

# Business and Human Rights Scholarship: Developing Networks and Perspectives from the Global South

1 April 2025

Kramer Law Building,  
Middle Campus,  
University of Cape Town

**Tuesday, 1 April 2025**

**08:15**    *Coffee and registration*

09:00	Welcome remarks	Prof. Danwood Chirwa, Dean Faculty of Law, UCT	Moot Court, Level 5
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09:15	Opening remarks	Prof. Ada Ordor, Director, Centre for Comparative Law in Africa, UCT	
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09:20	Setting the Stage: Developing business and human rights scholarship in Africa	Prof. Eghosa Ekhatior Dr Oyeniya Abe Research Investigators	
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**09:30**    **PANEL 1: The state's duty to protect human rights from non-state actor abuses**

*Moderated by Dr Oyeniya Abe*

State's responsibility to protect human rights from an environmental law perspective

Dr. Denning Metuge,  
Department of Public  
Law, UCT

Digital rights and business: The role of tech companies in human rights

Commissioner Sandra  
Makoasha, South African  
Human Rights  
Commission

Human rights and environmental accountability in the extractive sector: challenges of implementation, capacity, and compliance

Ms Nebu Phohlela, Head  
of Legal, PetroSA

**10:30**    *Coffee break*

**10:50**    **PANEL 2: Corporate accountability and human rights in africa: challenges, strategies, and legal innovations**

*Moderated by Prof. Eghosa Ekhatior*

Moot Court,  
Level 5

	Internal corporate social responsibility (CSR) as a tool for advancing business and human rights in South Africa	Dr Mikovhe Maphiri, Director, Corporate Law and Corporate Governance Unit, Faculty of Law, UCT	
	Prospects and challenges of corporate accountability and transparency in South Africa's food supply chains	Prof. Melanie Murcott, UCT	
	Internationalization of due diligence requirements for corporate entities	Allan Basajjasubi, Senior Programme Officer: Affirming Rights Stream Natural Justice	
11:50	<b>PANEL 3: Bridging the gap: Emerging trends in BHR</b> <i>Moderated by Prof. Eghosa Ekhator</i>		
	Bridging climate, energy, and development: business and human rights (BHR) in Africa's just transition	Bhekumuzi Dean Bhebhe, PowerShift Africa	
	International and domestic law dimensions of ESG considerations in corporate decision-making in Africa	Prof. Brighton Mupangavanhu, University of the Western Cape	
	The legislative and non-legislative mechanisms which are being used to impose BHR obligations on corporate actors	Paula-Ann Novotny, Partner, Webber Wentzel	
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>		
14:00	<b>PANEL 4: Corporate liability, litigation and BHR</b> <i>Moderated by Dr Oyeniya Abe</i>		Moot Court, Level 5
	Practical insights and experiences on litigation and advocacy strategies from a South African public interest environmental and climate justice organisation	Danjelle Midgley, Attorney, Centre for Environmental Rights	
	The impact of poor corporate governance in state-owned companies on socio-economic human rights in South Africa	Dr Julieth Gudo, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CCLA	
	Perspectives from South Africa: a practical overview to corporate liability through the lens of the South African Constitution and BHR	Pooja Dela, Partner, Webber Wentzel	
15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
15:20	<b>PANEL 5: Closing</b> Future directions for business and human rights in the Global South: Policy, advocacy, and implementation Reimagining business and human rights from the Global South: Theories, frameworks, and emerging trends		Moot Court, Level 5
		Dr Oyeniya Abe Prof. Eghosa Ekhator Dr Yakubu Nagu, CCLA	