

OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Politics of Legal Time: Statutes of Limitations in Transitional Justice

Thabo. Maseko^{1*} ¹ School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

* Corresponding author email address: thabo.maseko@wits.ac.za

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EDITOR:Richard Dodder 

Emeritus Professor of Sociology and of Statistics, Oklahoma State University Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA. Email: rdodder@hotmail.com

REVIEWER 1:Mehmet Yaşar 

Department of Sociology, Boğaziçi University, 34342 Bebek, Istanbul, Turkey. Email: mehmetyasardo@bogazici.edu.tr

REVIEWER 2:Patrika Handique 

Patent Information Centre, Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre, Chhattisgarh Council of Science & Technology, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India. Email: Patriandique@gmail.com

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “This article critically explores the role of statutes of limitations in transitional justice contexts...” is strong, but it would benefit from greater clarity on the methodological boundaries. Please clarify whether the narrative review includes only secondary legal literature or also incorporates judicial decisions and interviews.

The structure outlined is helpful, but the introduction lacks a clear thesis statement. Consider adding one or two sentences that articulate your central argument more explicitly—i.e., not just what the paper examines, but the key claim it advances.

The explanation of statutes of limitations is clear, but the article could benefit from referencing classic legal theorists (e.g., Lon Fuller, Ronald Dworkin) to further deepen the normative discussion on procedural justice.

The article discusses retroactivity but doesn't engage with European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) jurisprudence on the matter. Consider integrating key rulings such as *Kononov v. Latvia* (2010) to enrich the analysis.

The discussion of the Rome Statute is helpful, but the article could also discuss the *Barrios Altos v. Peru* (2001) ruling by the Inter-American Court as it relates to the invalidation of amnesties and limitation statutes.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase “The manipulation of legal time thus reflects broader struggles over historical narrative...” is excellent. However, this could be more analytically rigorous by providing a typology of manipulation tactics (e.g., legislative delay, selective enforcement, retroactive amnesties) to frame the article.

The shift in German legal interpretations after the 1960s is noted. However, the article could benefit from citing specific legal reforms or court rulings (e.g., the 1979 abolishment of limitation periods for murder) to support this narrative.

The statement “enforced disappearances were ongoing...” refers to a legal doctrine worth elaborating on. Consider adding a citation or explanation of the “continuous crime” doctrine used to toll limitation periods under international law.

The phrase “governments can effectively outwait public pressure...” could be expanded. Including a concrete example of such a strategy—perhaps from Latin America or Eastern Europe—would strengthen the claim.

The article rightly observes that “legal time is used... to define the boundaries of accountability.” This is a strong insight but remains abstract. Consider integrating victim testimony or public reaction examples that illustrate this political contest over time.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.