

ORGANISATION

Dr. João Figueiredo
Käte Hamburger Kolleg Münster
Email: de.castro.maia@gmail.com

Dr. Mariana Armond Dias Paes
Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory
Email: diaspaes@lhlt.mpg.de

VENUE

Käte Hamburger Kolleg (Iduna Building)
Room 7011
Servatiiplatz 9
48143 Münster/Germany

REGISTRATION

<https://go.wwu.de/wqtk1>



KÄTE HAMBURGER KOLLEG

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg “Einheit und Vielfalt im Recht | Legal Unity and Pluralism” (EViR) at the University of Münster (WWU) has been funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) since 2021. Fellows from all over the world, together with scholars from Münster, examine the dynamic tension between legal unity and pluralism from antiquity to the present. This is the first attempt to systematically investigate the phenomenon in its entire historical depth and across disciplinary boundaries. In addition to (legal) history, many other disciplines such as ethnology and sociology, as well as literature and religious studies, are involved in the Kolleg.

CONTACT

Käte Hamburger Kolleg
„Einheit und Vielfalt im Recht |
Legal Unity und Pluralism“
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Servatiiplatz 9
48143 Münster

Tel.: +49 251 83-25085
Email: info.evir@uni-muenster.de

[@EViR_Muenster](https://twitter.com/EViR_Muenster)
www.evir-muenster.de

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Image: National Archive - Torre do Tombo, photograph archive of the SNI (SNI/ARQF/PN-001/259), document 18.

INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP
25–26 MAY 2023

**COURT CASES
IN AFRICAN ARCHIVES**

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KÄTE HAMBURGER KOLLEG MÜNSTER
EINHEIT & VIELFALT
IM RECHT
LEGAL UNITY & PLURALISM

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 25 May 2023

14.00 | Welcome and Introduction

14.30 | Section 1

Mariana Armond Dias Paes (Frankfurt am Main)

Court Cases and Legal Pluralism in Portuguese Colonial Africa

Luíz Cabral de Oliveira (Lisbon)

Law in Books vs Law in Action: Félix Correia de Araújo, a Remarkable Angolan Judge in the Late 18th Century

16.00 | Coffee Break

16.30 | Section 2

João Figueiredo (Münster)

The Records of “Trials of Gentilic Cases” in the National Archive of Angola (AHA)

Cristina Nogueira da Silva (Lisbon)

Colonial Justice in Mozambique (1915-1954): Preserving and Changing Indigenous Customary Law

18.30 | Dinner

Friday, 26 May 2023

10.30 | **Keynote**

Benedetta Rossi (London)

Rethinking the Abolition of Slavery in Africa’s Legal History

12.00 | Lunch in the Kolleg

13.00 | Section 3

Esteban Salas (London)

Freedom and Portuguese Legal Anxieties in Benguela at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century

Matheus Pereira (Lisbon)

Legal Processes of Assimilation from below: African Experiences in Mozambique during Portuguese Colonial Exploitation (c. 1900-1960)

14.40 | Coffee Break

15.00 | Section 4

Fernanda Thomaz (Juiz de Fora, Brazil)

Power, Discourse and Matrimonial Conflicts in the Production of Court Cases in Northern Mozambique (1930-1950)

Sophie Kotanyi (Berlin)

Contemporary Audio-Visual Archive of Palaver and Treating a Case of Involuntary Kindoki ‘Witchcraft’ by Neutralizing it

16.30 | Final Remarks

17.00 | Farewell and Outlook

CONCEPT

Africa is usually absent from Global Legal History debates. Working on local archives, with locally produced sources such as court cases, can be a method to overcome this blind spot. Court cases are very privileged historical sources since they show the actual engagement of the local population in disputing the concrete meanings of legal norms and legal categories. They also allow us to understand better the interaction of different normative systems that shaped law and the resolution of conflicts in colonial societies. Court cases abound in Lusophone Africa archives. However, despite the richness of their collections, the documents are often unorganized and unidentified, making it very difficult for the academic community to use them. This workshop addresses the methodological challenges and historiographical opportunities of working with processes held in African archives.

Front image:

„O «ministro da justiça» personagem que a ideativa do povo são-tomense introduziu no auto“, National Archive - Torre do Tombo, photograph archive of the SNI (SNI/ARQF/PN-001/259), document 18.