

Intersectionality of Race, Culture and Gender in International Arbitration:

Lessons from Interdisciplinary Scholarship

Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners (YAWP) invites you to join us for an exciting discussion on interdisciplinary scholarship in race, culture, and gender diversity in international arbitration. This webinar will bring together prominent academics, who will draw on their empirical research and offer an intersectional understanding of diversity (and diversities) in international arbitration. A prominent practitioner will then comment on the application of the research and findings on international arbitration in practice.

By bringing together academic and practitioner voices, this webinar will open the doors for a deeper discussion on diversity (and diversities) and how different players in the arbitration field can learn from the academic research both within and outside international arbitration.

Dr. Emilia Onyema will discuss the empirical research that she has undertaken on various aspects of regional diversity in international arbitration. She will particularly focus on African participation in dispute resolution mechanisms.

Dr. Joshua Karton will explore the meaning of diversities in international arbitration and offer a theoretical framework for identifying existing diversity deficits, with a view to remedying these deficits with practical solutions.

Dr. Swethaa Ballakrishnen will examine the intersections between law, globalisation and gender stratification from a critical feminist perspective. Their first book, "Accidental Feminism" unpacks the case of unintentional gender parity among India's elite law firms.

Umika Sharma will share her research findings on the invisible inequality that diverse practitioners experience and how it affects the way diversity is seen and understood in international arbitration.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Discussion on academic and empirical scholarship on race, culture, and gender.
- The intersection of race, culture and gender in international arbitration and the wider legal profession.
- The importance and utility of looking at intersectional diversity and diversities from a broader and interdisciplinary perspective.
- Lessons that organisations and firms in international arbitration can draw on for advancing the discussion on diversity in international arbitration.

Date: 18 November 2021

Time: 2-3 p.m. London

8-9 a.m. Pacific

10-11 p.m. Singapore

Location: Zoom Webinar

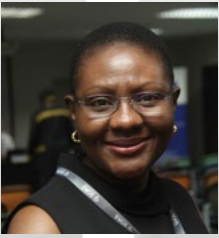
Registration

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Speakers



Emilia Onyema is a Professor of International Commercial Law at SOAS University of London. She is qualified to practice law in Nigeria, as a Solicitor in England & Wales and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She teaches international commercial arbitration and international investment law; convenes the SOAS Arbitration in Africa conference series; and leads the Arbitration in Africa biennial survey research project. She co-published the African Promise and founded the Arbitration Fund for African Students charity. In her arbitration practice, she has experience as presiding, co- and sole arbitrator in international commercial arbitration.



Joshua Karton is an Associate Professor and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at the Queen's University Faculty of Law in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Professor Karton teaches and writes about international commercial law and dispute resolution, especially international arbitration. Much of his research is interdisciplinary, influenced in particular by sociological theories and methods, and he has a longstanding interest in diversity issues, especially with respect to the impact of cultural diversity in the international legal arena. He is a co-editor of the forthcoming volume, Sustainable Diversity in International Arbitration.

Before commencing his doctoral studies, Professor Karton practiced in litigation and arbitration in the New York office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. He remains actively engaged in international arbitration practice as an arbitrator, consultant, and educator.



Swetha S. Ballakrishnen is an Assistant Professor of Law (and, by courtesy, of Sociology, Asian American Studies, and Criminology, Law and Society) at the University of California, Irvine. Primarily oriented within a critical socio-legal praxis, they write, think, and teach about law's connection to actors/institutions/relationships at the periphery, usually around identities/queers/souths.

Prof. Ballakrishnen's work has appeared in, among other journals, the Law and Society Review, Law and Social Inquiry, International Journal of the Legal Profession, and the Canadian Review of Sociology. Their first book, Accidental Feminism (Princeton University Press, 2021), explores the case of unintended gender parity in the Indian legal profession and was the recipient of the 2021 American Sociological Association's Sociology of Law Distinguished Book Award.



Louise Woods is a Partner at Vinson & Elkins in London. She is the Vice-President of ArbitralWomen's Board of Directors and also the Chair of Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners. Louise has significant experience in arbitration and litigation of high value, complex international commercial disputes and investor-state arbitration. She also has extensive experience of dealing with fraud and corruption allegations and investigations in the context of large scale, complex international arbitration and litigation. She is admitted in England and Wales as a Solicitor-Advocate and regularly appears as an advocate before international arbitration tribunals.

Moderator



Umika Sharma is an Indian qualified lawyer, currently writing her PhD at the National University of Singapore as an NUS Graduate Scholar on a full scholarship. She also holds a master's degree from the Queen Mary University of London and has gained professional experience in India, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Her PhD is on the topic of diversity in international arbitration. She has used a socio-legal method to understand how different types of diversities are understood by players in international arbitration and how it affects their diversity and inclusion activism.

Opening Remarks



Lizzie Chan is an Associate at Three Crowns in London. She specialises in international commercial arbitration and investment treaty arbitration. She has represented clients in arbitration proceedings under various rules, and seated in various global jurisdictions. She also holds leadership roles in various organisations, including as a: Board Member of ArbitralWomen and Co-Director of Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners; Member of the Equal Representation in Arbitration Young Practitioners Steering Committee; Member of the CPR Institute Young Leaders in Alternative Dispute Resolution Steering Committee; and Founding Member of ARBinBRIEF.

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