

Call for book chapters: “The Judicialization of Elections in Africa: Emerging trends and trajectories”

We are inviting book chapters for a forthcoming edited volume on “**The Judicialization of Elections in Africa: Emerging trends and trajectories**”.

Editors:

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Elections have become the most widely recognized benchmark for determining a country's participatory democratic processes, particularly in Africa. Holding elections has become synonymous with democracy (Cheeseman, Lynch & Willis, 2020; Oduro, 2021). However, reality on the ground often contradicts this, particularly in societies marked by socio-political cleavages. While it was nearly impossible to imagine democratic elections and peaceful transitions of power in Africa during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, multi-party elections have become fashionable (Bleck & Van de Walle, 2018).

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacting electoral processes worldwide, over 20 African countries are set to hold national, parliamentary, and local government elections in 2023 (Dulani et al., 2021; Haute et al., 2021; Asaju, 2023; African Arguments, 2022). This indicates that elections have become a routine feature of political life in every African country.

While elections have become frequent in Africa, they have not always produced the desired outcomes of democratic consolidation or resulted in a peaceful transfer of power, leading to the perception that elections in Africa are a curse rather than a blessing. Allegations of rigging, disputed outcomes, overturned electoral verdicts, polarizing effects, pre- and post-electoral violence and intimidation, and political chicanery all contribute to this (Daniel & Southall, 2019). As a result, questions have arisen about whether Africa has electoral democracies or liberal democracies.

Despite several studies that have made significant strides in exploring electoral processes, including disputed and undisputed outcomes, the role of the judiciary, particularly courts at the federal, provincial, or local level, in resolving electoral outcomes has received limited attention in the literature (Ronceray & Byiers, 2019; Alexander, 2020). Linked to this, there is also an emerging trend of the "judicialization" of electoral processes, which has both pre- and post-election implications (Appiah-Thompson & Jose, 2021; Appiah-Thompson, Jose & Moore, 2022; Kwarteng, 2014; Kanyinga & Odote, 2019; Cheeseman et al., 2019).

The edited volume seeks to foreground and offer forward-looking intellectual insights that proffer empirically diverse, theoretically deep and methodologically compelling insights into the role, meaning, substance and dynamics of the judiciary's involvement in African electoral processes. We invite contributions focusing (but not limited) to the following topics:

- The nexus between judiciary, elections, and democracy in Africa.
- The role of the judiciary in electoral processes in Africa.
- Multi-party politics, elections and the judiciary in Africa.
- Electoral conflicts and judiciary capture in Africa.
- Incumbent regime types, leadership, and election outcomes.
- The judiciary, election credibility, legitimacy and integrity.
- Media framing of the judicial processes during elections in Africa.
- Election Management Bodies and the Judiciary System.
- Judiciary and the responsibility to protect citizens' right to vote.
- Gender Equity, judiciary, and elections.
- Coalitions party politics and elections.
- The judicial and electoral violence in Africa.
- Innovative methodologies for teaching and researching "Courts and Elections".

Submission information

If you are interested in contributing to this edited volume, please send details of the following:

- The name(s) of contributing authors, email & their affiliations.
- The proposed title of the contribution.
- An abstract not exceeding 300 words to be submitted to:
frangton.chiyemura@open.ac.uk and **patrick.dzimiri@univen.ac.za**

Prospective publisher is SAGE Publications. Further guidelines for publication will be shared with the selected contributors.

Important dates

Deadline for abstract submissions: **1 December 2023**

Acceptance of Abstracts: **10 December 2023**

Deadline for full chapter submission: **30 March 2024**

Publication of the book: (expected) **August 2024**

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