



Summer
University

CENTRAL
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**



CONSTITUTION-BUILDING IN AFRICA JULY 1 – 12, 2019, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

In cooperation with International IDEA, the African Network of
Constitutional Lawyers, and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung



COURSE DIRECTORS

Markus Böckenförde, Department of Legal Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
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FACULTY

Horace S Adjohoun, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Arusha, Tanzania
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Omar Hammady, Advisor to the Office of the Special Envoy of the SG for Syria / UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA)
Babacar Kanté, University Gaston Berger, St. Louis, Senegal, former Vice President of the Constitutional Council, Senegal
Christina Murray, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Senior Adviser on Constitutions and Process Design, UNDPA
Kwasi Prempeh, Executive Director, Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

The two-week research course intends to tackle complex societal, political and legal problems in constitution-building from an interdisciplinary perspective, informed by field experience. We seek to combine different disciplines (mostly comparative law and political science) and perspectives (comparative governmental systems; electoral systems; decentralization; human rights; comparative constitutional law; good governance; etc.) to offer new insights on a classic subject of the highest academic and practical relevance.

The course will address the subject from four different angles, all of them related to specific challenges in Africa. The first one highlights **constitutionalism in Africa in general**, the different roles and meanings of a constitution, the merits and risks of constitutional borrowing, and the role of external / international influence in constitution building. The second angle accounts for the fact that **new constitutions often follow conflict, loaded with the expectation to herald a new era of peace and democracy**, leaving behind authoritarianism, despotism or political upheaval. The third angle of the course addresses **how constitutional designs respond to competing claims**, be they religious, ethnic, linguistic, and how they accommodate different stakeholders, how they tame the executive, introducing instruments of checks and balances and how constitutions aspire to prevent stalemates and promote gender equality. Finally taking in to account the fact that the **management of constitutional change and maintenance of constitutional stability are ongoing problems**, the course will explore the issue of constitutional implementation, review and redemption as part of the constitutional building process.

The course is designed to be a forum for exchange and mutual learning for practitioners of constitutional reform and scholars of constitutional change. In previous years, participants included members of constitutional review commissions, civil servants, judges, civil society activists, officers from UN-missions and the AU and other intergovernmental organizations as well as academics with an interest in law, government, and political science. Our participants and alumni have contributed to an ever growing network of professionals involved in the dynamics of constitution-building in Africa. Many are among the contributors of the recently published volume on 'Public Participation in African Constitutionalism' (Routledge).

Application from all over the world is encouraged. Financial aid is available.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Central European University's summer school (CEU SUN), established in 1996, is a program in English for graduate students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals. It offers high-level, research-oriented, interdisciplinary academic courses as well as workshops on policy issues for professional development, taught by internationally renowned scholars and policy experts (including CEU faculty).

For further academic information on the course and on eligibility criteria and funding options please visit the web site at

<https://summeruniversity.ceu.edu/constitution-2019>

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