

Jeremy Sarkin  
Invited Full Professor  
Centro de Investigação e Desenvolvimento sobre Direito e Sociedade (CEDIS)  
Faculdade de Direito (FD)  
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## Research interests

Professor Jeremy Sarkin has undergraduate and postgraduate law degrees from South Africa, a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School and a Doctor of Laws degree on comparative and international law. He is admitted to practice as attorney in the USA and South Africa. He practiced at the New York bar during 1988 and 1989. He then spent time working at the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland. He is Professor of Law at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law, Nova University Law School, Lisbon, Portugal. He was a member (2008-2014), and was Chairperson-Rapporteur (2009-2012), of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. He served as an acting judge in 2002 and 2003 in South Africa. He served as National Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of South Africa from 1994-1998. He has worked on transitional justice issues in countries including Iraq, Syria, Argentina, Uganda, Zimbabwe, the Maldives, Nepal, Burundi, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Timor-Leste, the DRC, Libya, Tunisia, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Syria, Bahrain, and Lebanon. He is a co-editor of the book series on Transitional Justice at Intersentia Publishers. He is a member of a number of journal editorial boards, including Human Rights Quarterly, Human Rights and International Legal Discourse and the International Review of Criminal Law. He serves on the boards of a number of NGOs, including the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR). He has published 15 books and more than 250 articles. Some of his recent books and monographs are "Conflicted Democracies and Gendered Violence: The Right to Heal" (co-author) University of Chicago Press (2016), Bosnia and Herzegovina: Accounting for Missing Persons from the Conflict: A Stocktaking, International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) 2014, (co-author); "Germany's Genocide of the Herero" (2011) author; Reparations for Colonial Genocides (2009) author; Human Rights in African Prisons (2008) editor; Reconciliation in Divided Societies: Finding Common Ground (2007) co-author; Carrots and Sticks: The TRC and the South African Amnesty Process (2004) author; The Administration of Justice: Comparative Perspectives (2004); Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights – An Appraisal of Current International and European Developments (2002) co-editor; Resolving the Tensions Between Crime and Human Rights: European and South African Perspectives (2002) co-editor; The Principle of Equality (2001) co-editor.

### Research areas:

#### TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE:

- Truth seeking and truth commissions,
- Reparations,
- Institutional design and reform,
- Guarantees of non-repetition: Prosecutions; Reconciliation

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

- Disappearances
- Missing Persons
- Terrorism and human rights
- Responsibility to Protect
- Gender equality and violence against women
- Human rights in transitional societies

#### DEMOCRATISATION

- Constitution making, development and reform
- Law reform
- Good governance promotion
- Promotion of the rule of law
- Combating corruption
- Institutional design and reform

## Employment

**Centro de Investigação e Desenvolvimento sobre Direito e Sociedade (CEDIS)**  
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa  
Lisboa, Portugal  
3 Oct 2016 → present

**Invited Full Professor**  
Faculdade de Direito (FD)

## Research output

1. **Promoting the Rights of Victims in Under-Resourced Places by Using Science and Technology That Can be Used by Ordinary People, to Deal with Human Rights Violations: Bolstering the Right to the Truth**  
Sarkin, J. J., 2021, (Accepted/In press) In: *Liverpool Law Review*.
2. **Africa's Role In, and Contribution To, International Criminal Justice**  
Sarkin, J. & Siagandu, E., 2020, Intersentia.
3. **Introduction**  
Sarkin, J. & Siagandu, E., 2020, *Africa's Role and Contribution To International Criminal Justice* . Intersentia
4. **Is the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights with Criminal Jurisdiction an African Solution to an African Problem?**  
Sarkin, J., 2020, *Africa's Role and Contribution To International Criminal Justice* . Intersentia, p. 225-250
5. **Reforming the International Criminal Court (ICC) to Achieve Increased State Cooperation in Investigations and Prosecutions of International Crimes**  
Sarkin, J., 2020, In: *International Human Rights Law Review*. 9, 1, p. 27-61 35 p.
6. **The 2020 UN Human Rights Treaty Body Review Process: Prioritising Improving Domestic State Reporting Processes Over Rationalising and Streamlining the Treaty Body System**  
Sarkin, J., 2020, In: *International Journal of Human Rights*. 24, 9, p. 1-27
7. **The 2020 United Nations human rights treaty body review process: prioritising resources, independence and the domestic state reporting process over rationalising and streamlining treaty bodies**  
Sarkin, J., 2020, (Accepted/In press) In: *International Journal of Human Rights*.
8. **Understanding South Africa's Changing Positions on International Criminal Justice: Why the Country Wanted to Withdraw From the ICC and Why It May Remain in the ICC For the Time Being**  
Sarkin, J., 2020, (Accepted/In press) In: *Cadernos De Estudos Africanos*.
9. **Why Political Appointments to Truth Commissions Cause Difficulties for These Institutions: Using the Crisis in the Transitional Justice Process in Nepal to Understand How Matters of Legitimacy and Credibility Undermine Such Commissions**  
Sarkin, J. & Bandari, R., 2020, In: *Journal of Human Rights Practice* . 11, 3, p. 1-27
10. **Colonial and Apartheid Victimisation: Towards Finding Solutions to Deal With an Atrocious Past**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, *Victimology in Africa*. Robert Peacock, p. 345-361
11. **Introduction: Contextualising and Understanding the Global Role, Impact and Legacy of Truth Commissions**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, *The Global Impact and Legacy of Truth Commissions* . Intersentia, p. 1-43
12. **Prisons in Africa**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press, p. 1-28
13. **Should Asylum Seeking Minors Be Detained?: Understanding European and International Law and Policy and Seeking Alternative Solutions**  
Sarkin, J. & Tavarela, C., 2019, In: *Inter Gentes: The McGill Journal of International Law & Legal Pluralism*. p. 1-42
14. **The Global Impact and Legacy of Truth Commissions**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, Intersentia. (Series on Transitional Justice)
15. **The Role of National Human Rights Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF): Understanding These New Global Domestic Processes Using Georgia and Portugal as a Focus**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, In: *Teise: Vilnius University Law Faculty Journal*. p. 168-189
16. **Towards An Understanding of How Truth Commissions Can Use Their Amnesty Powers to Enhance Their Impact and Legacy**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, *The Global Impact and Legacy of Truth Commissions*. Intersentia, p. 211-245
17. **Understanding the Activation of the Crime of Aggression at the International Criminal Court: Progress and Pitfalls**  
Sarkin, J. & Almeida, J., 2019, In: *Wisconsin International Law Review* . p. 518-551
18. **Understanding the Extent to which Truth Commissions (TCs) Are Gender Sensitive and Promote Women's Issues: Comparing and Contrasting these TC roles in South Africa, Guatemala, Peru, Sierra Leone and Liberia**  
Sarkin, J. & Ackerman, S., 2019, In: *Georgetown Journal of International Law* . 50, 2, p. 463-516
19. **Why Security Council Reform Is Essential for R2P to Actually Impact the Global Level of Atrocity Crimes**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, In: *Canadian Journal on the Responsibility to Protect* . 1, p. 62-76
20. **Why the Role of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Advancing Democratic Principles and Human Rights in African Countries Needs to be Reformed: An Examination Using the Lens of Swaziland/ eSwatini**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, In: *Southern African Public Law*. p. 1-56

21. **Why victimology should focus on all victims, including all missing and disappeared persons**  
Sarkin, J., 2019, In: *International Review of Victimology*. 25(2), p. 249-270
22. **Why Enforced Disappearances Are Perpetrated Against Groups As State Policy: Overlaps and Interconnections Between Disappearances and Genocide**  
Sarkin, J. & Baranowska, G., Nov 2018, In: *Católica Law Review*. 2, 3, p. 11-42
23. **Redesigning the Definition a Truth Commission, but Also Designing a Forward-Looking Non-Prescriptive Definition to Make Them Potentially More Successful**  
Sarkin, J., Sep 2018, In: *HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW*. 19, 3, p. 349-368
24. **Respecting and protecting the lives of migrants and refugees: The need for a human rights approach to save lives and find missing persons**  
Sarkin, J., 7 Feb 2018, In: *International Journal of Human Rights*. 22, 2, p. 207-236 30 p.
25. **A methodology to ensure that states adequately apply due diligence standards and processes to significantly impact levels of violence against women around the world**  
Sarkin, J., 1 Feb 2018, In: *Human Rights Quarterly*. 40, 1, p. 1-36 36 p.
26. **The need to reform the political role of the African Union in promoting democracy and human rights in domestic states: Making states more accountable and less able to avoid scrutiny at the united nations and at the African Union, using Swaziland to spotlight the issues**  
Sarkin, J., 1 Feb 2018, In: *African Journal of International and Comparative Law*. 26, 1, p. 84-107 24 p.
27. **Has the ability of truth commissions to recommend amnesty been effective in enhancing perpetrator cooperation?**  
Sarkin, J., 1 Jan 2018, In: *Brazilian Journal of International Law*. 15, 3, p. 453-476 24 p.
28. **The Need to Reform the Political Role of the African Union (AU) in Promoting Democracy and Human Rights in Domestic States: Making States More Accountable and Less Able to Avoid Scrutiny at the United Nations and at the AU, Using Swaziland to Spotlight the Issues.**  
Sarkin, J., 2018, In: *African Journal of International and Comparative Law*. 26(1), p. 84-107
29. **Truth Recovery From Conditional Amnesty Processes: Benefits And Constraints**  
Sarkin, J., 2018, *Understanding the Age of Transitional Justice: Crimes, Courts, Commissions, and Chronicling*. Adler, N. (ed.). Rutgers University, p. 56 74 p.
30. **Understanding the changing relationship of South Africa and the International Criminal Court: towards a culture of greater impunity in Africa?**  
Sarkin, J., 11 Jul 2017, In: *Themis - Revista da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Nova de Lisboa*. 32, p. 7-34
31. **How Conditional Amnesties Can Assist Transitional Societies in Delivering on the Right to the Truth**  
Sarkin, J. J., 1 Jan 2017, In: *International Human Rights Law Review*. 6, 2, p. 143-175 33 p.
32. **South Africa's reconciliation process: Tools, resources and obstacles in the journey to deal with its atrocious past**  
Sarkin, J., 1 Jan 2017, *Reconciling with the Past: Resources and Obstacles in a Global Perspective*. Taylor and Francis Ltd., p. 15-28 14 p.
33. **The togolese truth, justice and reconciliation commission: Lessons for transitional justice processes elsewhere**  
Sarkin, J. J. & Davi, T., 1 Jan 2017, In: *Peace and Conflict Studies*. 24, 1
34. **Editorial**  
Sarkin, J., Parmentier, S. & Zinsstag, E., 2017, In: *Human Rights and International Legal Discourse*. 11, 1, p. 2-6
35. **Examining the Criticisms Levelled Against Transitional Justice: (Towards an understanding of the State of the Field)**  
Sarkin, J. & Davi, T., 2017, In: *Human Rights and International Legal Discourse*. 11, 1, p. 7-22
36. **How Developments in the Science and Technology of Searching, Recovering and Identifying the Missing/ Disappeared Are Positively Affecting the Rights of Victims Around the World**  
Sarkin, J., 2017, In: *Human Remains and Violence: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. 3, 1, p. 71-89
37. **South Africa's Reconciliation Process: Tools, Resources and Obstacles in the Journey to Deal its Atocious Past**  
Sarkin, J., 2017, *Reconciling with the Past: Resources and Obstacles in a Global Perspective*. Frieberg, A. & Chung, C. K. M. (eds.). United Kingdom: Routledge, p. 195-203 (Routledge Advances in International Relations and Global Politics).
38. **The Interrelationship of Nation Building, Reconciliation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence (or Non- Repetition) of Human Rights Violations Using the South African Transition as an Illustration: How Victim Rights and Needs Can Be Better Achieved**  
Sarkin, J., 2017, In: *Journal of Victimology/ Revista de Victimología*. 5, p. 9-32
39. **Refocusing Transitional Justice to Focus Not only on the Past, but Also to Concentrate on Ongoing Conflicts and Enduring Human Rights Crises**  
Sarkin, J., 1 Jan 2016, In: *Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies*. 7, 2, p. 294-329 36 p.
40. **A Critique of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Right's Decision Permitting the Demolition of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal: Politics versus Economics and Human Rights**  
Sarkin, J., 2016, In: *African Journal of International and Comparative Law*. 24, 2, p. 215-241

41. **Balancing National Security and Human Rights: International and Domestic Standards Applying to Terrorism and Freedom of Speech**  
Sarkin, J., 2016, *Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals: Perspectives from Jungles and Lawyers in Southern Africa on Promoting Rule of Law and Equal Access to Justice*. Johannesburg, South Africa: Southern African Litigation Centre, p. 105-203
42. **Is the African Union's Position on Non-Indifference Making a Difference? The Implementation of The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in Africa in Theory and Practice**  
Sarkin, J., 2016, In: *Journal of African Union Studies*. 5, 1, p. 5-37
43. **Reducing the Number of Children That Go Missing As a Result of Migration and Refugee Flows and Putting in Place the Means to Find Them**  
Sarkin, J., 2016, In: *IHRC Journal of Human Rights*. 2, 1, p. 3-6
44. **South Africa's International Criminal Justice: Past, Present and Future**  
Sarkin, J., 2016, *Shifting Power and Human Rights Diplomacy: South Africa*. Amnesty International Netherlands
45. **The Rise and Fall (and Possible Rise Again) of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)**  
Sarkin, J., 2016, *Reassessing the Responsibility to Protect: Conceptual and Operational Challenges*. Routledge
46. **Why Establishing a Credible and Legitimate Transitional Justice Model, in Conjunction with Democratic Reforms, is a Necessity to Creating Long-Term Peace and Stability in Uganda**  
Sarkin, J., 2016, In: *Southern African Public Law*. 31, 2

## Activities

### **Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)

1 Jan 2019 → 31 Dec 2020

### **Genocide after 1948: 70 years of Genocide Convention**

Jeremy Sarkin (Speaker)

7 Dec 2018 → 8 Dec 2018

### **The 2018 International Multi-Disciplinary Conference**

Jeremy Sarkin (Member of programme committee)

29 Aug 2018 → 31 Aug 2018

### **Processos de Paz e Reconciliação: a inspiração de Nelson Mandela**

Jeremy Sarkin (Speaker)

16 Jul 2018

### **World Victimology Conference**

Jeremy Sarkin (Speaker)

10 Jun 2018 → 14 Jun 2018

### **Noha Spring School**

Jeremy Sarkin (Speaker)

14 May 2018 → 15 May 2018

### **The Global Legacy of Truth Commissions**

Jeremy Sarkin (Organiser) & Armando Marques Guedes (Speaker)

15 Feb 2018 → 16 Feb 2018

### **Conference on Human Rights and Memory**

Jeremy Sarkin (Speaker)

14 Feb 2018

### **The Attitudes Towards Transitional Justice: A Global Overview Conference**

Jeremy Sarkin (Speaker)

2 Feb 2018

**Global Legacies of Truth Commissions**

Jeremy Sarkin (Invited speaker)  
Feb 2018

**Teise: Vilnius University Law Faculty Journal (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
1 Jan 2018 → 31 Dec 2020

**Myanmar Journal (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2018 → ...

**Memory Politics and Transitional Justice (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
1 Jan 2017 → 31 Dec 2020

**Gauhati University Journal of Law (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2017 → ...

**Journal of African Union Studies (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2017 → ...

**Palgrave Macmillan (Publisher)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2017 → ...

**Frontiers of Legal Research Journal (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2016 → ...

**Human Rights Quarterly (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2016 → ...

**Southern African Public Law (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2016 → ...

**Frontiers of Legal Research Journal (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2013 → ...

**Journal of Political Risk (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)  
2013 → ...

**Inter-American and European Human Rights Journal (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editor)  
2010 → ...

**Zimbabwe Human Rights Bulletin (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)

2010 → ...

**Review of Higher Education in Africa (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)

2008 → ...

**Transitional Justice book series– Intersentia Publishers (Publisher)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)

2006 → ...

**Journal of Contemporary Roman-Dutch Law (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)

2000 → ...

**Human Rights Quaterly (Journal)**

Jeremy Sarkin (Editorial board member)

1998 → ...