Two-day workshop:

"Law, Rights, and Governance in Africa. A look to the Future"

Location: Leiden University, The Netherlands

Date: 28 and 29 January 2020

For: Early Career Researchers (PhD Candidates and Post-docs)

Deadline submissions: **10 NOVEMBER 2019**

Contact: future.lrga@gmail.com (both for submissions and questions)

This workshop facilitates exchange and dialogue between 12 early career researchers working on topics of law, (human) rights and governance in Africa. We welcome researchers from a wide range of disciplines – i.e. African studies, law, anthropology, sociology, geography, political science and development studies - to apply in order to meet and exchange ideas and findings. Through adopting an interdisciplinary approach, we bring together researchers from different universities, faculties, and departments to exchange and work on new research agendas from diverse perspectives. Keynote lectures will be given by: Professor Elisio Macamo and Professor Thomas Bierschenk. This workshop is funded by LeidenASA and the African Studies Centre Leiden University, the Netherlands, and part of Africa2020

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CALL FOR PAPERS: "Law, Rights, and Governance in Africa. A look to the Future"

We invite early career researchers to send in abstracts for papers relating to the topic 'Law, Rights, and Governance in Africa. A look to the Future'. The topics of law, rights, and governance are at the heart of some of the most pressing issues that people, communities and countries all over the continent of Africa are facing. In addition, current large-scale developments on the continent of Africa, such as the rapidly increasing and youthful population, climate change, economic growth, resource stress, urbanization, the spread of new technologies and the displacement of the European border to the continent, cast the themes of law, rights, and governance in a new light and call for new research agendas for the next decade (2020-2030).

The workshop will consist of three panels (see below), two keynote lectures, by Professor Thomas Bierschenk and Professor Elisio Macamo, one seminar and a discussion to enable a dynamic environment for participants and ample time to engage with each other. At the closing of the workshop on day two we reflect on our discussions and engage in a dialogue about the future

research agendas on law, governance and rights. This will result in a short joint statement. Note that all participants are required to submit their full paper no later than **10 JANUARY 2020** so that the senior researchers can discuss the paper and provide you with additional feedback.

The thematic focus of the workshop "Law, Rights, and Governance in Africa. A Look to the Future" - encompasses the study of institutions, actors and phenomena at various levels, i.e. the macro, meso and micro level. As such the workshop will not only build connections between disciplines but also between various levels of analysis. The workshop theme refers to the study of past and present state law and state institutions, as well as the wide range of religious, traditional, "twilight", and customary legal political institutions that can be found across the different countries in Africa. Attention is also paid to the increasing political and legal power of private corporations and of networks of businesses and investors, both private and public. At the regional and global level, our focus includes such disparate actors and institutions as the African Union, third states investing in different African countries, international organizations, and the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop's theme "Law, Rights, and Governance in Africa. A Look to the Future" moreover includes the study of the creation, translation and appropriation of human rights, international business law, and the relationship between law and development. Finally, the workshop pays explicit attention to the governance of -, and the (often-conflicting) rights to natural resources.

We welcome papers related to the following three panels:

1) *Law, Economics and Business Networks* (**Panel chair: Professor Thomas Bierschenk**)
   This panel deals with the role law and governance have in regulating economies in Africa. In an effort to improve the lives of the poor in Africa, states and non-state actors increasingly try to make people more legible to regulation. One of the places where this take shape is in the regulation of trade networks and markets. These regulations are subject to influences both at the global level, through the IMF and World Bank, the emergence of NGO's, multi-nationals and bilateral investments, and at national level, through national politics, fiscal regulation and taxation schemes. The increasing role of (mobile) money, the emergence of private corporations, and the blurring of new technologies with (in)formal relations, as well as tensions arising about the role of both state and non-state actors in governing socio-economic life also shape economic life and markets.

   This panel will explore questions including but not limited to: What does the increasing role of corporations mean for state-citizen relations across Africa? How does financialization change local interactions and relationships? What does the increasing role of (mobile) money and technology mean for the lives of disadvantaged people in Africa and how does this change existing socio-economic relationships? How do people navigate different formal and informal economic regulatory structures in daily life on the continent and how does this influence notions of (in)formality?

2) *Rights, Law and Development* (**Panel chair: dr Caroline Archambault**)

The focus of this panel will be on the role of law, rights and development in African countries to address current and future challenges on the continent. Increasingly, scholars have raised questions regarding the utility of (the role) of law in development in the last decades. These questions are all the more pertinent in the context of Africa's youthful population, increased urbanisation and rampant climate change together with rapid economic and technological developments. All have changed the trajectory of needs for future generations. The link between human rights and development continues to be met with enthusiasm, as is also evidenced by the SDGs. At the same time, development practitioners, international organisations and NGO's have been confronted with various critiques, including that incorporating a human rights-based approach (HRBA) has resulted merely in a change of terminology, without changing practices in a manner that advances human rights for affected communities. This panel encompasses the different ways that human rights language has been incorporated into development policy frameworks and development practice. It also addresses projects aiming to build Rule of Law, which promise to build stable, democratic and successful states and markets.

Questions to consider include how human rights can be used as a tool in development policy to advance dignity, equality and social justice? How do you "build" the Rule of Law post-conflict situations? How do legal transplants fare? What role can human rights play to transform relations of power between rights-holders and duty-bearers (state and non-state actors)? What are the limitations of human rights and rule of law in development policies and practices? How can processes of legal translation from international human rights frameworks to domestic legal frameworks serve to advance and/or hinder the realisation of human rights?

3) *Governance and Mobility* (**Panel chair: dr Caroline Jacobs)**

Governance of people and economic goods have been an important topic for decennia, especially in relation to security, violence and health. In the past years, borders and cross-border mobilisation have come under increased scrutiny through concerns for diseases such as the current Ebola outbreak at the Congo-Uganda border and alarmist messages about migrant flows and refugees. This does not only involve local and national actors. In trying to close deals with different African countries the European Union is for example increasingly trying to govern mobility in Africa, thus displacing its border onto the continent.

Questions arise as to under what conditions is someone allowed to cross a border? How are definitions of belonging shaped? What legal jurisdictions are at play? How do people have access to resources such as land and housing in displacement, but also when they return home after years of absence? How do states govern cross-border trade? And how do people pick up their lives when they are forcefully returned? This panel seeks to address issues of mobility, migration, borders and citizenship as they intersect with law, governance and human rights.

Submission Guidelines

To participate in this workshop, we ask you to send us a short biography (max. 1 A4) and an abstract (max. 500 words) of the paper that you will submit.

In the short biography, please briefly introduce yourself, your PhD research and why you would like to participate in the workshop.

The abstract should relate to the above described overall workshop and to one of the panel themes. Abstracts should contain a well-defined research question, indicate the theoretical and methodological approaches used and the type of data presented in the paper. Please also indicate 5 keywords.

Deadline for applications: **10 NOVEMBER 2020.**

Participation

Once accepted, participants agree to prepare for the workshop and commit to submit their final papers on 10 January 2020, to allow discussants to review them and prepare comments.

Participants are expected to meet their own travel and subsistence costs, but lunch (28 and 29 January 2020) and dinner on 28 January 2020 will be provided. There are a limited number of (small) travel allowances available. Applicants are requested to indicate whether they require support for travel expenses for the workshop in their application.