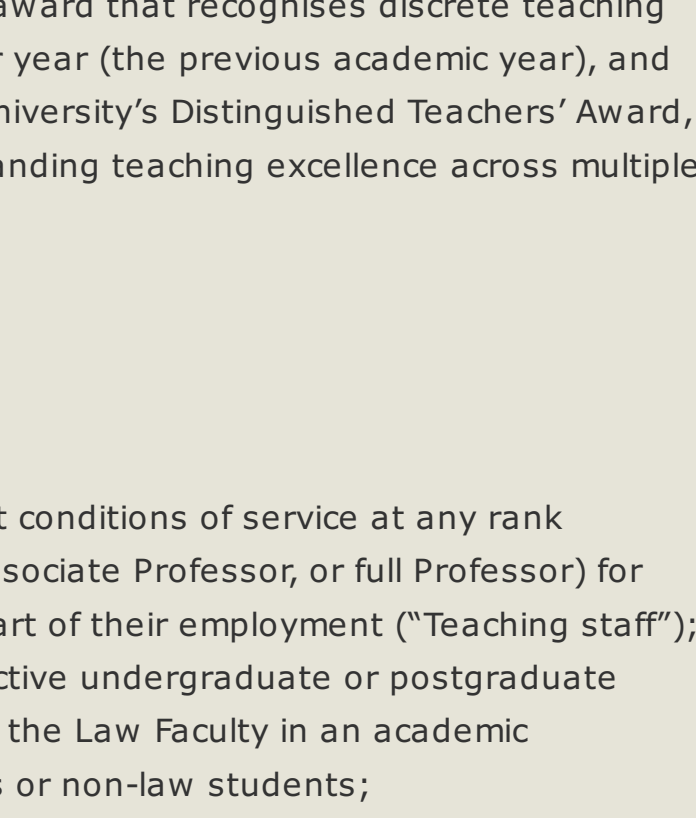
- Director of Internationalisation: **A/Prof Lee-Ann Tong** will serve a three-year term starting 1 January 2027
- Acting Director of Internationalisation: **A/Prof Hannah Woollever** will serve in this role from 1 January to 31 December 2026.
- Director of Research: **Prof Jaco Barnard-Naudé** has been reappointed for a further three-year term, commencing 1 January 2026.

Professor Chirwa writes "I would like to thank all three colleagues for their willingness to serve in these important capacities and wish them every success in their roles."

LAW TEACHING INNOVATION AWARD

A/Prof Jameelah Omar, Deputy Dean Undergraduate Studies, introduces a new annual award for teaching innovation - the **Law Teaching Innovation Award**.

This award is to encourage teaching and learning excellence and innovation in line with the Faculty's Vision to develop "a community of teaching and learning practice that co-creates high-quality innovative, research-informed, skills-based, participatory learning and critical thinking".



The **Law Teaching Innovation Award** is an award that recognises discrete teaching innovation in a particular course in a singular year (the previous academic year), and this award is not intended to replicate the University's Distinguished Teachers' Award, which is a holistic award recognising long-standing teaching excellence across multiple areas of teaching pedagogy.

Eligibility criteria

- *Eligible staff*

- Academic staff members on permanent conditions of service at any rank (including, Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, or full Professor) for whom Teaching & Learning is a core part of their employment ("Teaching Staff");
- Teaching staff that teach a core or elective undergraduate or postgraduate course (or part of a course) offered by the Law Faculty in an academic programme presented to law students or non-law students;
- Teaching staff that have taught at UCT for a minimum of 3 years; and
- A member of the Teaching Staff is not eligible for the award for a period of 3 years after being granted the Law Teaching Innovation Award.

Teaching innovation – this is an open list that may include but is not limited to:

- The promotion of participatory or active learning strategies and methods;
- The successful use of group work or other peer-learning strategies;
- Innovative uses of technology to support student learning;
- The embedding of ethics in the curriculum;
- The embedding of 'soft' skills in the curriculum, including professional conduct skills;
- Innovations to develop Africanisation or decolonisation in the curriculum;
- The promotion of multi-lingual teaching and learning.

Award

A monetary award of R10 000.00 to be transferred to the awardee's UCT fund, to support further teaching innovation.

Application process

Eligible teaching staff who are interested in applying for the annual teaching innovation award must submit the following in support of their application:

- A written portfolio articulating the specific innovation that the teaching staff member believes shows excellence or innovation in legal education (3 – 5 pages);
- Evidence that demonstrates the success of the teaching innovation (maximum 10 pages). Such evidence may include excerpts from student's written work, support letters from a student and/or a colleague, or any other evidence that demonstrates
 - the innovation and its impact on student learning; and
 - Student course evaluations that demonstrate the success of the teaching innovation
- in the year of application.

Award panel

- A (minimum of) 3-person sub-committee of the Faculty Teaching & learning Committee; and
- A member of CHED who has experience in teaching pedagogy (nominated by the Dean of CHED).

The award panel reserves the right not to award the prize in any particular year where the criteria has not been met by the applications received. It is hoped that this award will stimulate greater interest in developing new pedagogy, creative innovations, and joy in legal education.

The official call will be sent out in early 2026, to consider applications for excellent teaching during the 2025 academic year. The deadline for portfolios is likely to be sometime in March 2026.

NEW STAFF

Welcoming new staff

The Faculty extends a warm welcome to **Ms Ayesha McLachlan**, new administrative assistant to the Chair of Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development, **Prof Caroline Ncube**. After completing her national diploma in Business and Information Administration at CPUJ, Ayesha worked in various roles outside of UCT, including as a Graduate Intern at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and at the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (W. Cape gov).



If anyone needs advice on having cats, or needs to share their cat pics, Ayesha is the person to speak to – she has a "huge love"

for her five cats! Ayesha describes herself as easy-going, friendly and content, and enjoys time with family and friends, trying new foods and getting involved in something creative. Welcome Ayesha!

FACULTY CALENDAR

- 9 December** | Pre-FEC
- 10 December** | Special Farewell Tea – Staff Common Room
- 10 December** | Staff End-of-Year Function
- 11 December** | Faculty Examination Committee
- 11 – 13 December** | UCT Criminology Conference

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & EVENTS

**Public Law Conference:
Public Law and the Future of Constitutional Democracy
1 July – 4 July 2026**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS - DEADLINE EXTENDED

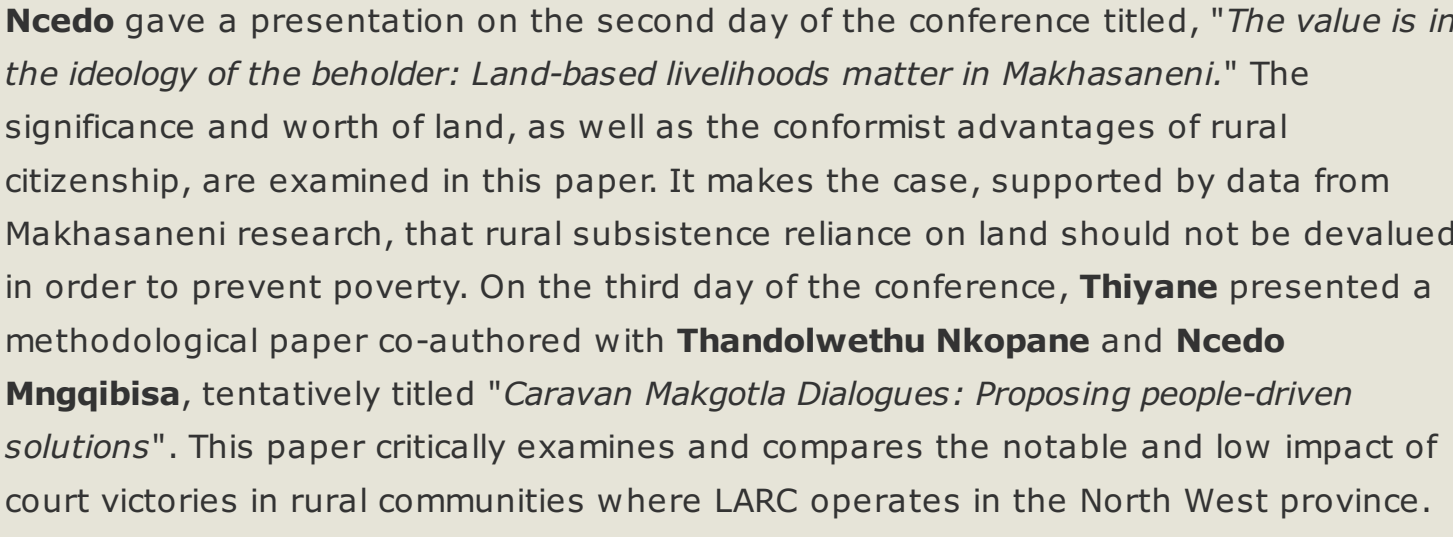
The 2026 Public Law Conference, to be held at the Faculty of Law in July 2026 on the theme 'Public Law and the Future of Constitutional Democracy', has extended its call for abstracts until **Monday 8 December 2025**. So there is still time to submit your proposed paper!

Further details on the conference, and the call for papers, can be found on the conference page.

PAST LECTURES, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS

Race, Racism and International Law

On Thursday 12 November, the Centre of Criminology and the Department of Public Law hosted **Prof Justin Destexhe** (University of Colorado) to speak about his recent co-edited collection *Race, Racism, and International Law*. In conversation with **Dr Nomfundo Ramalekana** and **Dr Nicola Palmer**, Prof Destexhe addressed a range of topics pertinent to the field of international law, including (amongst many others) the use of the term "Third World International Law" (TWAIL).

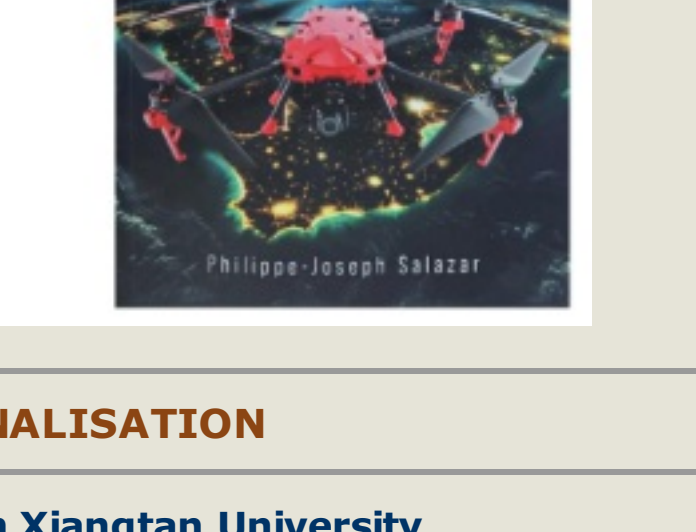
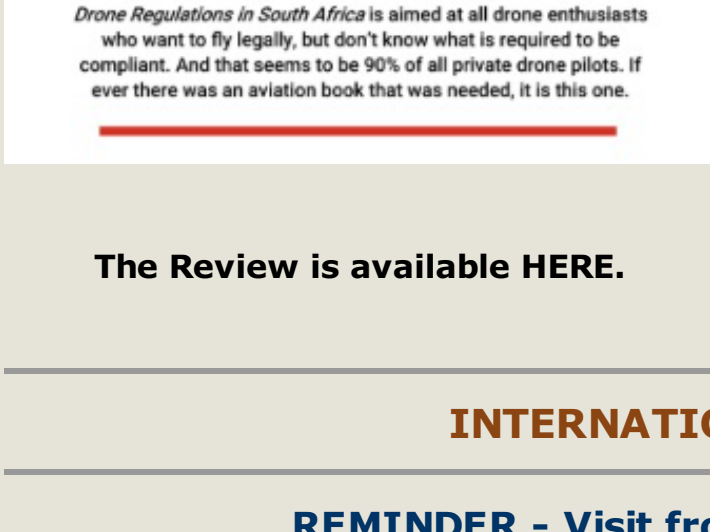


Land, Life, and Society: LARC's Contributions to Global Discourse

Researchers from the **Land and Accountability Research Centre** (LARC) attended the *Land, Life and Society International Conference*, organised by the Institute for Poverty, Land, and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at UWC, from 7-9 October 2025. The conference aimed to facilitate dialogue among social movements, (inter)governmental policy experts, practitioners, and rural populations, as well as to reach an agreement on the critical need for a coordinated global response to land, with a focus on sustainable, secure, and healthy interconnections between land, water, food, and climate. The conference drew scholars from 53 countries and more than 250 delegates. The conference papers were organised around five themes: land, oceans and fisheries, climate and environment, food, and politics, with discussion focused on issues such as: What can be done to repair the frayed relationships between people, land, and nature? What can make life more liveable for both humans and other animals? How can effective climate action enhance land rights and justice while preventing climate-induced land grabs? What forms of mobilisations, and what new institutional arrangements and alliances, are required to achieve agricultural and environmental justice?

At the conference, LARC researchers **Nokwanda Sibisi**, **Thiyane Duda** and **Ncedo Mngqibisa** presented their working papers central to LARC's work on Land, Mining and Traditional governance in the former homelands of South Africa. On the first day of the conference, **Nokwanda** presented her paper provisionally titled "Constitutional Obligations and Informal Land Rights: Analyzing the Ministerial Response to CASAC v Ingonyama Trust for Securing Land Rights in South Africa". Her paper sought to provide a critical analysis of the potential impact of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Ministerial Implementation Plan on protecting and securing the tenure rights of rural citizens, particularly those living in former homelands, since the CASAC v Ingonyama Trust court ruling.

Ncedo gave a presentation on the second day of the conference titled, "The value is in the ideology of the behavior: Land-based livelihoods matter in Makhasaneni". The significance and worth of land, as well as the consequent advantages of rural citizenship, are examined in this paper. It makes the case, supported by data from Makhasaneni research, that rural subsistence reliance on land should not be devalued in order to prevent poverty. On the third day of the conference, **Thiyane** presented a methodological paper co-authored with **Thandethu Ngweni** and **Ncedo Mngqibisa**, tentatively titled "Caravan Experiences: Proposing people-driven solutions". This paper critically examines and compares the notable and low impact of court victories in rural communities where LARC operates in the North West province. It also proposes mobilisation and other interventions as an alternative to litigation for advancing land justice in South Africa.



Left: The LARC team, and Above: Ncedo Mngqibisa.

PUBLICATIONS

Distinguished Professor Salazar's recent book, *Drone Regulations in South Africa*, has received a great review in *SA Flyer Magazine* (the top aviation magazine on the continent) by Dr Guy Leitch.

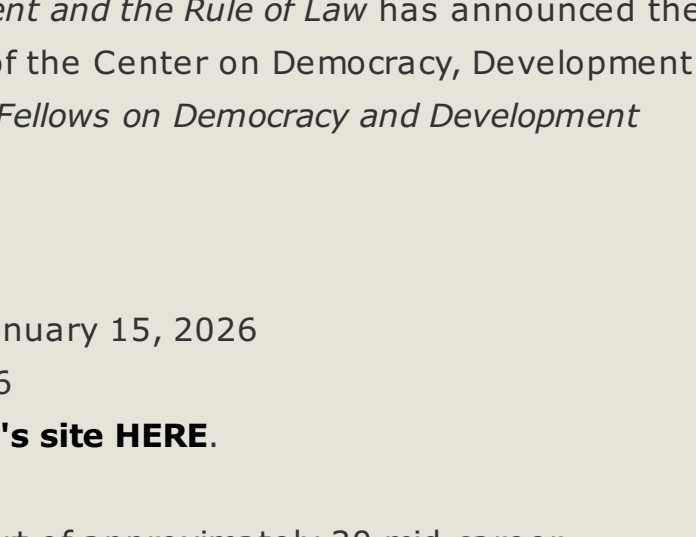
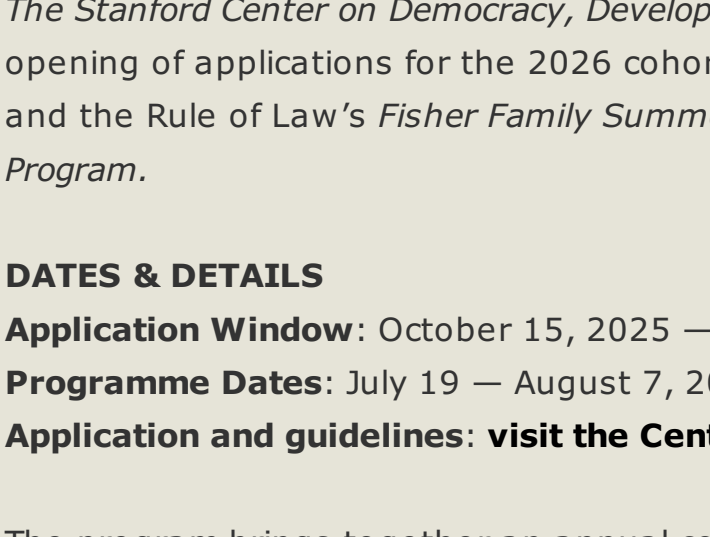
(considered to be "the aviation" in South Africa). This is the second air/aviation book by Distinguished Professor Salazar, both published by Juta.



As a reflection of the level of growth in the field of air and aviation law, Juta now in effect has a series dedicated to this specialisation, with more titles to come. What is this book all about, you may wonder. The author replies simply: "This provides all the do's and don'ts of flying a civilian drone legally".

Distinguished Professor Salazar points out that, written in plain, no-nonsense language, the book is directed at:

- Drone enthusiasts who are interested in flying drones for fun, 'privately', and are unsure of what is legal and what is not
- Drone enthusiasts who want a remote pilot licence to start a job and need sound advice about flying drones 'commercially'
- Drone pilot trainees: this pocketbook can double up as a quick reference guide
- Legal professionals (quite a few of the existing aviation law websites or 'guides' are outdated, or vague)
- Drone operators, flight schools, businesses and service providers that need a clear idea about state regulations
- Foreign visitors looking to operate their drones locally.



The Review is available [HERE](#).

INTERNATIONALISATION

REMINDER - Visit from Xiangtan University

Professor **Fatima Khan**, Director of Internationalisation, extends a cordial invitation to colleagues to join a meeting with a visiting delegation from Xiangtan University.

Date: 1 December

Time: 10h30 - 12h30

Venue: Faculty Common Room

The visiting delegation will comprise five members of the University:
Professor Liao Yong'an – President, Xiangtan University & Dean, China-Africa Research Institute (XTU)
Professor Wang Weiyun – Director, International Exchange Center (XTU)
Professor Li Shichun – Principal, Law School (XTU)
Professor Zhang Xiaohu – Executive Vice Dean, China-Africa Research Institute (XTU)
Dr Wang Weifeng – Lecturer & Full-time Research Fellow, China-Africa Research Institute (XTU)

LAW SCHOOLS GLOBAL LEAGUE - CALL FOR PAPERS

CALL FOR PAPERS

The **Law Schools Global League** is delighted to announce its forthcoming Academic Conference, hosted by **Jindal Global Law School (JGLS)**, O.P. Jindal Global University (India) on 20 February 2026. This year's theme: "Law and the Digital Future: Reimagining Global Legal Education" invites scholars, researchers, and Ph.D. students from LSGL member institutions to reflect on how technology, AI, and digital transformation are reshaping legal education and the profession. We warmly invite faculty members across LSGL schools to submit their abstracts and contribute to this global dialogue on the future of law and learning. **The Call for Papers is available at this link.**

Submission deadline: **20 November 2025**

Stanford | Fisher Family Summer Fellows Program
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law

Stanford Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
Fisher Family Summer Fellows Program

The Stanford Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law has announced the opening of applications for the 2026 cohort of the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law's Fisher Family Summer Fellows on Democracy and Development Program.

DATES & DETAILS

Application Window: October 15, 2025 – January 15, 2026

Programme Dates: July 19 – August 7, 2026

Application and guidelines: visit the Center's site [HERE](#).

The program brings together an annual cohort of approximately 30 mid-career practitioners from countries in political transition who are working to advance democratic practices and enact economic and legal reform to promote human development.

Ideal candidates should play important and influential roles in their country's political, economic, and social development and have demonstrated professional and personal achievements in a relevant sector of democracy, development, and the rule of law.

If you have any questions, please contact summerfellows@stanford.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLEGIAL COURTESIES

EVENT INFORMATION

If you're holding any kind of event in the Faculty, please take the time to **inform the staff at the Security Desk on Level 4**. They are the front line for visitors at Kramer, but have are often without with the information required to play an informed and welcoming role. It helps enormously to put something onto an A4 sheet, indicating event name, date, time, venue and anticipated number of participants, and give this to security perhaps with prestik or tape so that it is visible for security staff.



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

Please send your news & ideas to gabyrichie@uct.ac.za – we'd really like to hear from you.