

Participants

Elizabeth Blunt is a freelance journalist and broadcaster. During a long career with the BBC, at first as a technician, then a programme producer and reporter, she travelled widely in Africa. She worked on the popular daily radio news programmes “Focus on Africa” and “Network Africa”, and was the BBC's West Africa correspondent in the nineteen-eighties and again for a time in the late nineties. During that time she regularly attended and reported OAU summits. Her last BBC job before retirement was in Addis Ababa, covering both on Ethiopia and the activities of the African Union. Now based in London, she acts as UK correspondent for the UN's IRIN news agency, and has served as an election observer for the European Union, in Togo at the beginning of 2010, and most recently in Sudan, for this year's referendum.

Catherine Boone joined the LSE as Professor of Comparative Politics and African Political Economy in 2013. She holds a BA from the University of California, and Ph.D from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Professor Boone is currently serving on the steering committee of the American Political Science Association's Africa Initiative and the Advisory Board of the Social Science Research Council's African Peacebuilding Network, as well as numerous editorial boards and committees.

Julian Burger is currently Visiting Professor at the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex and Sessional Lecturer in Human Rights in Latin America at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. He combines this with significant experience working for the UN on human rights issues and for 20 years was the Head of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Programme at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Prior to this, Julian was Deputy Director of the Independent Commission on Humanitarian Issues (ICHI), a think tank established by the UN General Assembly to propose new approaches on humanitarian issues. He also held a position as Director of Research at Anti-Slavery International.

Alison Clarke is Emeritus Professor at the School of Law, University of Surrey and a property lawyer with a particular interest in the social, cultural and economic effects of different property rights regimes as they apply to land and other natural resources. Author of a long-established legal practitioners' text on land transactions (Emmet & Farrand on Title, jointly with Professor Julian Farrand) and a student textbook on property principles (Property Law: Commentary and Materials, with Paul Kohler, Cambridge University Press: Law in Context series, 2005), she has also written on a variety of property related topics, including communal property, indigenous land rights, diversification of property interests, acquisition of property rights by custom and long use, property and insolvency and property rights in ships.

Valérie Couillard is a Senior Lawyer & Legal and Human Rights Coordinator at Forest Peoples Programme. She currently works in the areas of international human rights law, indigenous peoples & land rights, gender equality and women's rights. She is an Expert Member of the African Commission's Working Group on Environment, Extractive Industries and Human Rights in Africa.

Georgina Erangey is an Analyst with Sancroft, which she joined in 2013, after reading Geography at the University of Cambridge. She has worked with a number of clients on sustainability strategy issues, including Coca-Cola, Nestle, John Lewis and Associated British Foods. She has a particular interest in social entrepreneurship and has volunteered and worked in Ghana, Uganda and Hawaii.

Will Hurd is the director of a NGO called Cool Ground. Over the last ten years Will has done extensive work to publicise displacement and dispossession (by national parks as well as dams and plantations) in the Lower Omo of Ethiopia, collaborating with others such as the Oakland Institute, Human Rights Watch and the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL). He has lived and worked among the Mursi for eight years and is one of the few Westerners who speak their language.

Rachel Ibreck is Lecturer in Securing Human Rights. She has a long term engagement in both academic and human rights research related to mass atrocities and human rights violations in Africa. Her PhD research and previous activist research studied the 1994 genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda, in particular focusing on survivors' perspectives and their memory practices. Rachel is currently completing a study on transnational resistance to land grabbing in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia.

Rajiv Jebodh graduated with a LL.M with distinction from the University of East London in 2013, and has since started a PhD focusing on race, ethnicity and legal system reform in the English-speaking Caribbean. He is particularly interested in the relationship between human rights and nation building in post-colonial societies. Rajiv also holds a LL.B. from the University of the West Indies and is a Commonwealth Caribbean qualified Attorney-at-Law.

Sarah Keenan is Lecturer in Law at SOAS, University of London where she teaches in the areas of indigenous land rights, law of property and feminist legal theory. Sarah's research interests centre around the areas of property, legal geography, post-colonial legal theory and feminist legal theory. She explored each of these areas in her PhD thesis 'Subversive Property: Law and the Production of Spaces of Belonging', and she continues to explore these areas in her post-doctoral work. Coming from a background as a community lawyer and activist, Sarah is interested in using critical theories to explore law in its many and varied forms and to question how law relates to other forms of governance.

Nelson Okey Madumere is currently undertaking his PhD research at the University of East London. His research is examining customary land rights in eastern Nigeria, notably looking at women's right to land and natural resources.

Rose-Marie Claudia Nyamesah is a 25-year-old Human Rights student with a degree in French and Law. Who has a great interest in the protection of women and children rights and has recently grown great interest in land grabbing.

Anouska Perram is a lawyer working for the Forest Peoples Programme. Previously she was a Supervising Associate at the London office of Simmons & Simmons LLP, an international law firm for which she worked on a pro bono basis on an amicus curiae brief to the Colombian Constitutional Court in relation to international human rights law considerations pertaining to the Curvaradó and Jiguamiandó communities' case. She has also worked as Gender and Human Rights Officer for a Feminist Dalit Organisation based in Nepal.

Margot Salomon is Associate Professor in the Law Department and the Centre for the Study of Human Rights. She directs the Laboratory for Advanced Research on the Global Economy, which launched in September 2013. Dr Salomon's research focuses on global economic justice, in particular the legal dimensions of world poverty and duties to distant strangers; development and international law; and human rights and economic orthodoxy. Her work explores the contribution and limits of international (human rights) law, concepts and mechanisms under conditions of globalisation, and engages with the normative paradigms of other disciplines operating in the realm of economic justice.

Sigrun Skogly is Professor and Head of Department at Lancaster University. She has worked for research institutions and non-government organisations in the fields of human rights and

development in the United States, Norway and elsewhere in Europe. She currently holds a Visiting Professorship at University College Buskerud, Norway. Sigrun has taken the initiative to create a Human Rights Forum on campus, and is the Coordinator for the International Human Rights Obligations Network (IntHRON). She is member of the Steering Committee for the International Consortium on Extraterritorial Obligations pertaining to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Jed Stevenson is a Research Associate at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Social & Historical Sciences, University College London and postdoctoral fellow with the Hunter-Gatherer Resilience Project, a comparative bio-cultural study of foraging societies in the Republic of Congo and the Philippines. Jed is also Adjunct Associate Professor, Global Health at Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University and a Trustee at Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.

Chris Willmore is University Academic Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Bristol. She studied law at Bristol and then qualified and practised as a barrister. She has set up and led innovative programmes including an LLM Local Government Law and Policy, and established units in planning law, environmental law and sustainable development. Her research interests are property law (particularly indigenous land rights and rights of way/commons), planning and environmental law, and the law-science relationship – and in the past carried out research on forensic science for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

Alexandra Xanthaki is a Reader in Law at Brunel University. A minority and indigenous expert, Alexandra's work has focused on indigenous rights and, more recently, on the concept of multiculturalism in international law. She has given keynote speeches on indigenous rights and aspects of multiculturalism in international law. She is currently an elected member of the ILA - Indigenous Rights Committee. In addition to her academic research, Alexandra enjoys links with NGOs and IGOs: she is a member of the Legal Cases Advisory Committee of Minority Rights Group International and has co-operated in the past with the former UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues and the ILO on indigenous issues.