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7 August 2019

Why decolonisation of Intellectual Property matters

8 August 2019 | 14:00-16:30 | Lecture Theatre Lecture Theatre 3, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus

To what extent do the recent legislative initiatives in South Africa's Copyright Amendment Bill speak to the decolonisation agenda and the issues raised by the changes in the information economy such as the emergence of big data, robotics, machine learning, artificial intelligence and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Africa?

These changes have transformed the ways in which copyright law shapes transactions in digital and information markets and South Africa's decolonisation agenda must grapple with these issues, not least because they have become part of its socio-economic terrain.

Professor Ruth Okediji, who is the Jeremiah Smith, Jr, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Co-Director of the Berkman Klein Center, will speak on the decolonisation agenda for copyright law in South Africa. Her address will answer key questions including:

- What does decolonisation mean for copyright law in South Africa?
- Why should South Africa decolonise its copyright law?
- How should a decolonisation agenda be implemented?
- Who should champion and/or implement the decolonisation agenda?

Professor Okediji, who has served as a consultant for many international organisations including the World Intellectual Property Organization, will also address the role of academia acting in collaboration with civil society in achieving a decolonised copyright law and policy system in South Africa.

Media are invited to the lecture. Please RSVP to Nan Warner: nancy.warner@uct.ac.za

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Note to editors

The public seminar is a collaboration between [Recreate South Africa](#) - a civil society organisation that exists to promote the interests of South African creatives with respect to

copyright legislation, - the [South African Research Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development](#) and the [Intellectual Property Unit](#) - both at the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Law.

Professor Ruth Okediji has served as a consultant for many international organisations including the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the UN Development Program, and the World Intellectual Property Organization. She has served as policy advisor on the impact of IP protection on development goals for many governments and inter-governmental organisations and has written extensively on the need for copyright legislative reforms in the information economy to be undertaken within the context of each country's development.

INVITATION TO A SEMINAR

ReCreate South Africa in conjunction with
South African Research Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development
and **UCT Intellectual Property Unit**
invites you to a seminar

#Why Decolonisation of IP Matters

Speaker:

Professor Ruth Okediji

*Jeremiah Smith, Jr, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School
and Co-Director of the Berkman Klein Center*

The issue of decolonisation of copyright law is subject to varied contexts, definitions and perspectives. However, copyright laws in formerly colonised countries inevitably have colonial foundations and were formulated for a different socio-economic context. Much of South Africa's Copyright Act of 1978 was inherited from the British Imperial Copyright Act 1911 and, later, the British Copyright Act 1956. Although this act has been amended a few times, much of it has remained largely unchanged. In the last few years, South Africa has committed to significant copyright law reform and crafting a Copyright Act that better reflects its actual current socio-economic terrain.

Professor Okediji will speak on the subject of a decolonisation agenda for copyright law in South Africa.

Key questions she will be addressing include:

- What does decolonisation mean for copyright law in South Africa?
- Why should South Africa decolonise its copyright law?
- How should a decolonisation agenda be implemented?
- Who should champion and/or implement the decolonisation agenda?

Professor Okediji will also be addressing the role of academia acting in collaboration with civil society in achieving a decolonised copyright law and policy system in South Africa.



Date & Time:

8 August 2019

14h00 – 16h30

Venue:

**UCT, Kramer Law Building,
Lecture Theatre LT3**

RECREATE



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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY UNIT



**SOUTH AFRICAN
RESEARCH CHAIR:**
Intellectual Property,
Innovation and Development

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