



Law Clinic
kwiKliniki yezomThetho
Regskliniek

SULC Legal Ethics / Ethics in Law Conference

Worldwide Virtual Conference

Hosted by the Stellenbosch University Law Clinic

29 & 30 November 2021

“COVID-19: Ethics Under Pressure”

We live in an increasingly chaotic world. We are well into our second year of a global pandemic. Because of the vaccine grab, impoverished and developing nations have been left scrambling to vaccinate their citizens. What should our normative and practical responses be to those opportunistic or uncaring governments that abuse the trust and authority given to them? All this while we are still under the looming storms of climate change and the refugee crises. Undoubtedly, ethics in law has taken the back seat for the time being. How will this impact us and future generations?

About the conference

The conference will provide an important platform to enable conversation and debate between legal ethicists, academics, professionals, philosophers, and enthusiasts interested in the fields of legal ethics and ethics in law. The conference forms part of the centenary celebrations of the Stellenbosch University Faculty of Law.

Website: <https://www.sulawclinic.co.za/conference>



Conference structure

The conference is scheduled to take place over two days. Two sessions will be hosted in parallel with a facilitator and a number of presenters at each. These sessions are intended to be interactive discussions between the presenters and the online audience. After the presentations, there will be an opportunity for a facilitated Q&A. Online attendees will also be afforded the opportunity to ask questions and/or to make relevant comments.

The conference runs from 14:00 – 20:00 SAST on both days.

Costs

Conference attendance is free.

Critical dates

Registration	Open
Presentation submissions (open).....	Open
Presentation submissions (deadline).....	14 October
Viewing gallery.....	29 November
Conference day 1	29 November
Conference day 2.....	30 November
Feedback portal.....	1 December

Registration process

Registration for the conference is open. Please access the following link to register: <https://www.sulawclinic.co.za/registration>. After completing the required form, an email will be sent with personal login credentials. These login credentials may be used to view and/or submit abstracts on the conference website.

Submissions

Submissions may take the form of a .docx or .mp4 file and may not exceed 500 words or 3 minutes recorded time. The submission portal for proposals **is open**. The deadline for submission of proposals is **14 October 2021**.

Streams

The following streams are example topics and may be subject to change:

1. Ethical Teaching and Teaching Legal Ethics
2. Ethics in Clinical Legal Education (CLE)
 - a. Legal education during a pandemic: do's and don'ts
 - b. The future of CLE: the effect of remote learning on brick-and-mortar law clinics
 - c. Is it justifiable to deny students access to the CLE module if they lack access to online education if this method is the only way to make the resources available?
 - d. Should CLE be allowed to be taken online, considering the practical nature of the module?
3. Ethics in Legal Practice and Procedure
 - a. Professional responsibility of legal practitioners during a pandemic
 - b. Maintaining practitioner/client relationship in the absence of physical contact
 - c. Ethical and privacy concerns regarding virtual hearings
 - d. Is unencrypted email correspondence sufficient for confidential communication?
4. Ethics in Human Rights / Social Justice
 - a. State authoritarianism, the deterioration of democracy, and the attack on the rule of law during lockdown
 - b. Is it ethical to allow vaccines to expire before giving them to younger people because of policy demands?
5. Ethics in Labour Law
 - a. Forced evolution of the employment contract: where do we draw the line regarding rights and responsibilities?
 - b. Is a forced return to work ethical, especially when productivity results do not justify it?
 - c. The ethical implications of requiring employees to be on standby 24/7
 - d. Privacy implications while working from home
 - e. Indirect discrimination resulting from forced work-from-home policies
6. Ethics in Medical Law
 - a. Dismissing nurses who refuse to attend work for fear of being infected: professionally acceptable or ethically abhorrent?
 - b. The ethical quandary of mandatory vaccination
 - c. Withholding or withdrawal of ventilators to secure one life in favour of another

7. Ethics in Immigration law
 - a. Should governments be allowed to turn away immigrants if previously infected with COVID-19 yet are not actively infectious?
 - b. The ethics of the “vaccine passport”
 - c. Refugee law at the time of the pandemic

8. Ethics: A Focus on Africa
 - a. Role of legal ethics on the African continent
 - b. What Africa offers the rest of the world concerning legal ethics

We welcome proposals for any other panels or streams.

A final program will be emailed to all participants prior to the conference date.

Questions

If you have any queries, you are welcome to contact Mr Tsavo Raath by email: traath@sun.ac.za.

About the organisers

Stellenbosch University Law Clinic

The South African legal system can only be effective if it is accessible and credible in the eyes of ordinary citizens. The Law Clinic is ideally situated to extend access to justice to the poor and marginalised. The Law Clinic, located at 18-24 Crozier Street, Stellenbosch, operates as a fully-fledged attorneys’ office, delivering legal services to the poor and marginalised, whilst at the same time training final year law students and candidate attorneys in the practical application of the law. The attorneys and candidate attorneys appear in various litigious forums in the Boland. The Clinic also nurtures a culture of civil responsibility by conducting workshops on evictions, debt relief and family violence. The Clinic also provides backup legal services to the Ceres and Worcester advice offices. Poor and marginalised people are assisted by Clinic staff in a wide variety of civil matters such as evictions, divorce matters, family law, and debt relief, to name but a few. For more information, visit: www.sulawclinic.co.za.

Stellenbosch Law Faculty

The Ou Hoofgebou (Old Main Building) is home to the Stellenbosch Law Faculty. The Faculty, established in 1921, is situated on the corner of Victoria and Ryneveld Streets

in the centre of Stellenbosch. Initially, the Faculty only offered the LLB degree and focused on training and equipping students, not merely as legal practitioners but also as jurists. These days various articulation routes to achieving the LLB are offered. The BAccLLB programme (only provided by the SU Faculty of Law), the LLM and PG Diploma coursework programmes, together with the LLM and LLD programmes, comprise an exciting and excellent programme offering.

The staff of the Faculty of Law is passionate about legal education, research, and social impact. Postdoctoral fellows and extraordinary appointments support the permanent academics and administrative staff. The Faculty is also home to four research chairs and the SU Law Clinic. The Law Clinic transitioned into a fully-fledged Legal Aid Clinic in 1987. Today, it offers practical legal training to law students and provides legal services to indigent persons. The Law Clinic also hosts workshops and provides training relating to relevant matters (e.g., evictions and family violence) to surrounding community members.

The beautiful town of Stellenbosch is the Faculty's hometown. However, Stellenbosch University is part of various international consortia and has an extensive network of collaborators. Active cooperation agreements exist with several leading Faculties of Law, including joint LLM programmes. The Faculty celebrates Stellenbosch University's commitment — rooted in Africa — and its global reach. We are a 21st-century institution that prides itself on a legacy of academic excellence and a vision of developing the next generation of South African leaders who are at the forefront of societal advancement in the service of humanity.