



6 DECEMBER
2019

SCHOOL OF LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

SCHOOL OF LAW COLLOQUIUM ON CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Navi Pillay Research Group (NPRG) in collaboration with the Children's Rights Research Interest Group (CRRIG) at the School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal invites you to a one day colloquium on the theme of Children at the Heart of Social Justice to take place on Friday 6 December 2019.

The School of Law's expertise in children's rights has been honed over twenty years in its Child Care and Protection LLM and Master's programme and targeted research. The NPRG and CRRIG, comprised of academics from the School of Law, seeks to address critical emergent issues of race, class, gender and disability in post-Apartheid South Africa through research, law and policy reform. We recognise the need for deep engagement with a number of current social justice issues facing children, particularly in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, but also nationally, at the regional level and globally.

In the province of KwaZulu-Natal, the situation of children is precarious. For example, many children live in poverty (in rural and peri-urban parts of the province); refugee and migrant children suffer the effects of xenophobia especially in relation to their schooling and safe living; and children with disabilities struggle to access schooling of adequate quality. Children are often victims of crime, including of sexual abuse, with their vulnerability being exacerbated by inadequate prosecutorial and police interventions, and the insufficient number of designated Sexual Offences Courts. Cyber safety and necessary security interventions are limited and knowledge and information on how better to protect and educate children and their families on the dangers of the cyber world is lacking. Health care challenges mirror those nationally, but are compounded by a high prevalence of poverty, unemployment, HIV/Aids, Tuberculosis, intergenerational sex and teenage pregnancy. Families are struggling to survive economically and the devastating effects of parental mortality and migration means that more and more children are placed in alternative care. The recent efforts and debates on the reform of the Children's Act in relation to adoption and foster care is evidence of the serious need to find practical and sustainable solutions for optimal family and alternative care of children. There is therefore a deep need for legal and empirical research that can assist in policy and law reform formulation on these issues, aside from litigious and advocacy options.

This call for papers is aimed at identifying and promoting some of the interventions, provincially, nationally and regionally by government and civil society. The call for papers (and participation at the conference) is aimed primarily at professionals with a focus on pertinent aspects in child care work in KwaZulu-Natal province: academics, practitioners and civil society (NGOs) in child-related work, social work, education, psychology, criminal and civil justice and other related fields. **Post-graduate students are invited to submit abstracts for poster presentations.**

The organisers invite abstracts for paper presentations to be submitted for consideration to the organising committee. Presenters who wish to have their papers considered for publication in a special edition of the peer-reviewed journal in *Obiter*, a law journal, may submit full papers to the organising committee.

CALL FOR PAPERS (ABSTRACTS) AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

The organising committee invites abstracts for papers on the following themes:

- 1 CHILDREN AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (including child sexual abuse responses and prosecution)
- 2 CHILDREN AND CARE (including family care, kinship care, foster care and adoption)
- 3 CHILDREN AND SOCIAL COHESION (including xenophobia, homophobia, poverty and homelessness)
- 4 CHILDREN AND CYBER SAFETY (including social media, cyber-bullying, sexting, sexual grooming)
- 5 CHILDREN AND HEALTH CARE

Cross-cutting issues on which papers may be submitted are disability, monitoring of children's rights and access to justice (civil or criminal). The organising committee encourages the submission of abstracts on these cross-cutting themes.

The selection panel will consider the proposals and inform selected authors on or by the first week in November

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Prof Ann Strode | Dr Annette Singh | Dr Brigitte Clark | Dr Franaaz Khan
Adv Victoria Balogun | Ms Willene Holness | Ms Meda Couzens

ABSTRACT CRITERIA:

1. Identifying details of the author, with qualifications and designation at institution
2. Title of the paper
3. Identify the theme under which the paper falls
4. 300 words limit
5. **Submission date:** 28 October 2019; email as an attachment to Dr Franaaz Khan at **Email:** sjcolloquium@gmail.com.

POSTER PRESENTATION CRITERIA:

1. One page poster
2. Title reflecting content of the poster
3. Identify the theme under which the paper falls
4. Research problem clearly stated; context and importance of research demonstrated; clear and concise materials and methods identified; results easily and clearly interpreted; conclusions to point, corresponding to problem; and key terms defined
5. Submission date: 28 October 2019; as an email attachment to Dr Franaaz Khan at sjcolloquium@gmail.com.

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