

Call for Papers

World Comparative Law welcomes submissions
for the forthcoming special issue:

Gendered Constitutionalism in the Global South

Gendered constitutionalism has increasingly attracted scholarly attention in recent years as a vehicle for pursuing gender equality through constitutions, and has been conceptualised in different ways. One approach focusses on specific legal frameworks and design issues regarding the constitutionalisation of women's rights. This perspective is concerned with the language and different forms of equality (such as formal or substantive equality, the relationship between language and rights, or between constitutionalisation and parliamentary legislation with regard to equality). Likewise, works that focus on gendered citizenship or specific questions of constitutional architecture such as federalism, and gender quotas to address the underrepresentation of women in state law making and governance institutions belong to this approach.

A second and broader approach to gendered constitutionalism focuses on the entire or whole constitution and (comparatively) interrogates the nexus between the constitution and women's rights. While some survey a range of different constitutional questions or approaches in different jurisdictions into a feminist constitutional agenda, others try to conceptualise normative frameworks for feminist constitutional deliberation and compare for instance presidential and parliamentary systems with regard to the extent to which they obscure access to leadership for women.

Yet, like other areas of comparative law, gendered constitutionalism, too, is faced with complex methodological challenges. There are epistemological questions surrounding Eurocentric notions of concepts such as gender, equality, citizenship, and governance. Especially in the Global South the question of gender – and the question in how far the legal systems of the Global South might mirror a distinct experience of gendered constitutionalism - is still under-theorised, possibly because Global South Constitutionalism is concerned with questions of equality generally, within which gender is presumably subsumed.

This special issue asks in how far gendered constitutionalism in the Global South might be theorised distinctly from existing studies of feminist comparative constitutionalism. We are particularly keen on conceptions of gendered constitutionalism in the Global South that focus on constitution drafting and design, access to constitutional justice (constitutional litigation), and effective judicial remedies. We welcome contributions that focus beyond mainstream (Western) feminist constitutionalism and interrogate fields such as legal pluralism, indigenous women, clashes between (mainstream) feminism and

sexual minority rights, clashes between elite and grassroots women's concerns, or gender and the environment, among other things. Likewise, some questions to think about are questions of citizenship and gender in the Global South, a gendered constitutionalism beyond the nation state, or legal pluralism in postcolonial contexts. We welcome in particular perspectives from the South Asian, South East Asian, Latin American, and African contexts.

Please submit your abstracts of 750 words to Dr. Martha Gayoye on m.m.gayoye@keele.ac.uk, together with a two-page CV by October 30 2021.

The timeline for the Special Issue is as follows:

1. October 30 2021: Submission of abstracts
2. November 15 2021: Decision on abstracts
3. February 15 2022: Deadline for submission of papers (8,000 words inclusive of footnotes), internal review and selection of papers for peer review
4. May 15 2022: External review, decisions on single papers and feedback to authors
5. August 15 2022: Revisions (substantive, editorial and proofreading)
6. September 15 2022: Submission of final manuscripts to WCL's editor-in-chief

We would be more than happy to discuss our idea for this special issue and your possible contribution further with you, so please do not hesitate to contact us.