

9th Frontiers in Environmental Law Colloquium

The Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law at the University of Sydney

16 - 17 February 2023

The annual **Frontiers in Environmental Law Colloquium** provides a forum for environmental law academics and practitioners to share and discuss their experiences, research, and teaching practices.

Through this forum, we aim to:

- Foster a supportive and inclusive network of like-minded individuals;
- Explore innovative environmental law ideas and insights within and beyond our discipline;
- Contribute meaningfully to the future of environmental law in our region;
- Share approaches to teaching and learning in environmental law; and
- Assist environmental law academics to actively build their careers.

Colloquium Theme for 2023

A Half Century of Environmental Law: Where to From Here?

This year marks fifty years since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm, a conference that led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the first international instrument to broadly recognise the dependency of humans on the natural world, the *Stockholm Convention*. Over the past fifty years, we have witnessed the maturity of environmental law as a discipline, as major multilateral agreements including the *Framework Convention on Climate Change* and the *Biodiversity Convention*, as well as the *Rio Principles* have shaped domestic environmental laws around the world, and a body of scholarship has concurrently developed.

As we enter the second half of environmental law's first century, we are facing an extinction crisis that is being exacerbated by a climate crisis. Australia is particularly vulnerable to the impacts as we struggle to adapt to major species losses and frequent extreme weather events. The urgency of this situation has prompted an increasing volume of litigation, both in Australia and abroad, and calls to reform environmental and climate laws that are not working. We invite you to reflect with us on the relevancy of environmental law's pioneering sentiments today, in light of what is needed to secure a stable future.

We welcome papers across a range of environment related fields (biodiversity, climate, oceans, planning, health, equity) that explore topics such as (but not limited to):

- Human-nature dependency
- Trusteeship
- Intergenerational responsibility
- Decolonisation and First Law/Indigenous law

- Constitutional law, human rights, and the environment
- Collective and shared responsibility
- The role of Australia in our region
- Proactive corporate conduct
- Pedagogies of responsibility
- Emerging principles and practices

We welcome both legal and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Abstract submission

We invite proposals for research presentations on any of the above topics as they relate to the theme, and/or in relation to teaching environmental law. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and should be sent by **31 October 2022** to both laura.schuijers@sydney.edu.au and katherine.owens@sydney.edu.au. Abstracts will be peer-reviewed on a rolling basis, so early submissions are encouraged.

Program

The Colloquium will be held ***in person*** and will be conducted in an **interactive, workshop style format**, involving brief presentations, panel discussions, and Q&A. A detailed program will be available in January, and we will endeavour to provide a draft program as soon as possible prior to assist with planning. Mindful of the limited opportunities over the past few years to connect, we hope to arrange an informal dinner on Thursday 16 February for those who wish to attend.