

# SHUREA | Strengthening Human Rights Research and Education in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Newsletter 6 July 2019



Dear SHUREA colleagues, please find below an update on some of the upcoming and past SHUREA activities of 2019.

### Upcoming events

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

The third African Forum for Doctoral Research in Human Right (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.

This event also aims at working on development of teaching materials that will be used by partner universities and beyond. This will further encourage the cooperation between different HEI partner counties and other HEIs.

In connection to these presentations by SHUREA members, some of their work will be selected to be published in one of the reputable journals produced by the partner universities; journal of Ethiopian Law, East African Law Journal and the African Human Rights Law Journal.

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

### Mobility Program

The researcher mobility program has been well underway as 5 doctoral candidates will be traveling to Institute for Human Rights in 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.

## Post-doctoral mobility to international conference

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" to be held on 3-5 July 2019, Slovakia, 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."

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. Sisay Alemahu from Addis Ababa University, will be partaking in this 3 day conference.

## Stakeholder workshops at partner universities

The University of Nairobi plans to host two stakeholder workshops during the year. The first one will be held in August, 2019 with the theme 'Kenya Constitution 2010- Human Rights Discourse'. The second workshop will be held in September, 2019 around a month before the third AfriDoors as a 'pre-AfriDoors Post Doc/ Researchers' Conference'.

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.



## Advanced Course on ???

In the advanced course on Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held in December of last year, 4 doctoral candidates have participated and found the course very important. Similar to that, this year researchers from partner will be able to attend the week long intensive course on ?? at the Institute for human rights in Åbo Akademi.

These courses are given by both staff member and guest lecturers giving an opportunity for the researchers to attend courses by people with specialized knowledge. It is also a professional networking event that brings a large number of reputable experts together.

## 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. Many of the partner universities are also in the process of procuring printers and computers in order to manage the large number of users of these resources.

## 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 2nd 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 have been brought to the forefront during the reporting period as 10 stakeholder workshops were arranged, 9 researchers 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 greatly the work done within the project as emphasis was put on the importance of international mobility and high quality human rights research.

## Improving Availability and Quality

Please, keep us informed on events and publications relevant for 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)), email 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.



FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

SUPPORTED BY OFFICIAL  
DEVELOPMENT AID FROM THE MINISTRY  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

### Contact

Katarina Frostell  
Project manager  
Institute for Human Rights | Åbo Akademi University  
Fänriksgatan 3, 20500 Åbo, Finland  
email: [kfrostel@abo.fi](mailto:kfrostel@abo.fi)  
[SHUREA webpage](#) | [SHUREA Facebook](#) | [SHUREA email list](#)