



**Centre for Law and the Environment**

**UCC Sustainability Institute**

***16<sup>th</sup> Postgraduate Research Symposium on  
Environmental Law***



**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**

**Moot Court Room, School of Law, UCC**

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# *16<sup>th</sup> Postgraduate Research Symposium in Environmental Law*

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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:  
*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/>