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NEWSLETTER



The AfIELN is a regional network under the auspices of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL).

AfIELN is an organisation aimed at academics, industry practitioners, policy experts and officials with interest in the field of International Economic Law (IEL) in Africa.

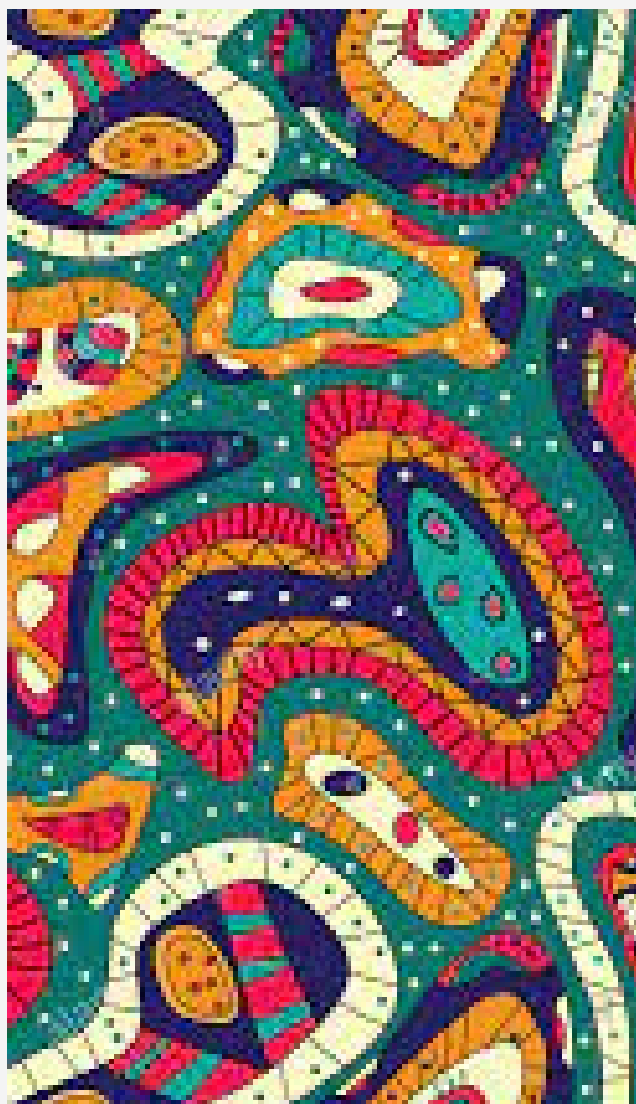
Should you wish to include an item in the next AfIELN newsletter, please contact us:

afieln.siel@gmail.com

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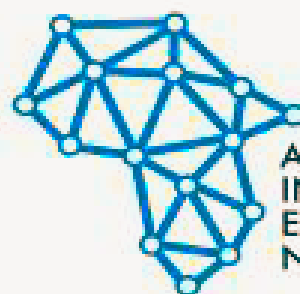
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AFIELN IN THE MAKING

OUR STORY

AfIELN was established in 2008 with the objective of providing a forum for the research, study and exchange of ideas in the area of International Economic Law and beyond. The Network's establishment followed the Society of International Economic Law's goal of promoting and facilitating co-ordination, collaboration, networking and debate on IEL, and the need to institute African leadership and ownership within the global network.



AFRICAN
INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC LAW
NETWORK (AFIELN)

In mapping out the patterns of IEL in the world, the Africa chapter came to life, sustained by the great foresight of the founders. In line with the Network's objective, the founders were committed to making scholarship available for African scholars, students and policy experts, and in keeping with this, several initiatives to make IEL knowledge exchange accessible took place. These included distributing law books to libraries in African Universities as well as hosting a number of conferences on emergent issues in the area, in an effort to capitalise on African experiences and approaches. Through a close partnership with AfronomicsLaw, the AfIELN has been part of the push to provide topical academic material through the blog's open access forum.

Miss Jill Jumah led the network from 2016 to 2018, after which the 2018 - 2020 executive committee took over. This team was composed of Olabisi Akinkugbe, Luwam Dirar, Ohio Omiunu, Sara Ghebremuse; with Amaka Vanni and Regis Simo acting as Conference Co-Chairs; and Patricia Ouma and Harrison Otieno leading the local organizing team. After their tenure the team handed over to the current executive Committee composed of Amaka Vanni, Titilayo Adebola and Patricia Ouma.

AfIELN continues to harness Africa's participation and expertise in the development of IEL in a way that elevates pan-African discourse.

Introducing AfIELN Colloquium Keynote Speaker



SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSOR OLUFUNMILAYO AREWA

Murray H. Shusterman Professor of Transactional and Business Law

Our Newsletter feature is Professor Olufunmilayo Arewa, who is also the Keynote Speaker for the AfIELN Virtual Colloquium on COVID-19 and International Economic Law: Africa's Experiences and Responses.

Prof. Funmi's major areas of scholarly research include music, business, entrepreneurship, technology, copyright, film, and Africana studies. She has taught varied courses including Business Associations, Private Equity and Venture Capital, Securities Regulation, Corporate Finance, Accounting, Mergers & Acquisitions, Investment Management Regulation, Startup and Small Business Clinic, Intellectual Property, and African Legal Systems.

Prior to becoming a law professor, Professor Arewa practiced law for nearly a decade, working in legal and business positions primarily in the entrepreneurial and technology startup arena, including law firms and companies in the Silicon Valley and New York. She also served as Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel of a venture capital firm in Boston. Before becoming a lawyer, she was a Visiting Lecturer at the Center for Afro-American and African Studies (CAAS) at the University of Michigan and served as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. and Montevideo, Uruguay.

A little more about Prof. Funmi...

What skill would you like to learn?

I would like to learn Chinese calligraphy.

What is your favourite place to visit and why?

I enjoy spending time in Berlin. It is a place that I enjoy exploring and where I always find new things to discover

What is your favourite dish/cuisine and why?

I enjoy making (and eating) many kinds of soup.

Congratulations



PROFESSOR OLABISI AKINKUGBE

AfIELN congratulates Olabisi on his appointment as Viscount Bennett Professor of Law at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University.

Olabisi is also a founding editor of Afronomicslaw.org blog, which partners with AfIELN in researching all aspects of international economic law as they relate to Africa and the Global South. He is also the founding editor of the African Journal of International Economic Law.

Olabisi served as AfIELN's president from 2018 to 2020, and is a member of the AfIELN's Advisory Board.

From all the members of the Network, congratulations on this well-deserved achievement!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

Publications

Prof. Olufunmilayo Arewa, Shusterman Professor of Business and Transactional Law, Temple University, Beasley School of Law, launched her new book 'Disrupting Africa Technology, Law and Development' (CUP), with the expected publication date as July 2021. In it, she examines the intersection between a potential future shaped by digital-era technologies and existing laws and institutions constructed under conditions of colonial and post-colonial authoritarian rule, and and shows how it encompasses existing and new zones of contestation based on ethnicity, religion, region, age and other sources of division.

Dr Olabisi Akinkugbe, Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University, Schulich School of Law, published an article in the Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law (2021) titled Africanization and the Reform of International Investment Law, where he discusses important debates regarding reform of international investment law (IIL) in Africa including the innovative aspects of International Investment Agreements vis-a-vis the traditional regime. Drawing on TWAIL, Dr. Akinkugbe critically analyses the Africanization of IIL thesis in the context of few African voices discussing the subject.

He also published reflections on "Houngue Éric Noudehouenou v. Republic of Benin" in the International Decision section of the American Journal of International Law (CUP, 2021). Here, he demonstrates the use of social movements in mobilizing legal reforms before African regional and subregional courts.

Prof. James Gathii, Professor of Law and the Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law at Loyola University, Chicago School of Law, published a article, 'Studying Race in International Law Scholarship Using a Social Science Approach' (Chicago Journal of International Law, 2021), which examines the extent to which scholarship has addressed international law's historical and continuing complicity in producing racial inequality and hierarchy. The article also studies the extent to which international law scholarship has provided space for scholars whose work resists the various types of racial domination that international law has been complicit in producing.

Prof. Caroline Ncube, DST/NRF SARCHI Research Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development, Department of Commercial Law, UCT, published a book titled 'Science, Technology & Innovation and Intellectual Property: Leveraging Openness for Sustainable Development in Africa' (Juta, 2021). She analyses how openness could empower Africa to leverage science, technology & innovation and intellectual property legislative and policy frameworks to support sustainable development, drawing attention to how alignment of national policies with continental priorities and global aspirations will further Africa's development.

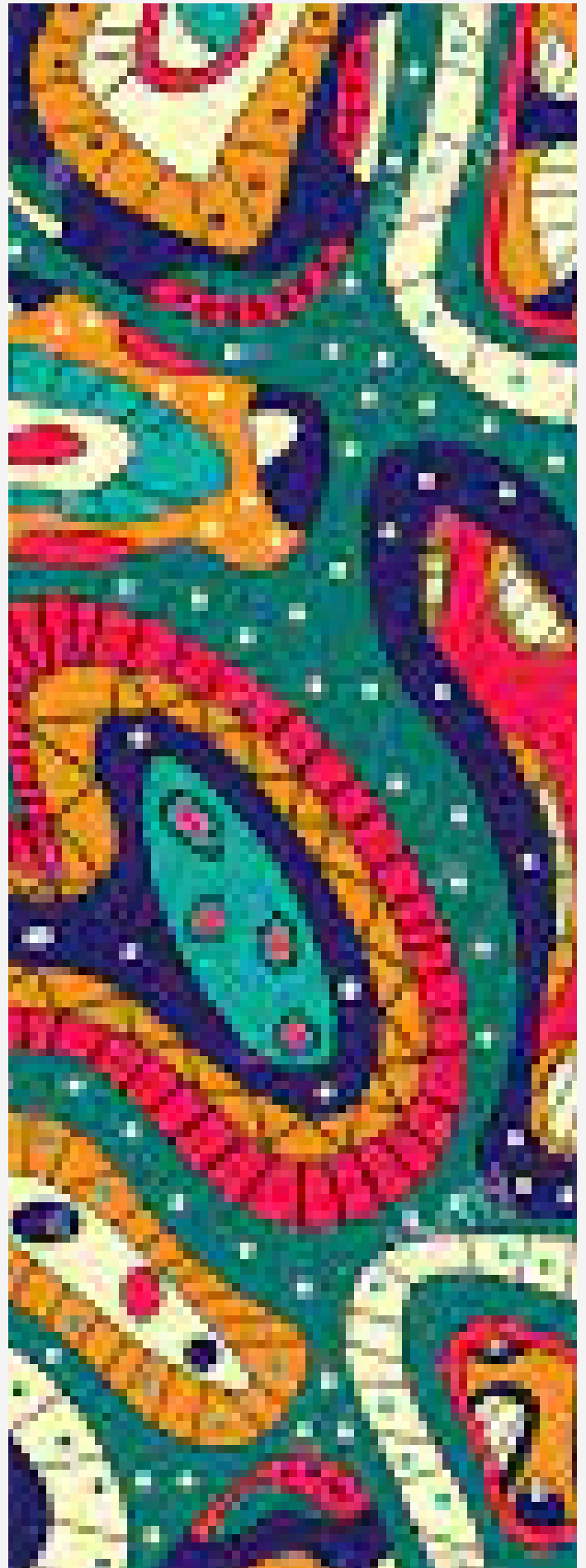


Patricia Ouma, Secretary of the Executive Team, AfIELN, and PhD Candidate at Leiden University, published a book chapter titled 'Stereotyping and Regional Integration in the East African Community: Challenges and Opportunities' (Routledge 2020), where she explores the role of stereotyping in the implementation of East African integration laws and policies, specifically on the free movement of people, while looking at the historical emergence of stereotypes and classifying them within the Stereotype Content Model.

Dr Desmond Oriakhogba, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Benin, Nigeria, published an article in the Business Law Review (Wolters Kluwer, 2021) titled 'What If DABUS Came to Africa? Visiting AI Inventorship and Ownership of Patent from the Nigerian Perspective', in which he considers the decisions of various patent offices and their decision to reject applications on the ground of non-compliance with the formal requirements to name a natural person as inventor. He reviews these decisions against the backdrop of the ongoing policy and academic conversations on AI and patent policy, and situates them within the African context, and specifically, the Nigerian patent regime.

Dr Suresh Nanwani, Professor in Practice, Durham University, School of Government and International Affairs coedited a book titled 'Covid-19 in the Philippines: Personal Stories'. This book chronicles the pandemic lockdown in the Philippines starting in mid-March until December 2020, and features narratives from 41 storytellers.

Dr Susan Isiko Strba, co-founder and senior research and policy advisor of International Lawyers and Economists for Development, published a blog article with the title 'Leveraging Capacity Building and Technology Transfer under TRIPS for Online Teaching in Africa', which highlights how the TRIPS Agreement may be used to vary copyright laws and encourage technology transfer to allow for online teaching in schools in the developing world, where learning has been disrupted due to COVID-19.



COMING TO A VIRTUAL MEETING PLATFORM NEAR
YOU!



AFRICAN
INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC LAW
NETWORK (AfiELN)



Society of
International
Economic
Law

VIRTUAL COLLOQUIUM

COVID-19 AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW: AFRICA'S EXPERIENCES AND RESPONSES

23 - 24 JULY 2021
[SAVE THE DATE]



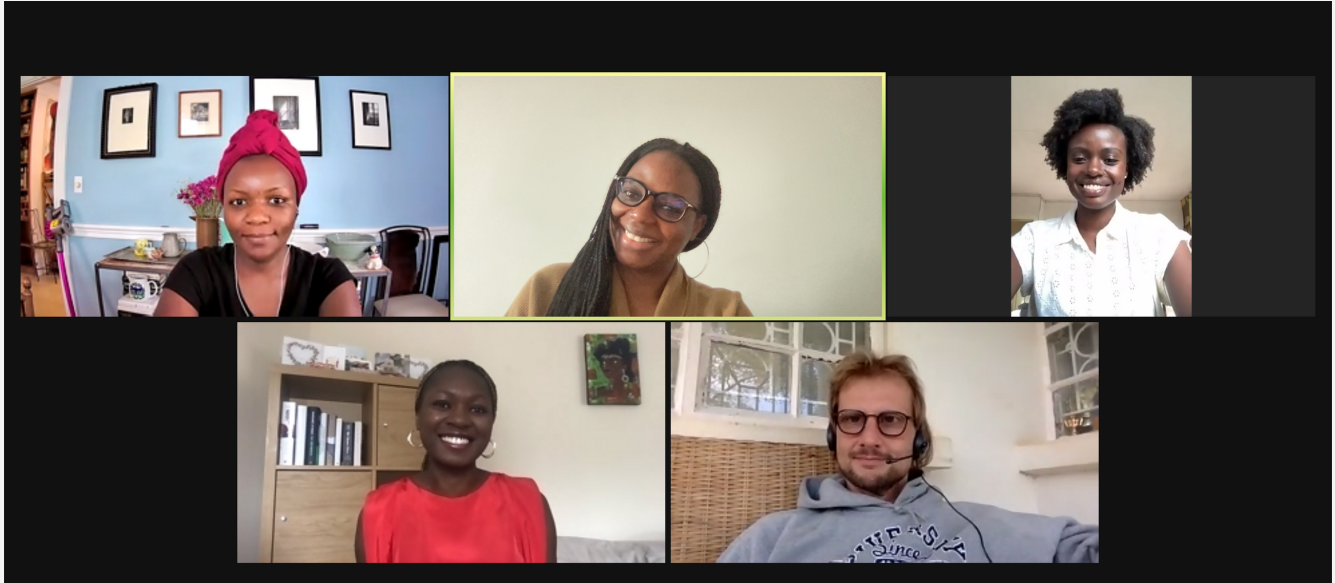
AfronomicsLAW

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
**AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC LAW NETWORK**

Join us on our deliberations on Africa's varied experiences in dealing with the current pandemic, and the effect these have had on international economic law within and outside the continent. We will be joined by renowned speakers and presenters who will critically review Africa's performance in international, economic, social and political terms in responding to COVID-19. Some of the confirmed speakers include Prof. Olufunmilayo Arewa as the keynote, Prof. Caroline Ncube, Elizabeth Oger-Gross, Dr Babatunde Ajibade, Dr Shingi Masanzu, Prof. Odumosu-Ayanu and Dr. Joy Kategekwa.

BEHIND THE SCENES

WORKING HARD?



OR HARDLY WORKING?



Caught out: The AfIELN Virtual Colloquium Planning Committee balancing organising skills and camaraderie during a regular planning meeting. Bottom display: Dr Amaka Vanni, Dr Titilayo Adebola, Dr Tso tang Tsietsi, Prof. Tomasz Milej, Jacqueline Mwangi, Patricia Ouma



CALL FOR PAPERS

African Economic Conference 2021 themed "Financing Africa's Post Covid-19 Development"

Date: 2-4 December 2021

Venue: Cabo Verde

The 2021 edition of the African Economic Conference is jointly organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The theme of this year's conference is "Financing Africa's Post COVID-19 Development"

Across Africa, millions continue to be affected by COVID-19, which is in its third or fourth waves in some countries (Total cases: 4,159,055; Total deaths: 111,357; Total recoveries: 3,726,707; Total tests: 39,259,460 - April 10, 2021). Despite the start of vaccination programs in several countries, 2021 is likely to be a year of weak economic recovery across the African continent.

Interested authors should submit their papers to rba.aec@undp.org before 15 July 2021. Only full papers addressing the theme of the conference will be considered for presentation. We also encourage the submission of policy-and-solution oriented papers with strong empirical work. The conference shall give priority to solution-oriented papers.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Introducing...

READER QUESTIONS!

AfIELN would love to hear more from its members through this new segment 'Reader Questions'. Send in your burning IEL questions for concise answers by the experts in the Network.

Email
afieln.siel@gmail.com
with your question.

