

**A ONE-DAY IN-PERSON AND ONLINE
WORKSHOP**



**PERSPECTIVES FOR POST-
COVID 19 AND
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT:**

A LAW AND DEVELOPMENT DISCOURSE

Hosted by the Roehampton Law School, University
of Roehampton London

Date: 15th September 2022

Time: 09:00 – 17:45 BRITISH SUMMER TIME

*This workshop is supported by the Society of Legal
Scholars Research and Small Events Fund*

Perspectives for Post-COVID 19 and Sustainable Development: A Law and Development Discourse

THE PROJECT:

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly all aspects of human lives, healthcare, the economy, and the environment all over the globe. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the pandemic ‘...has exposed persistent inequalities by income age, race, sex, and geographic location (World Health Organisation, 2021).

The periods of lockdowns and the challenges faced highlighted the need for the protection of specific people groups including LGBTI, the elderly, persons from minority communities and persons with disabilities. COVID 19 has placed undue pressure on healthcare services around the world. There have been reports that the numbers of confirmed cases and deaths were vastly underestimated especially during the first and second waves of the pandemic. There were challenges with tests and tracing as well as with the enforcement of lockdown in some parts of the world, especially in countries in the Global South where adequate relief was not provided for citizens who were being mandated to remain in lockdown from March to May 2020. The lockdown in some parts of the world brought significant hardships with the closure of businesses such as restaurants and the ban on international travel.

With less than eight years to the 2030 target for the United Nations (U) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is a need to play catch up given the pandemic has set the entire globe backwards. The Workshop aims to propose strategies for global recovery post-COVID 19 as the world works toward attaining Agenda 2030. The workshop will consider what role law and legal frameworks can play toward global recovery, especially in law and economic development, law and technology, law and the environment, intellectual property law, and human rights law. Speakers are drawn from different global contexts that have engaged in discussions in this area of law and practice. The focus will be to suggest proposals to policymakers on ways to approach the recovery process.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the plan is to produce an edited volume/book with contributions from the participants at the workshop. The organisers are in discussions with potential commissioning editors. The call for papers was published to a wide audience using the website of the Society of Legal Scholars, University of Roehampton, Nottingham Trent University, Afronomics Blog and social media. The organisers intend to use the workshop to create a forum to network with other academics and practitioners and foster a community of colleagues interested in the intersection between law and economic development.

Law and development are areas that are gaining considerable attention in universities around the world. With the need to steer research towards the development of communities, the organisers consider that the workshop would contribute to that regard. The workshop will create a forum to address current global challenges.

We look forward to hosting you!

Dr Augustine Arimoro – augustine.arimoro@roehampton.ac.uk

Dr Ezinne Igbokwe – ezinne.igbokwe@ntu.ac.uk

August 2022

Perspectives for Post-COVID 19 and Sustainable Development: A Law and Development Discourse

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS



Dr Augustine Arimoro

Dr Augustine Arimoro is a Lecturer at the Roehampton Law School, the University of Roehampton London where he convenes the Criminal Law and Public Law modules. Before joining the University of Roehampton London in January 2022, Dr Arimoro was a Lecturer at the Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University, UK. Dr Arimoro holds the LLB, LLM and PhD degrees from Universities in Nigeria, South Africa and the UK. He is a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and a member of the Nigerian Bar Association as well as the Society of Legal Scholars.

He has contributed several articles to leading peer-reviewed journals. He is the author of *Public-Private Partnerships in Emerging Economies*, a monograph published by Routledge in 2020. Before taking up a career in academics, Dr Arimoro was a Wealth Advisor with Asset and Resource Management Co Ltd, one of Africa's leading non-banking financial institutions.

Dr Ezinne Igbokwe

Dr Ezinne Igbokwe is a Lecturer at the Nottingham Law School of the Nottingham Trent University UK. She convenes Intellectual Property Law (IPL), Contract Law, Public Law and Artificial Intelligence and Law modules. Ezinne holds LLB, LLM and PhD degrees from Universities in Nigeria, France, and the UK respectively. Her research focuses on intellectual property law, pharmaceutical patenting, access to medicine as it intercepts with international trade and artificial intelligence and IP.





PERSPECTIVES FOR POST-COVID 19 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A LAW AND DEVELOPMENT DISCOURSE
A ONE-DAY HYBRID WORKSHOP (IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

[Meeting Link A - Click on this link to join Stream A]
[Meeting Link B - Click on this link to join Stream B]
15 th September 2022 (09:00 – 17:15 British Summer Time)

10:00 – 10:05	<p>Welcome Message from Head of School, Roehampton Law School Dr Maris Kask-Polacko</p> <p>Meeting Link A - Click on this link to join Stream A</p>
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

	Group 1 – RM 315 Mandela Building Moderator: Dr Daoning Zhang, University of Roehampton [Meeting Link A]	Group 2 – Online only Moderator: Dr Ezinne Igbokwe, Nottingham Trent University [Meeting Link B]
10:10 – 10:35	<p>Dr Bhupinder Singh, NMIMS Deemed to be University, India <i>Legal Discourse in the Light of Post COVID-19 Pandemic: Human Rights, Health, and Wellness Management to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals</i></p>	<p>Dr Eddy Wifa, University of Aberdeen <i>Law, Safety and Emerging Technologies: Lessons from the Grenfell Tower</i></p>
10:35 – 11:00	<p>Akinyemi Akintunde Abibu, The Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State, Nigeria <i>Preserving Employee’s Right in Pandemic Situations: A Pathway to Achieving Sustainable Development Goals</i></p>	<p>Dr Ismaelline Eba Nguema, Omar Bongo University, Libreville, Gabon <i>The Rule of Law Tested by COVID-19: The Case of Gabon</i></p>

KEYNOTE SESSION 1

Room 315 Mandela Building

[\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

Moderator: Dr Augustine Arimoro, University of Roehampton

11:00 – 11:30	Professor Onyeka K Osuji (University of Essex), Head of School of Law and Professor of Law <i>Asymmetrical International Economic System, Law 'Institutions' and Sustainable Development – Public Health Illumination of Pitfalls for All</i>
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11:30 – 11:45	COFFEE BREAK
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

	Group 1 – Room 315 Mandela Building Moderator: Dr Daoning Zhang , University of Roehampton [Meeting Link A]	Group 2 – Online only Moderator: Dr Eghosa Ekhator , University of Derby [Meeting Link B]
11:45 – 12:10	Dr Niyi Abe , University of Huddersfield <i>Central Banks as Corporate Change Agents for Sustainable Development</i>	Dr Ezinne Igbowe , Nottingham Trent University <i>Is the TRIPS COVID-19 Waiver a Mere Re-Echo of the Powers of WTO Member States?</i>
12:10 – 12:35	Dr Tammy Egbe , Nottingham Trent University <i>Impact of COVID-19 on the International Carriage of Goods by Sea: Charting a Path Forward?</i>	Dr Desmond Oriakhogba , University of Venda, South Africa <i>Human Right to Research: Response to Copyright Challenge of Access to Knowledge in Future Pandemics in Africa</i>

KEYNOTE SESSION 2

Room 315 Mandela Building

Moderator: Dr Niyi Abe, *University of Huddersfield*

[\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

12:35 – 13:05	Prof Damilola Olawuyi, SAN UNESCO Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar <i>The Systems Approach to COVID-19 Response and Recovery: Challenges, Opportunities, and Ways Forward</i>
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13:05 – 13:20	LUNCH BREAK
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

	Group 1- Room 315 Mandela Building [Link A] Moderator: Dr Augustine Arimoro , University of Roehampton [Meeting Link A]	Group 2 – Online only [Link B] Moderator: Dr Ezinne Igbokwe , Nottingham Trent University [Meeting Link B]
13:20 – 13:45	Nnene Uzoigwe , University of Lincoln <i>The Notion of Vulnerability as a Justification for a Bespoke International Regime for Internally Displaced Persons</i>	Dr Dawn Sedman , Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University <i>Revisiting the 'Shadow Pandemic': SDG5, Gender Equality and COVID-19</i>
13:45 - 14:10	Dr Alessia Vacca , University of Lincoln and Dr Hiroko Onishi , University of Roehampton <i>Sustainable Fashion Post-COVID-19 Pandemic: Environmental and IP Law Perspective</i>	Dr Ifesinachi Okafor-Yahwood , Lecturer, University of St Andrews <i>"Ocean Optimism" and Resilience: Learning from Women's Responses to Disruptions Caused by COVID-19 to Small-Scale Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea</i>
14:10 – 14:35	Dr Abba Elgujja , King Faud University Medical City, Saudi Arabia <i>Mobile Apps for COVID-19 Surveillance: Balancing Public Health Needs with the Privacy of Personal Data</i>	Cailin Morrison , Senior Lecturer, University of Brighton <i>Re-imagining the Special and Differential Treatment in the TRIPS Agreement as a Response to COVID-19 and Beyond</i>

14:35 – 15:00	Dr Prince Amadi, <i>In a Time of Pandemic: Killing the Host Through the Fair and Equitable Treatment Clause in Investment Agreements</i>	Dr Meihui Zhang, Dr Chi Zhang, Prof Fenghua Li and Dr Ziyu Liu <i>Financing the 'Belt and Road Initiative in the Post-COVID 19 Era Towards Sustainability: An Overview of China's Green Finance Rules</i>
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GUEST PAPER

Room 315 Mandela Building

Moderator: Dr Augustine Arimoro, *University of Roehampton*

[\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

15:00 – 15:30	Prof David M Ong, Professor of Law, Nottingham Trent University <i>Post-COVID Recovery Infrastructure Development Funding as a Catalyst for Zero-Carbon Energy Source Transition in Developing Countries</i>
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

	Group 1 – Room 315 Mandela Building [Link A] Moderator: Dr Tammy Egbe, <i>Nottingham Trent University</i> [Meeting Link A]	Group 2 – Online only [Link B] Moderator: Dr Ezinne Igbokwe, <i>Nottingham Trent University</i> [Meeting Link B]
15:30 – 15:55	Senera Eggleton, Kings College London <i>Insurance and the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	Geeta Moni, <i>Transparent Reporting During Pandemics: An Essential Element of the Right to Health</i>
15:55 – 16:20	Dr Livinus Nwokike, Nnamidi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria <i>Legal Evaluation of Sustainable Development vis-à-vis Law and Development: Perspectives of Post-COVID-19</i>	Nilasari, University of Nottingham <i>Addressing Claims under Investment Treaties for TRIPS Waivers: Increasing Access to COVID 19 Vaccine</i>
16:20 – 16:45	Dr Igho Dabor, Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University <i>A Human Right to Financial Inclusion and Sustainability: The Nigerian Perspective</i>	Dr Osaretin Godspwer Okungbowa, National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, Abuja, Nigeria <i>Addressing Nigeria's Informal Economy during COVID-19 and Beyond</i>

16:45 – 17:10	Dr Augustine Arimoro , University of Roehampton London <i>Raising Private Finance for Public Infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa: Exploring Islamic Finance</i>	Mujib Jimoh , Duke University School of Law, USA <i>The Right to Child Education during COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria: Strategies for Recovery and Preparation for COVID-19</i>
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CLOSING REMARKS

[\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

17:10 – 17:15	Jenny Chapman, Executive Dean , Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University	
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This workshop is funded by the Society of Legal Scholars Small Projects and Events Fund

Note: Conference programme in British Summer Time (GMT+1)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor Onyeka K Osuji, University of Essex

Professor Onyeka K Osuji a Professor of Law and Head of the School of Law, University of Essex, UK. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a member of the Advisory Board of the Social Responsibility Journal. While he has made significant contributions to legal scholarship, the interdisciplinary nature of the subjects of Professor Osuji's research and publications shows a wider range of scholarly contributions. He has presented papers at several international conferences and has published extensively in books and reputable international journals. Professor Osuji obtained a PhD in law from the University of Manchester (as a School of Law Scholar) and a BCL (Law) from the University of Oxford (as a Shell Centenary/FCO Chevening Scholar). He has an LLB from the University of Nigeria where he graduated as the Best

Student of the Faculty of Law. He also has a barrister-at-law licentiate degree from the Nigerian Law School and was awarded the Best Overall Performance (Second Prize) and two prizes in Legal Drafting and Conveyancing. Professor Osuji previously practised in corporate and commercial law before becoming an academic. He is a qualified barrister and solicitor of Nigeria and a (non-practising) solicitor of England and Wales and has advised individuals, corporations, and national and international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Title of Keynote Paper: Asymmetrical International Economic System, Law 'Institutions' and Sustainable Development – Public Health Illumination of Pitfalls for All

Abstract:

The paper argues that the embeddedness of 'lifeboat ethics' in the contemporary international economic system propped up by some areas of law is not suited for sustainable development. Using the notion of 'institutions' as a conceptual framework, it underscores the roles of contract law, tort law, corporate law, international human rights law, international investment law and international economic law as well as adjudication rules in national courts and international dispute resolution in constructing an asymmetrical international economic system. While it argues that public health demonstrates the unsustainability of the international economic system, the paper makes a case for reengineering the legal foundations of the system by integrating the social contract theory and recognising the interconnectedness of sustainable development and key areas of law.

Time: 11:00 – 10:25 (BST) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

Prof Damilola Olawuyi, SAN, Hamad Bin Khalifa University Doha, Qatar



Professor Damilola S. Olawuyi, SAN is a professor and holder of the UNESCO Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar. He is also chancellor's fellow at the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (OGEES Institute), Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria. In 2022, he was appointed as an Independent Expert on the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights. Prior to this, he served as an Independent Expert on the African Union's Working Group on extractive industries, environment, and human rights violations in Africa. A prolific and highly regarded scholar, Professor Olawuyi has published over 150 influential peer-reviewed articles, books, and reports on energy finance, sustainable development law and extractive resource governance. His most recent book publications include: *Environmental Law in Arab States* (Oxford University Press, 2022), *Local Content and Sustainable Development in Global Energy Markets* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), *Extractives Industry Law in Africa* (Springer 2018), *The Human Rights Based Approach to Carbon Finance* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and *Climate Change Law and Policy in the Middle East and North Africa Region* (Routledge, 2021). Professor Olawuyi was formerly an international energy lawyer at Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, Calgary, where he served on the firm's global committee on extractive resource investments in Africa. He has lectured on energy and environmental law in over 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and the Middle East. Professor Olawuyi serves on the executive committees and boards of several organizations. He is Vice Chair of the International Law Association globally. In recognition of his "substantial contribution to legal scholarship and jurisprudence," Professor Olawuyi was awarded the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (Queen's Counsel equivalent) in the year 2020, aged thirty-seven, therefore becoming the youngest academic ever elevated to the rank. In 2021, he was appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari as a member of the Governing Board of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

Professor Olawuyi is a regular media commentator on all aspects of natural resources, energy and environmental law.

Title of Keynote Paper: The Systems Approach to COVID-19 Response and Recovery: Challenges, Opportunities, and Ways Forward

Abstract:

The widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have constrained economic, social and environmental development and progress in many parts of the world. In addition to the significant revenue decline and increased healthcare costs witnessed globally, the development and deployment of low-carbon and sustainable energy projects such as wind turbines, solar panels and batteries, have faced increased uncertainty due to pandemic-related delays and disruptions. Despite the systemic implications of the pandemic for the progressive attainment of all of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), responses to the pandemic remain sectoral and piecemeal in many parts of the world. This presentation discusses the urgent need for a systems approach in the design and implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery programs. It examines the legal and governance aspects of integrating and implementing the systems approach in practice. Various legal and institutional challenges that arise with the systems approach will be unpacked in order to clarify ways in which imaginative and integrative legal frameworks can help close these gaps.

Time: 12:35 -13:00 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)



Professor David M Ong, Nottingham Trent University

David M Ong is Professor of International & Environmental Law at Nottingham Trent University, UK. His main research interests are in the following three fields of International Law: the Law of the Sea, International Environmental Law, and International Energy Investment & Development Finance Law, within which he has published in the highest-ranked academic law journals and edited volume collections by eminent academic publishers, four of which he has co-edited. A major aspect of his research has focused on the interaction between applicable international and national legal regimes in the marine environmental space, as evidenced by major contributions to edited volumes published by the pre-eminent UK and international research institutions in these fields, notably, the British

Institute of International & Comparative Law (BIICL) and the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) based in Malta.

Title of Paper: Post-Covid Recovery Infrastructure Development Funding as a Catalyst for Zero Carbon Energy Source Transition in Developing Economies

Abstract:

Given the increased propensity for climate change-induced, zoonotic (animal to human) transmission of infectious diseases, this contribution will examine the role of post-Covid recovery, Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) infrastructure development funding for developing economies to meet their climate change targets and thereby also help to prevent future pandemics. At the same time, the need to meet the global Climate Change regime target has stimulated an international and transnational trend towards Net Zero Carbon Emission Targets, which has in-turn created an impetus for energy source transition away from fossil fuels. An international obligation for net zero carbon energy source transition would have significant implications for developing economies, notwithstanding their Common but Differentiated Responsibilities under the international law for sustainable development. Specifically, how far can any emerging international obligation to transition energy sources away from fossil-fuels be balanced against the common but differentiated responsibilities of developing economies to achieve the global climate change regime target. Within this context, what is the role of international development finance law in building infrastructure capacity within developing economies to ensure such energy source transition to assist them in meeting their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) toward the global climate change regime target, and thereby also reducing the risk of future pandemics due to extreme climate change impacts.

Time: 15:00 – 15:25 (BST)(GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

OTHER SPEAKERS

**Dr Desmond O Oriakhogba, Senior Lecturer,
University of Venda, South Africa**

Desmond O Oriakhogba obtained his LLM and LLB degrees from the University of Benin in 2014 and 2007 respectively, and PhD in commercial law (focus on intellectual property and competition law) from the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa in 2019. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mercantile and Private law, University of Venda, South Africa and tutors in the Distance Learning Program of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy. He is a Queen Elizabeth Scholar (Canada). He belongs to a number of key international expert research, advisory, and advocacy networks focusing on intellectual property, copyright, public interests and access to knowledge issues. Desmond was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2008 and was a visiting researcher in the Centre for Law, Technology and Society, Law Faculty, University of Ottawa, Canada in 2018.



Title of paper: Human Right to Research: Response to the Copyright Challenges of Access to Knowledge in Future Pandemics in Africa

Abstract:

One major lesson learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic within the African copyright ecosystem is the significant imbalance existing in the copyright regime in relation to access to information for research and education. As teaching, learning and research inevitably occurred in the digital space, teachers, learners and researchers continue to grapple with the challenges of accessing materials owing largely to the protection of these resources under copyright law. By implication, the rights to education and access to information, which are necessary to promote the right to science and culture, face a significant challenge posed by the exercise of exclusive rights by copyright owners without a legal mechanism that properly balances copyright, from a human right perspective, with the right to education and access to information in Africa. To create the balance, therefore, there is a dire need for the recalibration of the African copyright system from a human right law perspective. Can a specific human right to research ensure the balance? In view of the existing rights to freedom of expression, right to science and culture, and right to property and the judicial and official pronouncements on these rights in the global human rights regime is a specific right to research necessary and justifiable? If it is necessary and justifiable, what should be its minimum core components? Are there existing international and national regimes to support the formulation of a human right to research? The paper will unpack and address these issues.

Time: 12:10 -12:35 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)



Dr Eddy Wifa, University of Aberdeen

Dr. Wifa graduated from Rivers State University with a Second-Class Upper Degree and was subsequently called to the Nigerian Bar in 2012. He then proceeded to the University of Aberdeen where he completed both a Masters in Oil and Gas law (Distinction) and a PhD in "Offshore Marine Renewable Energy Risk Governance". He was a Senior Partner at AccendoJuris, a Nigerian-based law firm but he now fully committed to teaching and research. As an Energy Law Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, he has contributed to teaching a range of both on-campus and distance-learning courses like Petroleum Resource Governance, Energy Law, Oil and Gas Contracting, Oil and Gas Enterprise Management, Ocean and Society, Decommissioning of Offshore Installations

(Regulatory and Commercial Aspects), Low Carbon Energy Transition (Renewable Energy Law) and Alternative Methods to Dispute Resolution. His research interests include risk governance, petroleum and natural resource governance, regulatory theories in high-major risk industries, decommissioning, and clean energy regulation. He is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association and Society of Legal Scholars. He also is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and the Director of the African Natural Resource and Energy Law Network (ANRELN).

Title of Paper: Law, Safety and Emerging Energy Technologies: Lessons from the Grenfell Tower Disaster

Abstract:

The growth of emerging offshore energy technologies like the offshore wind has led to a quest to examine the suitability of the regulatory design for ensuring the safe construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of these installations. While valuable synergies can be drawn from analogous offshore energy industries like oil and gas based on previous experiences, the Grenfell Tower fire disaster that left 72 people dead, surprisingly provides some valuable lessons. This presentation will provide three key lessons:

- 1. The growth, complexities and health and safety implications of emerging offshore energy technologies.*
- 2. Understanding the regulatory tools that are required to mitigate health and safety risks in established and emerging offshore energy industries.*
- 3. Lessons from analogous offshore oil and gas industries as well as the Grenfell Tower Disaster.*

Time: 10:10 -10:30 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)

Dr Omo Niyi Abe, University of Huddersfield

Dr. Oyeniyi Abe, is a Lecturer in Law at the Huddersfield Business School, University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom. He is also a Research Associate at the Centre for Comparative Law in Africa, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Dr Abe has practiced and taught human rights, corporate and commercial law in Africa, Europe, and North America. He has served as a visiting researcher at the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, McGill University, Canada; Institute for Business Ethics, University of St Gallen, Switzerland, Canadian Institute of Resources Law, Canada, and as a Fulbright Scholar at Loyola University, Chicago, USA. Dr Abe has published numerous articles, book chapters and academic essays on business and human rights, sustainable development, and natural resource management.



His recent book is *Implementing Business and Human Rights Norms in Africa* (Routledge, 2022). Dr Abe serves on the Executive Council of the International Law Association, Nigerian Branch, and is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association, and the Business and Human Rights Teaching Forum Meeting. He has provided consultancy services to international organizations such as the World Bank and the African Union on various aspects of development projects and human rights observance. Dr Abe holds a doctorate (PhD) in commercial law from the University of Cape Town; a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from University of California Berkeley, and another LL.M from Central European University, Hungary, and a Bachelor of Laws from University of Benin, Nigeria. He is a Fellow of the United Kingdom’s Higher Education Authority

Title of Paper: Central Banks as Corporate Change Agents for Sustainable Development

Abstract:

Designing a company that operates in line with climate change mitigation approach and that contributes to meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals requires fundamental structural transformations, including innovative approaches to transforming markets and the society. These transformations, however, require corporation as change agents in advancing corporate sustainability. The role of central banks, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and re-emergence of economic recovery is raising questions on the transformational role of central banks in stabilising the market forces and shaping strategic decisions around social and environmental issues. This reality, therefore, raises questions about both the human rights responsibilities of central banks and their implications for human rights. The purpose of this work is to stimulate discussions around the human rights responsibilities of central banks and the implications for human rights.

Time: 11:45 – 12:10 (BST) (GMT +1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)



Nnenna Uzoigwe, University of Lincoln and Lancaster University

Nnenna Uzoigwe is a Law Lecturer at the University of Lincoln, UK and a PhD candidate in Law at Lancaster University, UK. She has her LLM degree in International Environmental Law from Ebonyi State University, Nigeria (2016); BL from the Nigerian Law School, Enugu (2010), and LLB degree from Ebonyi State University, Nigeria (2009).

Title of Paper: The Notion of Vulnerability as a Justification for a Bespoke International Law Regime for Internally Displaced Persons

Abstract:

The profound increase in number of populations displaced within the State border and the dire nature of internal displacement has created the need for a global binding instrument on internal displacement. The 1998 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement that tailors to the specific vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons is a soft law document that creates no binding obligation under international law. Whilst calls for a global regime for populations displaced within the State border is yet to yield the desired response, this research work looks to the under explored notion of vulnerability to make a compelling argument for a global regime for internally displaced persons. Specifically, it explores the notion of group vulnerability to make right claims for populations whose specific group identity predisposes to series of human rights violations than the rest of the people. It argues that categories whose vulnerability is located within the wider group membership, whose vulnerability is experienced uniquely by its members, and whose nature of vulnerability is harm-based deserves additional protection. Internally displaced persons are a category who embody the three features of a vulnerable group identity and deserves a global binding regime. A formal instrument on internal displacement will strengthen the protection of internally displaced persons. It will boost a coherent response to the plights of populations in this category and create State accountability to its obligation under international law.

Time: 13:20-13:45 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

Dr Osaretin Godspower Okungbowa, National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, National Assembly, Abuja, Nigeria.



Dr Okungbowa is a development economist with over twenty years of experience in academia, banking, and public policy. His passion is at the intersection between research and public policies aimed at accelerating development outcomes in global south. He holds a Certificate from the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, and an alumnus of the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria, where he obtained a BSc degree (Mathematics and Economics), MSc degree (Economics), MBA degree, and doctoral degree (Economics). Dr Okungbowa possesses a nuanced understanding of the context, dynamics, and theory of change that links policy interventions with desirable development outcomes. He is currently a Research Fellow at the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, National Assembly, Nigeria. He provides legislative support services to the National Assembly whilst ensuring that the proposals and positions advanced by the legislators are informed by the requisite research and analytical support. He was previously the Head, Department of Economics, Wellspring University, Benin City, Nigeria, and a Relationship Manager at United Bank for Africa Plc. He is a member of the World Health Organization (WHO)-Health Financing Technical Network; Member, the Nigerian Economic Society (NES); and Member, the Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM) Chartered. Dr Okungbowa is adaptable

Title of Paper: Addressing Nigeria’s Informal Economy During COVID-19 and Beyond

Abstract:

The attainment of inclusive growth is a fundamental pillar of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, March 30th 2020 marked a watershed in Nigeria as the lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus posed a setback for the achievement of the SDGs. While the government had leveraged the provisions in the extant legal frameworks to enforce the three-month-lockdown, however, the structural and institutional frameworks to galvanize social protections for the vulnerable informal sector workers remains problematic. Nonetheless, the objective of flattening the coronavirus curve was achieved, however, the downside of the lockdown highlighted the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 on vulnerable individuals and microenterprises whose well-being are sustained on the fringes of the formal economy. For one, the irruption of the COVID-19 pandemic shows that workers in the informal economy are at the risks of a further exacerbation of existing inequalities and the deterioration of living conditions. In the context of the drive towards the attainment of SDGs 8 and 10, the COVID-19 outbreak underscores the need for a detailed consideration and analysis of social inclusion dimensions of Nigeria’s informality conundrum. It suffices that, at 61% of Gross Domestic Product and about 65% of employment, informality in Nigeria exceeds that of Sub-Saharan Africa’s (SSA) average at 40% and 45% respectively, yet, not much is known about the ever expanding behemoth that the informal sector is fast becoming in Nigeria. The study sheds light on the missing piece of Nigeria’s informality and recommends policy options to address the problems.

Time: 16:20 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)



Dr Dawn Sedman, Nottingham Trent University

Dr Dawn Sedman is part of the teaching staff and a researcher in international criminal law and human rights at Nottingham Trent University, UK. Prior to joining NTU in September 2017, she was a senior lecturer at Oxford Brookes University. Dr Sedman has supervised several PhDs to completion, primarily in the areas of international criminal law and international human rights law.

Title of Paper: Revisiting the 'Shadow Pandemic': SDG5, Gender Equality, and COVID-19

Abstract:

Throughout the global pandemic, alarming data has come out from various UN agencies and other institutions pointing to the detrimental effect of COVID-19 on gender equality progress, the UN Sustainable Development Goal no. 5. The bleakness of this data can be illustrated simply with the phrase 'shadow pandemic', indicating the increased prevalence of violence against women throughout the world, exacerbated particularly by lockdown conditions as well as a reduction in national responses to this violence, as services and resources were reallocated to locally fight the pandemic. The reversal of progress in SDG5's realisation due to the pandemic has been well-documented since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, and this paper offers an opportunity to continue reflecting, using the extensive data collected and published in the June 2022 UN Women/UNDP Report, to consider current SDG5 progress and analyse recommendations offered.

Time: 13:20 -13:40 (BST) (GMT +1) Joining link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)

Dr Tammy Egbe, Nottingham Trent University

Dr Tammy Egbe holds a Lectureship in Law at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). He is currently the module convenor for the International Carriage of Goods on the LLM as well as module convenor of Public International Law and International Trade Law on the LLB here at NTU. Tammy is also a qualified attorney and registered member of the Nigerian Bar Association. His research interests lie in the areas of Maritime Law, International Carriage of Goods, International Sale of Goods and Commercial Law broadly



Title of Paper: Impact of COVID-19 on the International Carriage of Goods by Sea – Charting a Path Forward?

Abstract:

The effect of the covid 19 pandemic on all aspects of human endeavour cannot be overemphasised. While various sectors continue to adjust to the unprecedented changes brought about by the pandemic, the shipping industry continues to struggle with its devastating effects and legal obstacles it poses. Despite various efforts by shipping stakeholders to improve the situation in the shipping sector, major challenges abound ranging from the unseaworthiness of a vessel; seafarer’s rights; safe port warranties; delay and demurrage. This paper attempts to critically appraise the various challenges the shipping industry faces and the potential solutions to help curb the effects these challenges may have on the industry’s long-term outlook. It adopts a doctrinal analysis and argues that the shipping industry in stemming the tide of these various challenges, would have to learn new ways to adapt to its new habitat post covid. It is this adaptation that would serve as catalyst for the rapid recovery of the shipping industry in these unprecedented times.

Time: 12:10-12:35 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)



Dr Igho L Dabor, Nottingham Trent University

Dr Igho L Dabor is a Lecturer in Law at Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University. He contributes to teaching Land Law and Professional Advice, Law of Trusts and Advance Legal Reasoning, and International, European and Comparative Law modules at the undergraduate level. Igho joined NTU in September 2021 and holds a Diploma in Law, LLM and PhD degrees from Universities in Nigeria, and the United Kingdom. His research area is in Company Law, Corporate Abuse, Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Title of Paper: A Human Right to Financial Inclusion and Sustainability: The Nigerian Perspective

Abstract:

The World Bank defines financial inclusion as the means where individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit, and insurance delivered responsibly. It has been stated that financial inclusion is a critical element in the growth of any country, Nigeria included. Financial inclusion is listed conspicuously as part of the United Nations (hereafter UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (hereafter SDG). It is included as target eight of the UN seventeen goals. Financial inclusion involves having access to adequate financial products and services (from banks or other financial institutions) needed by weaker economic sectors of society and low-income groups at an affordable cost fairly and transparently by mainstream institutional players. Access to finance assists individuals, families, and businesses to plan for long-term goals and unexpected emergencies. It aids with business start-ups, and expansion and contributes to economic growth. However, a recent report suggests that "globally, 1.7 billion adults are excluded from the formal financial system. Financial exclusion is greatest among poor people... emerging and developing countries account for more than 70% of global poverty." Almost half of that number are from developing economies – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan. In the Nigerian context, the average monthly cost of living is 137,430 Naira which is approximately \$381.75, a fifth of this income is spent on rent, food, transportation, and the remaining on running the household. From paying for children's education, and rent, to dealing with medical emergencies i.e., paying for a doctor's appointment survival at the bottom of the pyramid often involves a hectic financial life. One reason many Nigerians live below the poverty line is that they do not have access to the formal financial services that have become fundamental to our economic systems namely credit, savings, insurance, and payment services. They are financially excluded. Although financial inclusion is gradually becoming an established global agenda, only a few commentators have suggested the importance of recognising the human rights aspect of financial inclusion. This paper aims to make the argument that financial inclusion if properly enforced, could considerably promote the financial well-being of the poor in Nigeria. It seeks to make a justification for the human right to financial inclusion based on the significance of this right in advancing individual autonomy and satisfying other well-established human rights.

Time: 16:20 – 16:45 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

Dr Prince Uche Amadi

Dr Prince Uche Amadi holds a PhD in Law from the Queen Mary University of London. He completed his LLM in International Corporate and Financial Law at the University of Wolverhampton Law School, UK. He is a lecturer in Law and a Partner at Legal Answers LLP.



Title of Paper: In a time of Pandemic: Killing the Host through the Fair and Equitable Treatment Clause in Investment Agreements

Abstract:

For some axiomatic reasons, the Fair and Equitable Treatment (FET) clause has been a dominant feature of most Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs). Most of these investment treaties dealing with the protection of investor has relied on the FET clause as a protection measure against actions of host states that may be considered inimical to investor's legitimate expectation or interest. Due to the open-ended and indeterminate nature of the FET clause in treaty interpretation by arbitral bodies, the host states are left with insufficient space to regulate to protect public health even in the time of pandemic such as covid 19 pandemic. In order to control the spread of the pandemic, states took a number of legitimate measures such as national lock-down, restricting international and local travels, suspending almost all kinds of businesses within its jurisdiction. These measures may be viewed by an affected investor as a significant change in the regulatory environment capable of triggering an investment claim against the host state. Under the international investment agreement, the host state may therefore become prone to investment claim on the basis of violation of the FET clause. This paper provides some perspectives on how best to deal with the evolving standards of the FET in investment agreements in the event of investor-state arbitration.

Time: 14:35 – 15:00 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)



Dr Ife Okafor-Yarwood, University of St Andrews

Dr Okafor-Yarwood is a Lecturer in Sustainable Development at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews, UK. Her research generates critical insights into the blue economy, environmental justice, human security, maritime governance, and security. Her multidisciplinary research combines empirical, doctrinal, historical, and theoretical analysis to investigate the complexities that shape environmental justice, maritime and natural resource governance, and security in Africa.

Title of Paper: “Ocean Optimism” and Resilience: Learning from Women’s Responses to Disruptions Caused by COVID-19 to Small-Scale Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea

Abstract:

This study examines the response of women to disruptions caused by COVID-19 in small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the Gulf of Guinea (GOG). It interrogates the concept of resilience and its potential for mitigating women’s vulnerability in times of adversity. We define resilience as the ability to thrive amidst shocks, stresses, and unforeseen disruptions. Drawing on a focus group discussion, in-depth interviews with key informants from Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, and a literature review, we highlight how COVID-19 disruptions on seafood demand, distribution, labour and production acutely affected women and heightened their pre-existing vulnerabilities. Women responded by deploying both negative and positive coping strategies. We argue that the concept of resilience often romanticises women navigating adversity as having ‘supernatural’ abilities to endure disruptions and takes attention away from the sources of their adversity and from the governments’ concomitant failures to address them. Our analysis shows reasons for “ocean optimism” while also cautioning against simplistic resilience assessments when discussing the hidden dangers of select coping strategies, including the adoption of digital solutions and livelihood diversification, which are often constructed along highly gendered lines with unevenly distributed benefits.

Time: 13:45 – 14:05 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)

Dr Augustine Arimoro, University of Roehampton

Dr Augustine Arimoro is a Lecturer at the Roehampton Law School, the University of Roehampton London where he convenes the Criminal Law and Public Law modules. Before joining the University of Roehampton London in January 2022, Dr Arimoro was a Lecturer at the Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University, UK. Dr Arimoro holds the LLB, LLM and PhD degrees from Universities in Nigeria, South Africa and the UK. He is a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and a member of the Nigerian Bar Association as well as the Society of Legal Scholars. He has contributed several articles to leading peer-reviewed journals. He is the author of *Public-Private Partnerships in Emerging Economies*, a monograph published by Routledge in 2020. Before taking up a career in academics, Dr Arimoro was a Wealth Advisor with Asset and Resource Management Co Ltd, one of Africa's leading non-banking financial institutions.



Title of Paper: Raising Private Finance for Public Infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa: Exploring Islamic Finance

Abstract:

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) lags other regions of the world as far as critical infrastructure is concerned. Even though the region has great potential, the governments in the region are constrained by budget deficits and competing demands for state resources. With limited access to foreign finance for private sector-led infrastructure procurement in most economies in SSA, this article examines how innovative financial products can be developed to unlock domestic finance for infrastructure. The article adopts a law and development approach. The article recommends the development of infrastructure mutual funds and Islamic finance as alternative sources for infrastructure finance in SSA. This recommendation is based on Prof YS Lee's adaptability to socioeconomic conditions theory.

Time: 16:45 -17:10 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)



Dr Abba Amsami Elgujja, King Saud University Medical City, Saudi Arabia

Dr Abba Amsami Elgujja is a lawyer and a practising nurse. Presently, he works as an infection control coordinator in charge of public health and environmental services of the Infection Prevention and Control Department at King Saud University Medical City. He holds an LLB(Hons) from the University of Maiduguri in northeast Nigeria, LLM and PhD in Law from the University of Salford, Manchester, United Kingdom. Dr Abba was called to the Nigerian Bar as a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in November 2005 after completing the Bar Vocational Course at the Nigerian

Law School, Agbani, Enugu, Nigeria.

Title of Paper: Mobile Apps for COVID-19 Surveillance: Balancing Public Health Needs with the Privacy of Personal Data

Abstract:

Privacy of personal information is a protect human right both under the international human rights and the Saudi Arabian constitution (Basic Law of Governments) and other statutes and regulations, subject to so exceptions that include protecting public health. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged and overwhelmed the status quo in every human sphere, including the conventional surveillance of infectious diseases, contact tracing, isolation, reporting and vaccination while simultaneously protecting the privacy of personal data. The pandemic had led national governments, institutions, and agencies to adopt mobile applications for collecting, analyzing, managing and sharing critical personal data of individuals infected with or exposed to COVID-19. These data may be centralized in a central database or localized in individuals' phones. While the benefits of sharing private information for achieving public health needs may not be disputed, the risk of breach of personal privacy is, also, enormous. Consequently, it forced the national governments into a dilemma of either succumbing to public health needs, strictly respecting and protecting individuals' privacy, or balancing the two conflicting demands. There is a massive body of literature on the security and privacy of such mobile applications, but none has adequately explored and discussed the public interest justifications under the Saudi Arabian laws for the alleged privacy breaches. This paper explored the COVID-19 surveillance mobile app technologies in use in Saudi Arabia for their potential risks of data breaches under the prevailing data protection laws and regulations with a view to understanding if such breaches are obligated, allowed, or justified under the laws. Our findings suggest that any potential risk of a breach to the individuals' privacy of personal information under the law would seem to have been properly balanced against (justified by) the public health needs to protect society during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Time: 14:10 – 14:30 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)



Dr Bhupinder Singh, NMIMS Deemed to be University, India

Dr Bhupinder Singh, Associate Dean, School of Law, NMIMS Deemed to be UNIVERSITY. He completed his LLB from Panjab University Chandigarh, LL. M and Ph.D Degree in Law from Punjabi University, Patiala, India. He has published three books, patents, copyright, seventy-three paper publications, one hundred and twelve paper presentations in international/ national conferences in many prestigious universities- Texas A&M; Northumbria University, UK; University of Adelaide, Australia; Taylor's University Malaysia; Airlangga University Indonesia; Ambra University, United States; South

Ural State University, Russia to name a few; seminars, workshops/ FDP's/QIP's, twenty-one courses from international universities of repute, organized more than sixty-eight events with national and international academicians and industry people, editor-in-chief and co-editor in journals, developed new courses. He has been invited as an expert in the roundtable, resource person, guest speaker, chaired a session in international events, collaboration and extension activities with foreign universities. He delivered expert talks in Tashkent State University of Law, Uzbekistan; All'ah meh Tabatabai University Iran; Iranian Association of International Criminal Law, Iran; Hague Center for International Law and Investment, The Netherlands; Fakultas Hukum Universitas Tanjungpura. He is also a Scientific Member of European Institute for Research & Development (EIRD) Georgia. He is a visiting professor in Santo Tomos University, Tunja, Colombia; Business and Technology University, Georgia; Tashkent State University of Law, Uzbekistan and the University of South Wales, UK. His total leadership, teaching, research and industry experience is of fifteen years.

Title of Paper: Legal Discourse in the Light of Post COVID-19 Pandemic: Human Rights, Health and Wellness Management to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals

Abstract:

Good quality of life needs good health and our facility to enjoy life is directly influenced by our ability to avoid sickness or injury. The most popular metric for describing a population's health is life expectancy. The prevention of disease and fitness of human being, good health also put very important contribution to economic progress of any country as healthy people put fewer burdens on healthcare infrastructure, life span increases, more productive to work, take less medicines, etc. The study of public health seeks to identify the factors that affect the health of communities, cities and society at large and to ensure that conditions and policies that protect health on this scale are put into place. This field has become more important than ever with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, unquestionably the most serious global public health challenge of our lifetime. Public health experts are playing a vital role in shaping our response to COVID-19 by mapping the spread of the illness, identifying ways to slow its transmission and mitigate its impacts, and formulating recommendations for action geared towards policymakers as well as the public. The people's healthcare and its protection is the task of medical professionals through a multiplicity of arenas which includes proper medicine, healthcare legislations, policies/programs/plans/schemes, innovation in healthcare, social science, medicare research, etc. Increased focus on public health and disease prevention and increased access to health care will help vulnerable groups improve their health and life expectancy and raise their job rates and social inclusion.

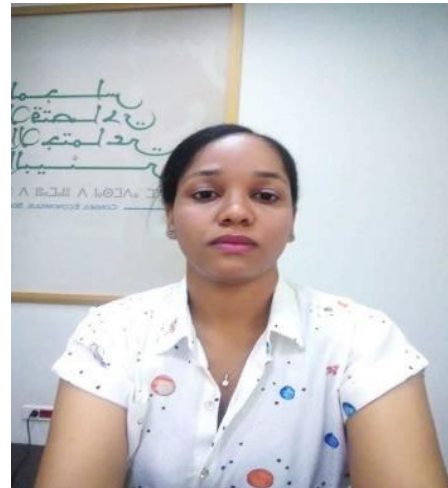
Time: 10:10 – 10:30 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [[Meeting Link A](#)]

Dr Ismaelline Eba Nguema, Omar Bongo University, Gabon

Title of Paper: The Rule of Law Tested by COVID-19: The Case of Gabon

Abstract:

In Gabon, the Covid-19 crisis was accompanied by the adoption of emergency measures to respond to the health emergency caused by the pandemic. According to the texts in force, these measures should be necessary, non-discriminatory and strictly proportional to the health catastrophe. However, the governmental measures were accompanied by an infringement of fundamental rights and freedoms. Also, they have sometimes been taken outside of any legal framework. Thus, the objective of this article is to study the conformity of health emergency measures to the rule of law in Gabon. The method used to conduct this study is based on comparative law. It consisted mainly in comparing the legal responses to Covid-19 in Gabon with those used in the country that seems to have inspired them, France. Similarly, an analysis was made of all the decisions rendered by the Gabonese constitutional court. This study shows that government measures have had a deleterious effect on the rule of law, further weakening its structure. The security response to the Covid-19 crisis and the increase in inequality due mainly to government measures to combat Covid-19 could have damaging effects that could extend well beyond the period of the pandemic.



Time: 10:35 -10:55 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)



Dr Ezinne Mirian Igbokwe, Nottingham Trent University

Dr Ezinne Igbokwe is a Lecturer at the Nottingham Law School of the Nottingham Trent University UK. She convenes Intellectual Property Law (IPL), Contract Law, Public Law and Artificial Intelligence and Law modules. Ezinne holds LLB, LLM and PhD degrees from Universities in Nigeria, France, and the UK respectively. Her research focuses on intellectual property law, pharmaceutical patenting, access to medicine as it intersects with international trade and artificial intelligence and IP.

Title of Paper: Is the TRIPS COVID-19 Waiver a Mere Re-Echo of the Powers of WTO Member States?

Abstract:

The recent Covid-19 pandemic reawakened public opinion to the glaring disparity in access to essential medicines worldwide. Besides Covid-19, therapeutic biological products (biologics), such as mRNA vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, and chimeric antigen receptor T (CAR-T) cells, have become the gold standard, if not the only treatment for a growing number of illnesses. One of the key enablers of limited and inequitable access to Covid 19 vaccines and other medicines in developing economies is pharmaceutical patents under the TRIPS Agreement of the WTO that introduced trade barriers to pharmaceutical products. Remarkably, in June 2022 the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the Council of TRIPS adopted a Decision to waive certain provisions of the TRIPS that are believed to create barriers to the equitable access to Covid 19 vaccines for 5 years. This Decision is believed to help Low-income countries (LICs) to scale up COVID 19 vaccines. Essentially, this Decision echoed the powers of the Members of the WTO to use compulsory licenses under Article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement and other flexibilities. This paper appraises the Decision and also argues that despite the laudable efforts of the Council of TRIPS, the Decision may not offer a workable solution towards the scale up of Covid 19 vaccines where most LICs lack Covid 19 local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. Even where they do, the waiver does not resolve the trade barriers in Free Trade Agreements, possible political and corporate oppositions, and the challenges of limited economies of scale that bedevil the efforts of LICs.

Time: 11:45 -12:05 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)

Akinoyemi Akintunde Abibu, The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro

Akin Abibu is a Law Lecturer in the Department of General Studies at the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro. He has a research interest in the Nigerian Labour Law and Company Law regulatory landscape. He holds an LLB and BL from Olabisi Onabanjo University and the Nigerian Law School Abuja respectively. He completed a Masters's in Law from the University of Ibadan.

Title of Paper: Preserving Employees' Rights in Pandemic Situations: A Pathway to Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Abstract:

The unexpected outbreak of Covid-19 and the consequent shutdown of social and economic activities around the world had a negative global impact on world economies. Within the Nigerian context, the operations of many businesses were compromised, as many of them could not operate remotely, leading to loss of income and in some cases loss of employment. However, in some manufacturing companies (Dangote Plc), workers were forced to continue work in violation of the Federal Government of Nigeria's lockdown order. They were also compelled to work under hazardous conditions despite reported cases of deaths arising from Covid-19. This paper examines the lacuna in the Nigerian Labour Laws as it relates to workers' right to refuse dangerous work during public emergencies. The paper identifies that the weak enforcement of labour standards is a drawback in achieving sustainable development goals. It contends that poor funding and manpower deficiency acutely plaguing the inspectorate division of the ministry of labour is an albatross to the drive to promote decent work and a safe work environment. It proffers that a comprehensive approach is adopted to bring onboard all tiers of the government in the enforcement of labour standards in order to bridge, strengthen and fast track economic recovery.

Time: 10:35 -10:55 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [[Meeting Link A](#)]



**Cailin Morrison, School of Business and Law,
University of Brighton**

Cailin Morrison is a Senior Lecturer in Law in the School of Business and Law, University of Brighton, UK. Cailin is a UNDP external consultant on HIV, Health and Development. Cailin has taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses at universities in the UK, Canada, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong. She has designed and delivered courses in business law, international trade law, global health, development law, food security, intellectual property law with a focus on pharmaceutical patents and health care law. In addition to serving in various academic roles, Cailin is a visiting guest lecturer on the MSc in Food Sciences in the Department of

Clinical Sciences and Nutrition at the University of Chester. She has held two visiting research fellowships at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge and was a Visiting Researcher at the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law (CIPIL), Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, UK. At the University of Brighton, she is currently co-supervising a PhD in international law and development. She is a module leader on the LLM in Law and Social Justice and is a module leader and lecturer on the LLB programmes.

Title of Paper: Re-Imagining the Special and Differential Treatment Provisions in the TRIPS Agreement as a Response to Covid-19

Abstract:

The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed back the development gains of WTO least developed countries (LDCs). One problem is that WTO intellectual property rights make Covid-19 vaccines particularly unaffordable for LDCs. However, the WTO framework contains a remedy, namely waivers provisions from the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In May 2022, a proposal for a waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the prevention, containment, and treatment of COVID-19 submitted by India and South Africa was blocked by group of WTO Member States. This paper examines the impasse and proposes a re-imagining of the special and differential provisions that provide strategies for a rapid and effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This paper contributes to the conversation on the use of these provisions to respond to public health epidemics. The theoretical framework for the paper draws upon law and development literature that rejects the 'one-size-fits-all' agenda of neo-liberal formalism and reconceptualizes development as one that both embraces the market and deploys law as an instrument of intervention and transformation of institutional practices. I argue that international law can be an instrument of change. Legal frameworks provide policymakers with innovative approaches to overcome the deadlock that hinders LDCs from making full use of the special and differential treatment provisions enshrined in the TRIPS Agreement to respond to public health emergencies.

Time: 14:10 -14:30 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)



Dr Alessia Vacca, University of Lincoln

Dr Alessia Vacca is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Lincoln. She was previously a Lecturer at the School of Law of the University of Sassari, Italy. She is a qualified lawyer in Italy. Alessia holds a PhD in Law from the University of Aberdeen.

Dr Hiroko Onishi, University of Roehampton London

Dr Hiroko Onishi is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the Roehampton Law School, University of Roehampton London.

Title of Paper: Sustainable Fashion Post-COVID-19 Pandemic: Environmental and IP Law Perspectives

Abstract:

Our presentation stems from our joined authored book chapter entitled 'use of plastics in fashion'. The pandemic gave a big boost to plastics because of the paramount importance of personal protective equipment, masks, visors, increased usage of disinfectant and flushable wipes, but also increased hospital waste and packaging from online purchases.

Lockdowns influenced a new sustainable fashion trend: sensibility for products which have a long life and less environmental impact. The overarching purpose of our joint paper is to firstly explore the efficacy of the current international and the regional legal frameworks (EU) from the perspective of the environmental and intellectual property laws that regulate the sustainability in the fashion industry. To do so, we focused on the concept of 'sustainable fashion' and assumed that the sustainable fashion phenomenon is the way forward to achieve sustainability goals of the textile industry. This leads to the second purpose of our paper; that is to examine whether the current legal instruments can support the sustainable fashion phenomenon or whether the relevant laws provide more barriers than opportunities? The global fashion industry is one of the largest and influential industries in the world. This will pose the question of both legal and social accountability of the fashion industry to reduce the production/consummation of the plastic.

Time: 13:45 – 14:10 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

Dr Zhang Meihui, Tianjin University, China

Dr Zhang Meihui is a Lecturer at the School of Law, Tianjin University, China. She holds a PhD from the University of Glasgow, MPhil in Law and LLB from the Renmin University of China. Her recent research interests include securities law, Fintech regulation and sustainable finance. She has published several research papers in Sustainability, Journal of International Banking Law and Regulation, Computer and Telecommunications Law Review, Australian Journal of Asian Law, and Journal of International Banking and Financial Law.



Professor Dr Fenghua Li, University of International Business and Economics.

Professor Dr Fenghua Li received his first PhD from the China University of Political Science in Law and another PhD from the University of Glasgow. He is the Secretary-General of the UIBE Centre for BRI Legal Study affiliated to the China Law Society.

Title of Paper: Financing the 'Belt and Road Initiative' in the post-Covid 19 Era towards Sustainability: An overview of China's Green Finance Rules

Abstract:

China launched the 'Belt and Road Initiative' (hereinafter BRI) in 2013, and since then significant infrastructure investments have been made by Chinese state-controlled banks in BRI countries. However, the environmental sustainability issue of the BRI has long been a matter of international concern, especially due to China's financing of overseas coal power projects. BRI is also confronted with an unexpected challenge from COVID-19, as China has experienced an economic contraction, and Chinese banks are less likely to provide such huge amount of foreign loans to fund all the BRI projects. The future of BRI in the post-pandemic era would thus be challenged by these obstacles. A green bond allows the issuer to raise debt funding, but the proceeds can only be allocated to environmentally friendly projects. China has been using green bonds to finance a wide range of BRI projects, but to accelerate the post-pandemic recovery, Chinese banks must place a greater emphasis on ESG factors in their future BRI financing practices to attract more international investors. Therefore, China's recent green finance laws, regulatory guidelines, and other top-down green instruments need to be reviewed in detail, including the green bond issuance rules, the green bond standard, the external review rule of green financial bonds, and rules regarding banks' green performance. By addressing existing legal and regulatory deficiencies, policy recommendations will be provided on how to further improve the sustainability level of BRI.

Time: 14:35-14:55 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)

Geeta Moni

Title of Paper: Transparent Reporting during Pandemic: An Essential Element of the Right to Health

Abstract:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to plague the world, individuals across the globe rely on their national governments to inform them of the extent of the spread of the pandemic. Yet, few countries acknowledge the importance of transparent and accurate reporting of cases and deaths during pandemics. This underreporting severely undermines an individual's right to health, not just at a domestic level, but across the globe. The right to health is an inherent aspect of sustainable development. Ensuring the highest available standard of healthcare, an obligation incumbent on all state parties to the ICESCR, includes the duty to prevent and mitigate public health crises. This paper argues that transparency in healthcare is essential to the prevention of pandemics and a failure to do so is a violation of the right to health. This paper does so in four parts. It first examines the practices of states during the pandemic and the domestic and global consequences of underreporting during pandemics. It further analyses the state's obligations to ensure transparency in healthcare; under international human rights law, under the International Health Regulations, and under the aegis of good governance and rule of law. In the third part, this paper aims to cull out the precise responsibilities and obligations of states in ensuring transparency in healthcare. It finally concludes with recommended policies and legislations states may adopt to protect the right to transparency in healthcare and annexes a draft text of a proposed international declaration.

Time: 15:30 – 15:50 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)



Dr Livinus I Nwokike, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Dr Livinus I Nwokike is Lecturer at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria. He holds a PhD in International Environmental Law from the Nnamdi Azikiwe University. He is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and a Notary Public.

Title of Paper: Legal Evaluation of Sustainable Development Vis-à-vis Law and Development: Perspectives of Post COVID-19 Recovery

Abstract:

The world is gradually recovering from the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic that nearly put human existence in extinction, except by God's intervention. Individuals, states and the United Nations should redouble their consciousness and efforts in thinking of the acts that should not jeopardize the natural environment into another pandemic. This can only be when sustainable development is considered as against the unhealthy acts of man to the natural environment. As the society is changing in terms of development and civilization, human beings as individuals, states and United Nations should change their perceptions, narratives, customs, laws and treaties in such ways that should also consider the consequences of man's unhealthy activities to the environment for future generation. This is sustainable development. Thus, environmental law as a body of rule should be central to sustainable development. It combines environmental needs with the important elements of the rule of law and provides the fulcrum for improving environmental governance. It emphasizes environmental sustainability by linking it with fundamental rights and obligations. Sustainability is equivalent to continuum or the ability to continue a course without termination. It is the use of natural resources in a manner that can be maintained and supported over time, taking into account the needs of future generations. The United Nations agency – the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is taking active and dogged decision to stop new crime against environment (otherwise called stop Ecocide), individuals and states should cooperate to nip this international crimes against environment that could lead to death of millions of the people in the world if it remains unchecked like COVID-19 Pandemic. It will be apt, timely and innovative for United Nations to think about sustainable development of the environment to beam its lights against Ecocide and COVID-19; thereby arresting their effects in the future. This is the precis of this paper. We adopted doctrinal methodology using secondary method in gathering our data We recommended that the United Nations should as a matter of urgency focus its sustainable development programmes against the International crime of ecocide and COVID-19. Treaties should be reached among member nations, who should be motivated and charged to develop, enact and domesticate national laws against them. To eliminate ecocide, the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court should be amended to provide for Ecocide as the fifth International crime against peace and security of mankind. Ecocide should be made a strict liability offence and provisions for the punishment of the offenders provided in the Rome Statute to serve as a deterrence. To eliminate COVID-19 in the world, the United Nations should establish, enact, sign and seal treaties on this and member states should be motivated and sponsored to domesticate the treaties into their national laws. They should impose serious sanctions and punishments against erring members to also serves as deterrence.

Time: 15:55 -16:15 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)



Mujib Jimoh, Duke University School of Law, USA

Mujib Jimoh is currently an LLM candidate at Duke University School of Law as the Judy Horowitz Scholar. Prior to this, he practiced at Banwo & Ighodalo, one of Nigeria's leading law firms, where he advised on corporate law and commercial litigation. He graduated from the University of Ibadan as the recipient of the Frank James Prize having attained a First Class Honours and the Best Graduating Student (Male Category). He was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2019.

Title of Paper: The Right to Child Education During COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria: Strategies for Recovery and Preparing for COVID-X

Abstract:

Goal 4 of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG 4) is to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education...' In Nigeria, several international and domestic laws exist to facilitate the attainment of this goal, such as the Nigerian Constitution, the Child Rights Act, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the UNESCO's Convention against Discrimination in Education, among others. Sadly, with COVID-19 pandemic, there is a widened inequality gap, leading to a serious doubt on whether countries can achieve the SDGs by 2030, a concern also shared by the UN Economic and Social Council in 2021. Thus, this paper will first, discuss the worsened inequality level occasioned by the pandemic, which culminated in difficulty in accessing vaccines in Nigeria and its consequent implications on the right to child education such as long closure of schools. Secondly, the paper will highlight the economic meltdown of the pandemic and its devastating effects on the right to child education such as reduced school enrolment and access to school. Principally, the paper argues for novel strategies to tackle the impacts of Covid-19 on the right to child education in Nigeria and the need to upgrade the pre-pandemic strategies which were adopted to achieve SDG 4. Specifically, it recommends urgent, but steady strategies to achieve SDG 4, prepare the Nigerian educational sector and safeguard the right to education in the (un)likely event of another unknown pandemic, a Covid-X.

Time: 16:45-17:10 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)

Title of Paper: Addressing Claims under Investment Treaties for TRIPS Waivers: Increasing Access to the COVID-19 Vaccine

Abstract:

Since the discovery of COVID-19 at the end of 2020, several measures have been considered to stop its spread, one of which is the distribution of vaccines. The vaccine has the potential to save many lives because it can prevent the spread of COVID 19. As a result, in order to halt this pandemic, everyone on the planet should be vaccinated. However, the availability of vaccines has become a concern in several countries, particularly developing countries. There has been a disparity in access to vaccines, as evidenced by the fact that, as of June 30, 2022, 16% of individuals in low-income countries were fully vaccinated, compared to 74% in high-income states. Therefore, South Africa and India proposed at WTO to waive the IP of the COVID-19 vaccine to combat such inequality, which the WTO approved in June 2022. By waiving IP, WTO members can utilise patented components for Covid-19 vaccines without the rights holder's approval. Thus, the aim of providing widespread access to patents can be achieved. However, such a waiver has been debatable. Some claim that there is no specific evidence that IP has been the primary source of vaccine inequality and that the exemption will be damaging because it impedes innovation and is unfair to investors. The implementation of the TRIPS waiver appears to be vulnerable to legal challenges under International Investment Treaties (IIAs). Therefore, to tackle such obstacles, states should play their roles. A measure can be taken by ensuring that FTA provisions do not hinder the waiver's implementation. A clause prohibiting WTO members from using any FTA provision that would thwart the waiver application could be included in the waiver decision's text. However, for FTAs currently in effect and do not contain such provisions, governments may exempt themselves from their obligations which could hamper the waiver under international customary law. According to The Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, there are six factors that exempt states from liability: consent (art. 20), self-defence (art. 21), countermeasures (art. 22), force majeure (art. 23), distress (art. 24), and necessity (art. 25). As a result, states can use these circumstances to defend their obligations under FTAs and apply the TRIPs waiver to provide equal access to vaccine and COVID-19 treatment.

Time: 15:55 – 16:15 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link B\]](#)

Senera Eggleton, Kings College London

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Title of Paper: The Role of Insurance and Reinsurance in Pandemic Recovery

Abstract

Insurance is generally considered to be relevant only in the commercial sphere. However, an ever increasing range of interests can be insured and, as demonstrated by the Covid-19 pandemic, insurance can play a significant part in economic recovery post-catastrophe, both an at individual and societal level. The corollary is that when policies do not indemnify policyholders, assureds must bear the financial consequences of the losses themselves. Business interruption losses were the most significant financially during the Covid-19 pandemic; moreover, a multitude of consequential losses flow from an absence of indemnification including unemployment, poverty and even homelessness. Nevertheless, the interpretation of these policies has caused the most uncertainty and controversy worldwide. This presentation would consider the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) involvement in bringing a test case of 21 sample policy wordings before the Supreme Court and consider the impact of the revocation of Practice Direction 51M, which allows the FCA to intervene for the protection of policyholders, on post-Covid 19 economic recovery. This presentation would also consider sustainable post-pandemic development; more specifically, how reinsurance can be utilised to make so-called "uninsurable" pandemic-related risks insurable. Reinsurance increases an insurers capacity to underwrite risks and pay claims – in effect, it operates as insurance of insurance. Nevertheless, it is not possible to underwrite such enormous pandemic related business interruption losses without substantial government support. In this respect, the possibilities for Public Pandemic Partnerships between government and reinsurers will be explored.

Time: 15:30 – 15:50 (BST) (GMT+1) Joining Link: [\[Meeting Link A\]](#)

NOTES

