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PROCEEDINGS

GARI OXFORD

MULTIDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM

On 07th – 08th November 2026 | in Oxford, UK



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PORTUGAL | SRI LANKA

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GARI OXFORD MULTIDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM

On 07th – 08th November 2026
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COLLABORATION with CSSR

Centre for Socio-economic & Sustainability Research,

New Delhi, India



ACADEMIC PARTNER

Lincoln Institute of Graduate Studies,

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The Global Academic Research Institute (GARI) is an international scientific research conference organized in collaboration with international universities and institutions. GARI has brought together leading academic and industry experts from the global community who process diverse experiences and expertise in various scholarly or scientific disciplines. We established 2010 as an independent service provider then wider range of experience GARI became a powerful arm of scientific research conference organizer in the industry.

PREFACE

Global Academic Research Institute, Portugal and Sri Lanka, Centre for Socio-economic & Sustainability Research, India and Academic Partner - Lincoln Institute of Graduate Studies are proud to present the "GARI OXFORD MULTIDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM 2026", which is a series of successful research symposiums. The Inaugural Session and technical sessions were conducted on 07th – 08th November 2026 in Oxford, UK. The conference covered various disciplines and accepted empirical, conceptual, and methodological papers from academics, practitioners, and public policymakers, with particular emphasis on maintaining high academic standards. To maintain consistency, authors were required to follow the academic writing format of the GARI Publishers. The review process was transparent, with papers undergoing double-blind review by eminent subject specialists in their respective fields. Thus, refereed full papers selected to be presented at the conference were published here. We do not assume any responsibility for any errors or omissions in the research papers, which rest solely with the authors.

The organizing committee, special appreciation to the Keynote Speaker Keynote - Professor Roberto Acevedo: Facultad de Ingeniería, Universidad San Sebastián, Chile | Invited speech - Dr Jagbir Singh Kadyan: Co-founder & Associate Director, Centre for Socio-economic and Sustainability Research, India | Invited speech - Dr. Manuel Vong: Director of the Doctoral Programme, Dili Institute of Technology and DIT International Liaison, East-Timor., Sampath Abeywickrama (Global Academic Research Institute, Portugal.

An GARI International Partners with Fundacja pamięci Rosy Bailly – Poland, Jagadguru Kripalu University - India, Department of Community Medicine, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute - India, International Federation for Fitness Health, Physical Education & Iron Games - Saudi Arabia, Australasian Institute of Ayurvedic Studies - Australia, Kathmandu School of Law – Nepal, Noble School of Business, India and Centre for Socio-economic & Sustainability Research, India. Journal Partner as GARI Publishers and GARI International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, all other GARI affiliated academic partners, Further the support given by GARI Tours as Travel partner, Official Creative Partner Sameera Artco & MICE official Partner Sri Lanka Convention Bureau. The conference committee expresses deep gratitude to the panel of reviewers for the priceless service rendered. Finally, the committee extends sincere thanks to the presenters and participants for their valuable contribution and active participation.

Conference Committee
GARI OMS 2026

Centre for Socio-economic & Sustainability Research (CSSR)

The Centre for Socio-economic & Sustainability Research (CSSR) is a research and knowledge-driven organisation dedicated to generating rigorous, evidence-based insights on socio-economic and sustainability challenges. CSSR focuses on translating research into actionable solutions that support inclusive growth, sustainable development, and positive social impact, with strong alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CSSR is a registered trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, Government of India, and is also registered on the NGO-DARPAN portal of the Government of India. Its governance includes a Board of Trustees and an Advisory Board comprising experts from academia, industry, civil society, and public policy.

Our Core Areas

- Research & Impact Studies
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- CSR & NGO Consultancy
- Capacity Building & Training
- Academic & Knowledge Dissemination
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Membership & Global Academic Network

CSSR provides membership opportunities for academics, researchers, practitioners, NGOs, CSR/ESG professionals, institutions, and development organisations. Members can participate in seminars, conferences, training programmes, research collaborations, publications, networking activities, and other academic and professional initiatives. Institutional membership also provides opportunities for collaborative projects and co-branding at CSSR events.



Lincoln Institute of Graduate Studies

The Lincoln Institute of Graduate Studies in Sri Lanka is located in the capital city of Colombo. The state of the art facility is dedicated towards providing global opportunities to aspiring seekers from all regions of the country and overseas. Lincoln Institute of Graduate Studies (LIGS) is committed to offering life-changing educational opportunities that enable people to realize their greatest potential and contribute significantly to society. It was founded with a dedication to academic achievement, diversity, and creativity. It provides a variety of programs and activities that are intended to satisfy the changing demands of communities, businesses, and students. Lincoln Institute of Graduate Studies offers undergraduate and postgraduate study options affiliated to the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Social Science, Faculty of Allied Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, and Faculty of Management and Technology Studies. Our goal is to foster an environment of learning, exploration, and service that equips students to become engaged global citizens and leaders in their fields of study. We work to establish a supportive, motivating, and empowering atmosphere where each person feels inspired and enabled to achieve their academic and professional goals, guided by our fundamental values of honesty, diversity, and excellence.

Our Vision

To inspire, empower, and equip individuals to drive positive change within their communities and the world through innovative education and engagement.

Our Mission

To foster academic excellence, ethical leadership and global citizenship through dynamic learning and engagement.



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Our Association aims to devote itself to the fields of art, architecture, urban planning to defend visual ecology and the harmony of colors in the environment. The different fields and domains concerned, the theoretical and methodological development as well as the practical bases of environmental projects, are at the center of the professional interest of the activities of the Association CEC Couleur-Espace-Culture.

Jagadguru Kripalu University - India

Jagadguru Shree Kripaluji Maharaj envisioned a university that not only provides quality education but also aims at all-round personality development of the students, turning them into leaders in their chosen fields. The faculty at JKU are experts in their respective fields, with an intense desire to teach and guide the students to success. Regular interactions with industry leaders and opportunities to be part of various conferences and seminars broaden the students' horizons.

Kathmandu School of Law – Nepal

Kathmandu School of Law, established in 2000 AD as an affiliate of Purbanchal University, is a community-based, non-profit academic institution that upholds its unrestrained commitment for a pragmatic, research-based and community responsive legal education in the

country. It was conceptualized within the ambit of non-profit movement dedicated to serve the need of an academically sound and functionally feasible legal education in Nepal.

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The Australasian Institute of Ayurvedic Studies is synonymous with quality and authentic education in Ayurveda. The Institute was founded in 1999 in Auckland, New Zealand and is proud to be the only training Institute in Australasia offering recognized Ayurvedic qualifications in both Australia and New Zealand.

Fundacja pamięci Rosy Bailly – Poland



Since 2016, the Rosa Bailly Memorial Foundation has worked to promote equal rights, support people experiencing social exclusion, and advance human rights.

Noble School of Business - India

Noble Institution will be a learning community that is focused on developing youngsters who will become leaders in an era of global competitiveness and technological advancements.

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Invited Speech - Dr. Manuel Vong

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTITUTIONALISM IN AFRICA: LEGAL FOUNDATIONS FOR GREEN TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

Environmental constitutionalism has emerged as a central paradigm for shaping governance frameworks that address ecological crises and embed sustainability within legal systems. Across Africa, constitutional provisions increasingly recognise environmental rights, intergenerational equity, and sustainable development as enforceable legal norms. This article examines the evolution, scope, and transformative potential of environmental constitutionalism in Africa, showing how constitutional design, judicial interpretation, and statutory frameworks collectively build a legal architecture for green transformation. It analyses the interplay between human rights law, environmental governance, and development imperatives, with a particular focus on South Africa and comparative African jurisprudence. The article argues that environmental constitutionalism in Africa is not merely declaratory; it is a transformative legal project that can restructure governance systems toward sustainability, equity, and resilience.

Keywords: Environmental constitutionalism, Africa, sustainable development, environmental rights, transformative constitutionalism, climate justice

THE GREEN STATE: RETHINKING GOVERNANCE LEGITIMACY THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

A Moloi, TL Mabusela, B Makena, E Sibiya, C Tutu, K Ntsana, O Khanye and O Madihlaba

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ABSTRACT

Environmental degradation and climate change challenge accounts of state legitimacy centred on constitutional authority, democratic participation and economic performance. This article asks whether a state can govern legitimately when its institutions fail to protect the ecological conditions on which rights and public welfare depend. Drawing on ecological constitutionalism, political ecology and scholarship on the Green State, it develops a legal and governance framework for examining sustainability as a condition of legitimate rule. The article uses a conceptual and comparative analysis of environmental rights, administrative duties, judicial oversight and regional cooperation, with particular attention to the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The analysis argues that environmental commitments strengthen legitimacy when translated into enforceable duties, meaningful public participation, accountable decisions, and remedies for ecological harm. It also shows why approaches developed chiefly from Global North experience require attention to Southern Africa's inequalities, development needs and cross-border environmental risks. The article advances the Green State as a model in which ecological stewardship forms part of constitutional and administrative responsibility. It concludes that sustainability should be assessed through the institutions and decisions that give environmental protection practical effect, rather than through policy commitments alone.

Keywords: Green State, environmental governance, governance legitimacy

US IMPORTS FROM CHINA ACROSS TWO TARIFF EPISODES: DECOUPLING, SUBSTITUTION, AND CONCENTRATION

Jiaqi Gong

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ABSTRACT

This paper uses bilateral import data for 2016–2019 and 2023–2025 to compare how US import sourcing adjusts under two US–China tariff episodes. Decoupling appears in both windows: imports from China grow much more slowly than imports from other partners, and the estimated relative growth gaps are similar in magnitude. China's import share falls from 24.3 to 20.3 percent in the first episode and from 16.1 to 12.6 percent in the second. Tariff-hit products do not experience systematically slower total import growth. Differences lie mainly in substitution. Concentration falls significantly among large China-exit products in the first episode; in the second, the concentration change is insignificant, but the share of products in which a single non-China partner covers at least 75 percent of China's lost share is higher (about 38 percent in the first episode versus 57 percent in the second). Whether decoupling occurs is similar across episodes; how substitution takes place is not.

Keywords: trade war, import diversion, global supply chain

THE PLURAL SELF: FROM SOCIAL ROLES AND INNER VOICES TO INTERACTING PARTS AND POSSIBLE FUTURES

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ABSTRACT

Contemporary social life increasingly requires individuals to navigate multiple and sometimes conflicting identities, roles, relationships, and expectations. This paper examines how such social plurality is represented within psychological theories of the Self and considers whether personality may be more productively understood as a dynamic system of interacting parts, voices, states, and positions rather than as a single, unified entity. The paper develops a theoretical and genealogical analysis connecting several traditions that have often remained separate: William James's multiple and social selves; George Herbert Mead's distinction between the "I" and the "Me"; Mikhail Bakhtin's concepts of dialogism and polyphony; Hazel Markus and Paula Nurius's theory of possible selves; Kenneth Gergen's social constructionist account of the saturated Self; and Hubert Hermans's Dialogical Self Theory. These perspectives are considered alongside contemporary therapeutic approaches including subpersonalities, Ego State Therapy, Schema Therapy, Voice Dialogue, and Internal Family Systems. The paper proposes that personality parts can be understood as psychological positions emerging through the internalization of social roles, interpersonal relationships, cultural expectations, memories, affective experiences, and imagined futures. From this perspective, psychological plurality is not necessarily synonymous with fragmentation or pathology. Different parts may represent competing possible selves and alternative orientations toward the future. The paper therefore proposes a conceptual bridge between the psychology of personality and broader questions of social change: how social transformations become internal psychological processes, how collective identities are incorporated into individual Selfhood, and how individuals negotiate competing possible futures within themselves.

Keywords: plural self; social identity; possible selves

FROM SMART MOBILITY TO JUST MOBILITY: RECONCEPTUALISING THE ROLE OF LAW, POLICY, TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNANCE AS AN INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION ARCHITECTURE FOR AN EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, COMMERCIALLY VIABLE AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIVE MOBILITY SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

The rapid emergence of smart mobility technologies has fundamentally altered transport governance worldwide. While the dominant discourse has largely focused on technological innovation, automation, digital connectivity, and intelligent transport systems, comparatively little scholarly attention has addressed the constitutional, legal, and governance implications of mobility transformation in deeply unequal societies. This article argues that the prevailing smart mobility paradigm remains technologically deterministic because it measures progress primarily through efficiency, automation, and digital optimisation, while paying insufficient attention to constitutional justice, social equity, transformation, commercial sustainability, and democratic accountability. Using South Africa as a case study, the article develops a new theoretical paradigm, termed Just Mobility, which reconceptualises mobility as an integrated governance ecosystem in which law, policy, technology, and institutional governance operate collectively to achieve constitutional development. The article employs a doctrinal legal methodology, supported by comparative constitutional analysis, policy analysis, and governance theory, to examine South African legislation alongside selected international jurisdictions. It argues that mobility should be understood as a constitutional public good that advances dignity, equality, freedom, environmental sustainability and economic participation rather than merely facilitating physical movement. Building on these insights, the article introduces the Just Mobility Governance Architecture (JMGA), an original governance framework that integrates constitutional legality, technological innovation, sustainability, transformation, commercial viability, and social responsiveness into a coherent institutional model for future mobility governance. The article concludes that South Africa's transition from smart mobility to just mobility requires a fundamental shift from technology-centred regulation to governance-centred constitutional transformation, thereby providing a model that can inform transport reform across Africa and other emerging constitutional democracies.

Keywords: Just Mobility; Smart Mobility; Rule of Law; Sustainable Development; Transport Governance; Constitutionalism; Administrative Justice; Artificial Intelligence; Ubuntu; Transformation

PEACE PROCESSES WITH NON-POLITICAL ARMED GROUPS IN COLOMBIA: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THEIR SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT

Colombia has been mired in an armed conflict lasting over six decades. Despite multiple attempts to reach a negotiated political solution through peace processes characterized by fragmentation (separate negotiations with each armed group) and a staggered timeline (Pizarro, 2017) a comprehensive peace agreement involving all parties to the conflict has not been achieved. This trajectory has given rise to a wide variety of negotiation experiences, with institutional designs, legal foundations, and outcomes that differ substantially depending on the nature of the actors involved. Peace processes have been pursued with both armed groups to which the State granted political status and those denied such recognition. The first category includes organizations such as the 19th of April Movement (M-19), the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (FARC-EP), and the National Liberation Army (ELN); their political recognition stemmed from the interpretation of their actions as aimed at transforming the political, economic, and social order, rather than solely at securing benefits from illicit activities (Ramelli, 2000). In contrast, organizations such as the Popular Militias of Medellín (MPM), the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), or, more recently, the Gaitanist Army of Colombia (EGC), have been characterized predominantly as organized crime structures whose rationale and motivation are linked to territorial control and the extraction of illicit rents, rather than the seizure of political power (Lessing, 2020; Trejos et al., 2026). A peace process is defined as "an effort to reach an agreement that puts an end to violence, as well as to implement it, through negotiations that may require third-party mediation" (Fisas, 2010, p. 13). This definition encompasses the processes undertaken with criminal armed groups initiatives that are not new and for which academic literature documents precedents such as the 1995 agreement with the Bloods and Crips in Belize; the 2007 agreements in Ecuador with the Latin Kings, Ñetas, and Masters of the Street; and the 2012 agreements in El Salvador with MS-13 and Barrio 18 (Cruz, 2019). Similar experiences exist not only in Latin America but also in Africa and the United States (Durán, 2022). In Colombia, peace processes with non-political armed groups have taken place since the early 1990s; these include the Medellín Cartel's submission to justice (1990–1991), the agreement with the MPM (1994), the demobilization of the AUC (2003–2006), and, more recently, the socio-legal dialogue initiatives promoted under the "Total Peace" policy with various organized crime structures, such as the Autodefensas Conquistadoras de la Sierra Nevada (ACSN) and La Oficina (Fundación Paz y Reconciliación, 2025a). These experiences demonstrate that negotiating with armed organizations whose primary motivation is not political

is a far more widespread practice than is commonly acknowledged, both in Colombia and in other international contexts.

Nevertheless, academic scholarship on these processes is markedly unbalanced. The bulk of research has focused on negotiations with organizations possessing political recognition such as the talks held with the FARC-EP between 2012 and 2016, which have been extensively documented from legal, political, historical, and peacebuilding perspectives. In contrast, processes involving armed groups lacking political recognition have received considerably less attention, despite representing significant case studies for understanding the evolution of state strategies in the face of organized violence. This disparity is evident even in the country's major published collections of documents on peace processes. While the Open Library of the Peace Process devotes eleven volumes to the FARC-EP process, the Peace Library covers processes involving non-political organizations specifically the MPM and the AUC in only two of its nine volumes. This imbalance has hindered the development of an integrated understanding of how these processes have evolved. The available academic literature is fragmented across case studies, legal-normative analyses, research on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), public policy evaluations, and studies focused on specific armed groups; there is no critical synthesis that identifies continuities, ruptures, institutional transformations, outcomes, and accumulated lessons. Consequently, a knowledge gap exists regarding the evolution of state intervention models, their key achievements and limitations, the structural factors explaining the repeated failure of processes involving such organizations, and above all how all these elements can be integrated into a comprehensive interpretation of their sustainability.

Against this backdrop, this article aimed to analyze through a systematic review the evolution of peace processes with non-political armed groups in Colombia, identifying institutional models of state intervention and the structural obstacles affecting their sustainability, while proposing an interpretive framework derived from a comparative synthesis of academic literature. The research followed the PRISMA 2020 guidelines, included the Dialnet, EBSCO, Redalyc, Scielo, Scopus, and WPSA databases, and analyzed a corpus of 28 documents using interpretive-comparative document analysis. The selection process followed the four stages proposed by PRISMA 2020: identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion. Initially, 201 records were identified. Subsequently, 14 duplicate documents were removed, yielding 187 references for the screening process, which involved reviewing titles, abstracts, and introductions. During this phase, 143 publications were excluded for failing to meet the pre-established inclusion criteria. Afterward, 16 documents were discarded because the full text could not be accessed. Consequently, the final corpus consisted of 28 publications, which formed the basis of the analysis conducted in this study, ensuring methodological transparency and the traceability of all decisions made throughout the review process.

The collected information underwent an interpretive-comparative documentary analysis aimed at identifying continuities, shifts, ruptures, similarities, and differences among the included studies. This process enabled the reconstruction of the evolution of peace processes involving non-political armed groups, the identification of institutional patterns, and the synthesis of key findings reported in the literature. Finally, the systematic comparison of the evidence facilitated a thematic coding process, from which three

institutional models of state intervention and five recurring structural obstacles emerged. These categories were not predefined; rather, they are analytical constructs derived from the comparative synthesis of the documentary corpus, serving as the basis for the discussion and the interpretive framework proposed in this study. The results identified three institutional intervention models: exceptional judicial submission, institutional reintegration, and differentiated socio-legal dialogue; and five structural obstacles: the persistence of illicit economies, territorial control, the reconfiguration of criminal organizations, institutional weaknesses, and legal-political tensions. The study's primary contribution is a proposed interpretive framework explaining the sustainability of these processes based on the interplay between the effective dismantling of criminal organizations, the transformation of illicit economies, and the consolidation of a comprehensive, permanent state presence in affected territories. The study offers conceptual tools for future research on organized violence, peacebuilding, transitional justice, and public policies aimed at developing peace processes with non-political armed organizations.

Keywords: armed conflict, conflict research, non-political armed groups, organized crime, peace process

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TARIFFS, RULES OF ORIGIN, AND AUTOMOTIVE SOURCING: A VEHICLE-LEVEL STYLIZED CALIBRATED SIMULATION

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China

ABSTRACT

In 2025 the United States imposed a 25 percent additional tariff on imported automobiles. Vehicles that qualify for preferential treatment under the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) may, once approved, be taxed only on non-U.S. content. Together with the 75 percent North American regional value content (RVC) threshold, this arrangement requires automakers to trade off tariff savings from compliance against the cost of raising North American sourcing. This paper develops a vehicle-level cost-minimization model: it first uses a parameter simulation to identify how the tariff rate and the compliance threshold shape firms' optimal sourcing choices, and then conducts a calibrated simulation with parts-content and retail-price data for 91 model-year 2026 vehicles together with external compliance-cost information. Under the baseline scenario (a 25 percent tariff and a 75 percent threshold), every sample vehicle raises North American content. The average optimal content is about 93.3 percent, and the average incremental cost is about $3,559. Raising the tariff from 15 percent to 25 percent deepens regional sourcing; raising the threshold from 75 percent to 82 percent leads more vehicles to stop at the minimum compliant content. In the model, taxing the full vehicle below the threshold, and only remaining content above it, creates a strong incentive to cross the threshold. How far firms then adjust depends on the tariff rate, initial content, and adjustment costs.

Keywords: Rules of origin, automotive sourcing, Supply-chain adjustment

RESHAPING SOUTHERN AFRICA: POST-MUGABE ZIMBABWEAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH YOUTH EMPOWERMENT (A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH BOTSWANA AND SOUTH AFRICA)

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USA

ABSTRACT

In the wake of Zimbabwe's four 20th century historical phases—British Colonial Rule, 1965 white minority rule of Rhodesia, 1980 Zimbabwean independence seeking black majority rule, and Mugabe's aggressive 2000 Fast Track Land Reform Program, which plunged the nation into economic crisis—Zimbabwe in 2026 distinctly lags neighbors Botswana and South Africa in poverty alleviation, with Zimbabwean youth (age 15-25) unemployment over 30%. Notably, Botswana's poverty rate—as measured by % of people living under $3/day in earnings—stands at 21.37% and South Africa's at 17.44%, as compared to Zimbabwe's 49.2% (2021 PPP).1 This analysis argues for proposed solutions for Zimbabwe drawn from successful programs in Botswana and South Africa: (1) Stabilizing the independent currency to support the nation's population and international investment, (2) strengthening youth economic mobility through government-assisted programs fostering market-relevant skills, and (3) reinforcing existing agricultural and technological industries to cultivate economic development. A uniting theme is that a more prosperous Zimbabwe lies in youth empowerment—through mentorship, entrepreneurial programs—to reduce talent migration away from Zimbabwe, mimicking similar programs in Botswana and South Africa. Through comparative research, local primary source interviews, and discussions with senior commercial investors in Africa, this analysis sets forth ways in which similar measures can be introduced or enhanced in Zimbabwe.

GREEN GOVERNANCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: THE RULE OF LAW AS A CATALYST FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

The accelerating ecological crisis, coupled with deep structural inequalities across the Global South, has fundamentally reshaped the discourse on governance, legality, and sustainability. This article argues that, when reconceptualised beyond its formalist and procedural dimensions, the rule of law can serve as a catalytic force for sustainable transformation in developing contexts. Rather than viewing environmental governance as a technocratic or policy-driven exercise, the paper situates it within a broader legal-institutional framework that emphasises accountability, legitimacy, participation, and enforceability. It interrogates the extent to which existing governance regimes in the Global South have internalised sustainability as a legal obligation rather than a discretionary policy objective. Drawing on comparative experiences from Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia, the article explores how constitutionalism, judicial activism, administrative law, and regulatory frameworks have evolved to embed environmental considerations within governance systems. It highlights the transformative potential of courts, legislatures, and regulatory institutions in advancing sustainability objectives, particularly where political will is weak or fragmented. At the same time, the paper critically examines the limitations of legal frameworks in contexts characterised by institutional fragility, corruption, capacity constraints, and competing developmental priorities. The article further interrogates the relationship between global environmental norms and domestic legal systems, assessing how international law, soft law instruments, and transnational governance networks influence national sustainability trajectories. It argues that the localisation of global sustainability norms through the rule of law is essential to achieving meaningful, context-sensitive outcomes in the Global South. Ultimately, the paper proposes a normative and operational framework for "green governance," defined as a legally anchored system of governance that integrates environmental sustainability into the core functioning of state institutions. By positioning the rule of law as both a constraint and an enabler of governance, the article contributes to ongoing debates on sustainable development, environmental justice, and institutional transformation. It concludes that without a robust legal foundation, sustainability efforts in the Global South will remain fragmented, vulnerable to political shifts, and unable to deliver long-term ecological and social resilience.

Keywords: Green governance, rule of law, Global South, South Africa, SADC, sustainability, environmental justice, legal pluralism

THE RULE OF LAW AS THE OPERATING SYSTEM OF THE GREEN STATE: TOWARDS A CONSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR ECOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE STATE TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

The intensification of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and environmental inequality demonstrates that environmental legislation and sustainability policies alone are insufficient for effective ecological governance. This article contends that the principal challenge facing the emergence of the Green State is the lack of an integrated constitutional architecture that can translate environmental commitments into coordinated, accountable, and enforceable state action. The Rule of Law serves as the Green State's operating system, integrating legality, constitutional supremacy, institutional coordination, administrative accountability, public participation, judicial review, monitoring, and long-term ecological responsibility. The article employs qualitative doctrinal legal research, conceptual jurisprudential analysis, and functional comparative legal analysis. It comparatively examines South Africa, Kenya, India, Colombia, Ecuador, New Zealand, and selected European developments to identify diverse approaches to environmental constitutionalism, ecological rights, judicial enforcement, and institutional accountability. The article introduces the Green State Operating System Framework and the concept of Ecological Rule of Law Operating Capacity as theoretical contributions. The findings indicate that constitutional environmental rights and sustainability commitments alone cannot establish a Green State without institutions capable of implementation, coordination, monitoring, enforcement, and correction. The article concludes that the Rule of Law must evolve beyond its conventional function of restraining arbitrary public power to serve as the constitutional infrastructure through which ecological responsibility is organised, implemented, and sustained. The theoretical frameworks developed herein offer guidance for policymakers and legal reformers seeking to strengthen environmental governance. By clarifying how constitutional architecture can be designed to ensure coordination, accountability, and effective enforcement, the Green State Operating System Framework and ERLOC provide concrete tools to inform environmental policy and institutional reforms. Beyond theoretical contributions, the article briefly highlights several specific policy actions and reforms for consideration. These include establishing independent oversight bodies with clear mandates for environmental monitoring and enforcement, ensuring robust public participation mechanisms in environmental decision-making, mandating transparent access to environmental information through publicly accessible data portals, integrating sustainability criteria into public budgeting and procurement processes, creating inter-ministerial coordination councils for climate policy, and providing for regular judicial or administrative review of implementation outcomes. These actions illustrate how the proposed frameworks may be operationalised to deliver more effective ecological governance.

Keywords: Rule of Law; Green State; environmental constitutionalism; ecological governance; sustainable development; institutional accountability; ecological state capacity

CAN DIALOGUE HEAL A CAMPUS? INSIGHTS FROM SUSTAINED DIALOGUE PRACTICES AT HAWASSA AND MEKELLE UNIVERSITIES, ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

Universities in Ethiopia have frequently faced conflict and unrest driven by ethnic, religious, and political tensions, undermining social cohesion and campus safety. This study examines the role of Sustained Dialogue (SD) in promoting peace, inclusion, and constructive intergroup relations at Hawassa University and Mekelle University. Using a mixed-methods comparative endline assessment, the research integrated structured surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), building on baseline data from the same student cohorts. A total of 212 participants, including students, moderators, and university staff, contributed to the study. The findings show that the SD intervention improved perceptions of ethnic and religious identity, enhanced respect for diversity, and reduced perceived discrimination. Trust and mutual understanding across different groups increased, intergroup interactions became more cooperative and emotionally comfortable, and dialogue was increasingly recognized as a legitimate mechanism for addressing divisive issues. Confidence in institutional conflict management structures strengthened, particularly at Hawassa University, while experiences of violence and harassment decreased modestly and perceptions of safety improved. Psychosocial resilience and well-being also benefited, with students demonstrating better stress management and empathy. The study highlights SD, combined with trauma-informed approaches, as an effective strategy for fostering inclusive, cooperative, and peaceful campus environments and provides evidence-based lessons for universities in conflict-affected contexts aiming to translate dialogue into action.

Key terms:Sustained Dialogue, Campus Conflict Resolution, Social Cohesion Peacebuilding in Higher Education, Ethnic and Religious Diversity

CREATIVE AI FOR SUSTAINABLE EVENT DESIGN: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR INNOVATION IN THE MICE INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

Sensory-inclusive event neurodiverse participants. Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) is increasingly reshaping organisational innovation and decision-making, yet its systematic application to sustainable and inclusive event design remains concept for The case demonstrates how GAI can support creativity and sustainability across individual, operational, professional, and transformational levels, underexplored. This study addresses this gap in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry, where fragmented stakeholders, spatial constraints, and growing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) expectations create complex challenges for sustainable event development. The study proposes a Creative AI Design Strategy Framework (CAiDSF) that integrates GAI, design thinking, creativity theory, and ESG principles to support responsible innovation in event design and planning. including AI assisted ideation, resource optimisation, material lifecycle analysis, personalised attendee experiences, adaptive sensory environments, and sustainability reporting. The findings indicate that GAI can function not only as a productivity technology but also as a creative and strategic enabler of inclusive, sustainable innovation. The study contributes a practice-oriented framework for integrating AI capabilities with ESG objectives in the evolving MICE ecosystem. Central to the framework is the creative AI ideation, innovation, and strategy generation approach and the AI Innovation Matrix, which maps five event planning stages and reporting against Four-C Model of Creativity. The framework is examined through the SF Express A-Bus scenario, a

Keywords: Generative artificial intelligence, Design thinking, Creativity

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A COUNCIL GOVERNANCE DUTY IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CONSTITUTIONAL AND SADC COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This article examines when sustainable development becomes a legally relevant consideration in council oversight in South Africa and how that responsibility contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A qualitative doctrinal analysis examines the Constitution, higher education and company governance rules, leading judgments and selected SADC constitutional provisions. It distinguishes duties imposed by law from voluntary governance guidance and compares South Africa with Namibia and Zimbabwe. The analysis finds that councils must identify and address material, foreseeable sustainability risks where these affect their statutory mandate, institutional interests or the lawful exercise of public power; it does not establish a freestanding, universally enforceable duty to achieve every SDG. A practical oversight model links institutional decision-making to SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (accountable institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships), while considering the social and economic dimensions of other goals. The article recommends documented risk assessment, proportionate indicators, transparent reporting and follow-up as a defensible approach to long-term stewardship.

Keywords: sustainable development; council governance; SDGs

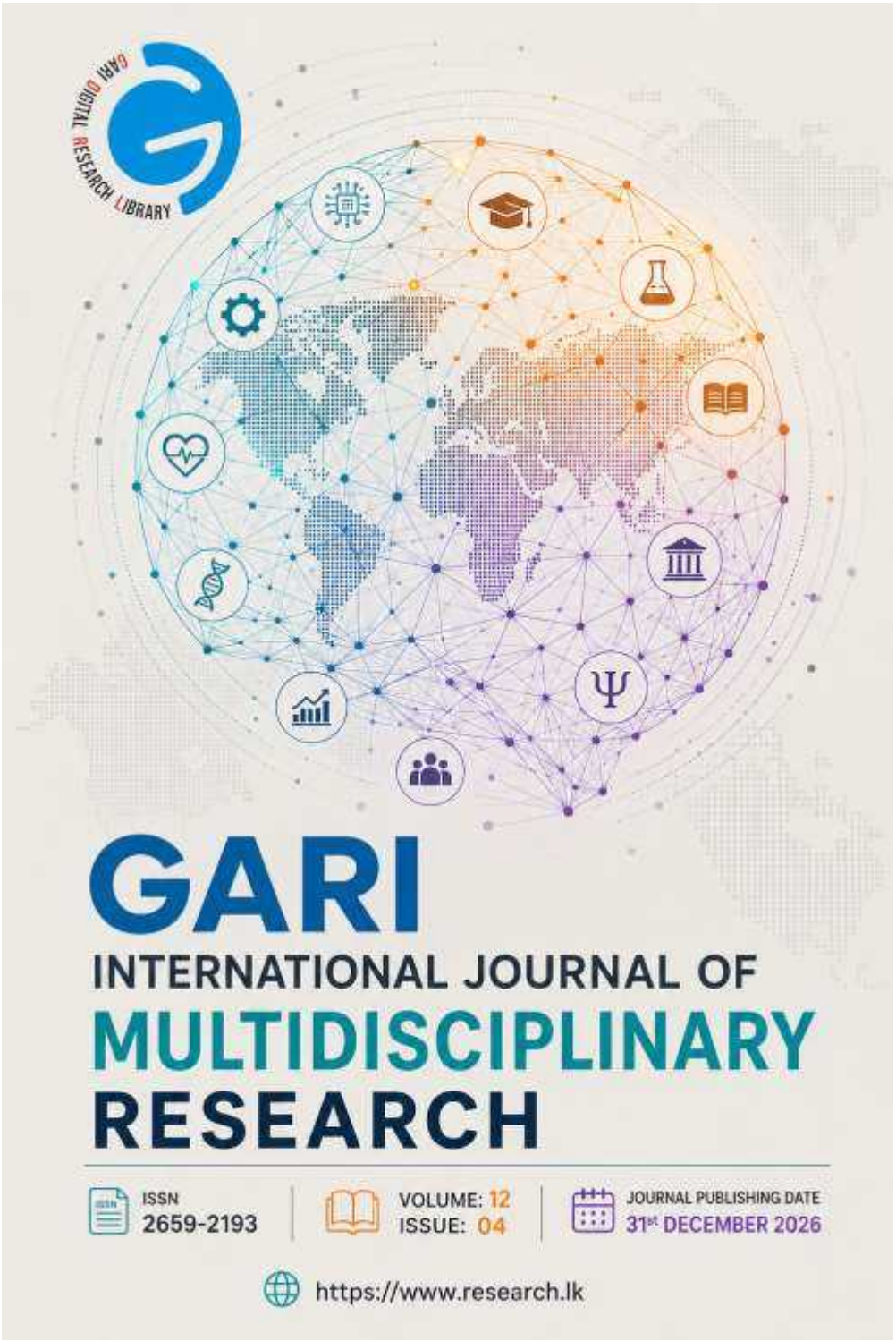
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