

Winter School *and* Conference on Constitutionalism in Africa

University of the Free State | Bloemfontein South Africa

28-31 July 2025

Keynote Addresses:



Prof Wahab Egbewole, SAN
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Ilorin



Prof Karin van Marle
Research Chair in Gender,
Transformation and Worldmaking,
University of the Western Cape



Prof Charles Fombad
Director: Institute for International
and Comparative Law in Africa,
University of Pretoria

The Faculty of Law, University of the Free State (UFS) and the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers (ANCL) presents a Winter School and Conference on Constitutionalism in Africa. The Winter School and Conference convenes students, academics, legal practitioners, judges and political leadership to demystify and interrogate the increased incidence of unconstitutional changes of government (UCGs).

This event offers a platform for critical and engaged theoretical, practical and policy-relevant discussion and debate on UCGs. The UFS-ANCL Winter School and Conference examines the historical and colonial underpinnings, causes, manifestations and potential solutions to the threat and scourge of UCGs.

With some UCGs advanced as oppositional to neo-colonial control, the Winter School and Conference analyses the legacies, continuities and impacts of colonialism and coloniality on governance, democracy, the rule of law and lived experiences of Africans.

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Format

The Conference and Winter School on Constitutionalism in Africa is a four-day event. The first two days will focus on the teaching aspect. The remaining two days will focus on the conference component.

- a. **Winter School (28–29 July)**
Seasoned scholars and practitioners will lead seminars and workshops for senior students, postgraduate students, emerging researchers and participants seeking more profound insights into UCGs and strategies for preserving constitutional order.
- b. **Winter Conference (30–31 July)**
The conference entails plenary addresses by leading African voices on human rights, international law, governance and constitutionalism in Africa. The presentations will include rigorous research papers and case studies on UCGs. The papers may be included in a special edition of the UFS Journal for Juridical Science.

Call For Papers

Who should apply:

Academics, legal practitioners, government officials, judges, civil society actors, policymakers, doctoral and postgraduate students interested in African constitutionalism, governance and the rule of law.

School and Conference themes

We invite submissions that examine UCGs from various disciplinary and methodological perspectives. Papers may address such sub-themes as:

1. Definition and criteria of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa
2. Causes of unconstitutional changes in government (UCGs)
3. Impact of UCGs on democracy and rule of law
4. Military coups and authoritarian regimes
5. Role of political institutions and civil society
6. International responses to UCGs in Africa
7. Case studies of UCGs
8. The role of constitutions in preventing UCGs in Africa
9. Decolonial, ethical and moral underpinnings of UCGs
10. Practical, predictive and preventive approaches to UCGs
11. Reparations and restoration of constitutional order

Critical dates:

Applications (School only) 20 June 2025

Abstracts (Conference only) 30 June 2025

Full Papers (Conference only) 30 August 2025

For more information:

<https://ancl-radc.org.za/winter-school> or Contact Khanya B Motshabi on motshabikb@ufs.ac.za and WinterSchool@ufs.ac.za, copying the ANCL secretariat on secretariat@ancl-radc.org