OÑATI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
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An Intercultural Dialogue: Reflections on Legal and Normative Pluralism in the Postcolony

by Annette Lansink
(University of Venda, South Africa)

This lecture reflects on the debate on legal pluralism within the context of the South African constitutional order and analyses how the Constitutional Court accommodates (living) customary law. A brief comparison with the constitutional experiences in Ecuador and Colombia will highlight the need to find form and method to valorising and resignifying indigenous experiences in the constitutional project. To this end, an argument is made for intercultural dialogues between different cultural and legal normativities as a strategy for decolonising the law and recognising the diversity of epistemologies in a pluriverse world that creates space for the emergence of new perspectives in the 'interstices' of the domains of difference.

Annette Lansink holds law degrees from universities in South Africa and the Netherlands. She was for the past ten years the Dean of the School of Law at the University of Venda. She has extensive experience in higher education and has contributed to the transformation of the University and the School of Law in various leadership roles. Her research interests are in the areas of constitutional and international law, and the transformation of higher education. She was Rapporteur on women and migration for the Committee on Feminism and International Law of the global International Law Association. Consistent with her interdisciplinary interests, she is currently researching on legal and normative pluralism within the context of decolonisation and epistemologies of the South. Given the breadth of her interests, she has published nationally and internationally in both scholarly journals and the popular media and presented papers in many countries.

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Achille Loria-Karl Renner Room, at 15:00 pm