



Discussion Group on Comparative Constitutional Law and Theory

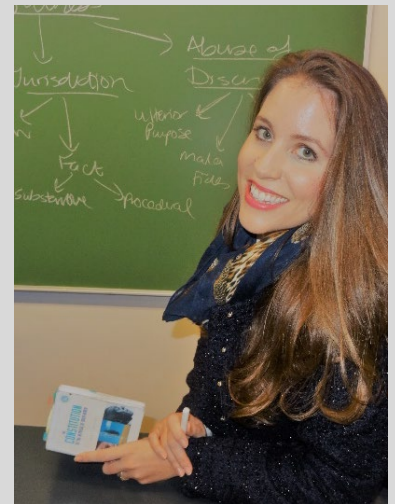
Lauren Kohn, B.Bus.Sci LLB LLM

Senior Lecturer & Young Research Fellow (University of Cape Town, SA)

PhD Candidate & Visiting Research Fellow (Leiden, the Netherlands)

**Theorising South Africa's Fourth Branch of State – the Integrity and
Accountability Branch – and Anti-Corruption Redress**

Date: 21 September 2023 at 11:00-12:00 + 60 minutes for Q&A
Venue: Meeting-room 8, 6B-4-04, University of Copenhagen
Faculty of Law



Biography

Lauren Kohn is a South African administrative- and constitutional-law scholar and legal specialist. She attained her B.Bus.Sci (Distinction, Law); LLB (Magna Cum Laude, Top Student); and LLM (Distinction, Top Student)(UCT), all with several class medals, special awards and scholarships. She is currently completing her PhD (on the Openheimer Memorial Trust Scholarship) as an external candidate at Leiden University in the Netherlands where she is also a Visiting Research Fellow.

As an academic at UCT Law, Kohn has won a record-breaking four Law Faculty Research Prizes for producing the most 'outstanding article published in a peer-reviewed journal in the preceding two years by a (senior/)lecturer' as determined by the anonymous judge. Much of Kohn's scholarship has fed into law reform and been judicially endorsed – including by South Africa's apex court, the Constitutional Court. She has also been a Dean's Nominee for a UCT Distinguished Teacher's Award given her teaching excellence.

Kohn is an admitted Attorney of the High Court of South Africa with over a decade of public-law advisory and legislative-drafting contributions to her name. She practiced at Webber Wentzel for several years before transitioning into academia in 2013. During her time in formal practice, Kohn fast became an expert in niche public-law fields. She attained Distinctions for all of her Bar Exams and the Top Result overall (Northern, Eastern & Western Cape) for Court Practice.

Kohn is a passionate educationalist and a dedicated social justice advocate who loves weaving her practical knowledge of the workings of the law into her research, teaching and advisory work. In an effort to enhance access to justice, she co-founded www.SALegalAdvice.co.za. As a mother to four small children of her own, Kohn is also deeply committed to early childhood development and has served on the Board of a Pre-Primary school and provided *pro bono* legal, regulatory and teaching-and-learning advice.

Kohn is a regular media commentator and has provided technical legal input for various governance and rights projects in South Africa. She has been Keynote speaker (and presenter) at various local and international conferences and colloquia. Kohn was an inaugural recipient of the 'Women in Law (WOZA) Award' (2019, 1st Runner-Up) for being an academic 'thought leader and innovator'; a 'M&G Top 200 Young South African – Law & Justice' (2018) Winner; and a Winner of the 'Most Inspiring50-SA Women' (2020). Kohn was also selected as one of twenty 'Influential Women Leaders' from across Africa for the 'Leading in Public Life: Women, Influence, Power Programme' (hosted by Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance & the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2019).

In 2021, Kohn became one of four Young Research Fellows of UCT. She was the only woman in the cohort and the only awardee from the Faculty of Law – a testament to her exceptional contribution to legal scholarship and law reform in the country. Flowing from this achievement, she now joins the ranks of the Vice-Chancellor's 'UCT Future Leaders Programme'.