

Law and the Environment 2023

Thursday, 20th April 2023

University College Cork

Concept Note

‘Environmental Law as Administrative Governance’

The 19th annual *Law and the Environment Conference* at University College Cork (UCC) will focus on environmental regulatory activity as a species of administrative governance. In addition to legislative regulatory measures, at both the national and EU levels, which are evolving constantly in terms of their sophistication and complexity, this broad theme is also intended to encompass complementary phenomena, such as the tentative emergence of various forms of environmental rights and the proliferation of global / transnational environmental standards regulating ever more areas of activity. The event seeks to highlight the increasingly extensive range of actors involved in environmental administrative governance – including government and state agencies, business and industry confederations, civil society organisations and consortia, and specialist organisations established by the international community. The organisers welcome proposals for papers / presentations reflecting upon the increasingly diverse range of administrative processes, operating at a variety of levels of administrative governance, which contribute towards creation of the complex mix of governance frameworks which constitutes modern environmental regulation.

Possible topics might include, *inter alia*:

- Recent / innovative developments in environmental regulation at the international, EU and/or national level;
- The role of the Aarhus Convention / Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee in elaborating standards of (procedural) environmental administrative governance;
- The potential role of (emerging) environmental rights in framing environmental regulatory governance;
- The contribution of informal / non-state-led standards of transnational / global environmental governance to formal environmental regulatory frameworks;
- The influence of environmental regulatory standards upon private law frameworks for environmental protection (*e.g.* tort, contract, *etc.*);
- Compliance with environmental, social and governance (ESG) and sustainability initiatives as a new field of legal practice;
- The evolving landscape of frameworks for sustainable investment and finance;

- Regulation of the veracity of environmental / sustainability claims with a view to preventing “greenwashing”; or
- The potential role of (emerging) rights of nature in framing environmental regulatory governance.

However, notwithstanding the suggestions above, the aim of the *Law and the Environment Conference* is, as always, to be as inclusive as possible, and so proposals will be welcomed on any topic relating, even indirectly, to the broad ‘Administrative Governance’ theme.

In addition, the Conference Programme will, as usual, include the well-established specialist sessions covering contemporary developments in such areas as:

- *Land-Use / Planning Law*;
- *Marine Environmental Law*;
- *Corporate Environmental Law*;
- *Climate & Energy Law*;
- *Fisheries & Aquaculture Law*; and/or
- *Environmental Enforcement & Liability*.

Proposals for papers / presentations should be forwarded as soon as possible (and before the 31st January 2023 deadline) to the Conference Convenor, Prof Owen McIntyre, at o.mcintyre@ucc.ie (Tel. +353-87-2861055).