



HUMBOLDT-
UNIVERSITÄT
ZU BERLIN



Federal Foreign Office

German Colonialism and the Law

International Conference
2 – 4 April 2025

Venue: Mopane Boardroom, Namibia University of Science and Technology Hotel School, Corner Beethoven & Brahms Street, Windhoek

Scientific Committee: Professor Florian Jeßberger (Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany) and Professor Pilisano H. Masake (Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia)

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Website: <https://fli.berlin/crimcol/>

Wednesday, 2 April 2025

Welcome Reception (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Venue: Boabab Banqueting Hall, NUST Hotel School, Corner Beethoven & Brahms Street, Windhoek

Thursday, 3 April 2025

Venue: Mopane Boardroom, NUST Hotel School, Corner Beethoven & Brahms Street, Windhoek

Registration (8:00 am – 8:30 am)

Opening Panel (8:30 am – 9:00 am)

Professor Dr Colin Stanley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Namibia University of Science and Technology)

Professor Dr Efigenia Semente (Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education, Namibia University of Science and Technology)

Professor Dr Florian Jeßberger (Humboldt-University of Berlin)

Panel I: Legal Framework: A Criminal Law Perspective (9:00 am – 10:00 am)

Chair: Professor Dr Dr Pilisano Harris Masake (Namibia University of Science and Technology)

Merle Iffert (Humboldt-University of Berlin)

Criminal Law in German Colonies on the African Continent

Menina Morenike Ugwuoke (University of Münster)

The Dynamic Between Anti-black Racism and Criminal Law in German Colonies

Coffee Break

Panel II: The Case of Namibia (10:30 am – 12:00 pm)

Chair: *Professor Dr Florian Jeßberger (Humboldt-University of Berlin)*

Salomo Tjitamunisa (Namibia University of Science and Technology and University of Namibia)

A Comparative Analysis of Colonial Legal Systems in Namibia and Their Impact on Indigenous Namibians in a Post-Independent Namibia

Sophie Petry (Humboldt-University of Berlin)

Colonialism, Tax Law and Wealth Transfer – A Criminal Law Perspective on Economic Exploitation in the Colony of German South West Africa

Dr Johannes Socher / Charles E. Eiseb (University of Pretoria / Namibia University of Science and Technology)

A Truth Commission on German Colonial Rule in Namibia? Prospects and Challenges from a Comparative Perspective

Lunch

Panel III: The Case of Cameroon (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Chair: *Dr Wambui Njogu (Kenyatta University)*

Dr Alexis Armélien Gasidou (University of Yaoundé)

The Colonial Administration in Cameroon: An Analysis of the Legal and Social Evolution of German Domination and its Impact on Traditional Power Structures in Northern Cameroon

Calvin Patrick Bandah Panga (University of Bertoua)

Legal Analysis of German Colonization Based on Non-compliance with German-Kamerunian [sic] Pre-Treaties

Gwinyai Machona (Humboldt-University of Berlin)

On the Administration of Land and Bodies and the Criminalization of Resistance in the Colony of Cameroon

Professor Dr Windell Nortje (University of the Western Cape)

Decolonising Retributive Sentencing Practices in Cameroon by Upholding the Value of Ubuntu

Coffee Break

Panel IV: The Case of Tanzania (3:30 pm – 5:30 pm)

Chair: *Professor Dr John-Mark Iyi (University of the Western Cape)*

Dr Julena Jumbe Gabagambi (University of Iringa)

The German's Forgotten Project on Tanzanian Customary Law

Dr Esther Gumboh / Zanele Vilakazi (Nelson Mandela University / University of the Western Cape)

The Arbitrary Gradation of Non-Consensual Penetrative Sexual Violence: The Colonial Gatekeeping of Rape in Tanzania

Dr Wambui Njogu (Kenyatta University)

Violations of International Humanitarian Law Principles Through Colonial Occupation in Tanzania: The Case of Germany's Neutralisation of the Maji Maji Uprising in the Former Tanganyika

Dr Claire Adionyi (Strathmore University)

Colonial Legacies in Criminal Law: A Comparative Study of the Kenyan and Tanzanian Jurisprudence

Reception on Invitation of the Deputy Head of Mission of Germany in Namibia (6:00 pm)

Friday, 4 April 2025

Panel V: The Cases of Rwanda, Togo and Nigeria (9:00 am – 10:30 am)

Chair: *Dr Kenneth Ferdie Mundia (University of Namibia)*

Dr Olwatosin Omobolanle Ogwezy (University of Port Harcourt)

The Legacies of Colonial Law and Postcolonial Injustice in the Nigerian Legal System

Dr Jean de Dieu Zikamabahari (University of Kigali)

The Effect of the German Rule on Rwandan Legal System

Dr Kodzo Abotsi (University of Lomé)

“Wir verlangen [...] das gleiche Recht auch im Gericht zwischen Europäern und Eingeborenen.” – The Togolese' Perception of German Colonial Law as Expressed in Petitions and Newspaper Publications (1884-1914)

Coffee Break

Panel VI: Cross-cutting and Comparative Perspectives (11:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Chair: *Professor Dr Windell Nortje (University of the Western Cape)*

Dr Mèhèza Kalibani / Agnes S.M. Shiningayamwe / Professor Dr Dr Pilisano Harris Masake (History Museums Hamburg Foundation / International University of Management / Namibia University of Science and Technology)

Echoes of Memory: Evidence of Colonial Crime in the Lens of Memoirs, Diaries and Artefacts

Professor Dr Thoko Kaime (University of Bayreuth)

A Principle(s)d Approach in Addressing Wrongful Land Acquisition under German Colonial Rule

Isabelle Zundel (University of Bayreuth)

Queer Lives Under Colonial Shadows: The Legacy of German Colonial Law in today's Tanzania and Namibia

Professor Dr John-Mark Iyi (University of the Western Cape)

Africa and the Reimagination of Modernity: Beyond the Colonial Legal Paradigm

Lunch

Concluding Discussion (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

End of Conference

Optional Programme: Independence Memorial Museum – Guided Tour (3:30 pm – 4:30 pm)

59 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek

List of Participants

Dr Kodzo Abotsi | University of Lomé, Togo

Dr Claire Adiony | Strathmore University, Kenya

Calvin Patrick Bandah Panga | University of Bertoua, Cameroon

Charles E. Eiseb | Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia

Dr Julena Jumbe Gabagambi | University of Iringa, Tanzania

Dr Alexis Armélien Gasisou | University of Yaoundé, Cameroon

Dr Esther Gumboh | Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

Luca Hauffe | Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

Merle Iffert | Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

Professor Dr John-Mark Iyi | University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Professor Dr Florian Jeßberger | Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

Professor Dr Thoko Kaime | University of Bayreuth, Germany

Dr Mèhèza Kalibani | History Museums Hamburg Foundation, Germany

Gwinyai Machona | Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

Professor Dr Dr Pilisano Harris Masake | Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia

Dr Kenneth Ferdie Mundia | University of Namibia, Namibia

Professor Dr Andrew Niikondo | Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia

Dr Wambui Njogu | Kenyatta University, Kenya

Professor Dr Windell Nortje | University of the Western Cape,
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Dr Olwatosin Omobolanle Ogwezzu | University of Port Harcourt,
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and Technology, Namibia

Agnes S.M. Shiningayamwe | International University of Manage-
ment, Namibia

Dr Johannes Socher | University of Pretoria, South Africa

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Isabelle Zundel | University of Bayreuth, Germany