

Dr. Nicolaas Buitendag

LLB, LLM (Pretoria), LLM (Leiden), LLD (Kyoto)

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RSA ID: 8608125137085

Date of birth: 12/08/1986

Gender: Male

Nationality: South African / Dutch

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of the Free State.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2021-24 Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, North-West University.
- 2019-20 Research Fellow (Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter), Niklas Luhmann-Archiv, Bielefeld University.
- 2014-15 Researcher, Centre for International Law, University of Johannesburg.
- 2012 Researcher, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.
- 2008 Teaching Assistant, Legal Philosophy, University of Pretoria.

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Legal philosophy, political philosophy, public international law, environmental law, social systems theory, legal sociology.

EDUCATION (DEGREES)

- 2020 LLD International Law & Politics, Kyoto University.
Thesis title: *States of Exclusion: A Critical Systems Theory Reading of International Law*
Supervisor: Prof Shotaro Hamamoto
- 2014 LLM Public International Law, Leiden University.
Title of minor dissertation: *Power and International Law: Towards an Autopoietic Framework*

- 2012 LLM Jurisprudence (cum laude), University of Pretoria.
 Thesis title: *Rethinking Time, Ethics and Justice: A Jurisprudential Perspective*
 Supervisor: Prof Karin van Marle
- 2010 LLB, University of Pretoria.

EDUCATION (SHORT PROGRAMMES/CERTIFICATES)

- 2024 TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), University of the Witwatersrand.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Buitendag, N. (2022). *States of Exclusion: A Critical Systems Theory Reading of International Law*. AOSIS Publishing. [Web link](#).

Book Chapter

Rossouw S.H., Buitendag, N. (2012). *Steve Biko's death: The role of the medicine, law and their organised professions*. In 1st Edition, *Beyond the Law: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives on Human Rights, South Africa*, Pretoria: Pretoria University Law Press, pp. 277–293. [Web link](#).

Journal Articles

Buitendag, N. (2024) *The 'Oceanic' in Environmental Law: Carl Schmitt and Niklas Luhmann in Dialogue*. *International Theory*. (in review).

Buitendag, N. (2024) *The Structure of Legal Evolution: Applying philosophy of science to legal philosophy in Earth system law*. *Law & Critique*. (in review).

Buitendag, N. & Loubser, A. (2024) *Power Play: How Boardgames Co-construct Space through Imaginative and Emotional Labour*. *International Journal of Play*. (Accepted).

- Buitendag, N. (2024) *Media and Political Meaning in a Post-Truth World*. Soziale Systeme, Vol. 29, No. 1-2. [Web link](#).
- Buitendag, N. (2024) *Environmental Law and Systems Theory*. Systems Research and Behavioural Science, Vol. 41, No. 6. [Web link](#).
- McIntyre, J. Aslett, D. & Buitendag, N (2024) *Exploring South Africa's Capacity to Criminalise Illicit Enrichment* Journal of Financial Crime, Online. [Web link](#).
- Buitendag, N. (2023) *Can Norms Bridge Boundaries? System theory's Challenge to Eco-theology and Earth system law*. HTS, Vol. 79, No. 2. [Web link](#).
- McIntyre, J. Aslett, D. & Buitendag, N (2022) *Implementing Unexplained Wealth Orders in South Africa – What are the Options?* Journal of Money Laundering Control, Vol. 26, No. 7, pp. 85-98. [Web link](#).
- Buitendag, N. (2022) *Introduction: The Paradox of Human Rights and Three Methods of Its Unfolding*. The Journal of Law & Society, Vol. 49, Issue 3. [Web link](#).
- McIntyre, J. Aslett, D. & Buitendag, N (2022) *Lifestyle Audits in South Africa – Overrated or X-factor?* Journal of Financial Crime, Vol. 30, No. 4, pp. 1078-1095. [Web link](#).
- Buitendag, N. & Coetzer, N. (2015) *History as a system of wrongs - examining South Africa's Marikana tragedy in a temporal legal context*. Strategic Review for Southern Africa, Vol. 37, No. 2, pp. 94-117. [Web link](#).
- Buitendag, N. (2014) *Power and International Law: Towards an Autopoietic Framework*, The Westminster Law & Theory Centre Online Working Papers, 1/2014, pp. 1-26. [Web link](#).
- Buitendag, N. & van Marle, K. (2014). *Afriforum v Malema: The limits of law and complexity*. PER: Potchefstroomse Elektroniese Regsblad, Vol. 17, No. 6, pp. 2893-2914. [Web link](#).
- Buitendag, N. (2013). *Contrasting differences in identity and agency between narrative and autopoietic systems*. HTS Teologiese Studies / Theological Studies, Vol. 69, No. 1, 7 pages. [Web link](#).

Book Reviews

Buitendag, N. (2023) *Chantelle Gray, Anarchism after Deleuze and Guattari: Fabulating Futures*, Philosophy Today, Vol 67 Issue 3. [Web link](#).

Buitendag N & Hayashi M. (2022) *Orders of Exclusion: Great Powers and the Strategic Sources of Foundational Rules in International Relations*, Politikon, Vol 49, Issue 2. [Web link](#).

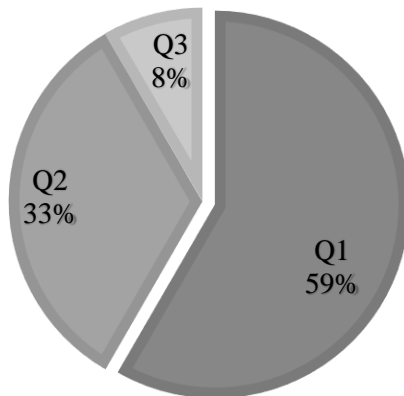
Buitendag, N. (2022) *Book Review: The Habermas-Luhmann Debate*, Thesis Eleven, Vol 168, Issue 1. [Web link](#).

Translations

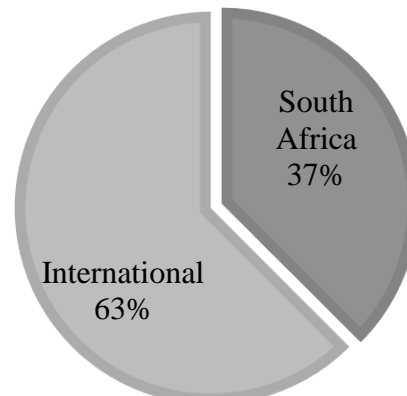
Luhmann, N. (2022) *The Paradox of Human Rights and Three Forms for its Unfolding*, Journal of Law & Society, Vol. 49 Issue 3. Translation from German of “Das Paradox der Menschenrechte und drei Formen seiner Entfaltung”. [Web link](#).

Luhmann, N. (2022) *Causality in the South*, Soziale Systeme, Vol. 20. Translation from German of “Kausalität im Süden”. [Web link](#).

PUBLICATIONS PER QUARTILE



PUBLICATIONS PER LOCATION



JOURNAL EDITORSHIPS

Soziale Systeme / Social Systems (Reviews editor)

REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

South African Journal of Philosophy

Religions

HTS

Systems Research and Behavioural Science

Soziale Systeme / Social Systems

TEACHING

- 2023 Introduction to Philosophy (first year – North-West University, 370 students).
- 2022 Business Ethics (third year – North-West University, 400 students).
Aesthetics (third year – North-West University, 25 students).
Constitutional Law (third year – North-West University, 300 students).
Contract Law (second year – North-West University, 300 students).

Courses as tutor

- 2008 Legal Philosophy (third year – University of Pretoria, 300 students).

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION (RESEARCH REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, THESES)

- 2023 CM Vetrik, PhD Law, University of the Free State.
- 2021 G Diedericks, MA Philosophy, North-West University.

SUPERVISION

Doctoral Theses (completed)

J-L MacIntyre – *A Critical Analysis of Lifestyle Audits as a Tool to Combat Criminal Wealth in South Africa* – North-West University (co-supervisor with Dr Duane Aslett).

Master's Dissertations (completed)

HJ Boonzaaier – *Sanctioning Corporate Environmental Offenders by means of Deferred Prosecution Agreements* – North-West University (co-supervisor with Prof Pieter du Toit).

Honours Research Essays (completed)

I Labuschagne – *Historic Land Claims prior to 1913 – Examples from the 1800s: External Legal-historic Challenges* – North-West University.

T Sehume – *Patriarchy in Law: How has the Law Preserved a Patriarchal Legal Dispensation?* – North-West University.

ND Maheya – *A Critical Analysis of the Government's Failure to Protect Foreigner's Human Rights of Human Dignity and Prohibition of Discrimination* – North-West University.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures:

- 2024 Chuo University, "Media and Politics in Japan and South Africa".
- 2024 International Law Study Group, Kyoto University, "New Paradigms in Environmental Law".
- 2024 Kobe University, "Cartography and the Interface of Law & Science".
- 2024 Asia Pacific University, "The Zettelkasten-method".

Conference Presentations

- 2024 4th International Colloquium in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture, Nagano University. "Environmental Law and the Nature/Culture Distinction".
- 2024 South African Society for Environmental Philosophy, North-West University. "New Paradigms in Environmental Law".
- 2023 Niklas Luhmann Conference, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik 2023: "Paradigm Shifts in Law and their Challenges".
- 2019 Critical Legal Conference, University of Perugia, Italy: "A big history of the state and law".

- 2017 Critical Legal Conference, Warwick University, England: “Is law dependent on crisis & catastrophe?”.

Colloquia

- 2022 ‘Unpacking the tense intersections between community, conservation, and tourism in South Africa’. University of Durham (Durham, UK) – by invite.

Summer Schools

- 2022 The New School for Social Research, Institute for Critical Social Inquiry. “The Politics of Affect”.
- 2022 Harvard University Institute for Global Law & Policy Global Scholars Academy. “Cartography and International Law”.
- 2022 The Academy for Global Studies and Critical Theory, Bologna University.
- 2021 Democracy & Diversity Graduate Summer Institute, The New School for Social Research, “Reimagining Our Future.”
- 2021 The Academy for Global Studies and Critical Theory, Bologna University.
- 2019 Harvard University Institute for Global Law & Policy Workshop. “The Berlin Conference of 1884”.

Workshops presented

- 2023 Japanese Luhmann Kenkyuukai. “Paradigm Shifts in Law and their Challenges”.
- 2021 Japanese Luhmann Kenkyuukai. “The Healthcare Code”.
- 2020 Kokusaiho Kenkyukai (Study Group for International Law), Kyoto University. “History of the Use of Cartography in International Law”.

- 2020 Legal Sociology Working Group, Bielefeld University. “Maps as Inter-systemic Boundary Objects”.

- 2018 Kyoto / National Chengchi University Joint Seminar in International Law, Japan: “The African Union Boundaries Programme, its practice & theory”.

- 2018 Kokusaiho Kenkyukai (Study Group for International Law), Kyoto University. “Legal paradoxes in the work of Carl Schmitt”.

- 2017 Kokusaiho Kenkyukai (Study Group for International Law), Kyoto University. “Power and International Law”.

- 2017 Kyoto / Seoul National University Joint Seminar in International Law, Korea: “Comparing Spatiality in Carl Schmitt and Niklas Luhmann, and its implications for international law”.

- 2016 Kyoto / Seoul National University Joint Seminar in International Law, Japan: “International law and crisis”.

- 2016 Chinese University of Hong Kong–Kyoto Seminar in International Law, Hong Kong: “Constructing power in international law and politics”.

AWARDS

Fellowships

- 2023-25 North-West University Advanced Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Scholarships

- 2015 Monbakucho Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT), Full scholarship for Doctoral studies.

- 2010-12 Merit bursary (awarded in accordance with previous degree, over 70% average)

Prizes

- 2008 Best Student: Law & Literature, University of Pretoria.

CERTIFICATIONS

- 2024 TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), University of the Witwatersrand.
- 2024 JLPT N4, National Japanese Language Certificate.
- 2014 Advocate of the High Court (North Gauteng), South Africa

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English (Native)
Afrikaans (Native)
German (Intermediate)
Dutch (Intermediate)
Japanese (Conversational)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & RESEARCH GROUPS

Kyoto International Law Research Group (Kokusai-ho Kenkyuukai)
Japanese Niklas Luhmann Research Group
South African Society for Environmental Philosophy

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION & LINKS

I am the host and author of the academic [Undisciplined Podcast](#).
[OrcID](#)
[Web of Science](#)
[Google Scholar](#)

REFERENCES

Prof Louis Kotzé, Faculty of Law, North-West University
(louis.kotze@nwu.ac.za).

Prof Shotaro Hamamoto, Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University
(hamamoto@law.kyoto-u.ac.jp).

Prof Steve Watson, Faculty of Education, Cambridge University
(sw10014@cam.ac.uk).