



## **Highlights from the Annual Report 2018**

The annual report for the SHUREA Project was submitted to EDUFI at the end of March, 2019. It includes information on the activities done by all partner HEIs during the previous year with their achievements.

Some highlights include information in relation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> AfriDoors Conference held in Nairobi. 73 doctoral candidates, postdocs and supervisors from all partner countries participated (40% increase from the previous year).

The visibility of human rights research has been brought to the forefront during the reporting period as 10 stakeholder workshops were arranged, 9 researches participated in various international conferences and 8 journal manuscripts were considered in informal peer reviews.

Educational policy frameworks of South Africa, Ethiopia and Uganda have been updated during the reporting period which compliments the work done within the project greatly as emphasis was put on the importance of international mobility and high quality human rights research.

The southern Africa Expert Meeting on the Rights of Older Women was part of a campaign with the slogan

[#AgewithRights](#) to popularize the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Older People with the objective to increase ratification from member states. The meeting was attended by key officials such as representatives of the African Union, the Pan African Parliament etc.

## **Upcoming Activities**

### **SHUREA Mobility**

The researcher mobility program has been well underway as 5 doctoral candidates will be traveling to The Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University from all partner universities for long-term research visits ranging from 2-5 months. 5 other candidates will also be traveling to the

Center for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria for the same purpose.

During their stays, researchers will be able to access resources that are available in the universities and attend seminars organized by the host universities for them to present their work and receive feedback. They will also engage in other activities that will contribute to making progress in their doctoral research.

Click [here](#) to see the profiles of our guest researchers from previous years.



*Doctoral candidate from the University of Nairobi, Mercy Deche, presenting her work in a research seminar at the Institute for Human Rights.*

**The Third African Forum for Doctoral Research in Human Rights (AfriDoors), Addis Ababa University, October 7-11, 2019**



*The Second AfriDoors Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. 27-31 August, 2018*

The Third African Forum for Doctoral Research in Human Rights (AfriDoors) event will be held at the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia from 7-11 October, 2019. Partners from all universities in the

SHUREA project will be in attendance. The theme for the conference this year is **'Towards a More Robust Protection of Human Rights in Africa'**.

The conference will be an avenue for doctoral and post-doctoral candidates as well as academic staff members from partner universities to convene, share ideas and present academic papers. It will also present an opportunity to review and give feedback on doctoral research by candidates in different partner universities related to the theme.

It is anticipated that some of the presentations will eventually be eligible for publication in one of the reputable journals produced by the partner universities such as The African Human Rights Law Journal, The East African Law Journal and The Journal of Ethiopian Law.

This year, 35 abstracts were received and reviewed of which 29 were accepted for presentation during the course of the week-long conference.

**Advanced Course on Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Åbo Akademi University, November 11-15, 2019**

The Åbo Akademi Institute for Human Rights will organize and host an Advanced Course on Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in cooperation with the Socio-Economic Rights and Administrative Justice Project, University of Stellenbosch Law Faculty, South Africa and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo. The week long intensive course will be held in November, 2019.

Researchers on mobility in Finland from partner universities will have the opportunity to attend this advanced course at the Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University. It is also a professional networking event that brings a large number of reputable experts together.

To get more information on the course as well as other practical information

regarding the application procedure, please click [here](#) and follow the updates on the Institute's webpage.

### Post-Doctoral Mobility



*Prof. Michelo Hansungule from the Centre for Human Rights, Pretoria, visited The Institute for Human Rights in Finland*

These mobility programs are short-term researchers visits targeted towards post-doctoral researchers that would like to participate in international conferences and other events related to the theme of their work.

This year, ENCLE/IJLCE annual Conference on "Improving the Future: Using Clinical Legal Education to Educate Lawyers for a Just Society" is to be held on 3-5 July 2019, in Slovakia. It focuses on one of the core aims of clinical legal education; justice. Dr. Getachew Assefa from Addis Ababa University will be presenting a paper entitled "Bridging the 'modern' and the 'traditional' in the Ethiopian Legal System: the role of clinical legal education in realizing access to justice." More information on the conference can be found [here](#).

The fourth Annual Conference of the Law & Development Research Network (LDRN) will be held on 25-27 September 2019 at Humboldt University Law Faculty, Berlin, Germany. The conference aims to investigate the plural nature of law and development as a field of study, meaning and practice. The theme of the conference is "The Plurality of Law and Development" and will bring a variety of researchers from the Global South and North who share an

interest in law and development. Dr. Viljam Engström from Åbo Akademi University and Dr. Sisay Alemahu Yeshanew from Addis Ababa University, will be partaking in this 3 day conference. They will contribute to a panel discussion entitled "**Rights and Development in the Mandate and Work of International Institutions**". The panel focuses on international institutions and role of rights and development in their work. In addition to the panel, Dr. Engström and Dr. Yeshanew will also have individual papers in line with the theme of the conference. Information on this conference can also be found [here](#).

### Stakeholder Workshops at Partner Universities

The Third Annual Thematic Conference of the School of Law of Addis Ababa University is scheduled to take place on 28-29 June, 2019. The thematic issues selected are 'Ethiopia in Transition: Responding to Human Right Violations of the Past; and Reimagining Ethiopian Federalism.' The deadline for a call for abstracts for individuals who may be interested in contributing articles for this conference was on 6 March, 2019.

The results of all the above will be included in the next SHUREA Newsletter.

### Improving Availability and Quality

One of the objectives of the SHUREA project is to increase availability and quality of PhD training in the field of human rights. With that in mind, resources such as books, journals and access to them is one of the most effective means to ensure that academic work is of supreme quality. Under the SHUREA project, partner universities have been able to procure online subscriptions to reputable online databases in order to encourage research without resource-related restrictions.

# Publications and communication

Please keep us informed on events and publications relevant to the SHUREA project. We will be happy to share the news via the SHUREA Newsletter, website ([www.abo.fi/shurea](http://www.abo.fi/shurea)), e-mail list ([shurea@abo.fi](mailto:shurea@abo.fi)) and facebook page.

SHUREA aims at improving the quality and availability of PhD training in human rights, and strengthening the role of human rights research in societal development processes. Project partners are the Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University in Finland, Centre for Human Rights at University of Pretoria in South Africa, School of Law at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, School of Law at Makerere University in Uganda and School of Law at University of Nairobi in Kenya.

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