

DEBATING KOSOVO AND IRAQ AT THE LAW SCHOOL

On 13 October 2017, students taking Professor Suzannah Linton's course on The International Law of Armed Conflict had a chance to experience an alternative and interactive approach to learning about International Law.



Charles Owusu arguing his case against the legality of use of force in Kosovo, supported by team-mate Letwin Chinomona

Four students (Yvette Mutemeri, Melisa Gamuchira, Charles Owusu and Letwin Chinomona) debated the motion 'NATO's use of armed force in Kosovo was lawful under International Law'. The team arguing for the motion won.



Yvette Mutemeri (speaking) with Melisa Gamuchira looking on

A second set of four students (Passionate Kwashiwa, Donald Rushambwa, Tshepo Ledwaba and Josephine Chawanika) debated the motion 'The invasion and occupation of Iraq was *not* in accordance with International Law'. The team arguing for the motion won.



Passionate Kwashiwa and Donald Rushambwa listening intently to the opposing side

The debaters of course learned an enormous amount: how to research points of law, how to argue them, how to manage time, how to work together as a team, how to present themselves. The exercise brought the law to life and demonstrated the significance of well-informed legal argumentation. However, the other students were also engaged in this creative learning activity. They served as judges. Several student-judges posed challenging questions to the debaters. By popular vote, the Best Debater Award went to Charles Owusu and the Runner-Up was Yvette Mutemeri.



Tshepo Ledwaba takes notes as Josephine Chawanika argues her case for the legality of the invasion and occupation of Iraq