

McCANN FITZGERALD

Centre for Law and the Environment, UCC

Law and the Environment 2025

21st Annual Conference



Reframing Environmental Law for Accountability, Circularity, Sustainability and Justice

Thursday, 1st May 2025
Boole Lecture Theatres 1, 3, 4 and 6

[Online Registration Now Open](#)



School of Law
Scoil an Dlí



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

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

Parallel Session 1: Materials, Waste & Circularity (Boole 4)

Chair: Dr Niall Dunphy, Director, Cleaner Production Promotion Unit, University College Cork

9:00 am Prof Noreen O'Meara, Synnott Family Chair in EU Law, School of Law, University College Cork:
Bridging High and Low Ambition in the Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations.

9:30 am Prof Michael Morris, Prof. of Surface and Interface Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin:
Emerging European Standards and Legislation for Circular and Sustainable Construction.

10:00 am Dr Mary Dobbs, School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University:
The Lost Purpose of "end-of-waste" Designation.

Parallel Session 2: Environmental Developments in International Law (Boole 3)

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

9:00 am Prof Giovanni Chiarini, College of Law and International Relations, Alfaisal University:
The 2024 ICC OTP Policy on Environmental Crimes: Exploring Rome Statute Amendments to Ensure International Criminal Accountability.

9:30 am Mr Naveed Ur Rehman, Advocate, High Courts of Pakistan:
Impact of International Environmental Treaties on Pakistani Law and Environmental Justice in Displaced Communities.

10:00 am Dr Wannette Van Eg Dom-Tuinstra, The Open University Law School & Arden University School of Law:
Sustainability and Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Parallel Session 3: Developments in Marine Environment Law (Boole 1)

Chair: Dr Anne Marie O'Hagen, MaREI Institute, University College Cork

9:00 am Dr Vincent Power SC, A&L Goodbody LLP / Adjunct Professor, School of Law, University College Cork:
European Union Maritime Environmental Law: Evolution, Influences and Lessons

9:30 am Mr Eoin Fannon BL, Law Library Dublin:
The Law on Undersea Cables and the Irish Environment.

10:00 am Mr Kieran Kelleher, Fisheries, Oceans & Marine Law Specialist:
Development of Regional Ocean Governance under the Nairobi Convention.

10:30 – 11:00 am Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)

Parallel Session 4: Developments in Climate Law, Policy and Litigation (Boole 4)

Chair: Ms Finola McCarthy, RDJ LLP

11:00 am Ms Justine Schönfeld-Quinn, Centre for Environmental Justice, Community Law and Mediation (CLM):
Strategic Climate Litigation in Ireland and the Centre for Environmental Justice at Community Law and Mediation (CLM).

11:30 am Mr Kieran Cummins, Solicitor and Environmental Planning Specialist:
Developments in 'Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation' (SLAPP).

12:00 pm Prof Jennifer McKay AM, University of South Australia:
Long-term Detriments Trump Short-term Economics in Projects Contributing to Climate Change: Youth Verdict v Waratah Coal (Queensland).

12:30 am Prof Patrick Parenteau, Professor of Law Emeritus and Senior Fellow for Climate Policy Vermont Law and Graduate School (online):
Slapped! The Chilling Effect of the \$600M Greenpeace Verdict.

Parallel Session 5: Key Sectoral Challenges in Environmental Governance (Boole 3)

Chair: Ms Alison Fanagan SC, A&L Goodbody LLP

11:00 am Dr Alison Hardiman, Phillip Lee Solicitors, Dublin:
Challenges & Opportunities in the Business of Restoring Ireland's Peatlands

11:30 am Prof Sarah Hendry, Dundee Law School, University of Dundee:
Environmental Governance and Environmental Justice in Scotland – Drowning in Detail?

12:00 pm Ms Patrycja Dorniak-Gelzer, German Federal Ministry of Environment, Berlin:
Beyond Gestures: Why the EU Must Regulate Animal Agriculture for Real Climate Action.

12:30 pm Dr Elena Kavanagh, School of Law, University College Cork:
Indigenous Knowledge and Global Governance: Strengthening Legal Frameworks Through Synergies.

Parallel Session 6: Landscape, Property and Spatial [In]Justice in Intl. Law (Boole 1)

Chair: Dr Karen Ray, Centre for Planning Education and Research, University College Cork

11:00 am Dr Amy Strecker, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin
Landscape, Property and Spatial [In]Justice in International Law.

11:30 am Dr Amanda Byer and Dr Amy Strecker, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin:
Placing Property in International Law: The Roots of Environmental Injustice.

12:00 pm Dr Sonya Cotton, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin
Who Stands on Land? Community (Dis)placement in South African and Namibian Land Claims and the Role of International Law.

12:30 pm Ms Sinéad Mercier, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin:
A Legal Geography Analysis of the Corrib Gas Project.

1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch (Boole Basement, UCC)

Parallel Session 7: Planning, Development and Heritage Law (Boole 4)

Chair: Dr Phyllis Comerford, School of Law, University College Cork

2:00 pm Mr Mark O'Brien O'Reilly BL, and Ms Esther Drabkin-Reiter, Francis Taylor Building, London:
Heritage Assets and Development: The Approach of English and Irish Planning Law.

2:30 pm Mr Sean Kirwan, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:
The Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Irish Law.

3:00 pm Dr Maria Hallinan, Policy Manager, Irish Solar Energy Association:
Shining a Light on Solar and Built Heritage: Balancing Ireland's Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources.

3:30 pm Ms Attracta Uí Bhroin:
Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 9 of the Planning and Development Act 2024: A Paradigm Shift on Environmental Legal Costs and Public Accountability.

Parallel Session 8: Sunny Side Up: Exploring Solar Energy Developments, Opportunities and Challenges (Boole 3)

Chair: Dr Rhoda Jennings, Office of the Attorney-General

2:00 pm Dr Eva Barrett, Director of Policy and Regulation at the Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA):
Brief Introduction to the Solar Sector and the Supporting Renewable Energy Policy and Legal Framework.

2:30 pm Mr Conor Linehan SC, Clarke Hill:
Solar Sector Planning Opportunities and Challenges: Recent Developments, Decisions & Cases Reframing Environmental and Planning Law and Practice.

3:00 pm Mr Steve McCarthy, Harmony Solar (formerly Fehily Timoney Consultants):
Opportunities & Risks of Irish Solar Development: A Developer Perspective.

3:30 pm Mr Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney Consultants:
Best Practice in Solar Development, Public Engagement and Ecological Considerations.

Parallel Session 9: Disaster Preparedness & Response in Ireland and New Zealand (Boole 1)

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

2:00 pm Mr David Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations
Directorate, Cork City Council:
[Topic TBC]

2:30 pm Dr Dug Cubie, School of Law, University College Cork:
Sea-level Rise and Human Mobility: The Legal Implications for Ireland's
Foreign and Domestic Policies.

3:00 pm Dr Holly Faulkner, MaREI Centre, University College Cork:
*Legal Preparedness for Large-scale Urban Disasters: Lessons from New
Zealand.*

3:30 pm Panel Discussion

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

**Parallel Session 10: Renewable Energy and Climate Action: The Coolglass Case and Its
Implications (Boole 4)**

Chair: Mr Brendan Slattery, McCann Fitzgerald

4:30 pm Ms Fionna O'Regan BL, Law Library Dublin:
Coolglass v An Bord Pleanala: An Outline of the Judicial Position.

5:00 pm Mr Alan Roberts, A&L Goodbody LLP:
*Coolglass v An Bord Pleanala: Implications for Renewable Energy
Development.*

5:30 pm Mr Alan Doyle BL, Law Library, Dublin:
Coolglass and the Requirements of the 2015 Climate Act.



Parallel Session 11: The Onward March of Environmental (Human) Rights (Boole 3)

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

4:30 pm Dr Richard Scriven, UCC Research & Innovation, University College Cork:
*Intersectional Environmental Justice: Interconnections Between Disability
Rights and Environmental Law.*

5:00 pm Mr Tom Flynn SC, Law Library, Dublin:
Recent Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights and Environment.

5:30 pm Prof Aoife Daly, School of Law, University College Cork:
*How Child and Youth-Involved Climate Litigation is Child Participation:
From Children's Rights to Everyone's Rights.*

Parallel Session 12: Transnational Environmental Regulation (Boole 1)

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

4:30 pm Ms Chelsea Cunningham, Senior Regulatory Compliance Specialist & Head of Knowledge Partners, Compliance & Risks:
The Compliance Conundrum: Untangling Product and ESG Regulations in the EU.

5:00 pm Prof Catherine Malecki, Professor of Private Law, Rennes 2 University:
People, Planet and New Corporate Environmental Directors Duties.

5:30 pm Ms Amy O'Halloran, School of Law, University College Cork:
Dispute Settlement and Legal Enforcement in the Transnational Arena.

6:00 pm **Closing Remarks (Boole 3)**

6:15 pm **Conference Reception (Staff Common 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](#)

Continuing Professional Development:

8 Hours Group Study CPD

If you require a CPD Certificate please tick [] here or e-mail aguinee@ucc.ie
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 (Boole 3)	
9:00 – 10:30 (Boole 4)	9:00 – 10:30 (Boole 3)	9:00 – 10:30 (Boole 1)	
Materials & Circularity Noreen O’Meara Michael Morris Mary Dobbs	International Env. Law Giovanni Chiarini Naveed Ur Rehman Wannette Tuinstra	Marine Env. Law Vincent Power Eoin Fannon Kieran Kelleher	
10:30 – 11:00		Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)	
11:00 – 1:00 (Boole 4)	11:00 – 1:00 (Boole 3)	11:00 – 1:00 (Boole 1)	
Climate Law & Litigation Justine Schönfeld-Quinn Kieran Cummins Jennifer McKay Patrick Parenteau	Sectoral Env. Challenges Alison Hardiman Sarah Hendry Patrycja Dorniak-Gelzer Elena Kavanagh	Intl. Spatial [In]Justice Amy Strecker Amanda Byer/Amy Strecker Sonya Cotton Sinéad Mercier	
1:00 – 2:00		Lunch (Boole Basement)	
2:00 - 4:00 (Boole 4)	2:00 – 4:00 (Boole 3)	2:00 – 4:00 (Boole 1)	
Planning, Dev. & Heritage O’Brien O’Reilly / Drabkin-Reiter Sean Kirwan Maria Hallinan Attracta Uí Bhroin	Solar Energy Development Eva Barrett Conor Linehan Steve McCarthy Jim Hughes	Disaster Preparedness & Response David Joyce Dug Cubie Holly Faulkner	
4:00 – 4:30		Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)	
4:30 – 6:00 (Boole 4)	4:30 – 6:00 (Boole 3)	4:30 – 6:00 (Boole 1)	
Coolglass Case Fionna O’Regan Alan Roberts Alan Doyle	Env. Human Rights Richard Scriven Tom Flynn Aoife Daly	Transnational Env. Law Chelsea Cunningham Catherine Malecki Amy O’Halloran	
6:00 – 6:15 (Boole 3) Concluding Remarks (Boole 3)			
6:15 – 8:00		Conference Reception (Staff Common Room, North Wing) Journal Special Issue Launch	