The CEU Summer University announces the course

CONSTITUTION-BUILDING IN AFRICA

JULY 20 – JULY 31, 2015 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

In cooperation with International IDEA, the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Centre for Global Cooperation Research

COURSE DIRECTORS

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

The two-week research course intends to tackle complex societal, political and legal problems in constitution-building from an interdisciplinary perspective, informed by field experience. We seek to combine different disciplines (mostly comparative law and political science) and perspectives (comparative governmental systems; electoral systems; decentralization; human rights; comparative constitutional law; good governance; etc) to offer new insights on a classic subject of the highest academic and practical relevance.

The course will address the subject from four different angles, all of them related to specific challenges in Africa. The first one highlights ***constitutionalism in Africa in general***, the different roles and meanings of a constitution, the merits and risks of constitutional borrowing, and the role of external / international influence in constitution building. The second angle accounts for the fact that ***new constitutions often follow conflict, loaded with the expectation to herald a new era of peace and democracy***, leaving behind authoritarianism, despotism or political upheaval. The third angle of, the course addresses ***how constitutional designs respond to competing claims***, be they religious, ethnic, linguistic, and how they accommodate different stakeholders, how they tame the executive, introducing instruments of checks and balances and how constitutions aspire to prevent stalemates and promote gender equality. Finally taking in to account the fact that the ***management of constitutional change and maintenance of constitutional stability are ongoing problems***, the course will explore the issue of constitutional implementation, review and redemption as part of the constitutional building process.

The course is designed to be a forum for exchange and mutual learning for young scholars and practitioners from the civil sector, from public administration, from regional and international institutions.

Application from all over the world is encouraged. Financial aid is available.

Central European University's summer school (CEU SUN), established in 1996, is a program in English for graduate students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals. It offers high-level, research-oriented, interdisciplinary academic courses as well as workshops on policy issues for professional development, taught by internationally renowned scholars and policy experts (including CEU faculty).

For further academic information on the course and on eligibility criteria and funding options please visit the web site at

http://summer.ceu.edu/constitution-2015

https://apply.embark.com/NonDegree/CEU/15/

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