

International Interdisciplinary Security of Land Tenure Conference

6–8 May 2024

CALL FOR PAPERS



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Introduction and Background

For many rural land holding communities in South Africa the issue of insecure, informal, or weak land rights haunts their daily lives. This is regardless of the fact that South Africa has one of the most heralded constitutions and Bill of Rights in the world and a Constitutional Court that has delivered groundbreaking judgments that has inspired nations to develop greater jurisprudential protection of informal property rights. Yet, insecurity of land tenure persists. Many rural communities continue to face challenges of poverty and underdevelopment regardless of their individual or communal access to land. The issue of insecure land tenure is complex, it is a multifaceted issue. For this reason, it is argued that the answers or approach lies not in the understanding, recognition, and construction of existing and new forms of tenure and property rights alone. It requires an interdisciplinary approach that is conscious of the intersectionalities between property, environmental law and conservation, customary law and succession, gender and traditional practices, natural resources and socio-economic rights, agriculture and land reform, poverty, politics and governance. Security of land tenure in its broadest sense is not the exclusive domain of property law.

As such, the notion of “secure tenure” must be grappled with from a variety of sectoral perspectives to establish a starting point for society to re-envision tenure forms that contain the *kinds* of property rights that are generational, economically sustainable, and protected in order to overcome structural and systemic inequalities of the past. The interconnectedness between the use of property, as a means, to improve access to basic human rights, overall socio-economic well-being, and equal access to development opportunities for impoverished rural communities cannot be overemphasized.

The conference seeks to unpack “security of tenure”, its meaning and content with due regard to the lived realities of land holders and occupiers in discussions aimed at giving appropriate expression to this constitutional objective.

Theme:

Transforming the rural land economy: the creation of secure land rights for the enhancement of rural livelihoods and sustainable development.

Conference details



Dates: 6–8 of May 2024



Where: South Africa, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus



Registration fee: R2 600.00; Euro 126; \$ 136; GBP 107.



Gala dinner, 6 May 2024



Cocktail function, 8 May 2024



Papers should be presented in person.



The event will be live streamed with limited online participation due to the expected numbers and international nature of the conference.

Submission of Abstracts

The IISLT Planning Committee invites abstracts addressing research within the ambit of the above background and theme. Against this backdrop, the Planning Committee seeks to embark on explorative interdisciplinary research discussions to learn, share, and hear from many diverse and international research perspectives on topics relevant to Security of Land Tenure Rights. These may include but are not limited to topics that pertain to socio-economic rights, poverty, gender, customary law and indigenous systems, communal property, rural development and agriculture, sustainable development, natural resources and environmental law, property law and land reform, land governance and public policy.



Registration deadline: 15 April 2024. Complete attached registration form.



Abstract length: Abstracts may not exceed 500 words. Please include author's full names, institutional affiliation, and email address.



Abstracts due: 10 April 2024. Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated within 14 days of receipt of the abstract for consideration. Abstracts should be emailed to Dr September-Van Huffel: SeptemberVanHuffelA@ufs.ac.za



A number of selected papers will be published in the IISLT Special Edition, *Journal of Law, Society and Development*. **Full papers due: 31 July 2024.** Any change in the due date will be communicated to contributors.

The University of the Free State, Law Faculty, Private Law department and its Research Partners, namely, Anglia Ruskin University, London. Imo State University, Owerri Nigeria. National University of Lesotho, UNDP Human Rights Chair. Human Rights Chair Institute for Legislative Studies, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Department of Jurisprudence and Internationalization, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. University of the Free State, Centre for Development Studies, South Africa. University of the Free State, Free State Human Rights Centre, South Africa. Stellenbosch University, Private Law department, South Africa. Trust this conference is going to be a meaningful meeting for academics, practitioners across disciplines, postgraduate students, researchers, and all relevant participants.

For general inquiries, contact us by sending an email to: Ms Riekje Viljoen Email: viljoenr@ufs.ac.za

