

MCCANN FITZGERALD

Centre for Law and the Environment

UCC Sustainability Institute

Law and the Environment 2026

22nd Annual Conference



Consolidation in Environmental Law

Thursday, 23rd April 2026
Boole Lecture Theatres 3, 4 and 6

[Online Registration Now Open](#)

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 **UCC**
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

8:30 am Registration and Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)

8:50 am Welcome: Prof Owen McIntyre, School of Law, UCC (Boole 3).

Plenary Session 1: Keynote Presentation I (Boole 3)

9:00 am Prof Richard Macrory, CBE, Hon KC, Professor Emeritus, University College London:

Do We Need National Environmental Audit Bodies in the EU?

Parallel Session 1: Climate & Energy Law I: The Role of the Market (Boole 4)

Chair: Prof Marguerite Nyhan, Professor of Engineering for Sustainability, School of Engineering and Architecture, University College Cork

9:30 am Dr Lloyd Brown, Swansea University, British Academy – Leverhulme SRG:

Pension Fund Fiduciary Duties and Climate Risk: Institutional Investors as Actors in Corporate Environmental Governance

10:00 am Prof Stefano Fanetti, Department of Law, Economics and Cultures, University of Insubria:

Insurance, Climate Risk and Disaster Governance: The Italian Approach in Comparative Perspective

10:30 am Michael C. O'Connor SC, Law Library Dublin, Member of the Bars of England & Wales (Lincolns Inn) and Northern Ireland, PhD Candidate University of Galway:

The Emerging Legal and Regulatory foundation for Carbon Farming in the EU

Parallel Session 2: Techniques of Legal Consolidation I (Boole 3)

Chair: Prof Owen McIntyre, School of Law, University College Cork:

9:30 am Ms Cliona Kimber SC, Law Library, Dublin:

Codifying the Right to a Healthy Environment: Does International Jurisprudence Now Provide a Consensus on the Scope of that Right?

10:00 am Prof Catherine Malecki, Professor of Private Law, Rennes 2 University and Member of the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF):

The EU Omnibus Simplification Package: What Consequences for Stakeholder and Environmental Corporate Governance?

10:30 am Ms Hannah Janknecht and Mr Cristian Barroso, Compliance and Risks:

The EU's New Circular Economy Framework as a Model for Normative Consolidation in Environmental Law

Parallel Session 3: International Law and the Marine Environment (Boole 6)

Chair: Dr Anne Marie O'Hagan, MaREI Centre, University College Cork

9:30 am Prof Ronán Long, Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, Nippon Foundation Professorial Chair of Ocean Governance & the Law of the Sea, World Maritime University of the International Maritime Organization:
Implementing the COSIS and ITLOS Advisory Opinions by means of the BBNJ Agreement

10:00 am Prof Goran Dominioni, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University:
Revenue Distribution in the IMO Net-Zero Framework: Alternative Fuels and the Just and Equitable Energy Transition of Shipping

10:30 am Mr Ciaran McCarthy BL, Law Library:
Recent Legislation Affecting Vessels Working in the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector in Ireland

11:00 – 11:30 am Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)

Parallel Session 4: Climate & Energy Law II: Regulatory Consolidation (Boole 4)

Chair: Prof Noreen O'Meara, Synnott Family Chair in EU Law, School of Law, University College Cork:

11:30 am Ms Laura Hildt, No. 5 Barristers' Chambers, London and PhD Candidate, University of Ghent:
The European Climate Law Consistency Assessment: A Persistent Failure Turned Litigation Opportunity?

12:00 pm Prof Hao Zhang, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, University of Cambridge:
Beyond the Brussels Effect: Descriptive Consolidation, Functional Convergence, and Regulatory Dynamics in EU-China Climate Governance

12:30 pm Ms Chhaya Bhardwaj, PhD Candidate, Dublin City University:
Consolidation of Climate Law in Indian Environmental Law: A Fragmented Consolidation

Parallel Session 5: Topical Issues in Planning and Environmental Law in Practice: Law Society of Ireland Environmental and Planning Law Cttee. (Boole 3)

Chair: Ms Rachel Minch SC, Philip Lee LLP

11:30 am Ms Carol Day, Leigh Day:
Funding and Costs in Environmental Claims: The UK's Aarhus Costs Capping Regime

12:00 pm Ms Alison Fanagan SC, A&L Goodbody:
Climate Law as an Emerging Area of Practice

12:30 pm The Hon. Mr. Justice Richard Humphreys, Judge of the High Court:
Administration of Justice: Balancing Access and Efficiency

Parallel Session 6: Risk Communication and Early Warning Systems (Boole 6)

Chair: Dr Marie Aronsson-Storrier, School of Law, University College Cork

11:30 – 1:00 pm *Panel Discussion:*

Dr Holly Faulkner, School of Law and MaREI, University College Cork, Dr Kaija Jumppanen Andersen, Technical University of Denmark and Dr Hannah Waldapfel, University of Copenhagen:
DIRECTED - Overcoming Barriers to Legal Preparedness for Climate Change Adaptation: A Danish Case Study

Dr Maria Olbert, Mr Jakub Majewski and Dr Ewa Boryczka-Kubiak
University of Łódź:
UNIC – Public Participation in Urban Climate Change Adaptation: The EcoBudget as a Tool for Bottom-Up Climate Risk Communication

Ms Niamh Guiry, Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland EPA PhD Scholar,
School of Law, University College Cork:
UNIC – Cork City Public Participation Network

Dr Dug Cubie, School of Law, University College Cork:
AlertHub – Governance and Communication of Early Warnings: An Overview of the AlertHub: Warning Communication Knowledge Network

Parallel Session 7: Challenges in Environmental Regulation & Governance I (Boole 5)

Chair: Ms Finola McCarthy, RDJ LLP

11:30 am Ms Esther Drabkin-Reiter BL, Francis Taylor Building & Law library Dublin and Ms Claire Nevin BL, Francis Taylor Building, Inner Temple, London:
Legal Obligations to Consider PFAS and Forever Chemicals in Environmental Impact Assessments in Ireland

12:00 am Ms Fionna O'Regan BL, Law Library:
Recent Judgments on Wind Farm Noise

12:30 am Dr Gabriele Uva, Department of Civil Law, University of Sannio:
Evolving Human and/or Constitutional Environmental or Climate-Related Rights

1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch (Boole Basement)

Parallel Session 8: The Supreme Court Judgment in the *Coolglass* Wind Farm Case: Not so ‘cool’ after all! (Boole 4)

Chair: The Hon. Ms. Justice Marie Baker, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court; Chair of the Electoral Commission; Adjunct Professor, School of Law, University College Cork

2:00 – 3:30 pm *Panel Discussion:*

Ms Sinéad Mercier, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin [online]

Dr Alessandra Accogli, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University

Dr Orla Kelleher, School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University

Prof Amy Strecker, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin

Parallel Session 9: Nature Conservation Law (Boole 3)

Chair: Mr Brendan Slattery, McCann Fitzgerald, Dublin

2:00 pm Ms Mathilde Lacaze-Masmonteil, Avocate à la Cour, Paris [online]:
Inadequate Assessment of Pesticides and the Decline in Biodiversity: Sue Your Government!

2:30 pm Ms Karin Dubsy, Director, Coastwatch:
Integration of Simultaneously Applicable Regulatory Controls in the Coastal Zone: Recent Attempts to Address the Imperative

3:00 pm Mr Gabriel Toolan, Walter P. Toolan & Sons, Ballinamore:
The Unsolved Environmental Crime of the 40,000 Fish Kill in the River Blackwater- A Case Review

Parallel Session 10: Techniques of Legal Consolidation II (Boole 6)

Chair: Dr Joanne Blennerhassett,

2:00 pm Dr Alison Hardiman, Philip Lee Solicitors, Dublin:
Achieving a Tiered Relationship between SEA and Project Level Assessments in Practice

2:30 pm Dr Rónán Kennedy, School of Law, University of Galway:
Technical Debt in Environmental Law: Databases, Design Choices and Democracy

3:00 pm Dr Amy O'Halloran, School of Law, University College Cork:
Transnational Environmental Regulation as a New Species of Legal Order

Parallel Session 11: Governance of Natural and Cultural Heritage (Boole 5)

Chair: Prof Femi Amao, School of Law, University College Cork

2:00 pm Mr Simon Kieser, Sydney Indigenous Research Hub, University of Sydney;
ICOMOS International Working Group on Indigenous Heritage [Online]:
Beyond Siloed Regimes: Consolidating Environmental Governance, Intangible Heritage, and Indigenous Advocacy in Practice

2:30 pm Dr Róisín Burke, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, Utrecht University:
Rivers as Connectors in a Fragmented Region: Confidence-Building Measures, Networks and the CEDAW/WPS Agenda in South Caucasus Water Governance

3:00 pm Mr Seán Kirwan, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
and Dr Connie Kelleher, National Monuments Service:
The 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage: Implications of Ireland's Ratification

3:30 – 4:00 pm Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)

Parallel Session 12: Children's Rights & Climate Justice (Boole 4)

Chair: Prof Conor O'Mahony, Dean, School of Law, University College Cork

4:00 pm Prof Aoife Daly, Youth Climate Justice Project, School of Law, University College Cork and Dr Maria Antonia Tigre, Sabin Centre for Climate Change Law, Columbia University:
Global South Cases in the Youth Climate Justice Project Case Database

4:30 pm Dr Florencia Paz Landeira, Postdoctoral Researcher, School of Law, University College Cork [online]:
From Visibility to Authority? Children's Rights and Post-Paternalist Participation in Global Climate Governance

5:00 pm Dr Nabin Maharjan, Postdoctoral Researcher, School of Law, University College Cork [online]:
Learning from Nepal – Stories of Newar (Indigenous) Children's Rights Practices in a Time of Climate Crisis

Parallel Session 13: The Environmental Science - Law Interface (Boole 3)

Chair: Dr Paul Bolger, UCC Sustainability Academy, University College Cork

4:00 – 5:30 pm *Panel Discussion*

Dr Rhoda Jennings, Research Ireland / Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellow, University College Cork:

The Consolidating Effect of Science in EU Environmental Decision-Making

Ms Camille Bertaux, PhD Candidate, UC Louvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles, Member of CEDRE:

The Standards of Quality in the EU Directives on Ambient Air Quality and Drinking Water

Dr Haomiao Du, School of Law, Utrecht University:

The Role of Science in Climate Courtrooms: Interpreting Emission Reduction Targets and Mitigation Obligations

Ms Filipa Calheiros Ferraz, Abreu Advogados, Lisbon [online]:

The Role of Scientific Evidence in Climate Law Processes: Causation and Loss and Damage

Parallel Session 14: Legal Consolidation as Regulatory Regression (Boole 6)

Chair: The Hon. Ms. Justice Marie Baker, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court; Chair of the Electoral Commission; Adjunct Professor, School of Law, University College Cork

4:00 pm Ms Attracta Uí Bhroin, Manager, Environmental Law Ireland initiative hosted at An Taisce, The National Trust for Ireland; Board member of the European Environmental Bureau, EEB:

Part 3 (on Judicial Review) of the General Scheme of a Civil Reform Bill 2025: Lobbing a Grenade into the Current Minefield of Environmental Judicial Review

4:30 pm Prof Delphine Misonne, UCLouvain Saint-Louis Brussels; FNRS Senior Researcher, Head of CEDRE:

Environmental Law at Risk: A Typology of Regression Trends and Possible Remedies

5:00 pm Ms Cara O'Mahony, UCC Sustainability Academy:

The EU Omnibus Package: Reduced Complexity or Reduced Ambition?

Parallel Session 15: Challenges in Environmental Regulation & Governance II (Boole 5)

Chair: Dr Dug Cubie, School of Law, University College Cork

4:00 pm Mr Aaron Green, Compliance & Risks Ltd:
Unsustainable Sustainability: How Environmental Policy Became Politically Toxic

4:30 pm Mr Gregory Jones KC, Francis Taylor Building, Inner Temple, London and Law Library, Dublin:
How Green is Ireland? Green Washing, Tree Gushing and Green Hushing

5:00 pm Dr Pablo Damián Colmegna, University of Buenos Aires: [[Online](#)]
“Sacrifice Zones”: A New Category of Environmental Protection?

Plenary Session 2: Keynote Presentation II (Boole 3)

5:30 pm Prof Colin T. Reid, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Law, University of Dundee:
Consolidation, Codification and Integration: Beneficial Coherence or Unmanageable Mush?

6:00 pm Closing Remarks (Boole 3)

6:15 pm Conference Reception (Council Room, Quad North Wing)

Generously sponsored by RDJ LLP

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Due to the very generous support of McCann FitzGerald, it has become possible to make this event free of charge for all participants. **Advance registration at the link below is essential.**
Early registration is advised.

[Online Registration Now Open](#)

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All CPD Certificates will be forwarded following the Conference.

Registration:

Delegates may register online [here](#).

Conference Convenor

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Conference Programme Overview

8:50 – 9:00 Welcome – Owen McIntyre (Boole 3)			
9:00 – 9:30 Keynote Presentation I - Richard Macrory (Boole 3)			
9:30 – 11:00 (Boole 4) Climate & Energy Law I Lloyd Brown Stefano Fanetti Michael O'Connor	9:30 – 11:00 (Boole 3) Legal Consolidation I Cliona Kimber Catherine Malecki H. Janknecht & C. Barroso	9:30 – 11:00 (Boole 6) Intl. Marine Env. Law Ronán Long Goran Dominioni Ciaran McGrath	
11:00 – 11:30 Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)			
11:30-1:00 (Boole 4) Climate & Energy II Laura Hildt Hao Zhang Chhaya Bhardwaj	11:30-1:00 (Boole 3) Planning & Env Law Carol Day Alison Fanagan Richard Humphreys J.	11:30-1:00 (Boole 6) Risk & EWS Panel Holly Faulkner <i>et al</i> Maria Olbert <i>et al</i> Niamh Guiry Dug Cubie Met Eireann	11:30-1:00 (Boole *) Env. Regulation I Drabkin-Reiter <i>et al</i> Fionna O'Regan Gabriele Uva
1:00 – 2:00 Lunch (Boole Basement)			
2:00-3:30 (Boole 4) Coolglass Panel Sinead Mercier OL Alessandra Accogli Orla Kelleher Amy Strecker	2:00-3:30 (Boole 3) Nature Cons. Law Lacaze-Masmonteil Karin Dubsky Gabriel Toolan	2:00-3:30 (Boole 6) Consolidation II Alison Hardiman Rónán Kennedy Amy O'Halloran	2:00-3:30 (Boole *) Heritage Law Simon Kieser OL Róisín Burke Seán Kirwan
3:30 – 4:00 Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)			
4:00–5:30 (Boole 4) Children's Rights Aoife Daly F. Paz Landeira OL Nabin Maharjan OL	4:00–5:30 (Boole 3) Science-Law Panel Rhoda Jennings F. Calheiros Ferraz Haomiao Du Camille Bertaux	4:00–5:30 (Boole 6) Cons/Regression Attracta Uí Bhroin Delphine Misonne Cara O'Mahony	4:00–5:30 (Boole *) Env. Regulation II Aaron Green Gregory Jones Damián Colmegna OL
5:30 – 6:00 Keynote Presentation II - Colin Reid (Boole 3)			
6:00 – 6:15 Concluding Remarks (Boole 3)			
6:15 – 8:00 Conference Reception (UCC Council Room, North Wing)			



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