



Centre for Law and the Environment

UCC Sustainability Institute

***16th Postgraduate Research Symposium on
Environmental Law***



Wednesday, 22nd April 2026

Moot Court Room, School of Law, UCC

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16th Postgraduate Research Symposium in Environmental Law

Wednesday, 22nd April 2026

Moot Court Room, School of Law, University College Cork

- 8:55 am Welcome – Prof Owen McIntyre, School of Law, University College Cork
- Session 1: Systemic Developments in Environmental and Climate Rights**
- 9:00 am Emily Murray, PhD Candidate, School of Law, University College Cork:
Reimagining Children’s Environmental Rights and Leadership through a Relational Framework
- 9:20 am Liesl Muller, PhD Candidate, School of Law, University College Cork [[online](#)]:
Children Speaking in Turn: Child/Youth-Involved Climate Litigation’s Impact on the Legal Duties of States in Relation to Human Rights and the Environment
- 9:40 am Candice Maharaj, PhD Researcher, University College Dublin:
What’s in a Name: The Path to Constitutionalising the Right to a Healthy Environment
- 10:00 am Andrea Bertini and Cecilia La Macchia, PhD Candidates in Law and Sustainability Management, University of Siena [[online](#)]:
Constitutional Courts as Guardians of Environmental Protection: The Role of Science in the Dialogue between Constitutional Judges and the Legislator
- 10:20 am Hansika Balasuriya, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki [[online](#)]:
Beyond Punishment: Reconceptualizing Environmental Accountability in Post-Conflict Transitions
- 10:40 am Hannah Waldapfel, Master’s Candidate, Technical University of Denmark:
Multi-Level Governance Barriers to Climate Adaptation in the Roskilde Fjord, Denmark
- 11:00 am Tea / Coffee Break**
- Session 2: Developments in Biodiversity and Natural Resources Law**
- 11:20 am Katharina Gessinger, PhD Candidate, School of Law and MaREI Centre, University College Cork:
Marine Restoration in EU Law: Exploring the Nature Restoration Regulation
- 11:40 pm Laura Hildt, PhD Candidate, University of Ghent:
The Non-Deterioration Provisions of the EU Nature Restoration Law as a Tool for Systemic Biodiversity Litigation

12:00 pm Alessia Palladino, PhD Candidate, School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University:
Which Legal Bases for Biodiversity Litigation Before the European Courts?

12:20 pm Charalampia Mikropoulou, [online]
Consolidating Natural Resources Law: Internalizing Environmental Externalities in the Governance of Critical Raw Materials

12:40 pm Lunch Break

Lunchtime Address: Mr Marc Willers KC, Garden Court Chambers, London

Session 3: Climate Law and Governance I: The Role of Climate Litigation

1:40 pm Phuong Dung Nguyen, ...
Intergenerational Equity and Climate Change: The Rights of Future Generations under International Law

2:00pm Nina Koistinen, Doctoral Researcher, Centre for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law (CCEEL), University of Eastern Finland:
Climate Litigation in Ireland: Exploring Impacts

Session 4: Climate Law and Governance II: Enabling Legal Frameworks

2:20 pm Moritz Petersmann, PhD Candidate, Law School, University of Eastern Finland [online]:
The Role of Science Advice in International Climate Change Law

2:40 pm Michael J. T. McElhinney, PhD Candidate, COAST Law Centre, University of Bergen:
Regulation of Cross-Border Carbon Transport & Storage: Legal Issues in Enabling Multi State CCS Projects in the North Sea Carbon Basin

3:00 pm Lenin Chisaira, PhD Researcher, Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law (ACT), Amsterdam Law School, University of Amsterdam:
Consolidating Climate Finance Law? Rethinking Microcredit through Climate Just Credit Theory

3:20 pm Tea / Coffee Break

Session 5: Marine, Coastal and Fisheries Law and Governance

3:40 pm Rebecca Kavanagh, PhD Candidate, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queens University Belfast:
Exploring Co-Existence and Co-Location in Shared Island Marine Governance

4:00 pm Rongyou Gao, SJD Candidate, Emory University School of Law:
Chinese 10-Year Fishing Ban on the Yangtze River: A Managed Retreat Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change?

4:20 pm Maëlle Labomme, PhD Candidate, Faculté de Droit et de Science Politique, Université de Rennes:

Rethinking the Place of Fishing in Natura 2000 Sites: How to Preserve both Fisheries and Biodiversity?

4:40 pm Claudia Allen, Ph.D. Researcher, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast:
After the Storm: Navigating Post-Brexit Fisheries Governance in Shared Waters Around the Island of Ireland

Session 6: Key Issues in Environmental Governance

5:00 pm Jakub Majewski, Maria Olbert and Ewa Boryczka-Kubiak, University of Łódź:
Do Consultative Bodies Matter? Comparative Analysis of Local Government Obligatory Consultative Bodies: A Case Study of Cork and Łódź

5:20 pm Martin Etzelstorfer, Hope Jordan, Chishimba Yvette Mulenga, Laura O'Malley and Macy Kaye Spence, Environmental Law Clinic, University College Cork:
Applied Environmental Law Research for Impact: Framing an Amicus Curiae Submission to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) Advisory Opinion Proceedings

5:40 pm Ndumiso Innocent Nzaca, LLD Candidate at the University of Pretoria [**online**]:
The Constitutionality of Section 55 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013 (SPLUMA) in South Africa: Ministerial Intervention and the Limits of Municipal Planning Powers.

6:00 pm Oumayma Nejjar, PhD Candidate, Université Moulay Ismaïl, Morocco [**online**]:
Consolidating Environmental Law through Criminal Enforcement: A Morocco–EU Comparison

6:20 pm Concluding Remarks

8:00 pm Speakers' Dinner: *Jacobs on the Mall* - <https://jacobsonthemall.com/>