

MATIANGAI V. S. SIRLEAF

Curriculum Vitae

CURRENT POSITIONS

University of Maryland School of Law (Baltimore, MD), July 2020 – Present, Nathan Patz
Professor of Law

- Courses taught criminal law, international law, international human rights law, post-conflict and transitional justice and global public health

University of Maryland School of Medicine, Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health, January 2023 – Present, Professor

- Course taught global public health

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Public International Law, International Human Rights Law, Global Public Health Law, Post-Conflict & Transitional Justice, and International Criminal Law, Racial Justice, U.S. Criminal Law and Social Justice and the Law

EDUCATION

Yale Law School (New Haven, CT) J.D. June 2008

Honors:

- Jerome Sayles Hess Fund Prize 2007-2008 (award for excellence in international law)
- Reinhardt Fellow 2007-2008 (scholarship for commitment to public interest law)
- Raphael Lemkin Prize 2006-2007 (best paper on international human rights law)

University of Ghana, Legon (Accra, Ghana), M.A. International Affairs, December 2005,
summa cum laude,

Honors:

- Fullbright Fellowship

New York University, College of Arts and Science (New York, NY)

B.A. *magna cum laude*, Political Science with Honors, May 2003

Honors:

- Harry S. Truman Scholar 2002 (premier graduate fellowship in the United States for those pursuing careers as public service leaders)
- Coro Fellow, New York, NY 2003-2004 (a rigorous national public affairs fellowship that equips emerging civic leaders with the knowledge, skills and networks that transform them as individuals)
- New York University Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award 2014 (presented annually to an NYU alum, faculty, or staff member who embodies and exemplifies the characteristics promoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Constitutional Court of South Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa) August 2009 – July 2010,
Law Clerk to Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo

- Conducted research on constitutional, foreign, and international law.
- Wrote pre-hearing and new application memoranda. Conducted comparative research on the judicial enforcement of socio-economic rights and judicial governance.
- Assisted with the restructuring of the Office of the Chief Justice.
- Drafted speeches. Reviewed judgments. Participated in hearings.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh School of Law (Pittsburgh, PA) July 2015 – June 2020,
Assistant and Associate Professor of Law

- Courses taught criminal law, public international law and post-conflict and transitional justice with U.S. State Department Diplomacy Lab projects

University of Maryland School of Law (Baltimore, MD) July 2019 – December 2019,
Visiting Associate Professor of Law

- Courses taught international human rights law and post-conflict and transitional justice

University of Baltimore Law School (Baltimore, MD) August 2014 – July 2015,
Assistant Professor of Law

- Courses taught criminal law and international human rights law

University of Pennsylvania Law School (Philadelphia, PA) August 2012 – July 2014,
Sharswood Fellow (visiting assistant professor)

- Courses taught international human rights law and transitional justice

Bard College & University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa) July 2010 – November 2010, Lecturer

- Courses taught civic engagement with human rights for the International Human Rights Exchange, an undergraduate program

ACADEMIC AWARDS & GRANTS

- University of Maryland, Baltimore
 - President's Global Impact Fund Award, 2025
 - Interprofessional Education Center Seed Grant, 2025
- American Society of International Law, Book Award, Certificate for High Technical Craftsmanship and Utility to Practicing Lawyers and Scholars, RACE & NATIONAL SECURITY (2023), 2025
- Public Justice Trial Lawyer of the Year Award, 2024
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow, 2023
- John & Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation, #GOODTROUBLEMAKERS, 2021
- The American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Health Law Scholar 2019
- University of Pittsburgh

- Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, Junior Scholar, 2019
- African Studies Program, Faculty Research Grant, 2018-2019
- University Center for International Studies Faculty Fellowship, 2018-2019
- Social Science Research Initiative Grant, 2018-2019
- Ford Institute for Human Security Research Grant, 2017-2018

WORK IN PROGRESS

- THERE ARE BLACK PEOPLE IN THE PAST: RECLAIMING OUR TIME IN HUMAN RIGHTS (Cambridge University Press forthcoming) (peer review)
- RACISM, LAW, AND HEALTH INEQUALITY, (with Ruqaiijah Yearby) (forthcoming Edward Elgar Publishing) (peer review)
- *Anti-Blackness in Human Rights*, RACE, RACISM, AND THE LAW HANDBOOK (Aziza Ahmed & Guy Uriel-Charles eds. Edward Elgar Publishing forthcoming 2025) (peer review)
- *The Master Narrative in Human Rights* (working draft)

BOOKS

EDITOR, [RACE & NATIONAL SECURITY](#) (Oxford University Press, September 2023) (peer review) in this edited volume, leading experts center the experience of those who have long been on the receiving end of racialized state violence. It finds that re-envisioning national security requires more than just reducing the size and scope of the security state.

The volume features contributions from: [Andrea Armstrong](#), Law Visiting Committee Distinguished Professor of Law, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and MacArthur 2023 Fellow; [Asli Bâli](#), Professor of Law, Yale Law School; [Monica C. Bell](#), Professor of Law, Yale Law School; Associate Professor of Sociology, Yale University; [Adelle Blackett](#), Professor of Law and Canada Chair in Transnational Labour Law and Development, McGill University; [Noura Erakat](#), Associate Professor of Africana Studies and the Program in Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, New Brunswick; [James Thuo Gathii](#), Professor of Law and Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law; [Ryan Goodman](#), Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Professor of Law, New York University School of Law; [Margaret Hu](#), Professor of Law and Director of the Digital Democracy Lab, William & Mary Law School; [Yuvraj Joshi](#), Associate Professor, Brooklyn Law School; Fellow, Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights; Faculty Affiliate, UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights; [Rachel López](#), Director of the Andy and Gwen Stern Community Lawyering Clinic, Associate Professor of Law, Drexel University Kline School of Law; [Catherine Powell](#), Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law; Adjunct Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; [Jaya Ramji-Nogales](#), Associate Dean for Research & I. Herman Stern Research Professor, Temple University School of Law; and [Aziz Rana](#), Provost's Distinguished Fellow in 2023-2024, Boston Law School.

We offer visions for reforming and transforming national security, including adopting an abolitionist framework. *Race and National Security* invites everyone to radically reimagine a world where the security state does not keep Black, Brown, and other marginalized peoples subordinated through threats of and actual incarceration, violence, torture, and death. *Race and National Security* is a

groundbreaking volume which serves as a catalyst for remembering, exposing, and reconceiving the role of race in national security.

Review:

- Natsu Taylor Saito, [Race & National Security](#), 118 AM. J. INT'L L., 586 (2024).
- Aziza Ahmed, [Hidden in Plain Sight: Redefining the Field of National Security](#), 15 HARV. L. NAT'L SEC. L. J. 371 (2024).
- Sheila Vélez Martinez, [The Intersection between Race and National Security](#), JOTWELL (Feb. 22, 2024).

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

[White Health & International Law](#), RACE, RACISM & INTERNATIONAL LAW, (Devon Carbado, Kimberle Crenshaw, Justin Desautels-Stein, and Chantal Thomas eds. Stanford University Press 2025) (peer review) Global health cannot and should not be divorced, decontextualized, nor depoliticized from its historical roots and governing logics. Global health law through both omission and commission furthers inequalities, hierarchies, and subordination. Zones of sacrifice marked by profound inequality persist and remain unremarked upon, as if global health exists in a vacuum. Global health law in theory and practice can either work to address the devastating consequences of colonialism, class hierarchies, structural racism, and other forms of subordination in health, ratify, or exacerbate them. Instead, when the global health regime engages with inequality, it tends to do so shallowly: as a function of income-disparities between States, using monikers like low and middle-income or labels such as developed and developing countries. This practice diverts attention away from historicizing or contextualizing how structural inequity was created and is sustained. Global health law can protect, under protect, overprotect, or fail to protect. It is not and cannot be neutral. Global health law reflects the choices and practices of States and other actors, which includes both action and inaction. Enforced silences and failures to rectify on the part of global health law is a choice that ratifies the status quo. This chapter demonstrates how the global health regime's legacy and praxis has not created nor supported conditions that sustain health or justice in meaningful ways. More recent initiatives ostensibly aimed at reshaping the field have not sufficiently disturbed coloniality and subordination, nor do they seem primed to do so.

[How Did Human Rights Fare in Amendments to the International Health Regulations](#), 52 J. L. MED. & ETHICS 907-921 (2024) (with Lisa Forman, Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Luciano Bottini Filho, and Benjamin Mason Meier) (peer review)

In this article, we examine the relationship between the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (IHR) and human rights and its implications for IHR reform, considering the evolution of human rights in the 2005 IHR, the role of human rights in IHR reforms and the implications of these reforms in key domains including equity and solidarity, medical countermeasures, core capacities, travel restrictions, vaccine certificates, social measures, accountability, and financing.

[Palestine as a Litmus Test for Transitional Justice](#), 18 INT'L TRANSITIONAL JUST. 162-188 (2024) (post-script for special issue of journal 2024) (peer review) We are currently witnessing another sustained and significant mobilization of people across the globe, coming on the heels of the racial justice uprising of 2020. This postscript of the International Journal for Transitional Justice's (IJTJ) Special Issue on Race, Racism and Transitional Justice reflects on whether transitional justice as a

field can offer meaningful avenues for rectifying past and ongoing racial injustices, by examining the concrete and pressing example of Palestine. It argues that transitional justice has never fully grappled with the ‘question’ of Palestine, which was a live one at its birth and remains a live one today. It concludes that it is an open question whether the appeal of transitional justice to the rule of law and universal principles in the current international context can be divorced from how the rule of law operates in practice and how it selectively applies to racialized others.

[*Reflecting on Race, Racism, & Transitional Justice*](#), 18 INT’L J. TRANSITIONAL JUST. 1-17 (2024) (peer review) (co-guest editor of special issue of journal on *Race Racism and Transitional Justice* with E. Tendayi Achiume) (editorial introduction written with E. Tendayi Achiume) Following the racial justice uprisings of 2020, our world order continues to reel from the consequence of the systemic racism that is the product of colonial projects past and present. In this introduction to the *International Journal for Transitional Justice’s* (IJTJ) Special Issue on Race, Racism, and Transitional Justice, we ruminate on key disciplinary critiques of the bounds of transitional justice. We analyze the IJTJ’s record of addressing race and racism relying on data from a coding project of almost all its publications. We find that the explicit discussion and engagement with race and racism has been wanting in the Journal. This volume helps us to consider what it would mean for the field to begin to take race, racism, and racial justice seriously. Our hope is that this volume will help catalyze the remembering, exposing, and reimagining of the role of race and racism in transitional justice and beyond.

[*Global Health Landscape: The Proliferating Actors Influencing Global Health Governance*](#), in GLOBAL HEALTH LAW & POLICY: ENSURING JUSTICE FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD (Lawrence O. Gostin and Benjamin Mason Meier eds., Oxford University Press November 2023) (with Benjamin Mason Meier) (peer review) This chapter delineates the actors involved in global health law and policy. International law traditionally pertains to states and international organizations, arising out of the United Nations and World Health Organization; yet these traditional actors are now being joined—and in many ways challenged—by a far larger set of state and non-state actors, coming together in new policy efforts to advance global health. This expanding global health governance landscape encompasses the proliferating initiatives of individual governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, and corporations, each seeking to address specific global health concerns. However, with so many actors joining the global health architecture, this proliferation of actors has given rise to concerns of duplicative initiatives, unsustainable programs, and inefficient efforts. These concerns have raised an imperative for partnerships to bring together both public and private—under shared goals for health promotion. As more actors join in efforts to advance global health law and policy, coordination and cooperation in global health governance will be more important than ever – to realize sustainable development, to “decolonize” colonial structures, and to align global health laws.

[*We Charge Vaccine Apartheid?*](#) 50 J. L. MED. & ETHICS 726-737 (2022) (peer review) Vaccine apartheid is creating conditions that make for premature death, poverty, and disease in racialized ways. Invoking vaccine apartheid as opposed to euphemisms like vaccine nationalism, is necessary to highlight the racialized distributional consequences of vaccine inequities witnessed with COVID-19. This commentary clarifies the concept of vaccine apartheid against the historical and legal usage of apartheid. It reflects upon the connections and important disjunctions between the two. It places the intellectual property regime under heightened scrutiny for reform and transformation. This commentary finds that drawing on the intersections between a human rights and health justice

approach can provide creative and novel approaches for anti-subordination. It concludes that acknowledging and naming the structural injustice of vaccine apartheid is only the first step towards providing redress.

Covid-19 and Cooperation in Times of Disaster, in CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF DISASTER LAW AND POLICY 221 (Susan S. Kuo, John Travis Marshall & Ryan Rowberry eds., Cambridge University Press 2022) (peer review) The coronavirus pandemic has made it apparent that nation states have different capacities to detect, effectively respond to, and manage highly infectious diseases. Concomitantly, the resources necessary to support robust health systems are distributed inequitably, which inevitably places greater stress on societies with the most vulnerable health infrastructure. Every nation, even those predicted to have comparatively robust health capacities, found their health systems overwhelmed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This chapter analyzes the international obligations of capacity-building and cooperation. It finds that international disaster law is a helpful framework for responding to complex international emergencies which span different legal regimes. It concludes that the potential utility of international disaster law for addressing issues witnessed with the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond is worth greater investigation.

Disposable Lives: COVID-19, Vaccines & the Uprising, 121 COLUM. L. REV. FORUM 71 (2021) (peer review) This essay connects how racialized notions regarding which lives are disposable are reflected widely in the areas of health and human rights. The presumed expendability of Black lives is made manifest from systemic police violence to the devastating racially disproportionate impact of COVID-19, to historic and ongoing medical experimentation, and to inequitable vaccine access. The twin pandemics of systemic racism and COVID-19 have heightened the visibility of the disposability with which society views the lives of people of color. The cumulative effect of this disposability furthers the devaluation of subordinated groups. Through exploring the theme of disposability, this essay clarifies the roles of international human rights law, global public health, and international intellectual property law in either advancing racial justice efforts or contributing toward racial subordination. This period of racial reckoning and reform creates an opening to challenge the racial status quo in these areas and beyond.

Racial Valuation of Diseases, 67 UCLA L. REV. 1820 (2021) (peer review) Scholars have paid inadequate attention to how racial valuation influences what actors prioritize or deem worthwhile. Today, racial valuation of diseases informs the stark global health inequities seen worldwide. As a concept, racial valuation refers to how racialized societies assign differing values to an individual or group based on their racial designation and the position within the social hierarchy that their racial categorization implies. It helps to explain how laws, institutions, and society—informed by ideas about race—distribute material conditions in health, which perpetuate and reinforce existing hierarchies. This Article develops a theoretical framework for racial valuation and examines how the historical and scientific construction of race influenced the emergence of racial valuation norms. The framework of racial valuation postulates that explicit and implicit pseudoscientific distinctions that devalue the worth of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color have persisted, diffused, and morphed over time. Racial valuation is woefully undertheorized, and its applicability has been underexplored in the literature. This Article fills this gap by developing a theoretical framework for racial valuation and applying it to the racialization of the novel coronavirus. This framework captures how racial valuation reflects racialized beliefs from slavery, colonialism, and neocolonialism, which persist today and have influenced the racial valuation of diseases. Significant legal and institutional

reform is necessary to shift how people, society, and laws respond to diseases depending upon the racial populations most impacted.

Review:

- Ruqaiijah Yearby, [Racism in the Valuation of Disease and the Distribution of Lifesaving Treatments](#), JOTWELL (June 29, 2022).

Entry Denied: COVID-19, Race, Migration & Global Health, in 2 FRONTIERS IN HUM. DYNAMICS 599157 (Iris Goldner Lang and Jaya Ramji-Nogales eds., 2020) (peer review) This essay uses the novel coronavirus pandemic as an entry point to explore the intersections between race, migration, and global health. The pandemic is simultaneously reviving stereotypical colonial imaginations about disease directionality but also challenging racialized hierarchies of diseases. This essay illuminates how the racialization of diseases is reflected in historic and ongoing United States' migration law and policy as well as the global health law regime. By demonstrating the close relationship between often separately treated areas, the essay clarifies underlying currents in global health and migration law and policy that stem from fears of the racialized other. Rendering these intersections visible creates avenues for rethinking and reshaping both theory and praxis toward anti-subordination efforts.

Global Health Law: Legal Foundations for Social Justice in Public Health, in FOUNDATION OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS (Lawrence O. Gostin and Benjamin Mason Meier eds., July 2020 Oxford University Press) (with Lawrence O. Gostin and Eric Friedman) (peer review) this chapter provides an understanding of the legal foundations of human rights, examining human rights under international law as a basis for social justice in public health. International human rights law has codified the rights first enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evolving through the politics of the Cold War to develop the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This groundbreaking covenant and the international treaties derived from it have framed the legal foundations of the human right to health and the evolution of health-related human rights. Yet, where challenges remain in responding to the health needs of a globalizing world, scholars and advocates have looked to a shift from international health law to global health law, facilitating collaboration between state and non-state actors in an expanding global health policy landscape.

Responsibility for Epidemics, 97 TEX. L. REV. 285 (2018) worldwide highly infectious diseases reflect global inequities: they make up five of the top ten leading causes of death in low-income countries, while constituting only one of the top ten causes of death in high-income countries. Yet highly infectious diseases typically do not respect borders, posing transnational challenges that require cooperation and action through law. Conventional legal paradigms are insufficient for the challenges posed by epidemics. Both the traditional framework for responsibility, as well as the emerging norm of the responsibility to protect perpetuate the fallacy that states can, on their own, cope with the increased incidence of epidemics and fail to adequately allocate responsibility. This Article argues for a new vision of responsibility. It recommends a common but differentiated framework of responsibility to: (1) recognize special situations of need in one or more countries with epidemic diseases; (2) assign greater responsibility to those who have contributed more to an epidemic; and (3) assign greater responsibility to those who have more resources or capacity to deal with an epidemic. It develops the theory underlying the norm of common but differentiated responsibility and makes the case for expansion of this framework to the challenges posed by highly infectious diseases. The framework developed in this Article is important because it better distributes responsibility and is less state-centric than the traditional principles of responsibility and the emerging norm of the

responsibility to protect. Significantly, it accounts for structural inequality in ways that other frameworks do not. Further, it does not reify the false hierarchy between civil and political rights and economic and social rights that exist in other areas of the law. Notably, it recognizes and accounts for the significant role of non-state actors and provides a basis for holding such actors responsible, as opposed to pretending that only states are responsible for the increased incidence of epidemics. There is reason for cautious optimism about the prospects of success of this framework. First, it is consistent with theoretical and existing foundations of law where responsibility is tethered to an actor's conduct and relationship to the harm through culpability. However, the framework does not treat the culpability model as a legal straight-jacket and envisions a broad understanding of causation—direct, indirect, and historical. Additionally, the framework differentiates based on capacity, which is derived from human rights law and global public health law. It also has the benefit of being able to draw on extra-legal incentives, building on moral and political conceptualizations of responsibility towards those in need. The common but differentiated responsibility framework is likely to gain purchase and assist quickly with the battle against epidemics. In fact, elements of it are already reflected in state practice. In sum, the theoretical framework developed in the Article serves not only to provide useful guidance to state and international actors in the face of epidemics, but to shift extant conceptualizations of responsibility in novel ways.

[Not Your Dumping Ground: Criminalization of Trafficking in Hazardous Waste in Africa](#), 35 WISC. J. INT'L L. 326 (2018) (symposium issue) and *Prosecuting Dirty Dumping in Africa*, in THE AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN CONTEXT, 553 (Charles C. Jalloh and Kamari Clarke eds., Cambridge University Press May 2019) (peer review) examines how the African Union's adoption of the Malabo Protocol seeks to improve upon the limitations of the international legal framework for regulating hazardous waste. The Malabo Protocol criminalizes trafficking in hazardous waste and envisions a regional forum for such prosecutions, which presents an opportunity for African states to alter the status quo in environmental protection. This Article examines how the troubling history of toxic colonialism in Africa helped to inform the attempt to criminalize the trafficking of hazardous waste and create a forum under the Malabo Protocol for combatting dirty dumping. It explores how the inadequate international legal framework for regulating hazardous waste led to the attempt to create a more robust regional regime under the Bamako Convention, with the Malabo Protocol serving as the vehicle for regional enforcement. This Article evaluates whether the Protocol furthers the punitive objectives of the Bamako regime to punish and deter trafficking in hazardous waste. It does this by analyzing whether the regional prosecution of dirty dumping is consistent with the newer theories of punishment, as well as some of the more traditional goals of punishment. This Article also analyzes the implications of the regional prosecution of dirty dumping under the Malabo Protocol. It assesses the potential challenges that might arise in the attempt to regionally prosecute trafficking in hazardous waste and suggests ways these issues can be resolved through creative interpretation of the Malabo Protocol. Lastly, this Article concludes that the Malabo Protocol's provision for a regional forum for the prosecutions of traffickers of hazardous waste presents another venue for African states whose domestic judiciaries and related institutions may have limited resources. If implemented properly, the Protocol could facilitate closing the global impunity gap for dirty dumping in Africa.

[Ebola Does Not Fall from the Sky: Global Structural Violence and International Responsibility](#), 51 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 477 (2018), challenges the conventional understanding that international crises are limited to instances of direct physical violence. Instead, it argues that the disproportionate distribution of infectious diseases like Ebola is a form of structural violence that warrants

international intervention. In the field of global public health, structural violence is a concept used to describe health inequities and to draw attention to the differential risks for infection in the Global South, and among those already infected, for adverse consequences including death, injury, and illness. This Article clarifies how the concept of structural violence can be operationalized in law. It illustrates the ways in which actors can facilitate conditions for structural violence by analyzing the international public health and peace and security regimes. This Article has several important contributions. First, the way international actors conceptualize crises should be expanded beyond merely addressing direct physical violence, but to also include remedying structural violence. Additionally, this study indicates that the complicated relationship between infectious diseases and conflict deserves more robust attention and resources. Moreover, this study examines the limits of the law governing international responsibility and concludes that shared international responsibility norms should be developed to assist in expanding the tools available for the protection of human rights. Lastly, this Article finds that the burgeoning field of international disaster law holds promise for responding to the challenges posed by infectious diseases like Ebola and the alleviation of large-scale human suffering caused by such diseases.

[The African Justice Cascade and the Malabo Protocol](#), 11 INT'L. J. TRANSITIONAL JUST. 71 (2017) (peer review) argues that the Malabo Protocol re- conceptualizes the idea of transitional justice mechanisms as varying approaches meant solely to address the legacy of abuse in one nation and proposes that transitional justice mechanisms can also encompass regional and transnational efforts to respond to mass human rights violations. It also argues that the Protocol seeks to correct perceived biases in international criminal justice. The article illuminates the ways in which the Protocol builds on the justice cascade. It provides a brief overview of the domestic, hybrid and international criminal trials in Africa that have informed the development of the regional court and argues that the Malabo Protocol offers the Continent an important, alternative vision of regional criminal justice. The article concludes that the regional court could tailor criminal accountability to the context, needs, and aspirations of the Continent.

[Regionalism, Regime Complexes and International Criminal Justice in Africa](#), 54 COLUM. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 699 (2016) is the first to identify an emerging regime complex in the field of international criminal law. It analyzes the development of the regional criminal chamber to the African Court of Justice and Human Rights. A regime complex refers to the way in which two or more institutions intersect in terms of their scope and purpose. This article discusses how the International Criminal Court's institutional crisis created a space for regional innovation. It demonstrates how the development of a regional criminal tribunal in Africa is the result of intersecting factors in international criminal justice. It finds that regime complexes can form not only due to strategic inconsistencies as discussed in the literature, but also because of the influence of regional integration. It argues that the regionalization of international criminal law is a useful addition to the field of international criminal justice, which has hitherto been hampered by the limitations of both domestic and international adjudication. This article concludes that regionalization of international criminal law is a positive development.

The Truth About Truth Commissions: Why They Do Not Function Optimally in Post-Conflict Societies

35 CARDOZO L. REV. 2263 (2014) using insights from the legal transplant literature to analyze the transplanting of truth commissions. This paper finds that truth commissions will face more challenges conducting their mandates in post-conflict versus post-authoritarian societies. In post-conflict societies, the combination of weak institutions to support a truth-telling process, combined with large numbers of victims and perpetrators will tend to overwhelm truth commissions. These factors concomitant with lower levels of moral consensus surrounding mass violence interact to make truth commissions function less optimally in post-conflict contexts. Truth commissions can be more successful conducting institutional mandates in post-conflict contexts when combined with a court because of mutually reinforcing effects. It concludes that much more experimentation needs to be done to formulate effective and contextually appropriate responses to mass violence instead of the current “one-size-fits-all” approach.

Beyond Truth & Punishment in Transitional Justice, 54 VA. J. INT’L L. 195 223 (2014) argues that

scholars and practitioners have misplaced confidence in the ability of truth commissions and trials to contribute towards restorative, retributive, expressive, and utilitarian goals. Many societies have reckoned with how to deal with issues of truth and punishment following a period of massive human rights violations. This Article evaluates the search for justice in the aftermath of atrocities in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia by examining each country’s approach to truth-telling and punishment. It uses data gathered from field research in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to assess the contribution of truth telling and punishment mechanisms to their stated objectives from the perspectives of victims and affected societies. It argues that it is critical to limit the number of goals that truth commissions and trials can reasonably be expected to contribute to as opposed to burdening them with multiple objectives, which create unattainable expectations. It concludes that each institution should focus on its comparative advantage and that careful attention be paid to the messages sent regarding what the commission or trial can accomplish.

Regional Approach to Transitional Justice? Examining the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Liberia, 21 FL. J. INT’L L. 209 (2009) proposes that

transitional justice mechanisms can also encompass regional and transnational efforts to respond to mass human rights violations occurring across societies. This Article examines the court in Sierra Leone as well as the truth-seeking mechanisms in Liberia and Sierra Leone and highlights the challenges posed by the failure to take a regional approach. It demonstrates that these mechanisms encountered problems of coordination including legal primacy, information sharing, and access to detainees. The Article concludes that adopting a regional approach when designing transitional justice mechanisms in the aftermath of mass atrocity across societies is the best means for achieving long-term peace, stability, and respect for human rights within the affected region.

ESSAYS, REFLECTIONS & OTHER COMMENTARY

The United Nations and a World in Pain, JUST SEC. (Oct. 24, 2025) Since its founding, the United Nations survival has depended on how it positions itself in situations of injustice. This piece links the story of the U.N. to the story of Congo. It traces Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba's assassination, and a subsequent 1960s demonstration at the U.N. led by the writers Maya Angelou and Rosa Guy, as well as the jazz great Abbey Lincoln. Doing so reveals how the U.N.'s legacy of malignant neglect reverberates into contemporary challenges in South America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and beyond. Although relegated to the annals of history, the 1960s protest the U.N. is powerful reminder of the importance of connecting international freedom struggles with those at home.

[Expert Testimony before the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reckoning & Repair: A Public Hearing on Maryland's Legacy of Racial Terror Lynchings](#) Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, U of Maryland Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2025-09 (2025) The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC) held a public hearing in Baltimore on April 4th and 5th, 2025, to examine institutional responsibility and legislative remedies to address the legacy of racial terror lynchings in Maryland. The hearings brought together expert witnesses, scholars, and community activists to provide testimony and recommendations on how Maryland can address its legacy of racial terror lynchings, prevent similar events from occurring, and foster racial healing. This written testimony was presented by Professor Matiangai Sirleaf to the MLTRC it details: the impact of Maryland's legacy of racial terror lynchings, Black People's anti-lynching rights claims, the legal framework for reparations, comparative global and domestic examples of reparations for historical violence and provides guidance for fashioning a reparations program aimed at addressing the harm of racial terror lynchings.

[Coloniality and Global Health](#), 2 J. GLOB. HEALTH L. 80 (2025) A cursory review of the history of medical experimentation shows a throughline between the dehumanization of the colonial past that has shifted and morphed to the ostensibly postcolonial present. The instrumentalization of Black and other presumptively "useful bodies" endures in global health. Medical neocolonialism relies on the subtraction of the agency of subordinated communities and peoples, where their agency is removed in the service of the interests of others through both indirect and direct modalities. Global health law and its institutions sustain the problematic reality of lackadaisical domestic enforcement with a weak international regulatory and monitoring regime on clinical and medical experimentation. International law regulating bioethics does so primarily through legally non-binding instruments with only one regional treaty specifying the scope and content of what is legally prohibited. Further, the primary sources of the World Health Organization are conspicuously silent on repairing and redressing historical and ongoing injustices in health relating to medical experimentation and other forms of subjugation. Moreover, even where international legal and regulatory frameworks exist on paper for study participants, the de facto policy of treating Black, Indigenous, and other peoples as expendable requires more robust measures to counteract the persistent nature of anti-Blackness and other practices of dehumanization. Returning to articulated visions of decolonization, anti-subordination, reparative, distributive and health justice, and building on this radical imagination in theory and practice, is essential for positive transformation in global health.

[Reflections on Decolonial Imperatives in Global Health Law](#), 53 J. L., MED. & ETH. 75 (2025) Global health law in theory and practice can either work to ameliorate the devastating consequences of colonialism, class hierarchies, and structural racism in health, or it can ratify and exacerbate them. It can protect, under protect, overprotect, or fail to protect – it is not and cannot be neutral. Global health law reflects the choices and practices of States and other actors, which includes both action and inaction. Inaction or silence on the part of global health law is a choice that ratifies the status quo of coloniality, class exploitation, and structural racism in health.

[Pax Americana: How Not to Hide an Empire](#), JUST SEC. (Mar. 6, 2025) This piece reconsiders foundational mythologies about the United States, the role of the law, the rule-based-international order, and *Pax Americana*'s upholding of the international rule of law. It concludes that the international order worth fighting for is a radically different world altogether.

[*The Scientific Mission and Governance of an Intergovernmental Panel on Pandemics: Lessons From the IPCC and IPBES*](#), LANCET (2025 with Colin J Carlson, Christopher H Trisos, Ben Oppenheim, Shweta Bansal, Sara E Davies, Aïda Diongue-Niang, Victoria Fan, John Kraemer, Rachel Golden-Kroner, Lawrence O Gostin, David TS Hayman, Marion Koopmans, Torre Lavelle, Carlos das Neves, Zoe O'Donoghue, Laura Pereira, Benjamin Roche, Kayla Zamanian, Carlos Zambrana-Torrel, Alexandra Phelan) (Pandemics pose a global threat to human-wellbeing, justice, economies, and ecosystems, comparable in urgency and impact to other planetary crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss. The world needs a scientific synthesis and assessment body focused on pandemic risks and solutions. Now, the primary challenge is for national governments and international organizations to agree on a blueprint. Learning lessons from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) could help them chart a course through important decisions about format, governance, operations, scientific scope and process, and the ability to recommend policies that make the world safer.

[*We Charge Genocide: Redux*](#), JUST SEC. (July 15, 2024) and [*Nous accusons de génocide : bis repetita*](#), QUID JUSTITIAE (Sept. 10, 2024) (French translation by Julia Grignon) This piece analyzes some of the most recent pronouncements of international bodies on Palestine, to surface what they have chosen to condemn as violations of community norms.

[*Reforms to the International Health Regulations Must Advance Human Rights*](#), 70 GENEVA HEALTH FILES (Mar. 8, 2024) (guest essay with Lisa Forman, Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Luciano Bottini Filho, and Benjamin Mason Meier) calling for a greater recognition of human rights principles across the many amendments to the International Health Regulations. The authors suggest specific proposals for provisions on medical countermeasures, core capacities, travel restrictions, vaccines certificates, social measures, and accountability.

[*Submission on the first draft general recommendation no. 37 \(2023\) on racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health*](#), (August 4, 2023) This written submission was presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The authors commend the Committee's leadership and efforts in developing a general recommendation on the right to health, building on significant normative advancements on securing equality in the enjoyment of the right to health. However, the social, economic, and public health shockwaves caused by COVID-19 require more careful assessment and engagement by this general recommendation. Such an assessment is ever more necessary as the world is on the brink of adopting new international legal instruments that will shape how the international community responds to the next global health emergency. Moreover, the authors caution the Committee from adopting any recommendation or using any language that will reify a biological understanding of race, instead of emphasizing the social effects of racial discrimination and racism in health risks and public health outcomes. (with Habibi, Roojin and Bueno de Mesquita, Judith and Burci, Gian Luca and Dagron, Stéphanie and Eccleston-Turner, Mark and Bottini Filho, Luciano and Forman, Lisa and Halabi, Sam and Lee, Tsung-ling and Lee, Tsung-ling and Meier, Benjamin Mason and Negri, Stefania and Phelan, Alexandra and Sekalala, Sharifah and Taylor, Allyn and Yamin, Alicia Ely).

[*Rendering Whiteness Visible*](#), 117 AM. J. INT'L L. 484 - 487 (2023) (peer review) The recent uprising for racial justice marked a pivotal shift in national and global debates on race. One enduring legacy is that the language we use to speak, think, and label people is consequential. Most style guides that previously called for lowercasing Black altered their positions. This letter to the editors urges the

American Journal of International Law (AJIL) to join those organizations that have also changed their policies to capitalize White.

Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies, (2023) and *The Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies* 1 J. GLOB. HEALTH L. 122 (2024) (Global Health Law Consortium & International Commission of Jurists assembled a diverse group of expert jurists, scholars, and practitioners of public health and human rights united to clarify the principles and obligations of human rights in the context of public health emergencies. Recognizing the critical need for guidance on the matter, these experts engaged in three years of intensive collaboration and deliberation, culminating in the development of the Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies. The overall process to develop the Principles was led and overseen by Roojin Habibi, and a Steering Committee (Timothy Fish Hodgson, Benjamin Mason Meier, Saman Zia-Zarifi, Ian Seiderman, Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Rocío Quintero Martinez, Pedro A. Villarreal, Luciano Bottini Filho, and Sharifah Sekalala) (with co-authors: Gian Luca Burci, Luisa Cabal, Thana de Campos-Rudinsky, Danwood Chirwa, Stéphanie Dagron, Sara (Meg) Davis, Mark Eccleston-Turner, Rossella de Falco, Lisa Forman, Lawrence O. Gostin, Aeyal Gross, Steven J. Hoffman, Rajat Khosla, Tsung-Ling Lee, Stefania Negri, Alexandra Phelan, Ravi M. Ram, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Matiangai Sirleaf, Allyn L. Taylor, Brigit Toebe, Nerima Were and Alicia Ely Yamin).

Decolonization of Global Health Law: Lessons from International Environmental Law, 51 J. L. MED. & ETHICS 450 (2023) (with Alexandra Phelan) (peer review) Global health law for pandemics currently lacks legal obligations to ensure distributional and reparative justice. In contrast, international environmental law contains several novel international legal mechanisms aimed at addressing the effects of colonialism and global injustices that arise from the disproportionate contributions to — and impacts of — climate change and biodiversity loss.

White Health as Global Health, 117 AJIL UNBOUND 88 (2023) (peer review) With the expansion of European imperialism, public health concerns became globalized, necessitating cooperation with other imperial powers for the treatment and prevention of diseases. This essay traces the role of race and racism in the development of global public health law. It explores the connections, legacies, vestiges, and important disjunctions between tropical medicine and global public health, and considers the primacy given to White health as one of the animating purposes behind the emergence of the global public health regime. The centrality of protecting the health and interests of White people then and now continues to inform the global health agenda. This essay surfaces the role of international law through omission and commission in structuring and reifying racialized hierarchies of care and concern. It concludes that transformational reforms aimed at addressing this legacy are necessary.

Do You Have to Say That You Are Black?, 43 THIRD WORLD APPROACHES INT'L L. REV. Reflections (June 15, 2022) (peer review) In this reflection, I connect the importance of rendering whiteness visible in scholarship, to the aggressions of whitesplaining and whitewashing, and how both function to stymie Black intellectualism in international law and beyond. I conclude this reflection by ruminating on the metaphor of racism as a distraction and querying what it would mean to take positionality seriously.

[*Omicron: the Variant that Vaccine Apartheid Built*](#), JUST SEC. (Dec. 2, 2021) Vaccine apartheid as a concept calls attention to the effects of inequitable vaccine distribution policies on historically subordinated peoples. This essay argues that the euphemism of vaccine nationalism conveniently papers over the racialized distributional consequences of vaccine inequities.

[*“I Can't Breathe”: Connecting COVID-19, Protests, and Global Health*](#), 114 AM. SOC'Y INT'L L. PROC. 373 (2020) COVID-19 has exposed the underlying racial hierarchy in the United States and elsewhere. Tragically, one study indicates that Black and Latinx people have COVID-19 mortality rates as much as nine times higher than White people in the United States when age is considered. Several commentators have attempted to account for these glaring health disparities by pointing to preexisting health conditions like hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and the higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease among Black people, which can make for greater and more severe and deadly complications with COVID-19. Yet, structural factors ensure that Black people are “more likely to encounter those things that we know compromise health—like inaccessible or biased health care providers, inadequate schools and education systems, unemployment, hazardous jobs, unsafe housing, and violent, polluted communities.” This piece provides a summary of the remarks I delivered at the 2020 American Society of International Law Annual Meeting.

[*Expendable Lives and COVID-19*](#), HARV. L. PETRIE FLOM CTR. BILL OF HEALTH (Oct. 8, 2020) This essay discusses how the “twin pandemics” of structural racism and COVID-19 have not only made salient presumed expendability, but also resurfaced the widespread distrust of the medical establishment amongst many Black people.

[*Racing National Security: Introduction to the Just Security Symposium*](#), JUST SEC. (July 13, 2020) This essay introduces the Just Security “Racing National Security” [symposium](#) edited by editorial board member Matiangai Sirleaf. The goal of the symposium is to render race visible in national security to shift the dominant paradigm toward addressing issues of racial justice.

[*Capacity-Building, International Cooperation, and COVID-19*](#), 24 ASIL INSIGHTS 17 (July 9, 2020) This *Insight* analyzes the international obligations of capacity-building and cooperation in light of COVID-19. COVID-19 has made it abundantly clear that highly infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world and that health systems globally are woefully ill-equipped.

[*Africa, COVID-19 and Responsibility*](#), AFRONOMICS LAW (May 12, 2020) This post analyzes the potential impact of COVID-19 on the African continent given systemic healthcare vulnerabilities and the need for contextualized containment strategies. It examines the historical role of international financial institutions in limiting domestic health spending and capacity. This post also delves into re-conceptualizing responsibility for pandemic and epidemic diseases.

[*COVID-19 and the Racialization of Diseases \(Part I\)*](#), OPINIO JURIS (Apr. 7, 2020) This post connects the racialization of COVID-19 to the historical narratives and interventions premised on the suspicion of diseased and uncontrolled racialized bodies coming to infect those in the West.

[*COVID-19 and the Racialization of Diseases \(Part II\)*](#), OPINIO JURIS (Apr. 7, 2020) This post explores the significance of global health's legacy in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It analyzes how the racialization of diseases is accomplished more subtly and indirectly under the current global health architecture.

[*COVID-19 and Allocating Responsibility for Pandemics*](#), JURIST, (Mar. 31, 2020) The COVID-19 pandemic emphasizes why it is necessary to question the extant frameworks for responsibility for epidemic and pandemic diseases. Key considerations include how responsibility should be distributed amongst actors.

[*Remarks, International Criminal Law: New Voices*](#), AM. SOC'Y INT'L L. PROC. 2015 The African Union recently adopted a Protocol that gives the African Court of Justice and Human Rights jurisdiction over a wide range of international and transnational crimes. This piece provides a summary of the remarks I delivered at the 2015 American Society of International Law Annual Meeting.

[*Making Room for the Distributive in Transitional Justice*](#), OPINIO JURIS (Sept. 10, 2013), this piece argues that the unthinking reaction to institute formal transitional justice institutions like trials or truth commissions following massive violence needs to be seriously rethought. For one, it is not evident that societies recovering from mass atrocity will undoubtedly want to pursue truth-telling or trials.

[*Reflections on Madiba's Legacy*](#), UPENN. L. (Dec. 6, 2013) Madiba's life and legacy stretches far beyond the borders of South Africa. His life has touched and inspired countless people around the globe. This piece reflects upon his legacy.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

- **Osgoode Law School, York University** Toronto, Canada (Sept. 2025), A Structured Ambivalence? A Multidisciplinary International Conference on Third World Approaches to International Law and Governance in a Time of Global Crises, panelists Racialization and Colonization
- **Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, Baltimore, M.D. (Apr. 2025), presented expert testimony at public hearing on panel on Reparations as Justice: Economic, Legal, and Social Pathways to Repair
- **Boston University School of Law**, Boston, MA (Apr. 2025) invited panelists, provided comments at an event Celebrating the Publication of *The Routledge Companion to Gender and COVID-19* edited by Linda C. McClain and Aziza Ahmed.
- **Harvard Law School**, Cambridge, MA (Mar. 2025) *Harvard International Law Journal* Symposium on the Peripheries of International Law, invited panelists on a panel on Third World Approaches of International Law Revisited.
- **National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine**, Washington D.C. (Jan. 2025), presented concluding remarks, Preventing Patient Zero a Workshop,
- **Association of American Law Schools' Annual Meeting**, San Francisco, CA (Jan. 2025), invited panelist, African Perspectives on Human Rights
- **Association of American Law Schools' Annual Meeting**, San Francisco, CA (Jan. 2025), invited panelist, Critical Perspectives on International Criminal Law

- **American Branch of the International Law Association**, New York, NY (Oct. 2024), panelist, International Law Weekend 2024: *Powerless Law or Law for the Powerless?*, Centering Race and Empire in Human Rights Law and Scholarship
- **Amnesty International, International Commission of Jurists, Asia Justice Coalition, Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice, and Global Survivors Fund**, New York, NY (Oct. 2024), invited panelist, (Re-)Centering Humanity: Intersectional Strategies Strengthening Multilateralism and International Law
- **American Society for International Law**, webinar (Sept. 2024), invited panelist, Legal Cynicism and Contemporary Armed Conflicts
- **Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law**, Halifax, Nova Scotia CA (Sept. 2024) invited panelist, Rethinking the Dimensions of International Economic Law
- **Temple Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (June 2024) invited plenary panelist, 2024 Health Law Professors Conference, Plenary Session: “Theorizing Health Law”
- **Temple Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (June 2024) panelist, 2024 Health Law Professors Conference, Ebbs and Flows of Theory in Health Law
- **United States State Department Speaker Program**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (April 2024) invited speaker, visit facilitated by the United States Embassy in Addis, delivered three public lectures at the Addis Ababa School of Law, the Mekelle University School of Law, the Ethiopian Civil Service University School, and engaged in meetings and consultations with a range of civil society, academic, and other stakeholders on the promise and pitfalls of transitional justice processes
- **Seton Hall Law School**, Newark, NJ (Apr. 2024), Distinguished Visiting Health Scholar, invited for a short visit to the law school to guest lecture classes, present papers to the faculty, and present a public lecture to the greater community
- **American Bar Association**, San Diego, CA (Apr. 2024), 26th Annual Section of Dispute Resolution Spring Conference, invited panelist Designing Innovative ADR Courses for a Dynamic Legal Market (discussing transitional justice class)
- **University of Windsor Faculty of Law**, Windsor, CA (Mar. 2024), book launch for Ardi Imseis, *THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE* (Cambridge University Press 2023), invited book discussant
- **John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies**, Washington, D.C. (Mar. 2024), International Law in the Global South Speaker Series, invited lecturer, presented draft of Palestine as a Litmus Test
- **University of Texas at Austin School of Law**, Austin, TX (Feb. 2024), TEX. INT’L L. J. 2024 Symposium, Current Challenges to the Effectiveness and Future of the ICC, invited panelist, The Impact of the International Criminal Court on the Ground
- **Association of American Law Schools’ Annual Meeting**, Washington, D.C. (Jan. 2024), invited panelist, Defending Democracy: Re-focusing the National Security Lens to Examine Threats from Within
- **UCLA Law School**, Los Angeles, CA (Nov. 2023), The Future of Human Rights and Justice-Centered Ethics in Epidemic Response: From HIV to Covid and Beyond, invited panelist, Frameworks to Guide Epidemic Response: Ethics and Human Rights

- **Georgetown Law School**, Washington, D.C. (Oct. 2023) invited panelist, book launch for **GLOBAL HEALTH LAW & POLICY: ENSURING JUSTICE FOR A GLOBALIZING WORLD**, presented chapter
- **The Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute & Resolve to Save Lives**, webinar, (Oct. 2023) invited panelist, Interactive Discussion on the Negotiating Text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement Proposed by the INB Bureau
- **University of Maryland Law School**, Baltimore, MD (June 2023) invited plenary panelist, 2023 Health Law Professors Conference, Plenary Session: Racism and Health: Legal and Medical Contestation,
- **University of Maryland Law School**, Baltimore, MD (June 2023) panelist, 2023 Health Law Professors Conference, Reforming Global Health Law to Prepare for Future Pandemic Threats
- **UNC Chapel Hill – Gillings School of Global Public Health**, Chapel Hill, NC (Feb. 2023), keynote lecturer 44th Minority Health Law Conference, Practicing Health as a Human Right: Policy, Ethics, and the Law
- **The International Commission of Jurists and the Global Health Law Consortium**, Hermance, Switzerland (Jan. 2023) participating expert, Concluding Workshop on Principles and Guidelines for Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies
- **World Health Organization**, webinar (Sept. 2022), participating expert, First informal, focused consultation in relation to a new international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response on legal matters
- **University of Maryland School of Law**, webinar (Mar. 2022), panelist, Truth and Reconciliation and Anti-Lynching Commissions
- **African Institute of International Law**, webinar (Mar. 2022), International Law as a Tool for Addressing Health Challenges, invited panelist
- **UCLA Law’s Promise Institute for Human Rights, Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs, Center for Immigration Law and Policy, and the Williams Institute**, Los Angeles, CA (Feb. 26, 2022), Borders, the Pandemic & Human Rights symposium panelist, Race & Ethnicity
- **Centre for Ethnicity & Racism Studies, University of Leeds**, webinar (Oct. 2021), invited guest speaker, COVID-19 and the Racial Valuation of Diseases
- **Law & Society Annual Meeting**, webinar (May 2021) invited plenary panelist, on Crisis
- **University of Cambridge Lauterpacht Centre for International Law**, invited guest lecturer (Mar. 2021), Race & COVID-19
- **University of Maryland School of Law**, webinar (Nov. 2020), panelist, Consequence of the Election for Domestic and International Law
- **Indiana University McKinney School of Law**, webinar (Oct. 2020), invited virtual grand rounds speaker, COVID-19 and the Racialization of Diseases
- **American Association for the Advancement of Science’s, Science Technology and Human Rights Conference**, webinar (Oct. 2020) keynote interview conversation with Angela Saini
- **American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Annual Conference**, webinar (Oct. 2020), Law and Bioethics Affinity Group meeting, invited panelist on Social Justice and Public Health in the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **University of Florida, Center for African Studies**, webinar (Sept. 2020), invited guest lecturer, Africa, COVID-19, and Responsibility

- **City University of London, Dept. of Sociology**, webinar (June 2020), invited panelist, Racism and COVID-19
- **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, webinar (June 2020), invited panelist, Vulnerability in the Trade and Investment Regimes in the Age of COVID-19
- **American Society for International Law Virtual Annual Meeting**, webinar (June 2020), invited panelist, COVID-II: Understanding the Disparate Impact on Marginalized Communities
- **University of Pittsburgh School of Law**, webinar (May 2020), panelist, Law as a Social Determinant of Health to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **University of California Los Angeles School of Law**, Los Angeles, CA (Feb. 2020), invited participant for Expert Workshop on International Criminal Law and the Protection of the Environment, organized by the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights
- **University of Connecticut**, Storrs, CT (Apr. 2019), invited panelist, Transitional Justice and Accountability After Mass Crimes at conference on Human Rights and the Politics of Solidarity
- **University of California Los Angeles Law School**, Los Angeles, CA (Mar. 2019), invited plenary panelist, Race, Socio-economic Inequality & Human Rights at conference on Critical Perspectives on Race and Human Rights: Transnational Re-Imaginations
- **University of Dayton School of Law**, Dayton, OH (Mar. 2019), invited panelist, Global Governance – Reconstruction or Falling Through the Cracks? 2019 Gilvary Symposium, Things Fall Apart or Creative Destruction?: The Future of the Rule of Law in International Governance
- **Kenyatta University**, Nairobi, Kenya (Sept. 2018), invited keynote speaker, *Regionalizing International Criminal Law* presented at conference on 20 Years Since the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court – the Status of International Rule of Law, and Access to International Criminal Justice in Africa
- **Yale Law School**, New Haven, CT (Apr. 2018), invited panelist, The Ethics and Politics of Finding Facts and Making Truth at a conference on Solidarity: Sustaining the Struggle for Human Rights in a Fractured World
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Feb. 2018), invited lecturer, Critical Research on Africa Lecture Series sponsored by the African Studies Program, the Africana Studies Dept., Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the Global Studies Center, and the World History Center
- **Osgoode Law School, York University** Toronto, Canada (Dec. 2016), invited commentator, Canadian/Anglophone African Human Rights Engagements Conference, discussant for session focusing on Ghana
- **Duke University**, Durham, NC (Feb. 2016), invited speaker, Conversations in Human Rights Panel: Trials & Truth Commissions Responding to Violence in Africa
- **World Social Sciences Forum**, Durban, South Africa (Sept. 2015), selected panelist, The African Court and the Fight Against Gross Human Rights Abuses in Africa
- **Temple Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Mar. 2015), invited speaker, Is the Proposed African Criminal Court a Good Idea?
- **Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa**, Dakar, Senegal (July 2014), invited participant, Conference on International Criminal Justice, Reconciliation and Peace in Africa: The ICC and Beyond, panel on The ICC, International Criminal Justice, and International Politics

- **Women in Public Service Project, Bryn Mawr College**, Bryn Mawr, PA (July 2013), invited panelist, The Role of the Justice System in Post-Conflict Resolution

SELECTED WORKSHOPS

Reclaiming Our Time in Human Rights

- **Windsor Law School**, Windsor, Canada, (Mar. 2025), Visiting Scholar, book talk
- **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Law**, Champaign, IL (Apr. 2024), invited speaker, faculty workshop, book talk
- **Seton Hall Law School**, Newark, NJ (Apr. 2024), Distinguished Visiting Health Scholar, faculty workshop, book talk

The Master Narrative in Human Rights

- **Northeastern Law School**, Boston, MA (Oct. 2025), Center for Global Law and Justice, invited speaker, presented draft
- **Osgoode Law School, York University** Toronto, Canada (Sept. 2025), Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, keynote lecture Crime and Security, presented draft
- **Temple Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Apr. 2025), International Law Colloquium, presented draft
- **American University School of Law**, Washington, DC (Mar. 2024), faculty workshop, presented draft
- **William & Mary Law School**, Williamsburg, VA (Mar. 2024), International Law Workshop, presented draft
- **Berlin Potsdam Research Group on the International Rule of Law and the Harvard Law School Program on International Law in Armed Conflict**, Berlin, Germany (July 2024) Double Standard in International Law Workshop, presented precis
- **Harvard Law School**, Cambridge, MA (Mar. 2024), invited panelist, *Race, Racism & the Law* book conference, paper draft
- **Boston College Center for Human Rights & International Justice**, webinar (Mar. 2023), invited guest speaker, emerging idea

Anti-Blackness in Human Rights

- **Windsor Law School**, Windsor, Canada, (Mar. 2025), Visiting Scholar, faculty workshop, presented draft

Reforms to the International Health Regulations Must Advance Human Rights

- **Seton Hall Law School**, Newark, NJ (Apr. 2024), Distinguished Visiting Health Scholar, presented draft to Healthcare Access and Payments class

Palestine as a Litmus Test for Transitional Justice

- **Northeastern University School of Law**, Boston, MA (May 2024) hybrid symposium organized by the Center for Law, Equity and Race on Time, Law, and Justice: Pasts and Presents of Colonialism, Racism, and Inequality, presented draft

- **Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies**, Washington, D.C. (March 2024), invited speaker, International Law in the Global South Speaker Series, course Current Issues in International Law on Transitional Justice, presented draft

Race & National Security

- **Syracuse University College of Law**, Syracuse, NY (Apr. 2025), Institute for Security Policy and Law, book talk
- **Law & Society Association Annual Meeting**, Denver, CO (June 2024), CRN: International Law and Politics Multi-Book Launch Session, book talk
- **American Society for International Law Annual Meeting**, Washington, D.C. (Apr. 2024), book roundtable
- **Tufts University**, Boston, MA (Mar. 2024), Conversation on Race & National Security, book talk
- **University of Maryland Law School**, Baltimore, MD (Nov. 2023) Book Launch & Conference
- **University of Pittsburgh School of Law**, Pittsburgh, PA (Nov. 2023), Center for Civil Rights and Racial Justice, book talk
- **Association of American Law Schools' Section on National Security Law**, (Oct. 2023) invited panelist webinar on How Does Race Manifest in National Security?, book talk

White Health & International Law

- **Seton Hall Law School**, Newark, NJ (Apr. 2024), Distinguished Visiting Health Scholar, public lecture
- **Brazilian International Law Center**, webinar (July 2023), invited lecturer, presented paper
- **Fordham School of Law**, New York, NY (May 2023), invited speaker, faculty workshop, presented draft
- **University of Maryland School of Medicine**, webinar (Mar. 2023) invited speaker, presented draft
- **University of Colorado Law School**, Boulder, CO (Oct. 2022), invited speaker, presented draft
- **University of Georgia School of Law**, webinar (Apr. 2020) invited speaker, International Law Colloquium Series, presented draft
- **University of Toronto Faculty of Law**, Toronto, CA (Feb. 2020) invited speaker, Mary & Philip Seeman Health Law Policy & Ethics Seminar Series, presented draft

We Charge Vaccine Apartheid?

- **Seton Hall Law School**, Newark, NJ (Apr. 2024), Distinguished Visiting Health Scholar, presented draft to international law class
- **Allard School of Law, The University of British Columbia**, webinar (Mar. 2023), invited speaker, Transnational Law class, presented paper

- **McGill University Faculty of Law**, webinar (Oct. 2022), Pandemics and Paradigms of Governance Workshop, presented draft
- **Howard Law School**, webinar (Oct. 2021), invited panelist, Howard Law Journal's Symposium on Health Equity: Developments & Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, presented emerging idea
- **University of California Irvine School of Law**, webinar (Sept. 2021), invited speaker, virtual symposium on Colonialism, Capitalism, and Race in International Law, presented emerging idea

Disposable Lives

- **St. John's University School of Law**, webinar (Apr. 2022), invited speaker, International Law Colloquium Series, presented paper
- **Allard School of Law, The University of British Columbia**, webinar (Mar. 2022), invited speaker, Transnational Law class, presented paper
- **University of Pennsylvania Law School**, webinar (Feb. 2022), invited speaker, Plagues, Pandemics, and Public Health Law class, presented paper
- **Florida State University Law School**, webinar (Nov. 2021), invited to speak at faculty enrichment workshop, presented paper
- **Australia National University College of Law**, webinar (July 2021), invited to speak at the Politics of International Law seminar, presented paper
- **Saint Louis University School of Law**, St. Louis, MO (Sept. 2019), selected speaker for Health Law Scholars Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Colorado Law School**, Boulder, CO (Aug. 2018), invited to International Law & Racial Justice Workshop, presented an emerging idea

Racial Valuation of Diseases

- **The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law**, webinar (Oct. 2021), invited guest lecturer, Biotechnology Law, and Policy Seminar, presented paper
- **Georgetown University Law Center**, webinar (Apr. 2021), invited guest lecturer, International Law Colloquium, presented paper
- **New York University School of Law**, webinar (Apr. 2021), invited guest lecturer, Hauser Colloquium on Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, presented paper
- **Vanderbilt Law School**, webinar (Oct. 2020), invited speaker, faculty workshop, presented paper
- **University of Connecticut School of Law**, webinar (Oct. 2020), invited speaker, faculty workshop, presented paper
- **University of California Los Angeles School of Law**, Los Angeles, CA (Jan. 2020), invited speaker, UCLA Law Review Symposium: Transnational Legal Discourse on Race and Empire, panelists on Socio-Economic Equality and Rights, presented draft
- **Chapman University School of Law**, Orange, CA (Sept. 2019), one of eight participants invited nationally to Third Annual Junior Faculty Works-in-Progress Conference, presented draft

- **Penn State Law School**, University Park, PA (June 2019) selected for intensive workshop at 13th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, presented draft (paper selected for edit-letter review by *Yale Law Journal*)
- **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, Chicago, IL (June 2019), selected for panel at 42nd Annual Health Law Professors Conference, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2019), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2019), invited to Center for International and Comparative Law's Women in International Law Research Workshop, presented draft
- **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, Chicago, IL (Apr. 2019), invited to International Law Colloquium, presented draft
- **University of Colorado Law School**, Boulder, CO (Apr. 2019), invited to Faculty Colloquium Series, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Apr. 2019), organized Global Health Inequities & Infectious Diseases Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Apr. 2019), invited to Defining the Neglected Tropical Diseases Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Richmond Law School**, Richmond, VA (May 2018), selected for Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum, presented an emerging idea

Responsibility for Epidemics

- **McGill University**, Montreal, Canada (Mar. 2019), invited to Margins of Accountability Workshop held in Toronto, Canada discussed next steps for project
- **National University of Singapore Faculty of Law**, Singapore (July 2018), selected for Third World Approaches to International Law Conference, presented draft
- **SMU Dedman School of Law**, Dallas, TX (July 2018), selected for an intensive works-in-progress workshop at Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop and Writing Retreat, presented draft (paper selected for edit-letter review by *Yale Law Journal*)
- **Stanford Law School**, Stanford, CA (June 2018), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA (Mar. 2018), invited to lecture by Ford Institute for Human Security & the Graduate School for Public and International Affairs, presented draft
- **University of Illinois College of Law**, Champaign, IL (Mar. 2018), invited to Women in International Law Research Workshop held at the Illinois Center, presented draft
- **University of Michigan Law School**, Ann Arbor, MI (July 2017), selected for 11th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, presented emerging idea
- **University of Richmond Law School**, Richmond, VA (May 2017), selected for Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum, presented an emerging idea

Ebola Does Not Fall from the Sky

- **Australia National University College of Law**, webinar (Nov. 2022), guest lecture Post-conflict Situations and International Law seminar, presented paper
- **Ohio State University Law School** Columbus, OH (Nov. 2017), invited for Faculty Workshop, presented draft

- **Marquette Law School**, Milwaukee, WI. (Sept. 2017), one of eight invited participants nationally for Fifth Annual Junior Faculty Works-In Progress Symposium, presented draft
- **Cleveland-Marshall College of Law**, Cleveland, OH (Sept. 2017), selected for American Society for International Law Mid-West Works in Progress Conference, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2017), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft
- **Temple University School of Law**, Philadelphia, PA. (Feb. 2017), invited to International Law Colloquium, presented draft
- **University of Pittsburgh Law School**, Pittsburgh, PA (Feb. 2017), CLE Workshop on Cutting-Edge Research and Applications, presented draft
- **Pennsylvania State University Law School**, University Park, PA (Jan. 2017), invited to Faculty Workshop, presented draft
- **Association of American Law Schools' Annual Meeting**, San Francisco, CA (Jan. 2017), selected for Human Rights Outside the West Panel, presented draft
- **University of Washington School of Law**, Seattle, WA (Nov. 2016), selected for American Society for International Law Mid-Year Research Forum, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (Sep. 2016), invited to Center for International and Comparative Law's Women in International Law Research Workshop, presented draft
- **University of Iowa College of Law**, Iowa City, IA (July 2016), selected for 10th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop, presented draft
- **Southeastern Association of Law Schools' Annual Meeting**, Boca Raton, FL (Aug. 2015), selected panelist International Responses to Cross-Border Crises: Ebola, ISIS, and Late-Breaking Events, presented emerging idea

Not Your Dumping Ground and Prosecuting Dirty Dumping in Africa

- **University of Wisconsin Law School**, Madison, WI (Mar. 2017), invited to *Wisconsin International Law Journal Symposium*, presented draft
- **African Court Research Initiative Conference**, Arusha, Tanzania (July 2016), presented draft

The African Justice Cascade

- **Osgoode Law School, York University** Toronto, Canada (Oct. 2016), invited to International Law in the Global South Research Seminar Series, presented draft
- **Law & Society Annual Meeting**, New Orleans, LA (June 2016), selected panelist for Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective Exploring the Role of International and Regional Courts, presented draft
- **Loyola University Chicago Law School**, Chicago, IL (Apr. 2016), invited to Workshop on Africa's International Courts, presented draft

Regionalism, Regime Complexes, & International Criminal Justice

- **Case Western Reserve University School of Law**, Cleveland, OH (Feb. 2016), invited to Faculty Workshop, presented draft
- **Georgetown University Law Center**, Washington, D.C. (Feb. 2016), invited to International Law Colloquium, presented draft
- **Duke Law School**, Durham, NC (May 2015), invited to Culp Colloquium, presented draft

- **American Society for International Law Annual Meeting** Washington, D.C. (Apr. 2015), selected panelist International Criminal Law New Voices, presented draft
- **Northwestern Law School**, Chicago, IL (Nov. 2014), selected for American Society for International Law Mid-Year Research Forum, panel on Courts African Legal Practices and International Courts: Tensions and Prospects, presented draft
- **University of Oslo**, Oslo, Norway (Aug. 2014), invited to Conference on the Legitimacy and Effectiveness of International Criminal Tribunals, panel on Complementarity and Regionalism, presented draft

The Truth About Truth Commissions

- **University of Pittsburgh Law School**, Pittsburgh, PA (Apr. 2014), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **University of Pennsylvania Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Feb. 2014), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **University of Baltimore Law School**, Baltimore, MD (Jan. 2014), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **Emory Law School**, Atlanta, GA (Nov. 2013), invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft

Beyond Truth & Punishment in Transitional Justice

- **University of Pennsylvania Law School**, Philadelphia, PA (Apr. 2013) invited to Faculty workshop, presented draft
- **Law & Society Annual Meeting**, Boston, MA (May 2013) selected panelist for Transitional Justice through International Criminal Law: Empowerment or Management through Rule of Law

PEER REVIEWS

- *Criminological Encounters*, 2025
- *Jindal Global Law Review*, 2024
- South Africa's National Research Foundation, 2024
- *Third World Approaches to International Law Review*, 2024
- *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, 2022
- *Melbourne Journal of International Law*, 2018
- *Journal of African Law*, 2017
- *Routledge Books*, 2017, 2016, 2015
- *Journal of Law & Social Inquiry*, 2017
- Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, 2017
- *International Journal of Law in Context*, 2017
- *Africa Today*, 2016

EXTERNAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Law and Society Association Article Prize Committee, Member 2025
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Working Group Member Preventing Patient Zero- Understanding the Introduction of Pathogens into Humans, 2024- 2025

- *American Journal of International Law Unbound*, Supervising Editor, 2024 - present
- *American Journal of International Law*, Board of Editors, Member, 2022 – present
- *Just Security*, Executive Editor, 2022 – present; Editor, 2020 – 2022
- American Society for International Law (ASIL)
 - David D. Caron Article Prize Committee Member, 2025
 - Global Health Law Interest Group, Advisory Committee Member, 2023- present
 - Blacks of ASIL Task Force, Member, 2021 – present
 - Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Interest Group, Co-Chair, 2018-2021; Vice-Chair, 2017-2018
 - ASIL Research Forum Committee, Member, 2019 – 2020
 - *ASIL Insights*, Editorial Board, Member, 2016-2020
 - ASIL 110th Annual Meeting Program Committee, Member, 2015-2016
 - Global Health Law Consortium, Member, 2023 - present
- New York University School of Law, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, Prevention Project: Health and Human Rights Workstream, Member, 2023- present
- Association of American Law Schools, Africa Section, Chair, 2024- 2025; Vice-Chair, 2023-2024; Member, 2022 - 2023
- Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, Works in Progress Committee, Member, 2018-2020

INTERNAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

University of Maryland, Baltimore

- Center for Global Engagement Advisory Board, Member 2022-present

University of Maryland School of Law

- Wellness Committee, Member, 2024-2025
- Curriculum Committee Member, 2020-2023, 2024 – 2025; Chair, 2023 - 2024
- Transfer to Tenure Committee, Member, 2022
- Maryland Journal of International Law, Faculty Advisor, 2021-2022
- Diversity & Professionalism Committee, Member, 2021-2022

University of Pittsburgh

- African Studies Program, Advisory Committee, Member, 2015- 2020

University of Pittsburgh School of Law,

- Writing Awards Committee, Member, 2019-2020
- Teaching Committee, Member, 2018-2019
- 3L Luncheon Planning Committee, Member, 2018
- Colloquium Committee, Chair, 2017-2018
- Curriculum Committee, Member, 2017-2018
- Steering Committee, Member 2016-2017
- Appointments Committee, Member, 2016-2017
- Faculty Advisor, 2015-2020
- Center for International Legal Education, Advisory Board, Member, 2015-2020

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Branch of the International Law Association

- American Society for International Law
- American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics
- Association of American Law Schools
- Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
- Law & Society Association
- West African Research Center

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC (Washington, D.C.) November 2010 - July 2012, Human Rights Fellow (Attorney), Human Rights Practice Group

- Represented plaintiffs in numerous international human rights cases in federal courts, including victims of human trafficking, forced labor, torture, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing, and arbitrary detention.
- Conducted legal research on transnational corporate accountability under the Alien Tort Statute and Torture Victim Protection Act. Wrote legal memoranda as well as appellate, district and amici briefs.
- Drafted complaints alleging violations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Drafted and responded to discovery requests.
- Interviewed clients. Investigated potential human rights claims.
- Supervised law clerks and paralegals.

International Center for Transitional Justice (Cape Town, South Africa) September 2008 – July 2009, Bernstein Fellow (fellowship for Yale Law School graduates)

- Conducted assessment missions of transitional justice experiences in West Africa focusing on truth telling, prosecutions, and reparations.
- Interviewed over one hundred human rights survivors and relevant actors from truth commissions, courts, government agencies, and civil society groups.

Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP (New York, NY) July - September 2007, Summer Associate

- Conducted research on public and private international law.
- Wrote legal memoranda on creeping expropriation claims and lost profit claims in international arbitration cases.
- Assisted with legal research on an amicus brief for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in support of the appellants in *Boumediene/Al Odah et al. v. Gates* before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Human Rights Watch, International Justice Program (New York, NY) Legal Intern, May - July 2007

- Conducted international human rights law research.
- Wrote memorandum on the right to adequate time and facilities to prepare a defense under international law.
- Drafted paper analyzing peace and justice issues in Sudan. Provided research assistance for the paper “Selling Justice Short” published in July 2009.

- Monitored developments of international and domestic tribunals.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (Monrovia, Liberia) May - August 2006, Law Clerk

- Assisted in designing the statement-taking process of human rights violations.
- Created an aptitude test for potential statement takers
- Helped with the selection and training of more than 200 statement takers.
- Engaged in outreach and public sensitization efforts.

ADMISSIONS

New York State Bar, Active Member, January 2009 - present

District of Columbia Bar, Active Member, September 2011 – present