

Intergenerational Justice Prize 2025/26

“Gerontocracy and Presentism: Two Problems for Intergenerational Justice”



Gelila Enbaye

"Time to replace the old guard? Gerontocracy and presentism in South Sudan"

Gelila Enbaye's article discusses the current political and security crisis in South Sudan, drawing on the lens of intergenerational justice. It argues that young people perform a dual role as excluded and essential actors in the country's political system as they are instrumentally included in the security arena by elites through armed mobilisation.

"Beyond Generations: Mapping Justice by Consequences"

Words are tools, and bad tools build nothing. This essay tests the buzzwords of intergenerational justice against real experience, argues that common categories may mislead us, and proposes more nuanced pragmatic concepts of publics and justice instead. The driving question is practical: how to expand who we feel responsible for?



Johanna Klingenburg



Joshua Steib

"Governing for Tomorrow: Global Insights into Institutionalizing Intergenerational Equity"

Intergenerational equity is widely invoked yet rarely institutionalised. This paper asks how democracies can embed long-term thinking, drawing on expert interviews to compare two pioneering Institutions for Future Generations: Wales' Future Generations Commissioner and Finland's Committee for the Future. Both succeed through soft power and adaptive leadership rather than enforcement, yielding transferable lessons for long-term democratic governance.

"Protecting future generations in Africa: Navigating Presentism, Geopolitics and Intergenerational Justice"

The paper argues that presentism is pervasive in Africa.

This incentivises short-term policies, culminating in intergenerational issues facing current generations. The paper then makes a call for a paradigm shift in policymaking to protect the interests of both present and coming generations, making intergenerational justice a guiding principle in African governance systems.



Alimi Salifou



Caitlin Masoliver

"Institutional Reform for the Long-term: Balancing Tensions between Technocracy and Participatory-democracy for Addressing Presentism in Policymaking"

Existing research often suggests that representative democracies, shaped by electoral cycles and voter incentives, tend towards short-term thinking. So how can we balance short-term pressures with long-term responsibility? Should decision-making be insulated, at least in part, from electoral pressures? This piece explores the tension between technocratic and participatory approaches to long-term governance.

"When youth revolt: Gerontocracy and Presentism in Nepal's 2025 Gen Z revolution"

By applying intergenerational justice theory, framing theory, and connective action theory to Nepal's 2025 Gen Z protests, this paper argues that digitally connected youth systematically diagnosed and challenged gerontocratic governance and presentist policymaking through Instagram-driven connective action in Nepal.



Vankala Lasya Priya