



Technology and the Future of Human Rights

1 - 3 September 2022

Centre for Human Rights,
University of Pretoria



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Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI)

Technology and the future of human rights

University of Pretoria, South Africa and online
1-3 September 2022

Technological developments have made what was once science fiction reality. This gives some hope for a utopian future, while others get nightmares. It also highlights the extent to which technologies that are not explicitly designed with human rights and equity in mind have tremendous potential to do harm.

For the first time, the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) is holding its annual conference in Africa. The conference will be held in hybrid format with some participants joining in person and others online via Zoom.

The main conference on 2 and 3 September at the Future Africa campus of the University of Pretoria is preceded by a doctoral workshop on 1 September on the main campus of the University of Pretoria.

The main conference will start on 2 September with a plenary multidisciplinary discussion on technology and the future of human rights and then proceed on three parallel thematic tracks:

Track 1: Surveillance and vulnerability

Track 2: Survival and sustainability

Track 3: Democratic participation and accountability

[Register to participate on Zoom](#)

The same link will be used for all three days. For the parallel sessions you would choose a breakout room to join (track 1, track 2 or track 3).

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Times are SAST/CEST.

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**Centre for Human Rights, Lecture Hall 2-2.1, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, Hatfield campus****Doctoral workshop**

Time	Theme	Speakers
9.00-11.00	Methodology	Lee Andrew Bygrave, University of Oslo, Norway
		Adriana Caballero-Perez, Maastricht University, Netherlands
		Peris Jones, University of Oslo
		Magnus Killander, University of Pretoria
11.15-12.30	Panel 1	
	Chair	Maria Assim, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
	Between positive obligations and due diligence: Addressing AI-based transboundary violations of fundamental rights	Francesco Paolo Levantino, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy
	The importance of explainability and accountability in AI	Anastasia Karagianni, University of Athens, Greece (online)
	The impact of social media policies and action on democracy and elections in Kenya	Marystella Simiyu, University of Pretoria

Time	Theme	Speakers
12.30-13.30	Lunch Adlers Restaurant	
13.30-15.30	AHRI Executive Council meeting Boardroom, Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa	Other participants: Campus tour / visit UP museums
15.30-17.00	Panel 2	
	Chair	Alejandro Fuentes, Lund University, Sweden
	Towards stakeholders-centric DPIAs in Kenya: Exploration of possible bases from theoretical constructs	Nelson Okeyo, University of Bayreuth, Germany (online)
	Neuro-interventions in criminal justice: The prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment	Naomi van de Pol, Utrecht University, Netherlands
	Data bias, intelligent systems and criminal justice outcomes	Jacob Arowosegbe, Osun State University, Nigeria (online)
	Balancing the protection of human rights and public security under mass surveillance: A case study of South Africa	Hlengiwe Dube, University of Pretoria
18.00-21.00	Welcome reception Old Club Hall Lounge at Pure Café, University of Pretoria, Hatfield Campus	

FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
Future Africa Campus, University of Pretoria

Time	Theme	Speakers
9.00-9.30	Opening	
Venue: Auditorium		Elsabe Schoeman, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria
		Frans Viljoen, Director, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria
		Kasey McCall-Smith, Executive Chair, Association of Human Rights Institutes
9.30-11.00	Technology and the future of human rights: a multi-disciplinary discussion	
Venue: Auditorium	Chair	Frans Viljoen, University of Pretoria
		Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem Professor of Philosophy, University of Pretoria
		Rikke Frank Jørgensen (online) Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for Human Rights
		Raasetje Sefala AI Research Fellow, Distributed AI Research (DAIR) Institute

Time	Theme	Speakers
11.00-11.30	Tea break	
11.30-13.30	Track 1 Vulnerability	
Physical venue: Auditorium	Chair	Maria Assim, University of the Western Cape
Online breakout room: Track 1	Protection and empowerment: Striking a balance between children's rights and parents' obligations in the digital context	Elina Pirjatanniemi, Lisa Grans and Majja Mustaniemi-Laakso, Åbo Akademi, Finland (online)
	The [de]merits of a child's right to play in a digital age – focus on emerging challenges	Elvis Fokala, University of Pretoria
	How does technological development shrink the human rights of minorities? An example of 'limited democratic participation' from the Global South	Jobair Alam and Taimur Shairf, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (online)
	The use of digital technologies to perpetrate violence against women and girls in Kenya	Buluma Bwire, University of Nairobi, Kenya
11.30-13.30	Track 2 Health and environment	
Online session Breakout room: Track 2	Chair	Bright Nkrumah, University of the Free State

Time	Theme	Speakers
	Leveraging technology for sustainability: right to healthy environment from an ASEAN youth perspective	Suthida Chang, Thailand
	E-waste management and the right to a healthy environment in Nigeria	Benedict Okay Agu, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
	The right to food sovereignty as a tool against the perils of digital agriculture	Foto Pappa, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy
11.30-13.30	Track 3 Courts	
Venue: Conference 2	Chair	Tarisai Mutangi, University of Zimbabwe
Online breakout room: Track 3	Digitisation, access to justice and the courts in Namibia	Kennedy Kariseb, University of Namibia
	The promise and the perils: the human rights implications of using new brain-based deception detection technologies in the criminal justice system	Robin Palmer, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
	There is no smoking gun: an exploration of defence rights and technological advancements in evidence	Michelle Coleman, Swansea University, UK (online)

Time	Theme	Speakers
	Artificial intelligence in criminal proceedings: Human rights at risk?	Tulio Felipe Xavier Januario, University of Coimbra, Portugal
13.30-15.30	Lunch	
14.00-15.30 Venue: Conference 2	AHRI General Assembly	For registered representatives of member institutes
15.30-17.00	Track 1 Disability	
Venue: Auditorium	Chair	Dianah Msipa University of Pretoria
Online breakout room: Track 1	Voting matters: Electoral-assistive devices used by persons with disabilities to cast a secret and independent ballot	Adriana Caballero-Pérez, Maastricht University, The Netherlands
	Full and equal participation in society: the use of technology to facilitate socio-political participation of persons with disabilities in South Africa	Yvette Basson, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
	Harnessing technology as an equalizer for students with disabilities in a post-pandemic world	Neel Raamandarsingh Purmah, Middlesex University, Mauritius (online)
	Discrimination of persons with disabilities using algorithms	Iris Glockengiesser, University of Zurich, Switzerland (online)

Time	Theme	Speakers
15.30-17.00	Track 2 Technology and human rights in Zimbabwe during the COVID-19 pandemic	
Venue: Conference 2	Chair	Alejandro Fuentes, Lund University, Sweden
Online breakout room: Track 2		Elizabeth Lwanda-Rutsate, Africa University, Zimbabwe
		Owen Murozvi, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University
		Ntandoyenkosi Moyo, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
		Chengetai Hamadziripi, Midlands State University, Zimbabwe (online)
15.30-17.00	Track 3 Access to justice	
Online session	Chair	Lloyd Kuveya, University of Pretoria
Online breakout room: Track 3	Artificial intelligence decisions regarding refugee status	Lutiana Valadares Fernandes Barbosa and Ana Luisa Zago de Moraes, Federal Public Defenders, Brazil

Time	Theme	Speakers
	Human rights jurisdiction in the era of AI technologies in maritime border management	Aphrodite Papachristodoulou, University College, Dublin, Ireland
	From the vantage point of vulnerability theory: Hybrid decision-making and access to the European Court of Human Right	Zuzanna Godzimirska, Aysel Küçüksu and Salome Addo Ravn, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
	The digital divide and its impact on the rights of older persons	Adam Dubin, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain, and Isabel Maraval, CUNEF University, Spain
17.15	Departure for Pretoria tour	
18.30-22.30	Conference dinner, Southern Sun, Arcadia	Performance by Key-C
		Speech by Justice Johann van der Westhuizen, retired judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa

SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
Future Africa Campus, University of Pretoria

Time	Theme	Speakers
9.30-11.00	Track 1 Surveillance	
Venue: Auditorium	Chair	Hlengiwe Dube, University of Pretoria
Online breakout room: Track 1	Strip searches, body scanning, and inhuman and degrading treatment in article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights	Elaine Webster, Strathclyde University, UK Natasa Mavronicola (online), University of Birmingham, UK
	Scrutinising the use of live facial recognition technology by police using human rights law	John Croker and Martin Scheinin, Oxford University, UK (online)
	Surveillance and data colonialism: Practices in the creation and maintenance of racial hierarchy	Yvonne Jooste, University of Pretoria (online)
	Comparative study of privacy and surveillance in Africa, India and EU	Kajori Bhatnagar and Lakshay Beniwal, Christ(deemed to be) University, Bengaluru, India (online)
9.30-11.00	Track 2 Commerce	
Online session Breakout room: Track 2	Chair	Jonathan Kabre, University of Pretoria

Time	Theme	Speakers
	Data monetization and the human right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application	Jayson Lamchek, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia
	Is there a role for fundamental rights in China's competition law remedies design against online platforms?	Qianlan Wu, University of Nottingham, UK
	Rights-based challenges to building an effective credit system through technology in Nigeria	Daniel Olike, LLM candidate, University of Florida, USA
	Electronic commerce and data protection – An illusion or possibility?	Winnie Kungu, Kenya
9.30-11.00	Track 3 Freedom of expression	
Venue: Conference 2	Chair	Tomiwa Ilori, University of Pretoria
Online breakout room: Track 3	Towards ensuring freedom of expression in the digital age in Ghana	Ernest Yaw Ako and Amanda Odoi, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
	The power of Internet: Disinformation, political propaganda, hate speech and freedom of expression - Negative and positive state obligations in the digital age	Julia Kapelańska-Pręgowska and Michał Balcerzak, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland (online)

Time	Theme	Speakers
	Copy-paste? Transferring the human rights protecting civil society to online spaces	Antoine Buyse, Utrecht University, Netherlands (online)
	Free speech protection for 'public watchdogs' in international law	Kasey McCall-Smith, Edinburgh University, UK Dimitrios Kagiros, Durham University, UK
11.00-11.30	Tea break	
11.30-13.00	Track 1 "I started seeing shadows everywhere": The diverse chilling effects of surveillance in Zimbabwe	
Online session Breakout room: Track 1	Chair	Kuda Hove, independent IT law and policy researcher
		Otto Saki, University of Western Cape
		Amy Stevens, University of West London
		Paul Kimumwe, Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)
		Peter Fussey, University of Essex

Time	Theme	Speakers
11.30-13.00	Track 2 Normative human rights challenges and technologies	
Venue: Auditorium	Chair	Felipe Gomez, University of Deusto, Spain
Online breakout room: Track 2	An analysis of the utilization of the international human rights institutions and procedures in AI global governance	Reuben Chifundo Nazombe, Arrupe Jesuit University, Harare, Zimbabwe (online)
	The European Commission, WhatsApp, and the Pfizer Covid vaccine deal – New means of communication and an old European Union Freedom of Information regulation	Timo Knäbe, University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany (online)
	Regulation of the right to be forgotten in Africa	Muluken Kassahun Amid, University of Addis Ababa
11.30-13.00	Track 3 Bridging the gap between international norms and digital activism for democracy - how to make better use of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Governance Architecture platform	
Venue: Conference 2		Andrew Songa, Charter Project Africa coordinator

Time	Theme	Speakers
Online breakout room: Track 3		Aisha Dabo, AfricTivistes
		Justin Arenstein, Code for Africa
		Martin Ronceray, European Centre for Development Policy Management
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.30	Track 1 Women's rights, technology and the digital sphere	
Venue: Conference 2		Sunita Toor, Sheffield Hallam University, UK
Online breakout room: Track 1		Alexandra Moore, Binghamton University, USA
		Belinda Walzer, Appalachian State University, US
14.00-15.30	Track 2 Governance systems	
Venue: Conference 1	Chair	Lysander Fremuth, University of Vienna, Austria
Online breakout room: Track 2	The human rights data revolution - Implementation, reporting and follow-up by digital human rights tracking tools	Domenico Zipoli, The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Switzerland

Time	Theme	Speakers
	Digital citizenship and the need for legal digital literacy	Rachel Saunders, University of Nottingham, UK
	Human rights related to science and data governance	Lukasz Szoszkiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland (online)
	National human rights action plans: an inventory	Sebastien Lorion, Danish Institute for Human Rights
14.00-15.30	Track 3 Democratic participation	
Venue: Auditorium	Chair	Marystella Simiyu, University of Pretoria
Online breakout room: Track 3	Deepfakes and shallowfakes as artificial misinformation in the era of technology: effects on democratic participation in Africa	Mujib Jimoh, Duke University School of Law, North Carolina, US (online)
	Re-examining the legal framework for e-participation in Malawi	Wesley Mwafulirwa, Mzuzu University, Malawi
	Public participation through the use of technology – reflections on how citizens can strengthen their rights and hold government accountable for service delivery in South Africa	Lazarus Moeletsi, Public Service Commission, Pretoria, South Africa

Time	Theme	Speakers
	Freedom of expression online: an analysis of the African response to challenges posed by the (ab)use of social media platforms during elections	Feyisayo Lari-Williams and Anne Oloo, University of Antwerp, Belgium (online)
15.30-16.00	Tea break	
16.00-16.30	Closing remarks	
Venue: Auditorium		Jay Aronson, Director, Center for Human Rights Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA (online)
		Kasey McCall Smith, Executive Chair, AHRI
		Magnus Killander, University of Pretoria
		Felipe Gomez, University of Deusto (organiser of the AHRI 2023 conference)