

**LEONARD MUKOSI, S.J.D.**  
Postdoctoral Scholar  
Cornell University  
Center for Racial Justice and Equitable Futures.  
[lm986@cornell.edu](mailto:lm986@cornell.edu)  
+1 5174810592

## EDUCATION

---

### Degrees

Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD): Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy, University of Arizona, James E Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ, USA, 2022.

Dissertation Title: *Indigenous Data Sovereignty; Origins and Implications for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*.

Master of Laws (LL.M): American Legal System, Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing, MI, USA, 2018.

Bachelor of Laws (LLB): Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, 2016.

Bachelor of Social Science: Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, 2014.

### Certificates

**Native Nation Building:** University of Arizona Native Nations Institute, USA 2019.

## AWARDS RECOGNITIONS & SELECTED PROGRAMS

---

### Awards

**2026 Global Scholars Intensive Scholar:** Harvard Law School – Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) Paris, France 10-14 June 2026

**Justice Advocates Coalition Summer Award;** University of Arizona 2019 & 2020.

**Williams Achievement Full Tuition Award;** University of Arizona 2018-2022.

**Lori E Talsky Center for the Rights and Women Externship Travel Award,** Michigan State College of Law 2017

**The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Full Scholarship Award;** Michigan State University 2016.

### News Article Recognitions

- **Center for World Indigenous Studies**
  - [Dr. Leo Mukosi – CWIS Scholar and Intern Appointed African Commission Expert Member](#) Article by Rudolf Ryser, August 1, 2023
- **University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law**
  - [SJD 2022 Grad Leonard Mukosi Advocates for the Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Data Sovereignty](#) Article by Alejandra Cardenas Cuestas, May 9, 2022.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

**Postdoctoral Associate: Center for Racial Justice and Equitable Futures, Cornell University:** August 2025 to date.

- Collaborating with faculty and community-based partners to develop policy-relevant scholarship that advances equitable futures for historically marginalized communities.
- Exploring the comparative entanglements of Blackness and Indigeneity and examines grassroots movements—such as Black Lives Matter and MMIP—as sites of resistance, illuminating how legal systems function both as instruments of oppression and tools for justice.

**Postdoctoral Scholar: The Research on Violent Victimization (ROVV) Lab, Arizona State University (ASU) School of Criminology and Criminal Justice:** September 6, 2022, to July 2024.

- Developed a consultation framework for partnerships with Indigenous MMIP survivors.
- Created and facilitated an Indigenous Survivor Advisory Group to guide the formation of a victim-centered research design.
- Negotiated reasonable accommodations from the ASU Institutional Review Board (IRB).

- Co-chaired consultative meetings and co-drafted the final report on integrating the unique aspects of Indigenous cultural and healing practices into criminal justice policy.

**Indigenous Rights Specialist: American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA, ROLI) in partnership with Southeast Asia Legal Support (SEALS):** June to August 2024.

- Drafted a toolkit for legal services organization to serve Indigenous communities in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.
- Co-chaired and facilitated monthly meetings with a Working Group comprised of Indigenous Peoples from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

**Expert Member: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa:** May 2023, to date.

- Gathered information from all relevant sources, including governments, civil society, indigenous populations, and their communities on human rights violations and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- Undertook country visits to engage and record the lived experiences of Indigenous communities facing human rights crisis.
- Formulated recommendations and proposals on appropriate measures and activities to prevent and remedy violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations/communities.
- Co-authored an activity report submitted to the ordinary session of the African Commission in 2023.
- Drafted partnership agreements for cooperating with other international and regional human rights mechanisms, institutions, and organizations.

**Summer Law Clerk: University of California Los Angeles School of Law, Native Nations Law, and Policy Center:** May-August 2021.

- Advised the Pueblo of Isleta (POI) Tribe's Department of Cultural and Historic Preservation to conduct an inventory of their cultural resources.
- Authored an extensive White Paper analyzing the federal and tribal cultural resource protection laws and how they relate to the cultural resource concerns raised by the POI Tribe.
- Developed a model, 'Pueblo of Isleta Cultural Resources Protection Ordinance,' which the POI Tribe adopted.

**Legal Fellow: American Civil Liberties Union of Montana, Indigenous Justice Department:** June–August 2020.

- Analyzed data from the Montana Office of Public Instruction to assess if individual schools integrate Indian Education for All (IEFA) legislation into their curriculums, as the Montana constitution requires. This project contributed to developing a high-profile case, *Yellow Kidney et al. v. Montana Office of Public Instruction et al.*
- Prepared legal briefs, collected data, and wrote memos on a myriad of civil liberties issues, including immigration reproductive rights, prison reform, mass incarceration, criminalization of poverty, and reform of the cash bail system.
- Collected data via depositions and hearings and prepared evidence for ACLU of Montana's robust litigation docket.

**Legal Researcher: Michigan Indian Legal Services:** June–August 2019.

- Assisted tribes in updating domestic violence codes to enable the prosecution of non-Native offenders in tribal courts.
- Assisted tribal victims of domestic violence with the relevant information regarding the legal avenues they can pursue to seek justice.
- Worked with tribal legal departments to harmonize their domestic violence codes with federal law, and to enhance extra jurisdictional enforcement of tribal court-issue personal protection orders and related documents.

**Legal Researcher: Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS):** Washington Olympia: January 2019 – January 2023.

Harmonized the T'it'gett landcode with the T'it'gett Constitution (T'it'gett is a band of the St'at'imcc Nation located in Canada's British Columbia province).

- Leda team of CWIS researchers in researching COVID-19-associated risks, infections, and deaths of Indigenous Peoples in the United States, Canada, and South Africa.
- Participated in developing the Indigenous Nations' International Criminal Tribunal coordinated by the CWIS under the sponsorship of the Ezidikhan Nation government located in northern Iraq.

**Child Rights Fellow: Stahili Foundation (Kenya):** June–September 2017.

- Monitored human rights situation of children in orphanages around Kenya.
- Facilitated the deinstitutionalization of children from orphanages into extended families.
- Facilitated former institutionalized children's access to social services.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**Graduate and Teaching Assistant: University of Arizona College of Humanities:** August 2018 –May 2022.

- Recruited, trained, and supervised teams of PhD students who graded undergraduate classes.
- Taught a module on the intersection of the civil rights movement and international human rights.
- Responded to students' queries and requests for accommodation.

**Arizona State University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice:** CRJ 304 Inequality Crime and Criminal Justice, 2023.

- I taught a 3-credit class that explored the variability in perpetration, apprehension, prosecution of punishment and crime, as well as criminal victimization by race, ethnicity, class, and socio- economic status, religion, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability status.

### Guest Lectures Given:

#### Arizona State University:

- **Class:** Inequality, Crime, and Criminal Justice
  - **Lecture topic:** *Historical and Contemporary Victimization of Indigenous Peoples:* October 2023.
- **Class:** Victims and the Criminal Justice System:
  - **Lecture topic:** *Unravelling the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples epidemic:* October 2023.

#### University of Arizona:

- **Class:** African American Literature
  - **Lecture topic:** Situating the Civil Rights Movement within the International Human Rights Framework.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

---

**Chairperson: Arizona Postdoctoral Research Conference (APRC):** 2023

- Coordinated planning meetings for APRC, a research conference for postdoctoral scholars across Arizona universities and institutions.
- Leading an interdisciplinary and interinstitutional of postdoctoral scholars in Designing conference agenda, theme, and program for the annual conference.

**Appreciation and Professional Development Coordinator: Arizona State University Postdoctoral Committee:** August 2023 to date.

- Coordinated partnerships between ASU postdoctoral scholars and postdoctoral scholars from other institutions in Arizona.
- Organized professional development events for postdoctoral scholars.

**Elections Director: University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Students Council:** August 2018 to August 2021

- Oversaw the graduate student council's selection process.
- Interpreted the graduate students' elections code.
- Presided over electoral disputes involving candidates for graduate students' council positions.

## OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

---

**Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education:** December 2018 to Present.

- Annually serve as a judge in the Civic and Constitutional Law Competitions between High school students in Arizona.

**Michigan Center of Civic Education:** February 2017

- Volunteered as a Court Officer for the Michigan High Schools' state finals Mock Trial Tournaments.

**Doctoral Fellow: Collaboratory for Indigenous Data Governance:** June2020-July2022.

- As a member of a consortium of Indigenous doctoral and postdoctoral Indigenous scholars committed to developing research, policy, and practice innovations to support the Indigenous participation in the collection, application/use and evaluation of Indigenous data.

**Editor: Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy:** June2020 –June2021.

- Reviewed and edited articles selected for publication in the Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy.
- Edited articles selected for presentation at the annual Environmental Justice Symposium.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Journal & Peer Reviewed Articles

**Leonard Mukosi**, Who Is Indigenous? An Experiential Reckoning on Identity and Belonging Beyond Imposed Boundaries. THE FUTURES FORUM, CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITABLE FUTURES.

Kathleen A. Fox, Cassie L. Harvey\*, **Leonard Mukosi**, Kayleigh A. Stanek\*, and Christopher Sharp, (2024). [The Impact of COVID-19 on Missing and Murdered \(Native American\) Indigenous Peoples: A Statewide Partnership Among Arizona State University, the State of Arizona, and Indigenous Communities](#). RESEARCH ON VIOLENT, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Leonard Mukosi**, Rachell Carroll, and Kathleen A. Fox. Examining the Impact of the Arizona Sober living home Crisis in Relation to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples: A Legal and Media Analysis. LAW JOURNAL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, 2024.

Fox, Kathleen A., Kayleigh Stanek, **Leonard Mukosi**, Christopher Sharp., and Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya. A Systematic Analysis of Statewide Reports on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples in the US What We Know and Where to Go from Here, RURAL SOCIOLOGY, 2024.

Kathleen A. Fox, Kayleigh A. Stanek, Cassie Harvey, Katonya Begay, Christopher Sharp, Valaura Imus-Nahsonhoya, **Leonard Mukosi**, and Dalavai Surveyor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples: Perspectives of Indigenous students and the faculty and staff who serve them. ARIZONASTATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ON VIOLENTVICTIMIZATION LAB, 2023.

**Mukosi, Leonard** Extraction of Personal Data: A New Form of Colonialism or Continuation of a Colonial Practice? Adult Native American Adoptees Resist Assimilation and Rebuild Erased Identities" AMERICAN INDIAN LAW JOURNAL: Vol. 10: Iss. 2, 2022.

**Leonard Mukosi**, Re-Conceptualizing the International Human Right to Health: An Analysis of the Trends in Developing and Developed Countries Responses to Substance Use Disorders, 22 SAN DIEGO INT'L L.J. 41 (2020)

**Leonard Mukosi**, (2020) Odawa cultural practices to treat substance addictions: A tour of the Healing to Wellness Court. FOURTH WORLDJOURNAL, Vol. 20, No. 1, 03/07/2020:41-49.

**Leonard Mukosi**, [Opioid Epidemic Provides an Unexpected Benefit?](#) International Law Inspires a Shift from Punitive to Curative Responses to Addiction. NOTRE DAME JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW (2019) (Online Commentary)

**Leonard Mukosi**, Are the attacks on foreign nationals in South Africa and the violent land grabs in Zimbabwe part of the same culture? RHODES UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY Incamera, 2015.

### Book Chapters:

**Leonard Mukosi**, Chapter 6 Dakota Access Pipeline: A Case of Cultural Genocide? Through an Indigenous Data Sovereignty Lens. In Green Crimes and International Criminal Law VERNON PRESS (2020).

### Manuscripts Under Review:

**Leonard Mukosi** Decolonizing Indigenous–State Criminal Justice Relations in Settler-Colonial Contexts: From Epistemic Injustice to Rights-Based Indigenous Justice DECOLONIZATION OF CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

---

**Midwest Institute for International-Intercultural Education:** Michigan, August 6, 2025.

Leonard Mukosi, *Decolonizing, and Indigenizing the Curriculum: A Rights-Based Approach for Community College Educators.*

**African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, Working Group of Indigenous Populations:** Windhoek, Namibia  
November 21, 2023.

Leonard Mukosi, *The Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Southern Africa.*

**Continental Workshop on the Status of Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa:** Banjul, Gambia November 16, 2023. **Leonard Mukosi**, *Indigenous Practices and Knowledge on Natural Resources Management, Environmental Protection, and Climate Resilience*

**78th American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 15, 2023

Leonard Mukosi, *Re-Imagining Indigenous Victimization and Criminalization.*

**77<sup>th</sup> American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting:** Atlanta, Georgia November 18, 2022.

Leonard Mukosi, *Arizona Victim Compensation Fund, and its Implications for Indigenous Peoples.*

**American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo:** Philadelphia, November 4, 2020.

Leonard Mukosi, *A Human Right-Based Response to the Opioid Epidemic.*

**World Peace Through Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association:** Washington, May 19, 2020.

Leonard Mukosi, *Indigenous Data Sovereignty: An Emerging Human Right*

**National SJD Roundtable, American University Washington College of Law:** Washington, April 4, 2019

Leonard Mukosi, *Indigenous Resurgence in the Era of Data Colonialism: Native American Adoptees Confront the Sealed Records*