

# **Global South Network (GSN)**

## **WHO WE ARE:**

The Global South Network (GSN) is a forum for research students, scholars, practitioners, and civil society organisations from different regions of the Global South including but not limited to Africa, Latin America, Asia, East Europe, and Middle East. UK based Academics and researchers (including postgraduate researchers) focusing on the issues of the Global South run GSN.

Dr Nauman Reayat, Lecturer in Law, School of Law, University of Leicester is the convener of GSN. Prof Hakeem Yusuf, School of Law, University of Derby and Prof Rhona Smith, School of Law, Newcastle University are co-conveners.

## **WHAT WE DO:**

### **SHORT TERM**

- To facilitate knowledge exchange among academics, practitioners, students, journalists, and policy-makers.
- To publish an edited collections or special edition on interdisciplinary issues of the Global South (see below).
- To organise research activities on interdisciplinary issues of the Global South. These issues may include but may not be limited to including but not limited to environmental change, inequality, political instability, the politics of human rights and wrongs, judicial politics, dispute resolution, extremism and populism, and constitutional identity
- Apply for internal and external funding including but not limited to ESRC IAA event / networking fund, Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) networking scheme, and/or British Academy (BA)/Leverhulme Small Research Grants to support and promote activities of the network.

### **LONG-TERM**

- To influence policy-making in the Global South by promoting international collaboration amongst and between civil society organisations (CSOs), higher education institutes, media, and policy-makers in the Global South.
- To diversify research culture in universities in the Global North and strengthen research culture in the Global South by promoting collaboration amongst and between higher education institutes and non-academic groups in the Global South and the Global North.
- To increase the recruitment of postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers from, or focusing on, interdisciplinary issues of the Global South.

# OUR ACTIVITIES

## 1. LAUNCH EVENT

The launch event of the Global South Network took place on Friday 17 March 2023 at Council Room Field Johnson Building. Staff, students, and practitioners of different gender, ethnicities, and career levels from 12 countries participated in the launch event. Justice Ayesha Malik, Supreme Court of Pakistan virtually gave the keynote speech. This event was supported under ESRC Impact Acceleration Account 2019: Leicester (ES/T501967/1).

## 2. CONFERENCES

GSN organised a hybrid conference on judicial independence in Africa on Wednesday 22 March 2023. 8 universities of four different countries focused on distinct aspects of judicial independence in 8 different jurisdictions of Africa. Justice Dr Rasul Oriyomi Olukolu, High Court Lagos, Nigeria gave the keynote speech and Justice Sainabou Wadda Cisse, Court of Appeal, Gambia was the guest speaker. This event was funded under ESRC Impact Acceleration Account 2019: Leicester (ES/T501967/1).

GSN organised a three-day hybrid international conference titled "Law, Society, and Academia in the Global South: Challenges and Prospects" in collaboration with the University of Ilorin, Nigeria on 27 -29 September 2023. The Chief Justice of Nigeria is the Chief Guest. The conference includes the launch ceremony of GSN (University of Ilorin Chapter). You could register your interest in attending at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/675840165127>

## 3. GUEST LECTURE SERIES

### PHASE 1 (LECTURE SERIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH JUDGES)

**3.1.** Justice Aruna Devi Narain of Mauritius Supreme Court . She delivered a talk titled "75 Years of UN Declaration of Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities for the Global South" on Friday 14 April 2023.

**3.2.** Honourable Dr Azmiralda Zahir, Justice Supreme Court of Maldives delivered her online talk titled "Reinforcing Democratic Values Through Online Hearings – the Maldives Experience" on Monday 5th of June 2023

**3.3.** [Former Justice Mexican Supreme Court](#) Dr José Ramón Cossío Díaz delivered his online talk titled "Mexican Supreme Court of Justice: current goals and challenges" on 29 June 2023.

- 3.4.** Former Afghanistan provincial court judge Mahtab Fazl will deliver her online talk on the challenges of female judges in fragile states: evidence from Afghanistan on 11 September 2023 at 11 am UK time.

Please write at [globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk) if you wish to attend the guest lecture series.

#### **4. GSN GEOGRAPHIC AND THEMATIC CHAPTERS:**

GSN has different geographical chapters (South (East) Asia, East Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America etc). Unlike other regional associations such as Latin American Studies Association or Association for Asian Studies, geographical chapters of GSN facilitate engagement on shared issues of arts, humanities, and social sciences between scholars, practitioners, civil society, and (judicial) policymakers from across different regions of the Global South. Additionally, GSN has thematic chapters (Law, Politics, Sociology, Early Career Academics/PhD Candidates, North-South Engagement Chapter etc). If you are interested in joining the GSN in general and/or any of its chapter(s) in particular, please write at [globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk)

Further, if you are interested in making yourself visible on GSN website that we are currently working on please send us your brief bio, pic, and/or the consent to mention you as a member and upload your details to the website at [globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk)

#### **5. PUBLICATIONS**

- 5.1.** Two leading members of GSN Dr Nauman Reayat and Prof Hakeem Yusuf secured the contract for an edited collection on Judicial Independence and the Rule of Law in Africa from Springer.
- 5.2.** Three leading members of the network, Dr Nauman Reayat, Prof Rhona Smith, School of Law, Newcastle University and Moohyung Cho, Department of Politics and International Relations, Ewha Woman's University Korea secured a contract for an edited collection on judicial independence in transitional democracies from Routledge. The book involves staff from 15 law schools of seven different countries focusing on jurisdictions including but not limited to Hungary, Slovakia, China, South Korea, Philippines, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Mexico, Chile, and Japan.

#### **6. PHD Students SEMINAR SERIES**

Further, GSN organised first phase of weekly international, interdisciplinary, and online PhD in progress seminar from 9 May 2023 to 23 August 2023. PhD candidate presented their project focusing on the issues of the Global South every Wednesday at 14:00 UK time. Students and staff from 8 disciplines, 21 universities, and 8 countries participated in the first phase. The second phase will start in the first week of October.

The series aims to transfer knowledge and share good practices among the GSN members. The objectives are to provide PhD students from, or focusing on, the Global South showcase their research across the Global South, receive feedback, contribute to the development of academic culture of the Global South, and to network with potential partners for future research.

If any PhD candidate is interested in presenting their ongoing research project during one of the above seminars then please send me your brief bio, topic of the work, an abstract of 200 to 350 words discussing research problem/question, the gap in the wider literature on the topic, your main argument, methodology and your preliminary findings at [globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk).

Each seminar is one hour long. A PhD candidate presents for 20 to 25 minutes which is followed by discussion and questions and answers session.

## **7. BLOGS**

Currently, PhD students/Early Career Academics (ECAs) from or working on the Global South have limited opportunities to engage with the general public. Blogs are a flexible way of engaging with the general public. In this regard, GSN provides its PhD candidates/ECAs members with an opportunity to submit a blog based on their research project that could be made widely accessible on the GSN websites. This would help them share their research with the general public. If you are interested in submitting a blog based on your project, please let us know at [globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk)

## **8. GSN PHD MOCK VIVA SERIES**

GSN organised PhD mock viva series. The first mock viva took place on 1 September 2023 at 14:00 to 15:00 UK time. This series is *currently* open only for PhD students from, or working on, any jurisdiction of the Global South on rolling basis. However, any PhD student could join as a silent observer *subject to* the consent of the concerned candidate and panellists. Interested PhD candidates need to contact [globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk) for details or to confirm qualification/eligibility for this series.

## **9. GLOBAL SOUTH CAREERS (coming next... )**

## **10. INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL SOUTH POSTGRADUATE MENTORSHIP SCHEME (coming soon... )**

## **GET INVOLVED**

If you wish to become a member of GSN, have any interesting idea about promoting the issues of the Global South such as organising public engagement activities, building partnerships between the Global North and the Global South or within the Global South, or you just want to be an observer please write us at [globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:globalsouthnetwork@leicester.ac.uk)