



UGent
Human Rights
Research Network



GAPSYM19 – Justice & Rights in Africa

8 December 2026

De Krook - Miriam Makebaplein 1 - Ghent

Programme

Tuesday 8 December 2026

8h00-9h00 Registration and coffee [Zaal Vos]

9h00-9h30 Opening and words of welcome by the presidents of the Africa Platform

9h30-11h00 Individual Oral Presentations - Session One (6 slots)

	Topic: Human Rights (1)	Environmental justice (4)	Panel: Who's peace ? - taking stock of 10 Years of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Chair: Koen Vlassenroot (Ghent University, Belgium)	Panel: Collaboration, fieldwork, and knowledge production in Africa Chairs: Amalie Ravn Weinrich & Rossella Marino (University of Copenhagen, Denmark & UNU-CRIS, Belgium & Ghent University, Belgium)
9h30	Gayanthi Ranatunga (Dublin City University, Ireland)	Bulambo Mulonda Salammbo (Association Pain aux Indigents et Appui à l'auto Promotion, RDC)	Geoffroy Matagne & Lassane Yaméogo <i>Localising Peace: Whose Expertise Shapes HDP Programming. Evidence from the Sahel</i>	Rossella Marino & Omar Cham (Ghent University & Brussels School of Governance)

	<i>Legal pluralism and women's rights in Somaliland: how xeer, shari'a and the Somaliland constitution affect women in times of personal crisis</i>	<i>Justice environnementale et exploitation des minerais critiques à l'Est de la RDC: entre discours global, défis de gouvernance et impératif de réforme institutionnelle</i>		<i>A comparative reflection on the intersectional politics of researching migration governance in The Gambia</i>
9h45	Jacob Thomas-Llewellyn (Rabdan Academy, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates) <i>'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity – But Not For You': An Examination of French Colonial Policy during the Algerian War, 1954-1962</i>	Espérant Mwishamali Lukobo (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Slow violence and environmental justice in the mines of Haut-Katanga and Lualaba (DRC): a look at the vulnerabilities of communities living around mining areas</i>	Godefroid Muzalia <i>The HDP Nexus and the challenges of humanitarian action in the Ruzizi Plain in South Kivu (DRC)</i>	
10h00	Siyane Deressa (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Understanding the Right to Adequate Food Through Children's Voices: A Qualitative and Visual Study with Street-Connected Children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</i>	Amaury Frankl (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>The injustice of land degradation: a geographical focus on Ethiopia</i>	Manu Klimis <i>Small P vs Capital P: the challenges and contradictions of an approach calling for more coordination while creating more subdivision in peace interventions</i>	
10h15	Wannes Slosse (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>The Right to Food's Missing Ingredient: A Validation Exercise on Food Agency in South Africa</i>	Juliet Musoke Nakabuye & Hendrik Schoukens (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>The Influence of EU Rules on Environmental Impact Assessment and Corporate Sustainability in Uganda's Extractive Industries: A Necessary Lever for Sustainability</i>	Sylvie Imata (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Anchoring the HDP Nexus in a World of Overlapping Shocks: Governing Displacement Amidst the Polycrisis</i>	

10h30	Yeshiwas Aleminih (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>From Violence to Displacement: Lived Experiences of internally displaced ethnic Amhara (IDPs) in Ethiopia</i>	Rui Chen (University of Exeter, UK) <i>Confronting Imperial Ecocide: Animal Rights in Dusklands and Waiting for the Barbarians</i>	Clara Affun-Adegbulu <i>The Nexus HDP and the challenges of humanitarian action in the Ruzizi Plain in South Kivu (DRC)</i>	
10h45	Nathalie Nsimire Bavurhe (Université de Gand, Belgique) <i>Réparer au-delà de l'assistance : résilience sociale et quête de justice des survivantes de violences sexuelles à l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo</i>	Bantiga Ndoya-allah (Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist, N'Djamena, Chad) <i>Voices, Rights and Justice in Climate Adaptation: A Case Study of the Lower Chari-Logone Basin, Chad</i>	Koen Vlassenroot (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>10 years of HDP Nexus amidst shifting geopolitics</i>	

11h00-11h30 Coffee break [Zaal Vos]

11h30-12h30 Keynote lecture by Emeritus Professor Rashida Manjoo (University of Cape Town): [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]

12h30-14h00 Lunch break [Krook café – ground floor]

13h00-14h00 Africa Forum – General Assembly of the Africa Platform (for UGent staff) [Zaal Haas]

14h00-15h30 Individual Oral Presentations - Session Two (6 slots)

	Topic: Human Rights (1)	Environmental justice & Land Rights (4)	Panel: Pursuing human rights and transitional justice amidst ongoing violence and political repression Chairs: Sarah Kihika Kasande & Kim Baudewijns	Panel: Pushed to the periphery? Struggles over natural resources in North Kivu, eastern DR Congo Chair: An Ansoms (UCLouvain, Belgium)
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			(Ghent University, Belgium)	
14h00	Jerry Mosses & Joost Dessen (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Governing Urban Market Renewal: Institutional Power, Unequal Spaces, and Everyday Re-making in Dar es Salaam</i>	Daniel Fiifi Tawia Hagan (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Rethinking Urban Heat Extremes and climate fairness in the Sahel: Evidence from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</i>	Tadesse Metekia Institute for Security Studies in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	An Ansoms & Alain Midagu (Université Catholique de Louvain) <i>Conservation, territorial claims and everyday resistance in North Kivu</i>
14h15	Kiyoshi Yamada (Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland) <i>(Un) navigating Violent Taxation? Civilians' Social Network, Governance, and Economic Extortion in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>	Dorcas Basimanyane (University of Pretoria, South Africa) <i>Beyond the Social Licence to Operate in Africa: Reaffirming the Right to Say No under Green Extractivism</i>	Sarah Kihika Kasande (Ghent University, Belgium)	Yanaelle Ntwa (Université Catholique de Louvain) <i>Oil palm, agrarian transformation and local knowledge in eastern DR Congo</i>
14h30	Frida Robles (University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria) <i>Sonic Wit(h)nessing and Embodied Spaces for Justice in Gabrielle Goliath's Elegy</i>	Maphoko Lerato Ditsela (University of the Free State, South Africa) <i>Decolonial perspectives on contemporary repercussions of landlessness in South Africa</i>	Pia Falschebner (Centre for Conflict Studies at Philipps University Marburg, Germany)	Patient Polepole (Université Catholique de Louvain) <i>Land, power and exclusion in eastern DR Congo: understanding real land governance in contexts of protracted crisis</i>
14h45	Anneke Newman (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Is the 'learning crisis' a product of colonialist lenses? Challenging assumptions of illiteracy in Islamic Africa</i>	Jonas Fassinou (University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin) <i>Tax Morale, Gender, and Land Rights: Evidence from a Property-Tax Education RCT in Benin</i>		
15h00	Oyeniye Okunoye (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)			

	<i>A Voice for the Masses: The Human Rights Activism of Lanrewaju Adepoju</i>			
15h15	Lindelwa Veronicah Nkosi (University of Mpumalanga, South Africa) <i>Indigenous languages and social justice: Reclaiming the voices of Siswati-speaking communities in Mpumalanga Province of South Africa</i>			

15h30-16h00 Coffee Break [Zaal Vos]

16h00-17h30 Individual Oral Presentations - Session Three (6 slots)

	Inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches to the study of Voices, Rights and Justice in Africa (8)	Migration, climate risk and socio-economic rights (7)	Panel: The Right to the City in Transnational Contexts of Conflict, Violence, and Division: Urban Contestations across Belgium, Mozambique, Ethiopia and D.R. Congo Chair: Karen Büscher (Ghent University, Belgium)	Panel: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights under pressure: Global backlash, funding shifts, and implications for African health systems Chair: Emilie Peeters (Ghent University, Belgium)
16h00	Leona Morgan (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) <i>'I just want the pain to go away': religious coping and sexual trauma recovery in South African, marginalised contexts</i>	Emmanuel Viga (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) <i>Partial/Semi-Decentralization and Implications for Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) protection in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</i>	Jade Munyaneza <i>Conflict Beyond Borders: Social Relations and Community Fragmentation within the Great Lakes Diaspora in Belgium</i>	

16h15	Moses Mukasa (Ghent University, Belgium - Makerere University, Uganda) <i>Explanatory models of suicide attempts among South Sudanese refugees in the northwest Nile, Uganda</i>	Emnet Negash (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Climate risk, land access and the limits of refugee integration in Uganda</i>	Keren Muzalia <i>Contesting Conflict Narratives: Digital Struggles over Representation and Memory in the Congolese Diaspora</i>	
16h30	Winnie Wothaya Murigu (University of Oldenburg, Germany) <i>Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Kenya: Between Recognition and Redistribution</i>	Grace Gambiza (University of the Free State, South Africa) <i>Negotiating "Layered" Belonging: Identities of Selected Itinerant Zimbabwean Migrant Women in the UK</i>	Stella Riva (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>Liminality in the Camps and the City: Displacement and Settlement in the Conflict of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique</i>	
16h45	John Ibanga (Augustine University, Ilara-Epe, Lagos, Nigeria) <i>"There is no sufficient reason for the visa to be issued": Visa Regimes, Academic Mobility and the Global Visibility of African Scholarship</i>	Mauro De Decker (Ghent University, Belgium) <i>The Refugee's (Im)mobility Trap: Lives experiences of South Sudanese refugees in the context of funding withdrawal and the erosion of international protection commitments in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement, Northwest Nile Uganda</i>	Ayehu Bacha <i>Ethnicising the Right to the City: Urban Citizenship and Contentious City-Making in Ethiopia</i>	
17h00	Jacques Matthee (University of the Free State, South Africa) <i>The Regulation of Traditional Healing and the Realisation of the Right to Health in South Africa</i>	Calvin Gwandure (University of Mpumalanga, South Africa) <i>Availability and uptake of long-acting injectable lenacapavir for HIV prevention in sub-Saharan Africa</i>	Christian Koba <i>Who Belongs to the Border City? Urban Citizenship, Political Contestation, and Identity in Kasumbalesa, DR Congo</i>	

17h15	Kgopotso Maunatlala (University of Pretoria, South Africa) <i>Understanding the marginal status of indigenous law in the LLB curriculum: A Critical Race Theory perspective on institutional culture</i>	Berhanu Dendena Sona (Dilla University, Ethiopia) <i>Psychological Outcomes of Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Barriers to Women with Disabilities in Southern Ethiopia</i>		
	Ibrahim Ndagijimana (University of Rwanda, Rwanda) <i>Indigenous mechanisms as a tool for conflict resolution in Rwanda: the case of the Abunzi committees</i>	Joseph Yav Katshung (Université de Lubumbashi, RDC) <i>Le droit à la santé à l'épreuve d'Ebola en RDC : Normes, justice et réalités sanitaires</i>		

- 19h30-21h00 Ghent University Nelson Mandela Lecture [Zaal De Blauwe Vogel]
South African Human Rights Commissioner Tshepo Madlingozi engages in an intergenerational dialogue with youth leaders selected by the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund
- 21h30-23h00 Reception [Krook café – ground floor]