

Dept of Social Science – Job Talk

Criminology / International Development Studies

Dr. Mohamed Sesay

Date:
Tuesday,
February 26

Times:
Research
10:00 am
– 11:30 am

Teaching
2:00 pm
– 3:30 pm

Location:
701 Ross
South

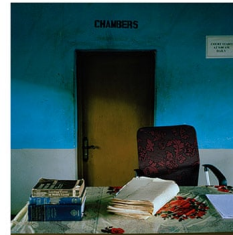
All sessions will be
open to faculty &
students.

Light refreshments
will be provided.

Reinforcing Illegal Access to Justice: Rule of Law Promotion in Post-conflict Sierra Leone

Why have non-state traditional venues for dispute resolution thrived, despite extensive foreign-led rule of law promotion efforts and the creation of a functional formal justice system? The literature on this topic

is often bifurcated between state capacity and social relevance arguments. However, this case study of rule of law reform in post-conflict Sierra Leone finds that justice systems interact in complex ways that are both mutually reinforcing or undermining, depending on the particular configuration of institutions, norms, and power in the local sub-national context. In any scenario of formal and informal justice interaction (be it conflictual or cooperative), it matters whether the state justice system is able to deliver accessible, affordable, and credible justice to local populations and whether justice norms are in line with people's dispute resolution needs, priorities, and expectations. Yet, such interaction between justice institutions and norms is mediated by underlying power dynamics relating to local political authority and access to local resources.



Neoliberal Development and Crime in Sub-Saharan Africa



Dr. Mohamed Sesay is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Research Group on Global Justice at the Yan P. Lin Centre at McGill University. He received his PhD in Political Science from McGill University in 2016, specializing in International Relations and Comparative Politics, with a specific focus on sub-Saharan Africa. His research examines the complex interactions between global and local norms of justice, peacebuilding, and reconstruction within the context of societies emerging from armed conflicts. Mohamed Sesay's most recent article appeared in the European Journal of International Security (2018): "Hijacking the Rule of Law in Post-conflict Environments."