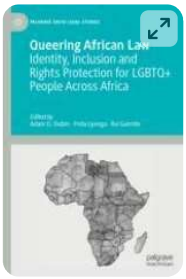
SPRINGER NATURE Link

Log in



palgrave macmillan

Queering African Law

Identity, Inclusion and Rights Protection for LGBTQ+ People Across Africa

| Book | © 2026

Accessibility Information

Overview

Editors: Adam D. Dubin, Frida Lyonga, Rui Garrido

Provides a nuanced exploration of LGBTQIA+ rights across Africa including significant achievements that have been made

Discusses the political, social, cultural and historical forces that have made the queering of African laws challenging

Includes a foreword from Graeme Reid, South African, a United Nations Independent Expert

Part of the book series: Palgrave Socio-Legal Studies (PSLS)

486 Accesses

This is a preview of subscription content, log in via an institution to check access.

Access this book

Log in via an institution

eBook EUR 128.39
Price includes VAT (Spain)

Available as EPUB and PDF
Read on any device
Instant download
Own it forever

Buy eBook

Hardcover Book EUR 155.99

Tax calculation will be finalised at checkout

Other ways to access

Licence this eBook for your library →

Institutional subscriptions →

About this book

This book builds on the scholarship by contributing a critical analysis of the shortfalls of LGBTQ+ laws in Africa and the areas of progress and possible paths forward. It outlines the state of LGBTQ+ rights across

Africa and discusses the notion of queering African law. It explores regional approaches towards the protection of LGBTQ+ rights within Africa and the important role of activism in challenging anti LGBTQ+ laws notably through litigation, their successes, challenges and limitations. It discusses the tensions between cultural, historical and other factors that on one hand challenge progress but which on the other hand may also be avenues for advancing rights. In line with the argument of queer theory as relevant in Africa, the chapters draw on queer legal theory which allows for critical analysis that aims to advance "a reformation of legal discourse" on LGBTQ+ rights. This focus is timely given the introduction of harsher anti-homosexuality laws in some African countries. Through multdisciplinary contributions, it offers readers a nuanced analysis of the challenges towards truly queering African law and the possibilities for doing so.

Explore related subjects

Discover the latest articles, books and news in related subjects.

African Politics | Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Law | Critical Criminology

Human Rights | Socio-Legal Studies | Sexuality Studies

Search within this book

Search

Table of contents (15 chapters)

Front Matter

Pages i-xxvi

Download chapter PDF

Queering African Law

Front Matter

Pages 1-1

Download chapter PDF

Homosexuality as Un-African: Revisiting the Arguments and Counterarguments

Frida Lyonga

Pages 3-16

How *Queer* Can African Union Law be?

Rui Garrido, Adam D. Dubin

Pages 17-39

The Life of the LGBTQ+ Communities in Namibia: A Legal and Socio-Political Analysis

Cristiano D'Orsi

Pages 41-60

Simon Nkoli and the Linking of the Anti-apartheid Struggle to Sexuality

Lwando Scott

Pages 61-76

Un-Queer Legislation

Front Matter

Pages 77-77

Download chapter PDF

A Reflection on Uganda's Anti-homosexuality Law

Zanele Nyoni-Wood

Pages 79–102

Norm Neglect and Divergence Between LGBTQ+ Laws and the Social Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Communities: An Analysis of the Case of the Angolan Penal Code

Robert Tanner Bivens
Pages 103–120

Inclusion of Human Rights of the LGBTQ+ People in the Lesotho Legal Framework: Progress and Setbacks

Itumeleng Shale, Morapelo Ramoleko
Pages 121–142

LGBTQ+ Rights in Angola: Straddling the Line Between Criminalisation and Protection

Alfredo Dos Santos Soares
Pages 143–167

Persecution and Legal Responses in an African Context

Front Matter

Pages 169–169

Download chapter PDF

Police Persecution of Sexual and Gender Minorities in Nigeria: The Method to So-Called Arbitrary Arrests

Ayodele Sogunro
Pages 171–193

Queer Rights in Botswana: A Retrospective Analysis

Tshiamo Rantao, Mukungekwa Muyunda Maswabi
Pages 195–222

The Limits of Strategic Litigation: Exploring the Potential of Court Action to Permanently Rid Uganda of the Anti-Homosexuality Act

Adrian Jjuuko
Pages 223-253

Let's (Not) Talk About the Gays: Malawi's Stalled Attempts at Decriminalisation of Same-Sex Laws

Thoko Kaime, Isabelle Zundel
Pages 255-281

Cinematographic Reflections on Queerness in Africa and Responses to Discrimination

Front Matter

Pages 283-283

Download chapter PDF

"We Don't Exist": The Construction of Private and Family Life for LGBTQIA+ People in Africa Through a Cinematographic Analysis of *Ìfé*

Isabel Carrión Alonso, Adam D. Dubin, Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor
Pages 285-318

Human Rights Filmmaking: The Queering Opportunity of Postcolonial Law Classrooms in Decolonising Public Imagination

David N. C. Ikpo
Pages 319-349

Correction to: "We Don't Exist": The Construction of Private and Family Life for LGBTQIA+ People in Africa Through a Cinematographic Analysis of *Ìfé*

Isabel Carrión Alonso, Adam Dubin Edelstein, Cecilia Estrada Villaseñor
Pages C1-C1

Back to top

Editors and Affiliations

Faculty of Law, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, Spain

Adam D. Dubin

University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Frida Lyonga

Department of Law, Universidade Portucalense, Porto, Portugal

Rui Garrido

About the editors

Adam D. Dubin is Assistant Professor of Law at Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain, where he teaches subjects related to human rights, SOGI comparative law, development and Sub Saharan Africa.

Frida Lyonga is a doctoral candidate in the department of Sociology/African Studies at the Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Basel, Switzerland. Her publications and research focus on homosexual rights and attitudes towards homosexuality among Africans.

Rui Garrido is Assistant Professor at Universidade Portucalense, Portugal, in the Law Department, where he teaches International Relations, Human Rights, Development Studies and International law.

Accessibility Information

PDF accessibility summary

This PDF has been created in accordance with the PDF/UA-1 standard to enhance accessibility. It includes screen reader support, descriptions for Non-text content (such as images and graphs), bookmarks for easy navigation, keyboard-friendly links and forms, and searchable, selectable text. We recognise the importance of

accessibility and welcome queries about accessibility for any of our products. If you have a question or an access need, please get in touch with us via https://www.springernature.com/gp/info/accessibility Please Note that a more accessible version of this eBook is available as an EPUB.

EPUB accessibility summary

This EPUB is designed with accessibility in mind, aiming to meet the EPUB Accessibility 1.1 and WCAG 2.2 Level AA standards. It features a navigable table of contents, structured headings, and alternative text for images, ensuring smooth, intuitive navigation and comprehension. The text is reflowable and resizable, with sufficient contrast. We recognize the importance of accessibility, and we welcome queries about accessibility for any of our products. If you have a question or an access need, please get in touch with us via https://www.springernature.com/gp/info/accessibility

Bibliographic Information

Book Title
Queering African Law

Book Subtitle
Identity, Inclusion and Rights Protection for LGBTQ+ People Across Africa

Editors
Adam D. Dubin, Frida Lyonga, Rui Garrido

Series Title
Palgrave Socio-Legal Studies

DOI
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-09772-9

Publisher
Palgrave Macmillan Cham

eBook Packages
Law and Criminology, Law and Criminology (R0)

Copyright Information
The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2026

Hardcover ISBN
978-3-032-09771-2
Published: 11 July 2026

Softcover ISBN
978-3-032-09774-3
Due: 25 July 2027

eBook ISBN
978-3-032-09772-9
Published: 09 July 2026

Series ISSN
2947-9274

Series E-ISSN
2947-9282

Edition Number
1

Number of Pages
XXVI, 1

Number of Illustrations
2 b/w illustrations

Topics
Socio-legal Studies, Human Rights, Gender Studies, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Law, African Politics, Critical Criminology

Keywords

human rights · decriminalisation · Anti-Homosexuality · sexuality · queer rights · homophobia · discrimination · colonialism · sexuality studies · law and sexuality · social justice

Publish with us

Policies and ethics

Back to top