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Addis Ababa University  
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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **AFRIDOORS CONFERENCE TOWARDS A MORE ROBUST PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA**

**7-11 OCTOBER 2019, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

#### **About the Conference**

Strengthening Human Rights Research and Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (SHUREA) is a Finnish funded project aimed at strengthening policy relevant human rights research at the member institutions: Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Makerere University (Uganda), University of Nairobi (Kenya), University of Pretoria (South Africa) and Åbo Akademi University (Finland).

The third AfriDoors Conference will be held from 7 to 11 October 2019 at the School of Law, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. This year's conference theme is '*Towards a More Robust Protection of Human Rights in Africa*'. Abstract for papers at the conference is invited from doctoral students, post-docs and academic staff from the SHUREA member institutions.

It is expected that papers presented at this Conference will be reworked by authors and submitted for consideration for publication in special issues of three journals: Journal of Ethiopian Law, East African Law Journal and the African Human Rights Law Journal, provided that the articles comply with publication standards of the journals.

#### **Background**

The African Forum for Doctoral Research in Human Rights (AfriDoors) is an annual forum for doctoral students, post-docs and doctoral supervisors at the member institutions. The first

AfriDoors was held in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2017, and the second AfriDoors in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2018.

The Forum aims at:

- Enhancing the basic skills and capacity of doctoral students on human rights research, with a focus on innovative approaches;
- Enhancing the skills and capacity of supervisors of human rights-related topics;
- Serve as a platform to discuss and provide feedback on ongoing doctoral research;
- Stimulate reflection on substantive human rights issues of contemporary relevance to doctoral research in human rights; and
- Develop teaching material towards a module to be used at partner and other universities.

AfriDoors Conference is intended to give PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and supervisors more space to present their research papers for subsequent publication as journal articles.

### Theme

The theme selected for the conference is *'Towards a More Robust Protection of Human Rights in Africa'*. Unpublished papers can be presented on any topic related to human rights in Africa. Papers that seek to inject comparative experience from other regional human rights systems and jurisdictions are welcome. Within this broader scope, presentation topics include but are not limited to:

- The application of global and African regional human rights treaties at domestic level
- Human rights enforcement mechanisms
- Accountability for human rights violations by states at international and domestic levels
- Accountability for human rights abuses by non-state actors at international and domestic levels
- Remedies for violations of human rights
- Strengthening national human rights institutions
- The relevance and effectiveness of and challenges to sub-regional inter-governmental organizations from the perspective of human rights
- A comparative analysis of protection of human rights in different jurisdictions

- The role of non-state actors in the protection of human rights
- The role of CSOs in promoting the protection of human rights, including the existence of enabling environment for their involvement
- Constitutional protection of human rights
- Rights of vulnerable groups
- Legal and policy reforms in the area of human rights: Recent developments

### Participants

The Conference seeks to bring together PhD students, post doc researchers and supervisors of partner universities as well as other invited distinguished guests to discuss multifarious issues pertaining to the realization of human rights in Africa.

### Submission Requirements

A committee will review abstracts of unpublished papers that are in English, are 300-350 words in length and in MS Word format. PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers and professors of partner universities are invited to submit abstracts.

Abstracts must be submitted in a single document and include:

1. Title of abstract
2. Author's name, affiliation and short biographical details
3. Qualifications
4. A clear indication of the name of the journal in which the author wish to publish his/her work if accepted
5. Contact details

### Deadline for Submissions

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 March 2019**. Submissions should be sent to [shurea@aau.edu.et](mailto:shurea@aau.edu.et).

All abstracts will be reviewed by the AfriDoors Conference Committee and selections announced **no later than 15 March 2019** with complete papers of 6,000- 10,000 words due on **14 June 2019**.

For practical questions about the conference and for questions related to the submission of papers and the overall conference programme, please contact Mizanie Abate, Chair of the AfriDoors Conference Committee, at [shurea@aau.edu.et](mailto:shurea@aau.edu.et).

## **Funding**

Limited funding for travel and accommodation is available to support authors whose abstracts have been accepted and have also submitted papers. Applicants seeking financial support should indicate in a separate letter, accompanying the abstract, the reason(s) for the application and the nature of support they are seeking. Applicants will be notified by 28 June 2019 whether their application for funding has been accepted.

## **The AfriDoors Conference Committee**

The AfriDoors Conference Committee is composed of five members representing each partner university. The members are:

1. Dr. Mizanie Abate, Addis Ababa University (Chairperson)
2. Professor Elina Pirjatanniemi, Åbo Akademi University (Member)
3. Professor Magnus Killander, University of Pretoria (Member)
4. Dr. Ronald Naluwairo, Makerere University (Member)
5. Professor Patricia Kameri-Mbote, University of Nairobi (Member)