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## Forum för Afrikastudier

### *Friday Research Seminar in African Studies*

# *The Making of Authority in Plural Legal Systems: A Study of Community Courts in Maputo* with **Fabio Provenzano** *University of Copenhagen, Centre of African Studies*

Time: Friday 17 March, 10.15-11.30

Venue: House 3, room 2028, Engelska Parken,  
Thunsbergsvägen 3H

*Since the early 1990s, Mozambique has been experimenting with a transition from a socialist to a capitalist system, affecting, among other spheres, the legal system. Such changes galvanised the emergence of local institutions settling disputes in both rural and urban areas. Among the most popular of these institutions in the capital is the 'community court', which are used for solving cases that state institutions do not have the capacity to address. These courts stand for forms of ordering that are parallel to the Mozambican state and they are especially present in economically deprived neighbourhoods unsatisfied with the many governments represented by the political party FRELIMO. This presentation analyses the ways in which multiple authorities in plural legal systems of urban Mozambique are constructed and legitimized, using community courts as a study case. These courts are hybrid legal spaces mirroring the Mozambican plural system, which is understood as a composition of different forms of knowledges and authorities. The presentation is drawn from fieldwork conducted in Maputo, Mozambique, from August 2015 to April 2016.*

[afrikastudier@antro.uu.se](mailto:afrikastudier@antro.uu.se)  
[www.afrikastudier.uu.se](http://www.afrikastudier.uu.se)

