



Concept Note and Call for Papers

AFRIKAN PEER GROWTH NETWORK

'Towards Afrikan-centred participatory knowledge production'

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA (UNISA)

Reclaiming Africa's Intellectual Futures

3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

A CONFERENCE ON "THE INTERSECTION OF JUSTICE AND DECOLONIALITY - STRATEGIES FOR THE TRANSFORMATIVE AND REFORMATIVE AGENDA"

6 – 8 December 2023

UNISA MAIN CAMPUS (Mucleneuk Campus)

PRETORIA

Background

The Afrikan Peer Growth Network (APGroN) held its first annual conference in Cape Town in September 2021, through a partnership with the University of the Western Cape. The second iteration of this conference was held in November 2022 in Pretoria, in collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA) through the College of Law. The third iteration will again be held in Pretoria from 6 – 8 December 2023 – from which dedicated special issue journals will be commissioned. Further, a book on the *Teaching of International Law in Africa* will be produced. It is worth noting that papers from the past two conferences are currently undergoing review at the South African Yearbook of International Law, and the Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa, with a view to publishing these as a special issue before the next conference.

Unpacking the theme and thematic areas

Decoloniality, reformation and transformation have been buzzwords in the African and South African academic spaces for quite some time now. Transformation signifies the act of renewing something; a catalytic morphing of something from one state to another, preferably better state. The word 'decolonial', on the other hand, denotes the dismantling of the colonial power matrix. In other words, the destruction and concerted removal of colonial and repressive ways of being and thinking; and a shift towards a more inclusive, humane and human-centred way of life. Both decolonisation and transformation remain key to the development of Africa and must permeate the planning processes of individual states, the African Union and individuals on the Afrikan continent.

Decoloniality, reformative and transformative thinking must be mainstreamed into any solutions that are proffered as addressing Africa's problems. Hence these concepts can be invoked in all scholarship that interrogates ways and means of dealing with the myriad challenges currently facing



the continent of Africa. In light of the above, APGroN, in partnership with the College of Law at UNISA, invites papers on any of the following thematic areas:

1. The natural and the built environment

Papers that explore developments within the areas of (1) Fossil fuels, energy, and climate change and (2) the environment and sustainable development, urban design, city planning etc. We also welcome papers that explore natural resource extraction, illicit exploitation, corruption, corporate criminal and civil liability, mercenaries, artisanal mining, the resource curse, foreign aid, and Western influence in these sub-themes.

2. The agricultural sector and the economy

Papers that explore the interactions between agriculture, economic activities, financial markets, economic and investment law, procurement and human development. Thus authors could explore current issues in food security and genetically modified organisms, the impact of Covid-19 on food production or on the sector, seed banks and intellectual property, illicit natural resource exploitation, fake foods, and the right to food.

3. Aerospace, maritime, defence and security

Papers that interrogate current issues under these themes could explore current trends in the areas of aviation, aviation law, airspace regulation, unmanned aerial systems, aviation management, aviation insurance, transformation, personnel licensing, international aviation law, aerospace, outer space, maritime, defence and security. Also included under this theme are papers that touch on defence and security-related topics such as peace building, conflict management, the law of war, international criminal justice, child gangsterism, and urban warfare.

4. Regulation of conflict in international law

This theme focuses on the law of war, the use of unmanned aerial systems in conflict, other situations of violence, universal jurisdiction in dealing with war crimes, the use of lawfare in the context of punishing war criminals, pre-colonial African regulation of war, urban warfare, and cyber warfare.

5. Precolonial and contemporary South-South relations

Quite often, scholarship on decolonisation focuses on the relationship between Africa and the West and neglects the relationship Africa might have had with its global South counterparts prior to, during and post colonisation. Thus, papers that interrogate Africa's precolonial relations with Asia, Latin America and other global South states are welcome. Further, papers that explore the nuances in contemporary global governance, and in a historical and decolonial sense are welcome.

6. Civil society, identity, migration, spirituality, racism and xenophobia

Papers that explore contemporary issues in the above themes are welcome. Scholarly writings on the use of lawfare in the South African context and elsewhere, in the context of racism and xenophobia, free expression, race relations, and statelessness are also welcome. Further, papers that explore the role of civil society, pressure groups, law clinics, and the media in human development are welcome.

7. The teaching of international law in higher education

We invite papers that explore epistemic and pedagogical considerations in the teaching of international law. We welcome submissions that address any aspect of teaching international law, including but not limited to: Innovative teaching methods and approaches; integrating technology in



the teaching of international law; the role of case studies and simulations in teaching international law; assessment and evaluation of international law teaching; pedagogical challenges and opportunities in teaching international law; theoretical and practical perspectives on teaching international law; global perspectives on teaching international law; teaching international law in non-traditional settings; and the role of international law in multi-, inter-, trans-disciplinary education.

8. Financial markets, banking and corporate governance

We invite papers that interrogate issues around the following themes: Micro and macro-finance, access to finance, banking regulatory challenges & financial inclusion; socio-economic justice & ethical challenges versus corporate law reform measures; financial inclusion & financial education versus profitability of companies; mobile money, e-commerce, fintech challenges, disruptive technology & digital transformation; corporate social responsibility and financial education; tax evasion, illicit financial flows, money laundering and financial crime regulation; business rescue; and directors liabilities.

Due dates for submissions

30 October 2023	Deadline for submission of abstracts Up to 300 words abstract, 5 keywords, Arial font 12
10 November 2023	Feedback on abstracts from the scientific committee
30 November 2023	Deadline for submission of full papers (70% completed papers) Between 8000-10000 words

Submission should be made to sibiyvc@unisa.ac.za and cc callforpapers@apgron.co.za

Structure of the Conference

Day One:	Colloquium and capacity building for emerging researchers & students Opening Cocktail in the evening
Day Two:	Presentation by emerging scholars
Day Three:	Presentation by seasoned scholars followed by Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Post Conference Procedures

Selected high quality papers will be considered for special issue publications in the South African Yearbook of International Law (SAYIL), Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa (CILSA) and Journal of Society Law and Development (JSLD).

Further, papers that touch on theme number 7 on the *“Teaching of International Law In Higher Education in Africa”* will be considered for a book to be published out of the presentations under that theme. It is proposed that UNISA Press will be approached for such a publication.