



Call for Papers

LDRN 5th Annual Conference – “Beyond the Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities for Law and Development”

Hosted virtually on Zoom by Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

24-26 November 2021

Over the past few years, and specifically following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has confronted immense challenges placing strain on health care systems, economies, our way of life, legal systems and domestic mechanisms of governance. Although these challenges have occurred worldwide, they have impacted most severely on people living in the Global South. Various challenges include: access to health care services; poverty and economic collapses; climate change leading to crippling droughts, floods, bushfires and rising sea levels; inequality; state-based corruption and poor governance; the confiscation of indigenous lands; conflicts, including over land, the sea and natural resources; the dislocation and isolation of populations consequent upon these phenomena; human mobility; rampant xenophobia and racism; and widespread human rights violations. Untold pressure is placed on domestic institutions responsible *inter alia* for health care, education, housing, social welfare, and social protection, and fears are raised about the rule and role of law, governance, and individual well-being. Scholars of law and development are justifiably concerned about these global realities, but are also aware of the many opportunities the crisis presents for proactive law and development initiatives. As the Network’s annual conference is hosted for the first time in the Global South, albeit virtually, we aim to address these challenges and opportunities, with a specific focus on how the world should respond post-pandemic, specifically from a Global South and developing world perspective.

The 5th Annual Conference of the LDRN will explore the meaning, causes and consequences of the challenges identified and seek to identify appropriate responses and

opportunities from Law and Development researchers and practitioners. **Participants are invited to contribute to two specific tracks:**

The **first track** confronts the conceptual challenges in law and development scholarship. Participants are invited to consider how law and development can respond to the identified global challenges to ensure the field's continuing viability and relevance. Additionally, are there separate Southern and Northern perspectives on law and development and how do we overcome the tension between such perspectives for the benefit of the global good? Participants are requested to engage with these issues and to propose solutions with the capacity to balance the various disparities in world "views" and achieve a new understanding between the South and the North.

The **second track** of the conference invites participants to consider the more specific global challenges facing Law and Development scholars and practitioners, divided into seven sub-streams, as follows:

- **Governance, human rights, and the rule of law** – specifically, the protection of the rights to equality and dignity; the advancement of socio-economic rights, mainly in the Global South; the balance between civil, political and social rights; and the impact of poor governance and corruption on development and the rule of law.
- **Global health and access to health care services** – participants are invited to engage with the global responses needed to address the health care crisis and are encouraged to approach the issue from the perspective of the Global South.
- **Environment, sustainable development and climate change** - participants are asked to consider the responses required to address the global environmental challenges identified in the call.
- **The law of the sea and development** – participants are asked to consider the responses required to address the global environmental challenges identified in the call.
- **Land** – the protection of land rights; access to land; land reform; land conflicts; and the land rights of indigenous persons in both domestic and international law.
- **Human mobility and social protection** – participants are encouraged to consider the impact of human mobility on both domestic governance and dislocated peoples and to explore appropriate legal responses. In this context, social protection should be addressed as an issue of critical concern to societies both in the Global South and North, with participants considering the need for innovative approaches.
- **International economic law and development finance** – participants are asked to explore key challenges in international economic law and development finance and

the responses needed to address poverty and inequality in the Global South, especially following the pandemic.

As in prior conferences, we aim to promote a dialogue between scholars, practitioners and development partners from the Global South and North and especially welcome participants from the Global South.

SUBMISSIONS: We invite proposals for individual papers or panels on any topic or theme in the two tracks. Proposals for panel discussions should indicate potential participants. Book launch panels are also invited.

Proposals should:

- State the title of the paper;
- State the author/s' name, institutional affiliation and contact details;
- Contain an abstract of no more than 300 words;
- Identify four key words;
- Identify a specific track and sub-stream (in the case of track two).

The presentation of completed papers may not exceed 15 minutes. Please note that all abstracts will be reviewed.

DEADLINE: Proposals and expressions of interest should be submitted by **15 September** in accordance with the format described above and be sent per email to LDRNConference@mandela.ac.za

CONTACT: Please submit your proposal and panel submissions via email. Questions may be addressed via the conference website at <https://publiclaw.mandela.ac.za/> or to LDRNConference@mandela.ac.za

DECISIONS on papers and panels will be announced by 15 October 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION see the conference website (*operational from mid-August*)