


CALL FOR PAPERS

Traditions, Borrowings, Innovations, and Impositions: Law in the Post-Colony and in Empire

Ghana, July, 2015

Host: Faculty of Law, University of Ghana

The Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana, will host the second international conference on **Comparative Commonwealth and British Empire Legal Histories** from July 2-4, 2015.

Wednesday 1 July  (Republic Day)	Optional - Conference tour to Central Accra: Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum; Supreme Court; Arts Centre
Thursday July 2	Conference Sessions at University of Ghana Campus
Friday July 3	Conference Sessions at University of Ghana Campus
Saturday July 4	Conference Sessions at University of Ghana Campus
Sunday July 5	Optional - Conference tour to Cape Coast / Elmina slave trade forts

Faculty of Law

“The Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana is the premier centre for legal education in Ghana and continues to lead the way in preparing students for the legal profession. The Faculty was first established as a department of the Faculty of Social Studies in the 1958/59 academic year and became a full fledged Faculty in the 1960/61 academic year. The Faculty is distinguished by an enviable pedigree. From its inception, it has been a seat of intellectual excellence, a fact borne out by the national and international achievements and stature of its alumni.”

(source: <http://www.ug.edu.gh/index1.php?linkid=478&sublinkid=445>)

The University of Ghana

The University of Ghana was founded in 1948. Further background on the University can be found at the end of this document.

Conference Theme

Traditions, Borrowings, Innovations, & Impositions: Law in the Post-Colony and in Empire.

Patterns of disruption and also networks of innovation, resistance, tradition, and imposition connect places touched by European Empires, including the British Empire from origins to the present. All aspects of law in history, law in society, and law in culture carry traces of this in local expression, as in comparative contexts.

The conference provides an opportunity for the sharing of research and ideas from all perspectives, regions, and periods including:

- research on the constitutional, legal and institutional frameworks of the post-colony and colony;
- the roles of law in social development, cultural transformation, and economic development;
- legal pluralism;
- post-colonial scholarship;
- the internal cultures of law, of the judiciary, the legal profession, and legal education;
- the role of law in oppression or resistance, as tool and as discourse;
- autonomy, migrations, religions, and indigeneity;
- globalization and transnationalism;
- comparative research

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Background:

The need for sustained comparative work on the social and legal history of the countries of the former British Empire has become increasingly apparent to scholars pursuing their own national and post-colonial histories.

A ground-breaking conference held at the **National University of Singapore** from July 5-7, 2012 drew 122 registrants and over 100 paper presentations by scholars in many disciplines and from around the globe. The conference on “Legal Histories of the British Empire” developed the theme of “Law, Spaces, Cultures & Empire: Engagements and Legacies” (see: <http://www.legalhistorieempire.ca/>)

Shaunnagh Dorsett and John McLaren (eds), *Legal Histories of the British Empire: Laws, Engagements and Legacies*, (Routledge, 2014) includes 15 essays by participants at the Singapore conference.



These essays explore aspects of the engagements of laws in diverse parts of the former Empire - the settler colonies, the Arabian Gulf, the Straits Settlements, India, Ghana, the Caribbean. It also includes Dorsett and McLaren’s introductory essay on 'Legal Histories of the British Empire'.
<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415728928/>

A decision to hold a follow-up conference in Africa was made at the conclusion of the Singapore meetings.

Accra, Ghana

Ghana’s capital, Accra, is a vibrant city of between 2 and 3 million. Founded by the Ga people in the 17th Century, it was established as the British colonial capital for the Gold Coast in 1877, and subsequently became the capital of an independent Ghana in 1957.

Ghana

The first sub-Saharan country to gain independence (1957), Ghana has a population of approximately 25,000,000.

<http://www.touringghana.com/facts.asp>

English is Ghana’s official language, though it is not the first language for many people.

Travel information

Accra: “Stretched along the Atlantic Ocean, Ghana's most populous city boasts glittering beaches, monumental buildings, museums, libraries, galleries, traditional markets and lively nightlife. Accra's architecture reflects its colonial history, with 17th Century castles standing alongside modern skyscrapers. A veritable melting pot of cultures, the city's central financial and shopping districts contrast sharply with the less affluent residential areas surrounding the urban core.”
(http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g293797-Accra_Greater_Accra-Vacations.html)

Ghana is considered “a very safe, stable country with relatively low crime levels compared to other West African countries.”

(<http://wikitravel.org/en/Ghana>) Accra is “relatively safe to walk around during the day (and night, in many areas).” Wikitravel.org/en/Accra

Emirates Airlines says: “The capital city of Ghana, Accra is a bustling metropolis best known for its tourist attractions, distinctive architecture and vibrant culture. Bordered by the Gulf of Guinea on the south, this city is blessed with a rare diversity of

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natural landscapes. On a trip to Accra, visitors can trace the history of Ghana in the National Museum, visit the historic Osu Castle, pay homage to one of the most important leaders of Ghana at the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and discover the laid-back charms of Jamestown, a small fishing town in the city. Located on the Atlantic Coast, the Labadi Beach is one of the most popular landmarks of this enigmatic city. On an Accra tour, travellers can enjoy a variety of entertaining performances, dine in style at local restaurants or stay at a waterfront hotel to spend a luxurious vacation. The University of Ghana attracts tourists with its laid-back appeal and a wonderful botanical garden. The Makola Market is one of the best places to shop for an array of items, including textiles, handcrafted stuff and branded goods.”

<http://www.makemytrip.com/international-flights/accra-emirates-airlines-tickets.html>

See also: <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/travel-safety-ghana-africa-36024.html>,

<http://travel.gc.ca/destinations/ghana> ,

<http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/hotspots/travel-page-3-sectionid-1-articleid-2281.html> ,

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/ghana.html>

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/ghana.html>

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Accra>

<http://www.touringghana.com/facts.asp>

Kotoka International Airport, located 5 kilometers from the city centre, is described by <http://wikitravel.org/en/Accra> (January 2014):

Kotoka International Airport (IATA: ACC) [2] is a major hub, with international connections from North America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, along with internal connections ...

and regional connections to virtually every West African country.

Delta Air Lines operates four times weekly flights directly from [New York-JFK](#) and [Atlanta](#).

Arik Air [3] is a very cheap way to reach Accra from various locations in Africa. Air Namibia also connects Accra directly with Johannesburg and Namibia. Emirates also operates in the country and Turkish Airlines begins its flights on 15th July 2010

[air viva](#) offers flights to Accra from Kumasi, Sunyani, Takoradi and Tamale.

British Airways operates a daily service to London Heathrow. **KLM** also operates a daily service to Amsterdam.... **TAP Portugal** has a direct service to Lisbon, **Lufthansa** runs a daily service to and from Frankfurt, and **Alitalia** has regular services to Milan; however, inbound services to Accra stop in Lagos first.

Emirates airlines offers direct service between Accra and Dubai, with connections onward to other destinations served by Emirates and other world airlines.

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Paper and panel proposals due by December 1, 2014

Please direct correspondence regarding paper and panel proposals to: Professor David Williams, dv.williams@auckland.ac.nz

Academic convenors: The conference is convened by members of an emerging network of scholars probing themes in colonial and post-colonial legal history, following the first conference held in Singapore (and hosted by NUS, Faculty of Law) in 2012.

Members of the **Organizing Committee** include:

- **Wes Pue**, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia and School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University: communications, web-page, liaison with local arrangements, overall-co-ordination. Wes.pue@ubc.ca
- **David Williams**, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Auckland – correspondence regarding abstracts and acceptance of papers/ panels. dv.williams@auckland.ac.nz
- **Shaunnagh Dorsett**, Professor, University of Technology, Sydney – programme and scheduling. Shaunnagh.Dorsett@uts.edu.au
- **Edward Kofi Quashigah**, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Ghana kquashigah2001@yahoo.com

Secretariat and local arrangements:

- **Chair:** Dean Quashigah
- Conference Assistants: Mr. Joe Degraft Oppong (jdegrafftoppong@ug.edu.gh) and Ms. Araba Nunoo (anunoo@ug.edu.gh).
- (Conference website to be established by University of Ghana Faculty of Law - including contact information, registrations and local arrangements such as accommodations, local transportation, conference room bookings, audio-visual equipment, receptions, meals, local cultural / legal history / history events).

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Conference Convening Committee:

- Binyamin Blum (Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem) blum@mail.huji.ac.il
- Bridget Brereton (UWI Trinidad) bridget.brereton@sta.uwi.edu
- Lyndsay Campbell (Law, Calgary) lcampbe@ucalgary.ca
- Nandini Chatterjee (History, Exeter) n.chatterjee@exeter.ac.uk
- Shaunnagh Dorsett (UTS, Law) Shaunnagh.Dorsett@uts.edu.au
- Kennedy Gastorn (Law, University of Dar es Salaam) kennedy@udsm.ac.tz
- Bonny Ibhawoh (History, McMaster) ibhawoh@mcmaster.ca
- James Jaffe (History, Wisconsin-Whitewater) jaffe@uww.edu
- Sandy Kedar (Law, Haifa University) sandy@law.haifa.ac.il
- Renisa Mawani (UBC, Sociology) Renisa@mail.ubc.ca
- George Pavlich (Law and Sociology, Alberta) gpavlich@ualberta.ca
- Jothie Rajah (American Bar Foundation) jrajah@abfn.org
- Carol Tan (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) ct9@soas.ac.uk
- Kevin Tan (NUS, Law and Heritage Consultant) kevin@equilibrium.com.sg
- Chris Tomlins (Berkeley) ctomlins@law.uci.edu
- David Williams (Auckland, Law) dv.williams@auckland.ac.nz

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Liaison Community:

- **British Legal History Conference, 2015:**
Catharine MacMillan c.macmillan@reading.ac.uk
- **American Society for Legal History:** Chris Tomlins ctomlins@law.uci.edu
- **Canadian Law and Society Association**
Liaison: Lyndsay Campbell
lcampbe@ucalgary.ca
- **Australia & New Zealand Law and Society Association** Liaison: Deirdre Howard-Wagner, President deirdre.howard-wagner@sydney.edu.au
- **Australia & New Zealand Law and History Association.** Liaisons: David Williams, dv.williams@auckland.ac.nz; Shaunnagh Dorsett, President Shaunnagh.Dorsett@uts.edu.au
- **USA Law and Society Association**
- **Law and Social Sciences Research Network, South Asia.**
- **Law, Literature, and Humanities Association of Australasia** Liaison: Shaun McVeigh, smcveigh@unimelb.edu.au
- **Collaborative Research Networks**
<http://www.lawandsociety.org/crn.html#13> :
 - African Law and Society
 - British Colonial Legalities
 - Colonization and Law
 - East Asian Law and Society
 - Islamic Law and Society
 - Law and History
 - Law and Indigeneity
 - Legal Geography
 - South Asia

Anticipated Registration: 100-150 delegates

Academic Importance/ Constituency: The project emerges from an increasingly intense and sustained comparative engagement with legal history in colonial and post-colonial contexts, that has developed through more or less spontaneous or sporadic engagements via other networks (USA Law and Society, British/ Canadian/ Australian/ New Zealand/ Indian conferences).

Scholarship in this field emerges from many social science and humanities disciplines, though with a centre of gravity somewhere between law and history. The first conference in this field drew 98 Faculty and 24 students from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Eastern Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, North America, Europe, the Middle East, Australia, and New Zealand.

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Conference Arrangements

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Registration fee includes:

- Conference registration
- Morning and afternoon snacks
- Lunch (breakfast is provided by hotels or guest centres)
- Conference banquet

Field Trips

- **Pre-Conference option:** a half-day trip to the centre of Accra: Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, Supreme Court area, and the Arts Centre.
- **Post-Conference option:** Historic slave forts at Cape Coast and Elmina are about 2-3 hours drive from Accra. These are UN designated heritage sites around which the early political and constitutional history of Ghana revolved.

Visas: Participants will need to make their own Visa applications. Introductory/Invitation letters to facilitate processing of visas will be provided by the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana.

Accommodation:

- the University has two Guest Centres
- there are other Hotels within 5 - 10 minutes drive from the University.
- Hotel Information, booking and the rates information to be forwarded.
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Airport Transfers:

- Airport reception and pickup will be arranged on behalf of delegates by the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana;
- Reliable Airport Taxi services are available as well.

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The University of Ghana

The University of Ghana was founded in 1948 as the University College of the Gold Coast on the recommendation of the Asquith Commission, on Higher Education in the then British colonies....

The University College of the Gold Coast was founded by Ordinance on August 11, 1948.... Its first Principal was the late Mr. David Mowbray Balme. Mr. Balme was far-sighted, courageous and dedicated to the promotion of scholarship....

From its inception, the University College of the Gold Coast was admitted to the Scheme of Special Relationship extended by the University of London to certain English and overseas University Colleges. Under this scheme, the University College was allowed to teach for the external degree examinations of London University. It also allowed the College to modify the London syllabuses to suit local conditions and to take part in the setting and marking of examinations. But London University gave final approval to courses and examinations since the degrees given were those of the University of London.

In the 1960-61 academic year, the College Council made a request to the Government of Ghana for legislation to constitute the University College into a University with the power to award its own degrees. The Government appointed an International Commission to examine the problem. On the recommendations of that Commission, the University of Ghana was set up by an Act of Parliament on October 1, 1961 (Act 79). The then President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, became the first Chancellor of the University, with Nana Kobina Nketsia IV, BLitt DPhil (Oxon), Omanhene of Essikado, as the (Interim) Vice Chancellor.

Enrolment and Graduation Statistics

With a current student population of about 29,754 ... the University of Ghana is the oldest and largest of the six public Universities in Ghana....”

(source: <http://www.ug.edu.gh/index1.php?linkid=243&sublinkid=72>)