



**SOUTH AFRICAN  
RESEARCH CHAIR:**

Intellectual Property,  
Innovation and Development

# NEWSLETTER

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# About Us

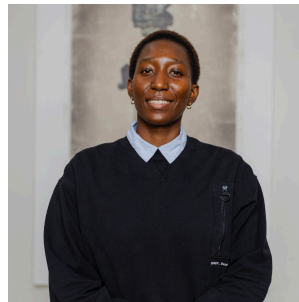
The South African Research Chair: Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development is part of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI) established by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and the National Research Foundation. It was awarded at tier 2 under the call for Research Chairs in National Development Plan Priority Areas (2018). The current and inaugural holder of the Chair is Professor Caroline Ncube. The chair's first 5-year cycle ran from 2019 - 2023. Its second term, upgraded to tier 1, runs from 2024 -2028.

The Chair's research on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development aligns with South Africa's National Development Plan 2030, focusing on promoting innovation, economic growth, and building state capability. Professor Caroline Ncube leads a team of researchers in these areas to address priorities of employment, education, and innovation.

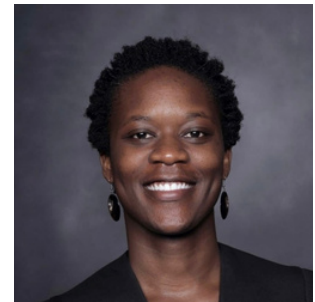
In 2025, the team was made up of the following members:



**Prof. Caroline Ncube**  
Chairholder



**Dr. Ghati Nyehita**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow



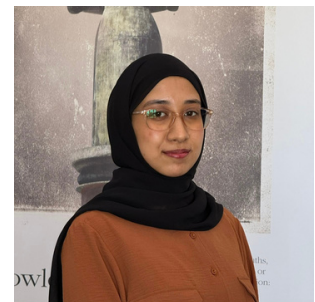
**Dr. Charlene Musiza**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow



**Dr. Elfes Torerai**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow



**Dr. Tebogo Lefifi**  
Junior Research Fellow



**Ayesha Mc Lachlan**  
Office Assistant



**Ngonidzaishe Gotora**  
Research Assistant



**Mduduzi Nene**  
Intern

# Momentum Catalyst Events: Accelerating Our Impact

This year, our Chair participated in a number of pivotal “momentum catalyst” events; both those we hosted and those we were invited to across the broader innovation ecosystem. Each gathering played a distinct role in propelling our work forward, whether by deepening partnerships, advancing IP and development pathways, shaping policy dialogues, or expanding the reach of our research. Importantly, our attendance at several external events, each selected for its strategic relevance, helped strengthen our visibility and influence beyond our immediate network.

## IP Emerging Researchers and Postgraduates Symposium 2025 University of Cape Town | 7 - 11 July 2025

A major highlight of this year’s events was the *Emerging Researchers and Postgraduates Symposium: Intellectual Property in Africa*, hosted by the IP Chair at the University of Cape Town. The event was anchored around the Chair’s 10-year milestone of the South African Intellectual Property Law Journal (IPLJ) and brought together early-career researchers and postgraduate students from across the continent to interrogate Africa’s rapidly evolving IP landscape.



The Symposium, a project led by Dr. Charlene Musiza, served as a powerful platform for nurturing the next generation of African IP scholars, fostering collaboration, and catalysing new research trajectories aligned with Agenda 2063, the AfCFTA, global treaty developments, and the continent’s innovation and sustainability agendas. Over five days, the programme featured a rich mix of research presentations, thematic writing blocks and peer-feedback sessions, all aimed at strengthening scholarly writing, refining argumentation, and contextualising IP research within African realities.

Through convening senior academics, providing mentoring, and supporting participation, including travel support for selected postgraduate researchers from the IP Chair and Open AIR, the Symposium successfully mobilised a continent-wide cohort of emerging thinkers committed to shaping equitable, development-aligned IP systems.

We are confident insights generated at the Symposium will continue to circulate, influence, and inform policy and scholarly debate.







Several of the papers presented will move forward for publication in a special 2025 edition of the IPLJ. Below is a list of forthcoming papers from IP Chair researchers and researchers from Open AIR's New and Emerging Researcher's Group (NERGs) on the backdrop of the Symposium.



Tendai Mikioni (forthcoming)

***The Clock Is Ticking for the Sustainable Development Goals: A Geographical Indications-Based Intervention in the Quest to End Poverty***



'Damola Adediji (forthcoming)

***Convergence of Intellectual Property and Competition Law Objectives for Africa: A TWAIL Reconsideration of the Copyright Issues arising from the 6th Amendment of the Nigerian Broadcasting Code***



Dorcas Chebet Koros (forthcoming)

***Aligning Africa's Evolving Copyright Landscape with Agenda 2063: Lessons from Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, and Kenya***



Dr. Charlene Musiza

"Organising the Symposium was such a rewarding experience. Over the three days, we created a space for deep exchange and real mentorship from experienced academics. The "Shut Up and Write" session was a standout, with just quiet focus and participants working on their papers. It was amazing to watch their passion and discipline. I think we've sparked something special, a growing network of driven and thoughtful scholars who are shaping the future of IP in Africa. Thanks to Prof. Ncube for making this a reality" - Dr. Musiza

#### Symposium Supporters:



science, technology  
& innovation  
Department:  
Science, Technology and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National  
Research  
Foundation



The impact of this year's work extend well beyond our own convenings. By engaging directly with global institutions such as the FAO and WIPO, the Chair was able to bring African-centered research into rooms where international norms are shaped, and where future policy directions for food systems, traditional knowledge, emerging technologies and IP governance are actively negotiated.

### **Worldwide Perspectives on Geographical Indications 2025** Rome, Italy | 18 - 21 February 2025



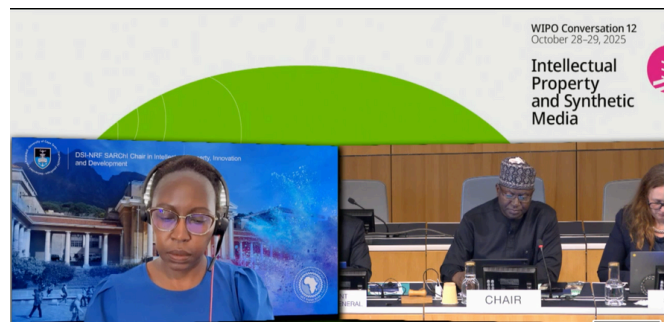
Our momentum this year was significantly strengthened by participation in the FAO's 2nd International Conference on Geographical Indications (GI), one of the most influential global platforms shaping the future of origin-linked products and agricultural innovation. The Chair's contribution to this gathering positioned our research at the center of international conversations on how GI frameworks can drive sustainable development, safeguard traditional knowledge, and enhance market opportunities for producers across the Global South.

Dr Charlene Musiza's presentation, *From Vineyards to Fields: The Evolution of Origin-linked Protection in South Africa*, offered an important African perspective at a moment when many countries are reassessing their GI systems. By tracing South Africa's progression from early wine-focused protections to the more comprehensive GI Regulations of 2019, she highlighted the emergence of a uniquely hybrid system drawing on trademark law, consumer protection, sector-specific statutes, and bilateral influences. Her intervention underscored both the complexity and the potential of South Africa's evolving GI landscape, insights that resonated strongly in discussions about regulatory coherence, producer empowerment, and global standard-setting.

### **WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies** Geneva, Switzerland | 28 - 29 October 2025

The Chair's momentum this year also extended into global conversations on emerging technologies, most notably through participation in WIPO's Twelfth Session of the Conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies. This platform is central to shaping international thinking on synthetic media, AI governance, and the adequacy of existing legal frameworks: issues that increasingly influence innovation systems across Africa. Prof. Caroline Ncube played a key role in these discussions as moderator of the panel on existing legal frameworks for synthetic media, a session that examined how privacy, personality, consumer protection, image rights, unfair competition, and anti-fraud laws intersect with rapidly evolving digital technologies.

Her contribution underscored the importance of ensuring that African legal realities and research perspectives inform this global dialogue, especially as frontier technologies reshape markets, creativity, and regulation. Participation in this platform not only elevates the Chair's visibility in international norm-setting spaces but also strengthens partnerships for future work on digital governance, synthetic media, and the evolving boundaries of IP law.





## WIPO Third Expert-Level Roundtable on Fostering South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Intellectual Property and Development

### Geneva, Switzerland | 13 - 14 November 2025

Our participation in WIPO's Expert-Level Roundtable on South-South and Triangular Cooperation marked another key momentum-catalyst moment for the Chair this year.

Prof. Caroline contributed substantively to these discussions as both a speaker and a panellist, presenting her work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Contemporary Challenges in the Creative Economy.



Drawing on the analysis of the interconnected roles of creative industries, IP systems, and sustainable development frameworks, she highlighted how developing countries can co-develop contextually relevant approaches to digital disruption, enforcement challenges, AI-driven creativity, and the equitable capture of value in global creative markets. Her presentation mapped out a strategic approach to cooperation, selecting subsectors, clarifying desired outcomes, and identifying partners such as WIPO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, regional IP organisations, and national IP offices. It also drew attention to contemporary challenges such as technological change, user-generated content, online infringement, and questions of authorship in AI-mediated creativity. These insights resonated strongly in subsequent sessions, including those on designing scalable cooperation models and strengthening creative economies across the Global South.

## WIPO Global Research Experts Meeting on Improving Women's Participation in Innovation, Creativity, and Intellectual Property

### Geneva, Switzerland | 24 - 25 November 2025

Global Research Experts Meeting (GREM)  
November 24-25, 2025

### Improving Women's Participation in Innovation, Creativity, and Intellectual Property

An initiative under the  
IP and Gender Action Plan



Our involvement in WIPO's Global Research Experts Meeting (GREM) represented another momentum-catalyst engagement for the Chair, reinforcing our commitment to shaping international conversations on inclusive innovation and gender-responsive IP systems. The two-day meeting assembled global scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to examine the structural barriers affecting women's participation across IP value chains and to develop evidence-based pathways for reform. The programme covered themes such as access to finance, gendered innovation systems, AI-enabled visibility for women creators, and sector-specific gender gaps, reflecting the breadth of issues at stake.

Dr Ghati Nyehita, our Postdoctoral Research Fellow, contributed significantly to these discussions. Her presentation, "*Intellectual Property as Reparative Justice: Gender-Sensitive Innovation Pathways for Refugee Women in Africa*," positioned IP not merely as a set of legal tools, but as a mechanism for addressing historical and structural injustices that limit refugee women's participation in innovation ecosystems.

By linking IP to broader agendas such as the African Union's 2025 reparative justice theme and SDGs 5 and 8, her contribution helped reframe global thinking on how inclusive IP regimes can support economic agency, innovation, and integration for displaced women. The session's discussions were enriched by Ghati's emphasis on cultural legacies, migration governance, gendered barriers, and the need for targeted capacity-building and gender-disaggregated IP data. These insights fed directly into the meeting's concluding reflections on future research and policy directions.

**'Re\*thinking Folklore' Colloquium**  
**Kortrijk, Belgium | 13 September 2025**



The Chair's global engagement this year extended into cultural heritage discourse, with both Dr. Charlene Musiza and former visiting researcher Devanshi Saxena playing prominent roles at the Re\*thinking Folklore Colloquium, organised jointly by an intangible-heritage institute and a new museum exploring identity, tradition, and contemporary culture.

Their presentation titled *"Ownership and Governance of Folklore: Multilayered Perspectives, Multilayered Tensions"* explored how intellectual property frameworks intersect with living traditions. They asked fundamental questions: can legal regimes designed for individual creators accommodate collective, evolving cultural practices such as folklore, and if so, how?

By situating IP law in conversation with folklore and heritage, their intervention challenged conventional distinctions between "traditional" and "modern" forms of creativity. In doing so, they helped deepen ongoing debates about cultural belonging, communal memory, and the rights of communities to govern, reuse, and reinvent their intangible heritage. Their contribution at this colloquium demonstrates how our Chair's work is not only focused on conventional innovation systems, but also engages with broader questions about culture, identity, and justice in a rapidly changing global environment.

Participation in the Re\*thinking Folklore Colloquium thus expanded the Chair's influence beyond the typical realms of law and economic development, showing that our commitment to innovation and IP also embraces cultural heritage, social identity, and community-driven creativity.





## Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) – Legal Forum 2025 Changsha, Hunan Province | 10 - 11 July 2025

Dr. Tebogo Lefifi participated in the 2025 Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Legal Forum. The high-level forum, attended by legal scholars and practitioners from 26 African countries, examined how rule-of-law cooperation can strengthen China–Africa trade, investment, digital economy governance, and green development. Central themes included legal talent development, institutional collaboration, dispute settlement reform, and the alignment of legal frameworks with the Beijing Action Plan (2025–2027) between China and Africa Focac Law declaration.



Of direct significance to the Chair was the Declaration's call to "jointly cultivate interdisciplinary legal professionals" and to deepen cooperation among African and Chinese legal research institutions to provide "intellectual support for China–Africa economic and trade cooperation". Importantly, the Declaration also highlights the need to strengthen collaboration in "intellectual property protection, anti-dumping and countervailing" and to build predictable rule frameworks that support innovation-driven development across the continent.

## China Partnership Engagement Visit China | November 2025



Dr. Lefifi participated in a strategic delegation to China to advance partnerships with governance and policy institutions in the top universities in support of Africa's AfCFTA implementation agenda. The visit included engagements with Fudan University, Nanjing University, Tsinghua University, Peking University, the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD) and the UIBE WTO Centre, where discussions focused on comparative governance, industrial policy, standards and IP capability, and the legal and institutional frameworks underpinning regional integration. These engagements reinforced the alignment between African development priorities and China's expertise in state capability and industrial coordination, establishing a collaborative platform that will support IP governance and AfCFTA-oriented capacity-building across the continent.

## Friends of BRICS Keynote Cape Town, South Africa | 2 December 2025

Another key momentum-catalyst moment this year was Dr. Lefifi's keynote address to the Friends of BRICS Society, a convening platform that brings together senior leaders from business, academia, media, development, policy, and governance across the Global South. Her presentation, *"How Africa Should Engage China: Building the Legal and Negotiating Capabilities That Attract Investment,"* delivered a timely and strategically significant intervention at a moment when Africa's economic partnerships with China are deepening and diversifying.

Drawing on her extensive research into China's legal, industrial, and innovation policy systems, Dr. Lefifi examined China's evolution from a rule-taker to a global rule-maker, particularly in intellectual property, standards governance, and technology ecosystems. She highlighted how China's development strategy placed IP at the centre of national competitiveness, reflected both in the philosophy that "third-tier companies make products; second-tier companies make technology; first-tier companies make standards" and in the country's IP Powerhouse Vision 2035, which outlines its ambition to lead globally in IP creation, enforcement, and standard-setting.



Her keynote underscored the capability gaps that continue to limit Africa's ability to negotiate effectively and shape investment outcomes. She emphasised the need for deeper legal and technical expertise, strengthened standards and SEP competence, structured technology-transfer mechanisms, innovation-aligned Special Economic Zones, and a highly trained negotiation corps capable of engaging China at a technical and institutional level.

Dr. Lefifi concluded by outlining how African institutions might strategically adapt, not mimic, elements of China's approach. Treating IP as an instrument of development rather than a compliance burden, she argued, is essential if Africa is to modernise its economies, advance the AfCFTA agenda, and ultimately position itself not only as a participant in global rule-making, but as a future rule-maker in its own right.

## NIALS Visit Nigeria | 30 April 2025



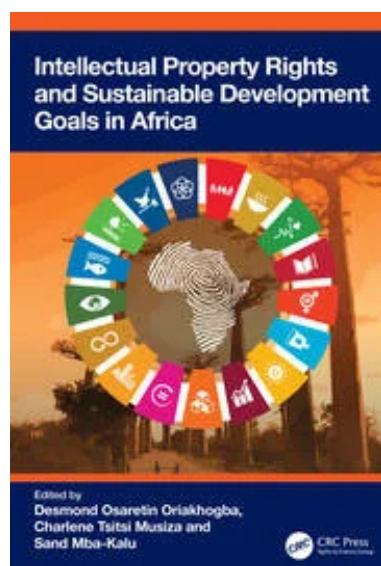
Dr. Lefifi visited the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) to activate the institutional partnership established under the 2023 MOU between NIALS and UCT. The engagement advanced joint plans for AfCFTA-focused academic exchange, legal training and collaborative research, as outlined in the agreement's provisions on capacity-building and programme development.

During the visit, Dr Lefifi also met with the Chair of the All-Africa IP Summit, Sand Mba-Kalu, to initiate a Nigeria-based fundraising and partnership drive aimed at strengthening AfCFTA implementation hub.

# Publications

Our research footprint continued to expand in 2025, with team members publishing new work across journals, books, policy platforms, and collaborative research outputs. A number of further manuscripts have been submitted and are progressing through review, signalling a robust pipeline of forthcoming publications that we will report on in 2026.

## Books



Desmond O Oriakhogba, **Charlene T Musiza** and Sand K. Mba (ed.s) *Intellectual Property Rights and Sustainable Development Goals in Africa* (2025) Routledge

Available at: <https://bit.ly/48g6Jze>

## Journal Articles



**Ncube, C. B.** (2025). Food Security and Plant Variety Protection: Seeding Hope for the African Continental Free Trade Area?: Food Security and Plant Variety Protection. *IIC - International Review of Intellectual Property and Competition Law*, 56(1), 64–90.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40319-024-01556-3>





## Journal Articles (continued)



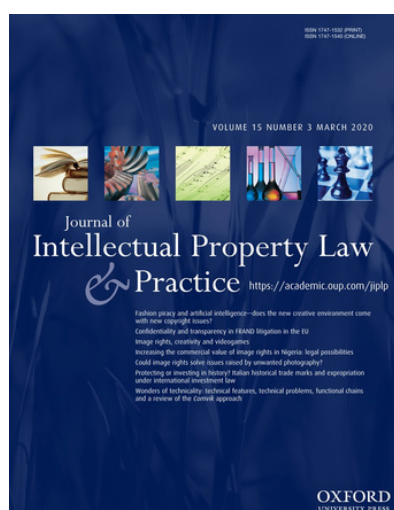
**Nyehita, S.** (2025). Harnessing the maker movement as an important tool for the inclusion of racialized/marginalized women into the innovation and creativity paradigm. *African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development*, 17(2), 229–237.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/20421338.2025.2459427>



**Kolawole, O., Ncube, C., & de Beer, J.** (2025). Challenges implementing technology transfer as a viable pathway for equitable vaccine production and access: A case study of the mRNA vaccine hub in South Africa. *Global Public Health*, 20(1), 2504698.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2025.2504698>



**Musiza, C.** (2025). Form and substance: the developmental promises of geographical indications in Africa. *Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice*, 20(8), 539–545.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jiplp/jpaf044>





## Policy Briefs



**Charlene Musiza**, Transforming small businesses via clusters and collective intellectual property rights. *HSRC Policy Brief*, June 2025

Available at: <https://bit.ly/48sLrNP>

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are significant contributors to the South African economy. They promote growth, create employment, and support poverty alleviation. It is estimated that they account for about 40 per cent of the country's GDP. However, they encounter challenges that hinder their growth – a complex legal and regulatory environment, limited access to financing, markets and effective marketing strategies. Some of these challenges can be overcome through industrial clusters and the use of collective intellectual property rights. Such a strategy can be implemented by the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) through streamlining activities to grow small businesses by promoting the growth of industrial clusters, as well as supporting and facilitating the utilisation of collective intellectual property rights (certification and collective marks). This can be effectively done through a comprehensive revision of Integrated Strategy on the Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprises (ISPESE) by the DSBD.

## Blog Posts

**Caroline Wanjiru Muchiri**, A Review of Kenya Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025-2030: The Hits and Misses. *IP Chair Blog*, July 2025

Available at: <https://bit.ly/3Kmf8bm>



**Cindy Moshatane**, Indigenous Knowledge, Intellectual Property, and my journey as an Emerging Researcher. *IP Chair Blog*, October 2025

Available at: <https://bit.ly/4ruiTOq>



# Internationalisation

Our international activities this year underscored the value of knowledge exchange as a two-way process. By participating in global conferences, expert meetings, and research forums, the Chair not only shared its insights but also learned from diverse innovation ecosystems around the world. These interactions have sharpened our research, opened new avenues for collaboration, and strengthened our ability to contribute meaningfully to international debates. The map below highlights the regions and cities we engaged with throughout 2025; detailed reports are available on our website [here](#).



# Visiting Scholars & Academic Engagements

## Visiting Researcher

### **Dr. Samuel Ugwumba**



In its second term (2024 - 2028), the chair has formalised the hosting of an annual visiting researcher for a period of one to three months.

From June - August 2025, we hosted Dr Samuel Ugwumba. Samuel's research focus is on copyright law and policy in developing countries, and particularly how a re-characterization and understanding of copyright as an institution of cultural governance within the political economy of

information production can aid in examining the extent to which copyright pays equal attention—as well as the impediments preventing it from doing so—to economic and social considerations. His contribution to IP discourse, and specifically copyright, is that the critique and analysis of these regimes through a governance theory perspective.

As part of his research visit, Samuel delivered a guest lecture to the 2025 LLM class enrolled in the Electronic Transactions Law course. In his lecture, he delivered a thought-provoking lecture exploring the deep tension between artificial intelligence and the foundational commitments of political liberalism. Challenging purely technical or regulatory framings of AI, the lecture argued that AI functions as a cultural artifact that shapes meaning, values, and public reasoning in ways that strain liberalism's ideals of neutrality and equal citizenship.

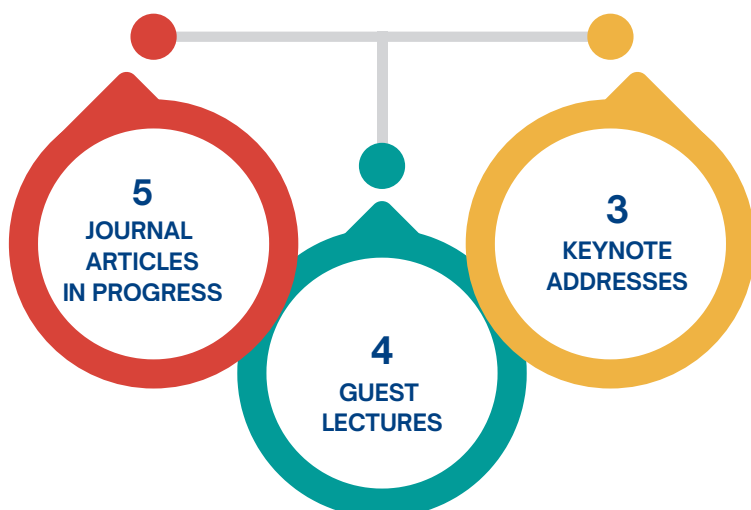
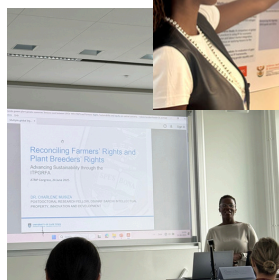


## Guest Lecture

### **Dr. Charlene Musiza**

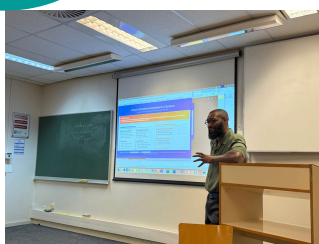
On 2 September 2025 Dr. Charlene Musiza delivered a guest lecture titled '*International Geographical Indications: Legal Frameworks and African Case Studies*'. Speaking to postgraduate students in the IP Law, Development and Innovation course convened by Associate Professor Tobias Schonwetter, she mapped the global and regional legal frameworks for GIs, including under the TRIPS Agreement and Lisbon Agreement, and under the two African regional IP organisations OAPI and ARIPO. She compared the legal mechanisms for GI protection with examples from a few African countries. Dr. Musiza discussed the AfCFTA Intellectual Property Rights Protocol which seeks to harmonise protection. Through case studies such as Rooibos, Argan Oil and Karoo Lamb, she illustrated the diversity of legal approaches and the socio-economic impact of GIs, highlighting both the challenges and transformative potential of well-designed GI systems. Dr. Musiza addressed the legal, institutional and strategic considerations for cross-border GIs, drawing lessons from international experiences and exploring their relevance for emerging initiatives in Africa on cross-border GIs.

# Research Activities 2025: A “By the Numbers” Snapshot



Forging an effective AI Governance, Policy and Regulatory Toolkit for the Africa we want

Professor Caroline B Ncube





## Research Activities 2025: (Continued)

Building on our expanding research portfolio, our work in 2025 engaged deeply with priority areas identified in the SDGs and South Africa's NDP 2030. The goals below illustrate the development pathways our research focuses on currently. These goals represent the primary areas addressed through our 2025 research activities, though our broader work engages with a wider set of development priorities.



Our research this year contributed meaningfully to several priority areas outlined in South Africa's National Development Plan 2030. In particular, our work aligns with NDP actions aimed at improving health outcomes (Action 3), strengthening education, training and innovation systems (Action 4), and promoting greater gender equity and social inclusion (Action 5). Our focus on sustainable development and climate-related innovation connects directly with the NDP's emphasis on environmental resilience and a just transition (Action 7), while our contributions to governance, institutional strengthening, and public-sector capability resonate with the NDP's call for a capable and developmental state (Action 9). Finally, our broader efforts toward social cohesion, inclusive participation, and equitable access to opportunity reflect the NDP's overarching objective of transforming society and uniting the country (Action 15). Together, these touchpoints underscore how our research supports national aspirations to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030.



# Graduations 2025

## PhDs

### Dr. Suzanne Ghati Nyehita

Thesis Title: Regulating for the equitable remuneration of music artists in Kenya

Supervisor: Associate Professor L-A Tong (Commercial Law)

Co-supervisor: Associate Professor T Schönwetter (Commercial Law)



### Dr. Philda Maiga

Thesis Title: Intellectual Property, Innovation and Trade: Strategies for the actualisation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union

Supervisor: Professor C Ncube (Commercial Law)



## LLM in Intellectual Property Law

Engel, Anna Lisa  
 Fiedler, Robin Christian  
 Gotor, Ngonidzaishé  
 Janse, Kyle Phillip  
 Klug, Ariella Gemma (*with distinction*)  
 Kowalewski, Luca Dario (*with distinction*)  
 Likongwe, Yankho  
 Mikioni, Tendai  
 Mugauri, Joseph Junior Tyronne Rangarirai  
 Mushati, Julita  
 Nene, Mduduzi Mkhululi  
 Njovu, Sinekhaya Zanele  
 Pahl, Nikolas  
 Short, Simon Ramsey  
 Sompá, Thandile  
 Triegaardt, Naa-Iela  
 van Nuus, Kim Patricia  
 Zulu, Nyasha Amanda



# Team Updates

As with any vibrant research community, change is part of our story. Towards the end of this year we had the joy of welcoming a new member to the Chair, while also saying farewell and thank you to a colleague whose dedication and insight enriched our work and is now embarking on an exciting next step.

## Ayesha Mc Lachlan



We are pleased to welcome Ayesha Mc Lachlan as an Office Assistant at the Chair, effective 1 November 2025. With roughly 3 years' experience working in administration, both clerically and financially, she joins our dynamic team at a time of growing activity, strengthening our administrative capacity and contributing essential support to the Chair's research, events, and operations.

Graduating in 2023 with a National Diploma in Business and Information Administration, she began her career as a graduate intern at the Western Cape Government.

During this internship, she further strengthened the knowledge and skills gained at university, contributing positively to her work ethic and shaping her professional goals. She is known for her consistency, dedication, and commitment to producing high-quality work. Through her early career experiences, she has gained valuable insight into her working style. Naturally more introverted, she initially found it challenging to engage with unfamiliar colleagues and stakeholders. However, the demands of a professional environment have enabled her to develop confidence in collaborating with team members and external clients, preparing her well for roles that require regular interaction and communication.

Ayesha has enhanced her skills of organising, multi-tasking, being timeous, and always delivering work that is reliable and ethical.

She is an easy-going, friendly and content person, who loves helping and assisting others when needed and aims to ensure that those around her feel comfortable and safe. Some of her hobbies include drawing and sketching and she has taken interest in Korean skincare as well. On weekends she enjoys spending time with friends and family trying new foods and activities.

When asked how she envisions her work contributing to broader societal issues, she emphasised her commitment to making a meaningful difference through effective administration. She explained that, as a goal-driven individual, she hopes to enrich and improve the working lives of the public by ensuring that resources are accessible, reliable, and accurate—supporting others in their professional and academic growth.

Her skills, work ethic, and passion for enabling others align closely with the ethos of the Chair. We are pleased to have her on board and anticipate the positive influence she will have on our operations and research activities.

## Dr. Ghati Nyehita

Dr. Ghati Nyehita joined the Chair as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in 2024, bringing with her a strong academic grounding and a growing research portfolio at the intersection of intellectual property, gender, and social innovation. Her term extends into 2025, during which she has contributed significantly to both the Chair's research agenda and its scholarly community.

Ghati holds a Ph.D. and Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Cape Town and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Kenyatta University, and she is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. Her academic trajectory has been shaped by a deep interest in innovation that occurs outside mainstream research and development structures. This focus emerged during her Ph.D., where she examined how social contexts serve as sites of creativity and problem-solving, and how IP systems might better recognise and support such forms of innovation. Her potential as an early-career scholar was recognised when she was awarded the New and Emerging Researchers Fellowship for a project aimed at empowering women makers through intellectual property law.

Her postdoctoral work at the Chair expanded on these themes with a particular focus on refugee women in South Africa. Her research explored two central questions: how South Africa can leverage IP laws to foster the inclusion of refugee women within innovation ecosystems and support their integration into the labour market; and how copyright functions in relation to non-conventional forms of creative expression, especially those produced within refugee communities. Through this work, she has deepened conversations about gender, displacement, creativity, and IP in ways that have enriched the Chair's research profile.

Alongside her research, Dr. Nyehita made impactful contributions to the intellectual life and mentorship culture of the Chair and UCT. During her tenure, she mentored LLM and PhD students, providing guidance on thesis development and research design. She also served as Editorial Assistant of the *South African Intellectual Property Law Journal*, supporting the journal's publication processes. Beyond the Chair, she played a key leadership role in Open AIR, serving as the Lead for the New and Emerging Researchers Group (NERGs), where she supports a continent-wide and beyond cohort of early-career scholars.

Ghati's time with us has been marked by commitment, thoughtfulness, and an engagement with complex questions that sit at the heart of inclusive innovation. As she concludes her fellowship, we extend our sincere appreciation for her contributions and wish her continued success in the next phase of her academic and professional journey.

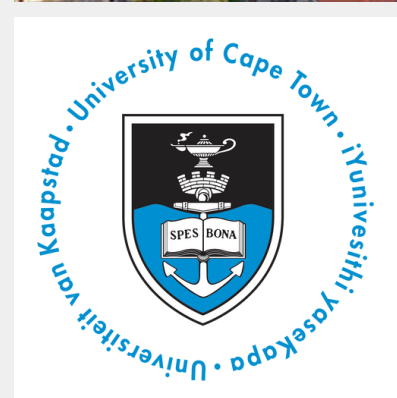
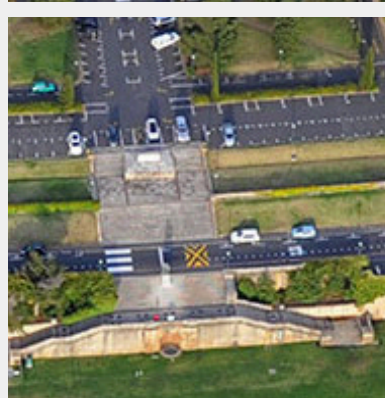
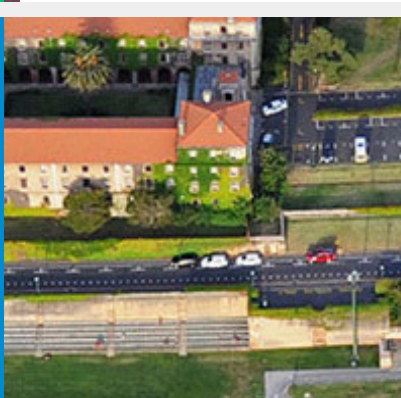
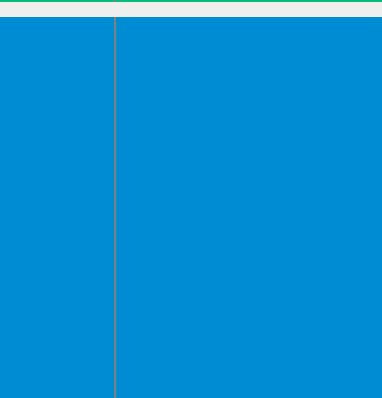
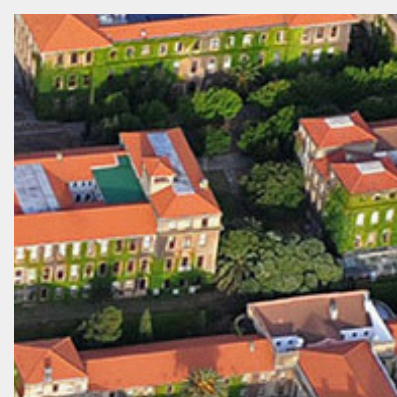
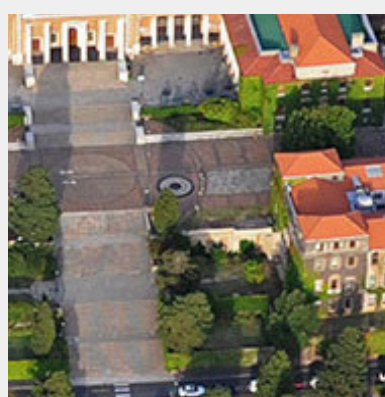
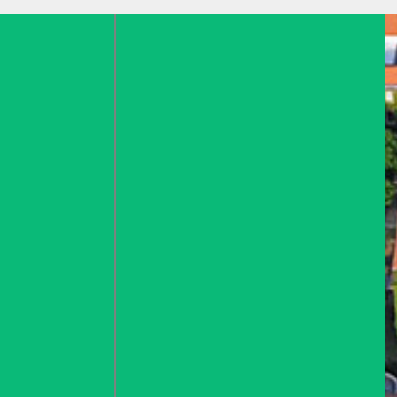
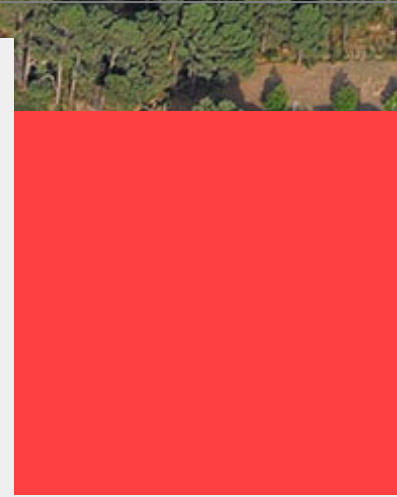
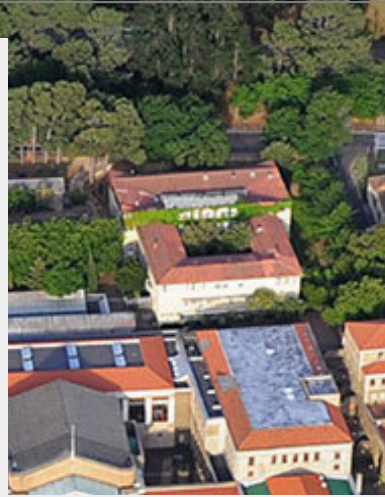


"I would like to sincerely thank the IP Chair team for providing a true intellectual home for both my PhD and my postdoctoral research. You have nurtured me, challenged me, and cheered me on, and for that I am deeply grateful.

As I take the next steps in my career, please know that I'm not disappearing—more work, more ideas, and more collaboration are definitely loading.

Asanteni sana!" - Dr. Nyehita





# Thank You

