



IGU
Symposium 2021

IGU BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM 2021

Human Rights and the Environment

March 25-27, 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PLANNING CHAIR



Welcome to the first biennial symposium of the “relaunched” Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) at Monmouth University. The relaunched IGU seeks to build on the rich tradition that the IGU had at Monmouth from 2002-2015. After a brief hiatus, the IGU has returned and is eager to extend its reach across campus, in the community, and throughout the world.

With this year’s IGU Biennial Symposium, we are excited to extend the highly successful track record of the annual Global Understanding Conventions during the initial iteration of the IGU. An archive of these previous events and other information from the IGU’s distinguished history is available here: <https://www.monmouth.edu/igu/history/>

The IGU Biennial Symposium 2021 is the product of months of planning dating back to early fall 2020. As the first online symposium in IGU history, we are eager to capitalize on the opportunity for greater global impact with this event. The symposium assembles experts from the government, nonprofit, academic, community, and private sectors to examine topics at the intersection of human rights and the environment and propose solutions for the future. Featured speakers and panelists will address regulatory responses, litigation, academic and scientific discourse, and the activist movements that have shaped the intersection between human rights and the environment.

Highlights of this year’s event include:

- A distinguished opening lecture from a leading scholar on climate migration
- Panels and roundtable discussions featuring expert interdisciplinary speakers from Canada, Colombia, India, the Kyrgyz Republic, Norway, Qatar, Serbia, South Korea, and the U.S.
- A musical performance and reflections from Nahko, an internationally renowned singer, songwriter, and social and environmental justice activist
- A screening of and commentary on the award-winning documentary, *Kivalina: Life in the Modern Arctic*, with the film’s director and an indigenous rights scholar
- Panels of Monmouth faculty and students
- A student poster competition
- A student open mic event

Special features of this year’s event include:

- The transcript of the Climate and Energy Justice Roundtable session on Saturday, March 27 will be edited and published as an article in summer 2021 in the *Environmental Law Reporter*, which is the flagship publication of the Environmental Law Institute. The article will be posted on the symposium webpage when published.
- IGU interns Emily O’Sullivan and Madison Hanrahan conducted an interview with filmmaker, Gina Abatemarco, to learn about her journey in making the award-winning documentary, *Kivalina: Life in the Modern Arctic*. The video recording of that interview is posted on the symposium webpage.
- Speakers’ presentation slides and recordings of panels will be posted on the symposium webpage after the symposium.
- A “resources” link on the symposium webpage, which includes books and articles that are relevant to the symposium theme generally and recent books and articles published by symposium speakers that pertain to the symposium theme.

Consistent with previous IGU annual symposia, this year’s event seeks to engage the global and local communities, including the Monmouth campus community. We are proud to feature Monmouth faculty panels, a Monmouth student panel, and Monmouth student artistic expression in a logo competition, poster competition, and open mic event based on the symposium’s theme. Congratulations to Monmouth student Hunter Goldberg for designing the logo for this year’s symposium, which is featured on this cover of this program. He prepared this logo in a logo design competition in fall 2020, which was supervised by Professors Karen Bright and Romy Weine.

Another long-standing tradition that continues in this year’s event is the student poster competition. The 2021 exhibition features two dozen posters designed by MU graphic design students in the Graphic Design Studio 2 course taught by Professor Pat Cresson and Professor Mike Richison. These posters reflect the symposium’s “human rights and the environment” theme. Three winners and three honorable mentions will be selected by a jury panel consisting of Monmouth faculty and students. All student posters will be on virtual display during the symposium to showcase the work of these talented Monmouth students.

I have been fortunate to work with an exceptionally talented and engaged IGU team on all aspects of the IGU’s activities this year, including this symposium. This team consists of the IGU Faculty Advisory Council, graduate assistants, and graduate and undergraduate interns. We are also grateful for exceptional support from Monmouth’s Information Management Department and from webmaster Bob Smith in building content for the symposium web page. This ambitious event would not be possible without their dedication and expertise.

We look forward to an informative and inspiring event. Thank you for joining us.

Prof. Randall S. Abate
Director, Institute for Global Understanding
Planning Chair, IGU Biennial Symposium 2021



THE IGU TEAM

Faculty Advisory Council

- *Melissa Alvaré**, Lecturer,
Dept. of Political Science and Sociology
- Michael Cronin**, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
- Anne Deepak**, Associate Professor, School of Social Work
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- Saliba Sarsar**, Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology
- *Jennifer Shamrock**, Lecturer, Dept. of Communication
- Claude Taylor**, Lecturer, Dept. of Communication
- Jing Zhou**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Art and Design

*- Members of the Symposium Planning Committee

Ex Officio Members

- Catherine Duckett**, Associate Dean, School of Science
- Priscilla Gac-Artigas**, Professor, Dept. of World Languages and Cultures
- Susan Gupta**, Associate Provost; Associate Professor,
Leon Hess Business School
- Tony MacDonald, Esq.**, Director, Urban Coast Institute
- MyKellann Maloney**, Director of Global Education

Graduate Assistants and Interns

Graduate Assistants

- Lisha Samuel (Fall '20)
Victoria Cattelona (Spring '21)

Graduate Interns (2020-2021)

- Courtney Gosse
Emilia Intili

Undergraduate Interns (Spring '21)

- Chelsea Franchette
Muge Gore
Madison Hanrahan
Chloey Norris
Emily O'Sullivan



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

REGISTER FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

- 4:00 p.m. – Opening remarks from President Patrick Leahy and Interim Provost Rekha Datta
- 4:45 p.m. – Introduction of Distinguished Lecturer, Prof. Maxine Burkett
- 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. – Distinguished Lecture and Q&A
- 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Nahko's Musical Performance

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Human Rights and the Environment Panel
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Environmental Justice Panel
- 2:20 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. – Monmouth Faculty Panel I
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Monmouth Faculty Panel II

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Monmouth Student Open Mic Event

Share your voice at our student-centered, virtual Open Mic Night! Come sing a song, rap, do a dance, play an instrument, recite a poem, or speak your mind about the IGU's Symposium theme, "human rights and the environment."

For more information or to register, please contact Emi Intili, s0672455@monmouth.edu.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

- 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Climate and Energy Justice Roundtable
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Kivalina: Life in the Modern Arctic (Film Screening and Commentary)
- 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Monmouth Student Panel



Thursday, March 25, 5:00-6:15 p.m.

The Distinguished Lecture on Global Understanding

ROOT AND BRANCH: CLIMATE MIGRATION, RACIAL CRISES, AND THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

Maxine Burkett, Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law and a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars



The disproportionate burdens of climate change borne by the Global South are numerous and increasingly well-documented. While the effect of the climate crisis in the South is starting to receive its due coverage in a current moment of heightened awareness, the centuries long relationship between the two also deserves deeper exploration, particularly to ensure that our solutions seek to grasp at the roots of the crisis while it prunes the branches. Indeed, the climate crisis and racial hierarchy have long been inextricably intertwined, explaining in large part the uneven share in cause and consequence of the North and South respectively. With a comprehensive review of the challenges of climate-induced migration, Prof. Burkett will provide a case study in the gaps of international law and illuminate transformative and just approaches to twin crises.

Maxine Burkett is a Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law and a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is also Co-Founder and Senior Advisor to the non-profit Institute for Climate and Peace.

An expert in the law and policy of climate change, she has written extensively in diverse areas of climate change law with a particular focus on climate justice—exploring policy responses to climate change’s impacts on frontline communities in the United States and globally. Professor Burkett has presented her research throughout the United States and in West Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, and the Caribbean. She has been cited in numerous news and policy outlets, including BBC Radio, the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the International Business Times, and Nature Climate Change.

In 2010, Burkett served as the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics at the Wayne Morse Center, University of Oregon, for the Center’s “Climate Ethics and Climate Equity” theme of inquiry. Other Wayne Morse Chairs include Charles Ogletree, Jr., Vandana Shiva, Barbara Ehrenreich, and former Senator Russ Feingold. Burkett is the youngest recipient of the Chair.

From 2009-2012, Professor Burkett served as the inaugural Director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP). As the Director of ICAP, she led numerous projects to address climate change policy and planning for island communities globally. She directed the completion of several adaptation related policy documents, outreach and education programs, and decision-maker support efforts for Hawaii and other Pacific Island nations.

In 2015, Burkett was appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment until it was ultimately disbanded in 2017. In the run-up to the 2016 election, Maxine was instrumental in the creation of the country’s only municipal level office dedicated to climate resilience (and with “climate change” in the title), when City and County of Honolulu voters overwhelmingly approved the establishment of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency. In 2018, with renowned peace educator Maya Soetoro-Ng, Burkett co-founded and served as the Executive Director of the Institute for Climate and Peace, which is committed to advancing effective and inclusive processes for climate resilient peacebuilding for the most vulnerable through education, collaboration, and policy transformation. Throughout 2019, the Institute crafted climate and peace-related programming for the Obama Foundation Leaders: Asia-Pacific convening. Burkett now serves as a Senior Advisor to the Institute.

Professor Burkett received her B.A. from Williams College, which awarded her the Bicentennial Medal for Distinguished Achievement in 2016. She also attended Exeter College, Oxford University and received her law degree from Berkeley Law at the University of California, Berkeley. She served as a law clerk for The Honorable Susan Illston of the United States District Court, Northern District of California. She was a White House Intern, an Omidyar Fellow, a 2016 recipient of Pacific Business News’ 40 Under 40 award, and a 2017 awardee of Hawaii Business Magazine’s 20 for the Next 20. Professor Burkett serves on the boards of the Blue Planet Foundation, The Climate Museum, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), Elemental Excelsior, and the Global Greengrants Fund. Professor Burkett is a Co-Rapporteur for the International Law Association’s Committee on International Law and Sea Level Rise. She is also a member scholar of the Center for Progressive Reform, the Lancet Commission for Reparations and Redistributive Justice, and the American Law Institute.



Thursday, March 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Musical Performance: **Nahko**

Moderator: Dr. Meghan Hynson



In a career built on reflective, deeply personal songwriting, **Nahko's** extraordinary new album, 'Take Your Power Back,' stands as far and away his most profound, revelatory, and fully realized collection yet. Recorded in Los Angeles and Executive Produced by cut&dry, the record grapples with grief, trauma, and reconciliation, learning to face heartache head on and embrace the peace and serenity that comes with understanding and acceptance. As heavy as all that may sound, 'Take Your Power Back' is as uplifting and infectious as anything Nahko has ever released, blending socially conscious folk and rock with soulful, alt-R&B, genre-bending production. It's an album of growth, of courage, of resilience. It's a testament to the beauty and evolution that can come from fully inhabiting our pain, and it's proof positive that our true power—spiritual, physical, and emotional—inevitably comes from within.

"I had half a year just to cultivate and create on a deeper level with this record," Nahko explains. "I realized that I hadn't allowed myself to explore some of the darker parts of my psyche before because I'd never had the language for it. I started going to therapy, and for the first time, I saw just how much work I needed to do. It could be painful, but sometimes you have to go through the mud to find the flowers."

Born to a Puerto Rican/Native American mother and a Filipino father, Nahko was adopted by a white, conservative, Christian family in Oregon and raised under the name David Bell. He later learned that his birth was the result of a rape, that his biological mother had been fourteen and sold into sex work at the time he was conceived, and that his biological father had gone on to be murdered. A sixth-generation Apache, he took on the moniker of Nahko—a play on his middle name, Nahkohe-ese, which translates to Little Bear—as a way of reclaiming his roots, and in his late teens and twenties, he began traveling the country, spending stints living as far afield as Hawaii and Alaska as he wrestled with identity, purpose, and perception.

Backed by his band, Medicine For The People, Nahko released his debut album, 'On The Verge,' in 2011, but his true breakthrough came two years later with 'Dark As Night.' The record was a critical and commercial breakout, landing in the Top Ten on the Billboard Heatseekers Chart and earning the band festival slots at Outside Lands, Electric Forest, Wanderlust, Bumbershoot, and more. Over the next four years, Nahko would go on to release two more celebrated albums with his band, solidifying his reputation along the way as an outspoken activist and advocate for both social and environmental justice.

Nahko is a world-renowned musician, prolific songwriter, and active social and environmental justice advocate. He has worked alongside Winona Laduke on the board of Honor the Earth and has been heavily involved with the resistance of Indigenous peoples across North and South America, the salmon restoration in the Pacific Northwest, and an intertribal youth scholarship program which brings traditional teachings and wisdom to Indigenous youth. Nahko is a firm believer in using music as a tool of empowerment to protect and preserve all of creation.

'Take Your Power Back' (rel. May 15, 2020) debuted at #1 on Billboard's Emerging Artists chart, as well as #3 on Alternative Albums and #5 on Top Albums.



Friday, March 26, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Panel

New Directions in Human Rights and the Environment

Moderator: Prof. James R. May, Delaware Law School

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: IMPLEMENTATION, TRANSLATIONS, AND FUTURE RESEARCH

Joshua C. Gellers, Ph.D.

University of North Florida

For over four decades, the world has witnessed a dramatic rise in the number of legal instruments advancing a rights-based approach to environmental protection. These ‘environmental rights’ seek to overcome the impotence of environmental law and regulatory schemes by invoking the authority of fundamental rights, human dignity, and Indigenous cosmologies. But do environmental rights make a difference? If so, under what circumstances? This presentation seeks to respond to these questions by providing an overview of extant knowledge about the implementation of human and nonhuman rights pertaining to the natural environment. In particular, I review existing literature on the effects of environmental rights and highlight the conceptual and practical issues associated with evaluating their efficacy. The talk also examines how anthropocentric and non-anthropocentric environmental rights have been translated into different supranational, national, and subnational contexts. I close by outlining environmental, legal, political, and social outcomes worthy of further study.



Friday, March 26, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Panel

New Directions in Human Rights and the Environment

Moderator: Prof. James R. May, Delaware Law School

ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION UNDER THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Marijana Mladenov, Ph.D.
**Faculty of Law for
Commerce and Judiciary**

**University Business Academy
in Novi Sad (Serbia)**

Although access to drinking water and sanitation is widely recognized as a human right, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) does not contain an explicit right to water and sanitation. However, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has developed case law and established minimum standards relating to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation using two interpretation techniques: the “living instrument” doctrine and the “practical and effective” doctrine. This presentation analyzes recent jurisprudence of the ECtHR to address whether the Court has recognized this right and, if so, in what manner. It describes the possibilities and limits to achieving access to drinking water and sanitation within the scope of Article 3 and Article 8 of the ECHR. Special attention is devoted to the latest developments on this right through the lens of the judgment in *Hudorovic v. Slovenia*. This case evaluates the ECtHR’s assessment of the right to water and highlights the positive obligations of the State to provide adequate access to drinking water and sanitation for Roma communities living in informal settlements. The presentation locates this case within a larger debate regarding the right to safe water and proper sanitation across European human rights law in compliance with the revised Drinking Water Directive. Furthermore, the presentation addresses areas for further research and describes certain problems regarding the human right to water and sanitation that need to be resolved.



Friday, March 26, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Panel

New Directions in Human Rights and the Environment

Moderator: Prof. James R. May, Delaware Law School

COVID-19 IN LATIN AMERICA: GREENING THE JURISPRUDENCE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM THROUGH INDIGENOUS CLAIMS

Maria Antonia Tigre, LL.M.
(S.J.D. candidate)

Elisabeth Haub School of
Law at Pace University (U.S.)

Latin America is a region that is plagued by socioeconomic inequality issues, a context that has only worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with challenges related to the rule of law and access to justice, regional plaintiffs have sought the Inter-American Human Rights system as an arbiter for human rights abuses. Recent jurisprudence of both the Court and the Commission have broadened the potential scope of protected rights by building on the interdependence of environmental human rights in indigenous peoples' cases. The pandemic has provided a valuable foundation for the Inter-American Human Rights to address emerging legal topics on human rights and the environment. This talk will address this evolving jurisprudence, using recent cases that have been brought to the attention of the Commission as case studies on the development of this relationship.



Friday, March 26, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary Panel

New Directions in Human Rights and the Environment

Moderator: Prof. James R. May, Delaware Law School

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IN LATIN AMERICA: THE ROLE OF WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Lina Muñoz-Avila, Ph.D.

Universidad del Rosario
(Colombia)

Latin America has the highest number of environmental conflicts and in which is most dangerous to defend the environment and the territories. Environmental conflicts regarding climate change, water quality, and rainforest protection impact women disproportionately and differentially. The purpose of this presentation is to share ideas about the situation of women environmental defenders in Latin America and outline a protection strategy to prevent and respond to the violence exerted against these public defenders in environmental conflicts. It advocates for a stronger gender-based protection framework to effectively guarantee their rights. It proposes regional studies and policies that could provide a safe scenario for women environmental defenders and their families to work free from risks and threats, based on the guidelines of the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Friday, March 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Plenary Panel

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environmental Justice

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

GETTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE “RIGHT”

**Deepa Badrinarayana,
S.J.D.**

**Chapman University
Fowler School of Law (U.S.)**

Environmental injustice—where a discreet community, defined by race (or economic status), bears a disproportionate burden of environmental harm and enjoys fewer benefits of environmental protection under existing laws—is a well-documented problem. That ought to make it subject to scrutiny under the Fourteenth Amendment. Yet, to date environmental justice has not been scrutinized under the Equal Protection Clause, primarily because of the Supreme Court’s interpretation, limiting judicial scrutiny under the Equal Protection Clause to intentional discrimination. Ensuring equal protection of environmental laws is therefore almost exclusively a function of an Executive Order, requiring federal agencies to take environmental justice into consideration when enforcing environmental laws. For a variety of reasons, it is unlikely that the judiciary or Congress will reconsider the intent requirement to the Equal Protection Clause.

This presentation proposes a first step to reinforce the normative importance of a constitutional right to environmental protection by focusing on the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Both current global litigation and the Juliana case in the United States illustrate the growing traction for articulating a right to environmental protection as an independent right, or at least as an integral component of a constitutional right to life. This presentation will consider the merits and limits of such an approach for environmental justice plaintiffs in the United States.

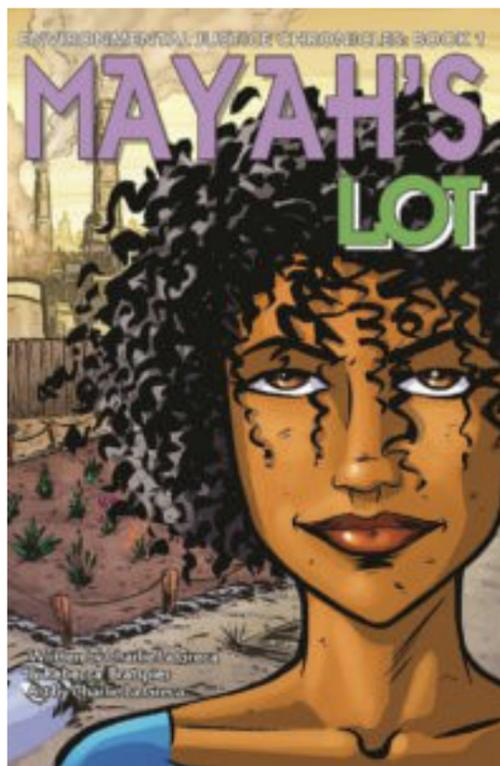


Friday, March 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Plenary Panel

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environmental Justice

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University



MAYAH'S LOT: USING STORYTELLING TO BUILD THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

"Environmental Justice, I bet you don't even know what that means ... I had no idea that it actually affects every one of us. That is, until it came to my home."

So begins *Mayah's Lot*, Book 1 of the Environmental Justice Chronicles. *Mayah's Lot* tells the story of a young girl who organizes her urban neighbors to block the siting of an industrial waste storage facility in their already overburdened community. The fictional town of Forestville could be anywhere that struggles with environmental injustice, it is an area overburdened with polluting industry, while not accruing much of the wealth those activities generate. Since *Mayah's Lot* was first published in 2012, the Environmental Justice Chronicles has grown to include *Bina's Plant*, and *Troops March* (currently under production.)

Created in partnership with artist Charlie LaGreca and NYC students, The Environmental Justice Chronicles helps young city dwellers build a new environmentalism that is not only about protecting wilderness but also about protecting their own neighborhoods. These young people represent the future of our ever-more-urban world. If they do not see environmental protection as their fight, it spells disaster for us all.

This talk describes how the Environmental Justice Chronicles began. It chronicles how *Mayah's Lot* has been used to teach basic civics, to build environmental justice awareness, and to cultivate a new generation of environmental leaders. *Mayah's Lot* stands alone as a story, but it is also a teaching tool that introduces readers to street science, basic administrative procedures, and effective community organizing. Readers learn alongside *Mayah*. From its start as a comic book, *Mayah's Lot* has grown into a video and curriculum that has engaged students in classrooms across New York City, the United States, and beyond. Using non-traditional tools and project learning, the book opens conversations about what kind of a society students want to have—asking them to notice how environmental benefits and burdens are currently distributed across populations, and then to work for a fairer, greener world.

**Prof. Rebecca
Bratspies**
CUNY School of
Law (U.S.)



Friday, March 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Plenary Panel

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environmental Justice

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS IN AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT TREATY REGIME

Begaiym Esenkulova, S.J.D.

American University
of Central Asia (Kyrgyz
Republic)

This presentation will focus on how to align investment protection with host states' ability to advance environmental and human rights protections in international investment agreements (IIAs). At present, there are over 3000 IIAs worldwide. Most of them are "old generation," which means that they provide rights to investors without counter balancing such rights with investor obligations to comply with host states' sustainable development goals. This situation is alarming because failure to integrate environmental and human rights protections in IIAs may bring about a number of various negative consequences for host states, including adverse environmental and human rights impacts. This presentation will address potential reform options designed to promote environmental and human rights protections in an international investment treaty regime.



Friday, March 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Plenary Panel

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environmental Justice

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

“JUST SUSTAINABILITY”: A PARADIGM SHIFT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Stellina Jolly,
Ph.D.**

**South Asian
University (India)**

Despite the enactment of extensive legislation, regulations, and administrative measures, the environmental crisis is deepening in India. India’s environmental crisis is also characterized by the disproportionate impact faced by marginalized and vulnerable communities striking at the very root of ecological justice. The legal framework on environmental protection is founded on the expanded notion of the right to life founded on the paradigm of sustainable development.

In the Indian context, the principle of sustainable development has evolved to occupy centrality in environmental jurisprudence. The courts have applied the balancing doctrine and proportionality principle while implementing sustainable development. However, the jurisprudence has been criticized as it is surrounded by indeterminacy and implementation challenges. In the absence of a fair understanding of the term, the policymakers and judges find it hard to interpret and implement it in specific cases. While balancing the three pillars of sustainable development – environment, economic, and social – the courts have often employed either environmental or ecological aspects; thus, almost neglecting its social dimension. However, in the case of *State of Meghalaya v. All Dimsasa Students Union*, the Court has provided a new approach to achieve environmental justice by innovatively interpreting sustainable development as requiring “just sustainability.” This presentation attempts to critique the principle of sustainable development and analyze its surrounding challenges through the prism of Indian environmental jurisprudence. It further explores the contours of “just sustainability” and affirms the need to integrate environmental justice with sustainable development.



Friday, March 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Plenary Panel

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environmental Justice

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

BAMBOO FOR GOOD: ADVANCING BAMBOO RESOURCES IN SERVICE OF CRITICAL NEEDS

**Jonathan M.
Schersch, Ph.D.**

**Pacific Bamboo
Resources (U.S.)**

The bamboo plant has been an important feature of cultural and socio-economic development throughout the world for thousands of years. Moreover, myriad uses of bamboo have provided sustainable sources of food and fuel, tools and building materials, housing and habitat, furniture, artwork and more. Recent attention has focused on bamboo's usefulness in response to impacts of climate change, disaster preparedness and community resilience, wildlife conservation, and overall livelihood and social welfare improvements. Leveraging the benefits of this powerful plant, Pacific Bamboo Resources (PBR) implements social work-informed programs of Bamboo for Good (B4G), representing a unique consortium of international partnerships among public and private institutions and communities to mobilize bamboo resources for social, economic and environmental good. This presentation will briefly introduce the mission of PBR and highlight examples of B4G programs in East Africa portraying practical, collaborative methods towards realizing shared sustainability objectives.



Friday, March 26, 2:20-3:50 p.m.

Monmouth Faculty Panel I
Moderator: Dr. Catherine Duckett

Resisting the Rising Tide of Climate Gentrification

**Dr. Melissa Alvaré,
Department of Political
Science and Sociology**

It is well established that socially marginalized communities often experience disproportionate environmental hazards, and moreover, endure the adverse effects of climate change “first and worst” in comparison to more advantaged social groups. The pursuit of climate justice entails working to address such environmental inequality, protecting groups that have historically borne environmental burdens and/or those that have limited adaptation options in the face of extreme climate threats. Yet as efforts are enacted to create green spaces, remediate environmental hazards, and mitigate climate change threats in these neighborhoods, they become desirable for more affluent groups and profit-minded developers, adding a layer of complexity to the threat of displacement. This presentation addresses this phenomenon and explores avenues for action to promote environmental/climate justice while resisting the tide of gentrification.

Interconnected Challenges; Interconnected Solutions: The Fight for Climate and Racial Justice

**Dr. Kathleen Grant, School
of Education**

The climate crisis and racial injustice are the most essential and urgent issues of our lifetime. While many may understand these issues as separate, they are philosophically intertwined. This presentation will review how the values associated with white supremacy culture, such as individualism, power hierarchies, and domination, are at the root of both environmental destruction and racism. These values have been manifested in decades’ worth of harmful policies and systems, which have had lasting negative impacts on communities of color. The path forward includes the dismantling of long-standing systems of oppression and a deep awakening to the interconnectedness of life, not only human life. Solutions that seek to achieve both racial equity and environmental sustainability, such as The Green New Deal, will be discussed.



Friday, March 26, 2:20-3:50 p.m.

Monmouth Faculty Panel I

Moderator: Dr. Catherine Duckett

Urban Heat and Sorting by Income and Race

Dr. Eric Fesselmeyer, Leon Hess Business School

Increasing rates of urbanization and associated land-use/land-cover changes have led to a rise in urban temperatures worldwide in recent years, and climate change is expected to further exacerbate the trend. This is worrisome because high temperatures have been found to adversely impact health and income opportunities, increase violence, inhibit learning and academic performance, and even influence the decisions of judges, to cite a few examples. There is also evidence that low-income and minority households suffer disproportionately from high urban temperatures and to urban temperature changes in countries with high urban income segregation, including Brazil, South Africa, and the United States.

The evidence that low-income and minority households reside in high-temperature neighborhoods can be explained by two possible mechanisms. Do low-income and minority households live in hot neighborhoods due to historical and possibly discriminatory reasons, such as the disproportionate lack of open space and greenery, or do they choose to live in high-temperature neighborhoods in order to benefit from lower house prices? The answers to these questions have important policy implications. We focus on the second mechanism by testing whether households sort across neighborhoods due to temperature differences, and if so, why, by building on a literature that has studied residential sorting in the context of pollution, housing discrimination, and flood risk, and which has shown that sorting leads to impacts of environmental (dis) amenities being distributed unequally among different demographic groups.

In preliminary findings using spatially disaggregated climate data from a gridded high-resolution topo-climatic data set and Census data, we find evidence that low-income and minority neighborhoods suffer higher summer temperatures in the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area. Our next step is to estimate a residential choice model to analyze potential sorting behavior over temperature by the race and income of residents.

The Displaced Community of Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana

Dr. Abha Sood, Dept. of English

This paper was inspired by Elizabeth Rush's *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore* (2018), which points out the impact of rising sea levels globally on the destruction of animal and plant habitats, and talks empathetically about the displacement of people who live on the fringes of American society, as their coastal communities disappear.

Her interest in the subject came from her reportage on the crisis in Bangladesh where the rising sea level has made much of coastal land unfarmable, giving rise to the term 'climate refugees.' Rush observed this phenomenon in dying native trees in various coastal regions in Rhode Island and Maine and decided to investigate further. These explorations form the basis of her book. Her interviews with the inhabitants of Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana, covered in three chapters in her book, are the subject of this paper.

The island, in Terrebonne county (Rush 167), has a long history of settlement. This presentation seeks to retrace the history of its current Native American inhabitants, and the actions which have led to this island becoming uninhabitable. The Bayou is slowly dying, and along with it the communities of the people who lived on its islands, dependent upon its plenty, are also disappearing. The islands will soon be covered by seawater. While the state has agreed to provide funding for their rehabilitation, it is likely to provide for low-income, project-like housing, disadvantage them occupationally, and break generational communal ties. While some families are eager to relocate, others, including Chief Naquin, plan to stay and perish on the island. Reminiscent of the move from Native lands to reservations in the 1800s, this perhaps will be their final move, breaking their spirit even as they disperse from the familiar, abject poverty they have known on the island.



Friday, March 26, 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Monmouth Faculty Panel II

Moderator: Tony MacDonald, Esq.

Climate Insecurity: An Anthropocene Security Approach to a Sustainable Global Future

Dr. John Comiskey, Department of Criminal Justice

Historically, national security focused on the survival of the state. Peace and stability were achieved through diplomatic and military means. That security paradigm has since evolved to include nontraditional national-security issues such as public health, environmental degradation, poverty, crime, and terrorism. National and homeland security officials now view climate change as a threat multiplier, an evolving phenomenon that will exasperate other threats including water and food scarcity, economic crises, conflict, violence, and mass human migration. Conversely or similarly (depending on your perspective), human security is based upon a fundamental understanding that governments retain the primary role for ensuring the survival, livelihood, and dignity of their citizens. In academic terms, national and homeland security view the state/nation as their primary referent object and human security holds that individual and humankind are the primary referents.

A relatively new security framework, Anthropocene security holds that security must be thought of as maintaining states as reasonably functioning entities and simultaneously as ecological friendly organisms that consider marginalized populations, future generations, natural resources, and wildlife. We argue for an expanded paradigm of climate security integrating principles of Anthropocene-human security and national-homeland security into a concept termed climate proofing, which is necessary for a sustainable global future for all of humanity. Climate proofing includes the routinizing, integrating, and elevating attention of climate and security by security institutions.

Climate Change-driven Coastal Migration: State of Our Knowledge and Required Research Questions that Need to Be Answered

Dr. Tom Herrington, Associate Director, Urban Coast Institute

A majority of society views climate change as a vague, future risk. For people in impacted communities – living on the water, with wildfires, and in the heat of an urban city – the threat is very real. Since Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the Louisiana coast in 2005, many communities impacted by natural disasters have experienced permanent population displacement. Despite increased reference to the link between climate change and human mobility (which includes displacement, migration and planned relocation), there is a dearth of knowledge on how shifts in population patterns intersect with underlying socioeconomic, cultural, political, and environmental processes and resources that either enable or constrain the ability of people to cope where they are, or force them to move because such support is lacking. In 2018, the National Science Foundation established a Coastlines and People (CoPe) program to address the complex coastal ecosystems that operate across multiple spatial and temporal scales while interacting with human dimensions from individual to global species scales. Part of the grand challenges for CoPe is to integrate human use and transformation of coastlines with an understanding of coastal processes, variability and hazards to forge new, transdisciplinary paths to integrate knowledge across physical, biological, socio-political, and economic processes with human dimensions. As part of the CoPe process, a collaboration of twelve state Sea Grant Programs were awarded a Regional Coordination Grant to identify research questions and establish a network of experts, governmental organizations and stakeholders focused on coastal community climate change-driven migration. This presentation will provide a literature review of the current state of knowledge of climate change-driven migration and propose a set of fundamental research questions required to be answered to begin to address coastal climate change-driven mobility.



Friday, March 26, 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Monmouth Faculty Panel II
Moderator: Tony MacDonald, Esq.

Sustainable Development Goals: Action Comes Alive

**Dr. Robin Mama, Dean, School
of Social Work**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Since the formation of the Sustainable Development Goals, a number of United Nations agencies are increasingly interested in success models that have been initiated and supported by social work. Examples include a social work led approach in Costa Rica that reduced multidimensional poverty by 42% in 2 years (Truell 2018) and integrating social and environmental approaches across India that have transformed both poverty in communities and the negative effects of deforestation (IFSW, 2018). These and many more examples from throughout the world align directly with the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals in transitioning people out of poverty and marginalization to being secure and confident members of thriving communities or societies.

This presentation will illustrate several “best practices” on SDG implementation from around the world, where social workers and their interdisciplinary colleagues have been working together to help achieve the targets for the SDGs



Saturday, March 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Climate and Energy
Justice Roundtable**

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

LITIGATING THE RIGHT TO BE COLD: OBSTACLES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE IN CANADIAN COURTS

**Patricia Galvão
Ferreira, S.J.D.**

University of
Windsor Faculty of
Law (Canada)

Inspired by the wave of rights-based climate litigation in national courts that followed pioneer successful lawsuits like *Urgenda v. The Netherlands* and *Leghari v. Pakistan*, Canadian youth groups and Indigenous peoples have filed at least four rights-based lawsuits before their national Courts in the last few years. Indigenous peoples and future generations of Canadians are bearing – or will bear – the brunt of adverse climate impacts in the country, which is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world. Climate justice is as pressing and existential for these Canadians as for inhabitants of Small Island Developing States.

The Canadian rights-based climate lawsuits are substantiated on legal grounds that resemble their forerunners. Plaintiffs are asking Courts to declare Canada's climate policies as inadequate in light of climate science and international climate law, and in violation of constitutionally recognized rights to life and to equality. Yet rights-based environmental litigation remains rare in Canada. Asking courts to adjudicate the adequacy of national or sub-national law and policies to address global environmental problems like climate change is largely uncharted waters. In three of the four lawsuits, Canadian courts have declined to analyze the merits of the cases, based on admissibility grounds. Courts have, however, signaled that they would consider the rights-based challenges justiciable if framed in the proper way. This presentation breaks down the important components of the Canadian courts' decisions, considers potential future obstacles for these cases, and highlights how success in a rights-based climate lawsuit may revolutionize environmental litigation in Canada more generally.



Saturday, March 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Climate and Energy
Justice Roundtable**

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

PEOPLE V. ARCTIC OIL AND ITS DISCONTENTS: THE NORWEGIAN PARADOX IN GLOBAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY JUSTICE

**Esmeralda
Colombo, LL.M.
(Ph.D. candidate)**

**University of Bergen
(Norway)**

Under the Norwegian paradox, Norway is a climate leader in international fora, and a petrostate at home, safely keeping its status as the seventh largest exporter of emissions in the world. Societal unease with the Norwegian paradox reached its peak in *People v Arctic Oil*, the first and only climate change case ever filed in Norway. In this major lawsuit, which was filed in 2016, Greenpeace Nordic and Nature & Youth challenged the expansion of the country's petroleum industry to the southern and southern eastern areas of the Barents Sea, in the Norwegian Arctic. The expansion received the unanimous support of the Norwegian Parliament on June 10, 2016, 10 days before Norway ratified the Paris Agreement. With *People v Arctic Oil*, the plaintiffs argue that the issuance of petroleum licenses should be annulled based on: (1) Article 112 of the Norwegian Constitution, one of the strongest constitutional provisions worldwide on the right to a healthy environment, including for future generations; (2) the Paris Agreement; (3) the European Convention on Human Rights; and (4) domestic law provisions, notably on environmental impact assessments.

In the aftermath of the final decision in *People v Arctic Oil*, to be rendered by Norway's Supreme Court in January 2021, the presentation will set the case within the wider horizon of global climate and energy justice by asking three questions: (1) How does the case compare to similar litigation worldwide? (2) What socio-legal conditions factored in and affected the Supreme Court's final decision? (3) What are the decision's repercussions for climate and energy justice, particularly in terms of intergenerational and intragenerational equity? The presentation aims to further advance discussion on climate and energy justice through social movement pressure, litigation, and ambitious regulation.



Saturday, March 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Climate and Energy
Justice Roundtable**

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

GREEN NEW DEAL POLICY OF SOUTH KOREA: POLICY INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

**Jae-Hyup Lee,
J.D., Ph.D.**

Seoul National
University
School of Law
(South Korea)

This presentation will discuss the “Green New Deal” (2020) policy of South Korea and its subsequent implementing legislations. Originally proposed as a post-COVID-19 stimulus plan, the Green New Deal is a sustainability-centered strategy for building a low-carbon and climate-neutral economy. The Green New Deal sets out eight targets to be accomplished under three strategic areas: green urban development, low-carbon decentralized energy, and innovative green industry. The Deal also takes measures to protect the people and sectors at a higher risk of being left behind in the process of the economic transition. It is an upgraded version of the “Green Growth” (2009) national policy, with more emphasis on sustainability in addition to the growth aspect. This presentation will examine the accomplishments and challenges during the Green Growth policy era and argue why the transition to the new Green New Deal is necessary for a sustainability transition.



Saturday, March 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Climate and Energy
Justice Roundtable**

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University

THE SEARCH FOR ENERGY JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

**Damilola Olawuyi,
LL.M., D. Phil.**

Hamad Bin Khalifa
University Law
School (Qatar)

Despite the conceptualization and promotion of the energy justice paradigm globally, inequity in the distribution of the benefits and burdens of energy resources remains a major threat to sustainable development in the Global South. The need to address inadequate access to energy, or energy poverty, has been given renewed impetus by the United Nations' Sustainable Energy for All and the associated Sustainable Development Goal 7 which encourage countries to develop projects and initiatives aimed at providing access to energy to the over 1 billion people who do not have access to reliable energy. The problem of climate change, as well as the quest for a 'just' energy transition also add new layers to the debate on energy justice. This presentation offers critical perspectives on the search for energy justice in the Global South. It examines the multi-dimensional and intersectional nature of designing responsive legal frameworks that can address rising energy poverty levels in the Global South.



Saturday, March 27, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

**Documentary Film
Screening and Commentary**

KIVALINA: LIFE IN THE MODERN ARCTIC

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University



Gina Abatemarco is a Writer and Director based in Brooklyn, New York. Her films have played around the world at festivals including IDFA, Sheffield Doc Fest, Full Frame, The Royal Anthropological Institute, and The American Film Festival in Wroclaw. When not working on films, Gina is active in the sustainable food movement. She has worked for farmers and artisans at The Union Square Greenmarket, collaborated with Slow Food International, and apprenticed at the “Rome Sustainable Food Project” at The American Academy in Rome.

Gina’s debut feature documentary KIVALINA, capturing the intertwining plight to survive and edible traditions of an ancient Arctic culture, made its world premiere at the Berlinale Culinary Cinema. In 2016, KIVALINA was broadcast on the Emmy Award winning show America Reframed in collaboration with American Documentary. Gina’s film work has been supported by The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Tribeca Film Institute, The IFP Film Labs,

and Vision Maker Media. In 2019, Gina Abatemarco produced Diana Kennedy Nothing Fancy, a feature documentary about the legendary Mexican cookbook author which was released by Greenwich Entertainment in 2020.

Gina is the Co-Founder of the Fusion Film Festival celebrating female filmmakers at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where she received a B.A. from the Department of Film & Television. In 2018, Gina was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to develop a feature dance film in collaboration with LGBTQIA artists throughout the U.S.



Saturday, March 27, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

**Documentary Film
Screening and Commentary**

KIVALINA: LIFE IN THE MODERN ARCTIC

Moderator: Prof. Randall S. Abate, Monmouth University



Dr. Kelsey Leonard is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo, where her research focuses on Indigenous water justice and its climatic, territorial, and governance underpinnings. As a water scientist and legal scholar, Dr. Leonard seeks to establish Indigenous traditions of water conservation as the foundation for international water policymaking. She represents the Shinnecock Indian Nation on the Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean, which is charged with protecting America's ocean ecosystems and coastlines. She also serves as a member of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission. Dr. Leonard received an A.B. in Sociology and Anthropology with honors from Harvard University, a MSc in Water Science, Policy and Management from the University of Oxford, a JD from Duquesne University, and PhD in Political Science from McMaster University.

She has been recognized as a 30 under 30 world environmental leader by the North American Association for Environmental Education and a "Native American 40 Under 40" award recipient by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. Dr. Leonard has been instrumental in safeguarding the interests of Indigenous Nations for environmental planning and builds Indigenous science and knowledge into new solutions for water governance and sustainable oceans. In collaboration with a global team of water law scholars Dr. Leonard has published in Lewis and Clark Law Review on Indigenous Water Justice and the defining international legal principle of self-determination under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Her recent scholarship explores legal personhood for water and her TEDTalk "Why lakes and rivers should have the same rights as humans" has nearly 3 million views. Dr. Leonard is a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature Academic Hub and affiliate of the Earth Law Center. She is an enrolled citizen of Shinnecock Indian Nation. Follow her on Twitter @KelseyTLeonard or visit her website at www.kelseyleonard.com.



Saturday, March 27, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Monmouth Student Panel

Moderator: Dr. Melissa Alvaré

**Death & Sustainability:
Post-Mortem Conservation**

**Hannah Burke, School of Social
Work (Graduate Student)**

This presentation will explore the very complex and sensitive topic of death, arguably the most universal human experience. Caring for our dead is an important part of human culture, performed in various ways around the world. This presentation will argue that the modern, conventional death practices in the United States that frequently involve embalming and burial, as well as cremation, are problematic on many levels. These practices by which the funeral industry capitalizes off grief have severe implications for the environment, and human health and well-being. Despite popular belief, these practices are somewhat new – their origins will be explored and the associated myths debunked. The audience will be challenged to shift the way they think about death practices as they are presented with other options. First, natural burial, which has no negative environmental impacts and rather supports existing ecosystems. This will be expanded with the concept of conservation burial, which is essentially natural burial taken a step farther, as the body is buried on land protected by law from development. Finally, the audience will be presented with the newest green innovation happening right now in the American death industry: human composting. This presentation will be contextualized by the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought our own mortality to the forefront of our minds. This proposal of shifting toward a more sustainable death culture in the United States is one way to “build back better.” The presentation will conclude with a relevant quote from Irish poet Edvard Munch.

**Nature’s Rights: A Discussion on
Mother Earth, Cultural Sensitivity,
and the Impact of Nature’s
Constitutional Rights on Indigenous
People**

**Jessica Stos, Department of
Professional Counseling (Graduate
Student)**

The environment is afforded legal protection under constitutions in every nation. This has been widely accepted as an adequate form of protection in many governing bodies around the world. In cases such as these, Mother Earth is only seen for what she can provide for human beings, and protected on the basis of her relation to the people who reside in a specific nation.

My presentation will focus on the authenticity of efforts to enforce Indigenous philosophy within the Ecuadorian constitution, which was amended in 2008 to include judicial protection of nature for the sake of nature itself. I will examine how the language in these changes is being perceived and supported, or not, by the Ecuadorian government. In my discussion, I will also highlight attitudes of Indigenous populations in Ecuador and how they are being affected by environmental threats, specifically those that are human-caused.

The concept of cultural sensitivity, which is extremely relevant in all disciplines of academia, will also be mentioned in relation to how we as Westerners perceive nature, or the environment in comparison to an Indigenous perspective. I will end with mentioning how important cultural sensitivity is to building empathy and equity within communities. This is especially important in fostering a more equitable society, and closing the gap between privileged and marginalized groups.



Saturday, March 27, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Monmouth Student Panel

Moderator: Dr. Melissa Alvaré

Intersectionality of Social Justice Concerns with Art and the Environment: A Case Studies of Pictures of Garbage

Katelyn Snyder, Department of English (Graduate Student)

This presentation analyzes the documentary titled “Waste Land,” which discusses artist Vik Muniz’s project to craft collages by using recyclables. Muniz’s goal is to raise awareness of pollution as well as the struggles of the marginalized individuals working in the world’s largest garbage dump, Jardim Gramacho. Exemplified through Vik Muniz’s portraits, feminism plays an important role in the effectiveness of the rhetoric on pollution by providing the audience with agency to identify with the workers and the environment. Through an analysis of both the documentary and “Pictures of Garbage,” this presentation argues that aesthetic rhetoric and constitutive rhetoric regarding climate change and pollution allow for an intersectional recognition of how art can reveal the dynamics of class, racism, and gender connected with pollution. The garbage pickers, catadores, face dangerous working conditions and highlight that once the garbage reaches the dump, the origin no longer matters in that the garbage simply becomes pollution on the earth – reflecting the moral pollution of capitalism. One feminist art piece is a reproduction of Jacques-Louis David’s “The Death of Marat,” which makes a political statement by reinventing a piece of fine art of a French Revolutionist martyr into that of a catador as a martyr for climate change. Another piece of artwork is of an Afro-Brazilian older woman whose portrayal deviates from normative gender roles of women being weak and only doing domestic labor. By rhetorically addressing several different human rights and environmental concerns, the documentary and artwork reveal the intersectional nature of these matters and provide techniques to encourage the audience to have agency.

Ocean Acidification as a Climate Change Harm in the Inter-American Court System

Dan Conte, Department of Political Science and Sociology (Undergraduate Student)

The Caribbean region is home to one of the most visually stunning and diverse marine environments on the planet. The reason for this eclectic biodiversity is the elaborate system of coral reef structures endemic to the Caribbean Sea. The indigenous people of this region, such as the Garifuna community, rely on these reefs for food, commerce, and tradition. Unfortunately, these reefs are in peril due to the adverse effects of carbon emissions, specifically the impacts of ocean acidification. The indigenous populations of this region must seek legal action against the world’s top carbon emitters to prevent further destruction of the marine environment. Lawyers have tried to establish precedent in various courts for plaintiffs in developing countries affected by climate change, but their success has been limited. Two obstacles for these plaintiffs are showing the requirement to establish injury is specific to them and that the defendant’s alleged action or inaction is linked to the injury. This presentation will outline a legal proposal through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that aims to compel the United States to reduce its carbon emissions. The presentation will focus on the precedent established in the Inuit Petition coupled with the 2018 advisory opinion from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which bridges the gap between human rights and environmental integrity. The union of ocean acidification data, the damage to indigenous populations, the legal theory in the Inuit Petition, and the Inter-American Court’s advisory opinion can provide a foundation for potential legal remedy for the Garifuna people.



Saturday, March 27, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Monmouth Student Panel

Moderator: Dr. Melissa Alvaré

Keep the Culture, Change the Fate: Responding to the Threat of Climate Gentrification to Asbury Park's West Side

**London Jones, Department of Communication
(Undergraduate Student)**

Climate gentrification, or the overriding of low-income communities by wealthy individuals whose properties are vulnerable sea level rise, is a growing threat to coastal communities across the nation. Within the next fifty years, New Jersey shorelines will continue to recede due to sea level rise, and the once-redlined West Side of Asbury Park could fall victim to climate gentrification within that time frame. The current project that seeks to lead the reconstruction of the West Side is managed by WRT as part of their Choice Neighborhood initiative. This project fails to consider the ultimate effects that climate change may have on the West Side neighborhood and its future generations. This presentation addresses the threat of climate gentrification in the context of the Choice program. It offers recommendations to secure more financial stability and job opportunities within the Choice program to ensure the safety and happiness of the West Side's existing community and those to come.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Deepa Badrinarayana

**Chapman University
Fowler School of Law**

Dr. Deepa Badrinarayana is a Professor of Law at Fowler School of Law, Chapman University, where she currently teaches climate change and the law, international environmental law, and torts, among others. She has published and presented extensively on climate change and has written on the issue from international and comparative law perspectives. Her current research focuses on the intersection between climate change, human rights and constitutional rights, as well as international liability mechanisms. Prior to joining Fowler School of Law, Professor Badrinarayana was a consultant to the United Nations Global Compact, on issues of corporate voluntarism and regulations. Between 2005 and 2006, she was a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Global Legal Studies, Columbia Law School. She was also a research assistant for Professor Frank P. Grad at Columbia University School of Law, primarily researching and writing for Grad's Treatise on Environmental Law, as well as on public health laws.

Before coming to the United States, Professor Badrinarayana was a Research Officer for a World Bank Project on Environmental Capacity-Building in collaboration with the Government of India, situated at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), in which capacity she was involved in research and advocacy, as well as training government officials and legal professionals in environmental law. Professor Badrinarayana was also part of a team that advised the Government of India on its new legislation to manage biomedical waste, an issue she worked on in India. Professor Badrinarayana holds a Doctor of Juridical Science in Environmental Law (S.J.D.) and Masters in Environmental Law (LL.M.) from Pace University Elizabeth Haub School of Law. Professor Badrinarayana is a Member of the World Conservation Union, Committee on Environmental Law.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Prof. Rebecca Bratspies
CUNY School of Law

*Rebecca Bratspies is a Professor at CUNY School of Law and Director of the Center for Urban Environmental Reform. An internationally recognized expert on environmental law, Professor Bratspies has written scores of law review articles, op-eds, and other publications. Her most recent book is Environmental Justice: Law Policy and Regulation. Bratspies is as an appointed member of New York City's Environmental Justice Advisory Panel, and of EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. She is a member-scholar with the Center for Progressive Reform, a core member of the Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment, and an editorial board member of the International Journal of Law in Context. She is a past member of the ABA Standing Committee on Environmental Law, Past-President of the AALS Section on the Environment, and a former advisor to the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research. A former Luce Scholar and law clerk to Judge C. Arlen Beam, she holds degrees from Wesleyan University (Biology) and the University of Pennsylvania (J.D cum laude). Her environmental justice comic books *Mayah's Lot* and *Bina's Plant* build environmental literacy in a new generation of environmental leaders.*



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



**Prof. Esmeralda
Colombo**

**University of Bergen
(Norway)**

Esmeralda Colombo is a visiting professor and research fellow at the Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation at the University of Bergen, Norway. Her areas of expertise are access to climate justice, international law and comparative law, clean energy deployment and financing, and climate-related financial risk. She is a lawyer in Italy and New York State (NYSBA), and a Legal Analyst at the Climate Change Litigation Initiative (C2LI), led by Prof. Francesco Sindico. C2LI is a policy-oriented virtual platform aimed at exploring climate change litigation and provide a toolkit for understanding existing climate change litigation, as well as the reasons why some countries display little to no litigation.

*Prof. Colombo has delivered presentations in Europe, Asia, and the United States, and served as a visiting professor at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (Kolkata, India) and a guest lecturer at the American University of Phnom Penh (Phnom Penh, Cambodia). In addition to working in law firms in Milan and Berlin, Esmeralda interned at the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment and was research assistant to Prof. Michael Gerrard at Columbia Law School. Her publishing activity spans from climate change and environmental law to international law, U.S. environmental law, Norwegian environmental law, and Italian legal culture. For her work on international law in domestic courts, she received a prize in the prestigious Professor William R. Ginsberg Memorial Essay Contest 2016 for her article, *Enforcing International Law in US Courts: The LOS Convention at Play in Kivalina*, 23 *ILSA Journal of International & Comparative Law* 106 (2016).*

Prof. Colombo received her law degree specializing in international law from the Catholic University of Milan, Italy; her LL.M. in European legal studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium; and her LL.M. from Columbia University in the City of New York, United States, where she was a Fulbright Scholar, Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and recipient of the Parker School Certificate in International and Comparative Law. She submitted her Ph.D. dissertation in access to climate justice at the Law Faculty of the University of Bergen, Norway, and is now completing the Certificate on Financing and Deploying Clean Energy offered by the Yale Center for Business and the Environment.

Prof. Colombo is a member of the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment, the Women's Energy and Climate Law Network, the World Commission on Environmental Law, and the Centre on International Sustainable Development Law. She holds a diploma in piano performance (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, 2010) and has engaged with music programs to decrease individual violent behavior and inequality in underserved communities, publishing a monograph in 2014. Follow her on Twitter @ColomEsmeralda and visit researchgate.net/profile/Esmeralda-Colombo-2 to access her publications.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Begaiym Esenkulova
American University
of Central Asia
(Kyrgyz Republic)

Dr. Begaiym Esenkulova is an Associate Professor in the Law Division at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. She teaches courses related to international environmental law, investment law and sustainable development, international investment arbitration, and others. Ms. Esenkulova holds LL.M. (Summa Cum Laude) and S.J.D (Summa Cum Laude) degrees from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. She served as a visiting scholar at Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment in 2013, a visiting doctoral research scholar at International Investment Law Center of the University of Cologne, Germany in 2015, a visiting doctoral research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany in 2015, and as a visiting postdoctoral scholar at Indiana University, Bloomington in 2018. She also served as a member of the Public Council of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Dr. Esenkulova's research interests include international environmental law, international investment law and sustainable development, international investment arbitration, and environmental protection. She has a number of publications related to her research interests in the U.S., Europe, and Central Asia. In 2020, she received the Matthew Nimetz Award for her research excellence in the American University of Central Asia. She has presented her research as part of public lectures and seminars at Harvard University, Columbia University, Bard College, Indiana University, George Washington University, University of Cologne, University of Siegen, London School of Economics and Political Science, and other universities and research centers.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Patrícia Galvão Ferreira
University of Windsor
Faculty of Law
(Canada)

Dr. Patrícia Galvão Ferreira is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, cross-appointed to the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER), at the University of Windsor. She is the director of the Transnational Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, co-leader of the Cities and Climate Forum, and board member of the Transnational Justice and Law Network and the Center for Cities. Prior to joining Windsor Law, Dr. Galvão Ferreira was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), where she attended the UNFCCC negotiations of the Paris Climate Agreement Rulebook. She has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Latin American Studies at Stanford University and at the FGV Law School in São Paulo.

Dr. Galvão Ferreira holds an S.J.D. from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, as well as an interdisciplinary doctoral degree in dynamics of global change from the Munk School of Global Affairs. She also holds an LL.M in international human rights law from the Notre Dame University Faculty of Law and an LL.B from the Federal University of Bahia in Brazil. She joined academia after working for nearly twenty years in the fields of human rights, economic justice and international development, in Brazil and in Southern Africa. Dr. Galvão Ferreira specializes in transnational law and global governance, with particular focus on the environment, natural resources, food and climate change. She has published and presented extensively on environmental justice and climate justice, including on equity principles of international environmental law, climate finance and climate litigation. In 2020 she co-edited the Canadian Environmental Law and Policy Coursebook.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Joshua C. Gellers

University of North Florida

*Dr. Joshua C. Gellers, LEED Green Associate, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Florida, Research Fellow of the Earth System Governance Project, and Core Team Member of the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment. He was also a 2016-17 U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Sri Lanka. In 2015, Dr. Gellers was a Visiting Scholar-in-Residence in Global Environmental Constitutionalism at Widener University Delaware Law School. His research focuses on environmental politics, human rights, and technology. Josh's work has appeared in numerous peer-reviewed journals and cited in seven UN reports. He runs Enviro Rights Map, a free Google Maps-based website that catalogs constitutional environmental rights throughout the world. Dr. Gellers is the author of *The Global Emergence of Constitutional Environmental Rights* (Routledge 2017) and *Rights for Robots: Artificial Intelligence, Animal and Environmental Law* (Routledge 2020). Follow him on Twitter @JoshGellers or visit his website at www.joshgellers.com.*



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Stellina Jolly

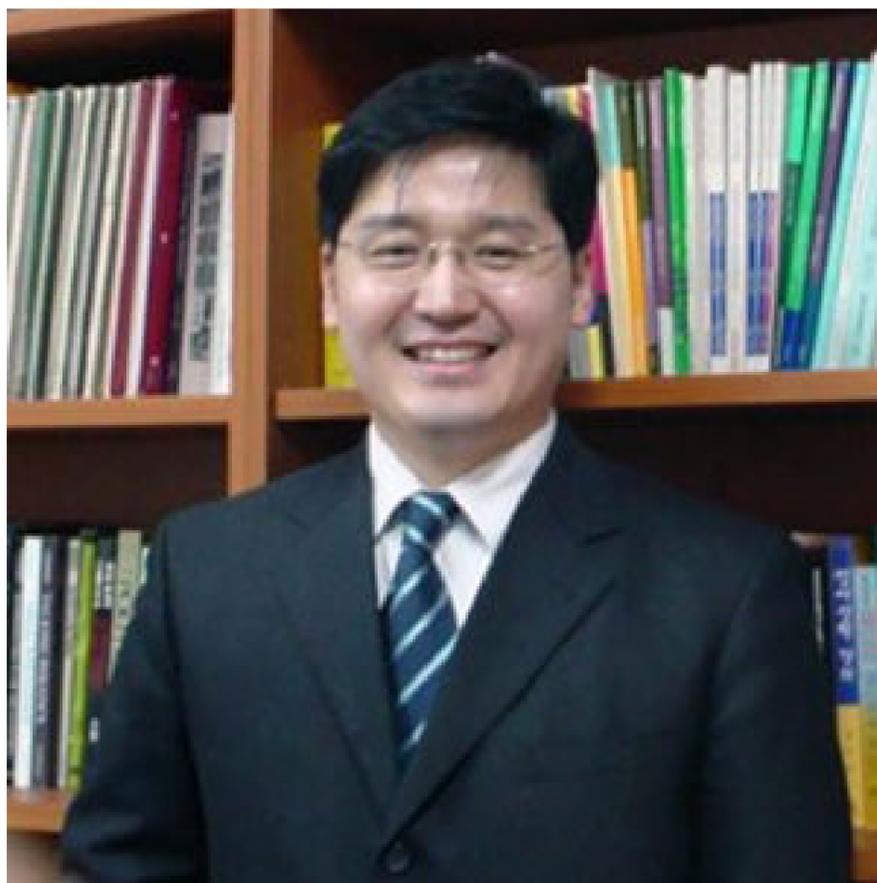
**South Asian University
(India)**

Dr. Stellina Jolly is a Senior Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University (SAU), an international organization established by the regional group of the South Asian nations (SAARC). She is a Visiting Senior Research Associate with the Centre for Emerging Countries in private international law at the University of Johannesburg. Dr. Jolly also served as a Fulbright Scholar with the University of San Francisco and was a recipient of the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) research in international environmental law and conflict of laws. She is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and part of the Network of Environmental Champions, Asian Development Bank. She has recently co-authored a book titled 'Climate Refugees in South Asia: Protection Under International Legal Standards and State Practices in South Asia,' published by Springer in 2019 and published an edited collection titled 'Private International Law: South Asian States' Practice,' published by Springer in 2017.

Dr. Jolly has undertaken projects and consultancies with various organizations, including the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, the European Union, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). She has collaborated on many research programs with the Special Centre for Disaster Research at Jawaharlal Nehru University in India. She was awarded an educational grant on Civil Society Law from International Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNL) and USAID. Dr. Jolly is a resource person for the Ministry of Law, Research Project on Judicial Reforms, and served as a subject expert on international environmental law for India's government program on developing electronic lecture database resources. She is a Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), and National Law University, Delhi.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Jae-Hyup Lee

**Seoul National University
School of Law
(South Korea)**

Dr. Jae-Hyup Lee is Professor of Law at Seoul National University. He earned his B.A. in anthropology at Seoul National University, a Ph.D. in American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania, and a J.D. at Northwestern University in Chicago. He was a Fulbright visiting scholar (2005-2006) and Wallace S. Fujiyama Visiting Professor (2010-2011) at the University of Hawaii Law School.

Professor Lee has widely published in both Korean and English in the areas of international and comparative environmental law, energy law, and legal anthropology. As a legal counsel to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea, he has participated in a number of international conferences and negotiations related to biodiversity, biosafety, climate change, and trade. He frequently advises the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment on climate change and energy issues. Professor Lee is a recipient of the Outstanding Scholarship Award from the Korean Environmental Law Association in 2010. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Korean Law, and the Director of the Center for Energy & Environmental Law and Policy at Seoul National University.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Prof. James R. May

**Widener University
Delaware Law School**

James R. May is Distinguished Professor of Law, Founder of the Global Environmental Rights Institute, and co-Founder of the Dignity Rights Project and the Environmental Rights Institute at Widener University Delaware Law School, where he has served as the H. Albert Young Fellow in Constitutional Law. At Widener University, he has served on the President's Executive Team, and as inaugural Chief Sustainability Officer, co-chair of the University Sustainability Council, Adjunct Professor of Graduate Engineering, and Phi Kappa Phi inductee.

May has taught 20 courses, founded or co-founded three law centers, four non-profit environmental organizations and a joint degree program, directed an environmental law clinic, and held numerous visiting appointments, including as faculty at the Pakistan College of Law, Universidade do Vale do Itajaí Brazil, Georgetown University Law Center, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, University of Kansas School of Law, Duquesne University School of Law, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University, University of Hawaii Richardson School of Law, National Judicial College, and Vermont Law School, and as a Fellow of The Environmental Law Institute, Essex University (UK), and University of A Coruña (Spain). May is a former litigator who has prosecuted hundreds of public interest claims in federal court.

May serves as the Special Representative on Environmental and Nature Rights for the International Council of Environmental Law, the Global Pandemic Network, the World Commission on Environmental Law, and the Normandy Chair for Peace. He serves as the Special Representative on Environmental and Nature Rights for the International Council of Environmental Law, and as a member of the Global Pandemic Network, the World Commission on Environmental Law, and the Normandy Chair for Peace. He is an inductee of the American College of Environmental Lawyers, and the Delaware Valley Environmental Inn of Court. He has received awards from the Sierra Club, American Canoe Association, and Pace University, among others. Before lawyering, he served as an engineer in national security and defense.

*May is the author of *Modern Administrative Law*, editor of *Principles of Constitutional Environmental Law* (2013), and coeditor of *Environmental Rights: The Development of Standards* (2019) and *Shale Gas and the Future of Energy* (2016). With Professor Daly, he has also co-authored or co-edited numerous volumes, including the first books on dignity law: *Dignity Law: Global Recognition, Cases, and Perspectives* (W.S. Hein 2020) and *Advanced Introduction to Human Dignity and Law* (Edward Elgar 2020), and various titles on environmental constitutionalism: *Global Environmental Constitutionalism* (Cambridge 2015), *Implementing Environmental Constitutionalism* (Cambridge 2018), *Encyclopedia of Human Rights and the Environment: Legality, Indivisibility, Dignity and Geography* (Edward Elgar 2019); *Judicial Handbook on Environmental Constitutionalism* (3d ed. United Nations 2019); *Judicial Handbook on Environmental Constitutionalism: Compendium of Cases* (2d ed. United Nations 2019), *New Frontiers in Environmental Constitutionalism* (United Nations 2016, here), and *Environmental Constitutionalism* (Edward Elgar 2016)*



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Marijana Mladenov

**University Business
Academy in Novi Sad
Faculty of Law
(Serbia)**

Dr. Marijana Mladenov is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary, University Business Academy in Novi Sad. She completed her basic studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Novi Sad, in 2009. At the same faculty, she defended the master thesis titled, “The right to privacy in the practice of the European Court of Human Rights” in 2010, and completed doctoral studies in 2017 with her thesis, “Right to an adequate environment as a fundamental human right.” In 2009 she was elected for the teaching assistant at the Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary and was promoted to the position of assistant professor in 2017. In October 2018, she was elected to serve as Vice-Dean for International Cooperation at the Faculty of Law for Commerce, followed by her election to serve as Director of the International Relations Office at the University Business Academy in Novi Sad.

Dr. Mladenov has been professionally involved in several national and international scientific projects. She is a professor at Jean Monnet Module “Application of EU values in the policies of the candidate states,” where she teaches two courses: “Human Rights Protection in the European Union” and “Human rights and climate change within the EU legal framework,” supported by the European Commission (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency). She is engaged as a researcher on the international project, “Global Digital Human Rights Network,” organized by the academic network COST, supported by the EU Framework for Research and Technological Development. She is also involved in numerous national projects related to Environmental Law: “Legal and institutional response of the Republic of Serbia to the need for creating a sustainable system of prevention and control of environmental media pollution in the context of joining the European Union,” supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia (2011-2014); “Aarhus Convention within the legal framework of the Republic of Serbia,” supported by OEBS and Administration for Environmental Protection of the City of Novi Sad (2011); “Transposition of the requirements of the Aarhus Convention into the legal system of the Republic of Serbia with special reference to the competence of local self-government units on the territory of AP Vojvodina,” supported by the Provincial Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research (2017-2018); “Obligations of the City of Novi Sad determined by the Law on Environmental Protection and other special laws in this area,” supported by Administration for Environmental Protection of the City of Novi Sad (2018-2019); and “Review of the potential Deposit-Refund System for Liquids Packaging applicable in the Republic of Serbia,” supported by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia (2019).

Dr. Mladenov teaches and writes in the areas of public international law, environmental law, and human rights law. She is the author or co-author of over 40 academic books or articles. She is a reviewer of the journal, Law-Theory and Practice.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Lina Muñoz-Avila

**Universidad del
Rosario
(Colombia)**

Dr. Lina Muñoz-Avila is a Colombian lawyer. She serves as Director of the Master of Environmental Law and Management program at Universidad del Rosario in Bogota, Colombia, where she also serves as lecturer and advisor to the Environmental Law in the Public Interest Legal Clinic (GAP by its acronym in Spanish). GAP is a legal clinic that litigates human rights protection and public interest cases through constitutional actions in Colombia.

Dr. Muñoz-Avila has been legal advisor for the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia and consultant to, among others, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the World Resources Institute, and the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues of Germany. Beyond doing her Ph.D. in Colombia, she worked in civil society organizations including the Inter-American Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA). She also worked as a doctoral researcher at Getulio Vargas Foundation (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

Dr. Muñoz-Avila participated in all the negotiation process of the Escazú Agreement on rights of access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters. She also has delivered presentations and participated in academic panels in Latin America, Europe (Universidad Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain), and the United States, like the 3rd UNITAR-Yale Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy hosted by Yale Law School. Her areas of expertise are environmental democracy, international environmental law, and the human rights-based approach in climate change and strategic litigation.

She submitted her Ph.D. dissertation in environmental and human rights impacts of large-scale gold mining in Colombia and Brazil at the Law Faculty of the Universidad del Rosario (Bogota, Colombia) where she was a Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry Scholar, and she received Summa Cum Laude recognition for her thesis. Dr. Muñoz-Avila is now completing master studies on climate change economy and law offered by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (Buenos Aires, Argentina) (FLACSO by its acronym in Spanish). Her publishing activity addresses extractive industries, environmental conflicts, the Escazú Agreement, and NDCs. She is a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law, Global Pandemic Network, the International Network on Climate Change, Energy and Human Rights, and the Access Initiative. Follow her on Twitter @linamunozavila and visit www.linamunozavila.com to access her publications.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



**Dr. Damilola S.
Olawuyi, SAN**

**Hamad Bin Khalifa
University
College of Law
(Qatar)**

Dr. Damilola S. Olawuyi, SAN is a professor of energy and environment law at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Law, Doha, Qatar. He is also Chancellor's Fellow and Director of the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (OGEES Institute), Afe Babalola University, Nigeria. He is an Independent Expert of the African Union's Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa.

A prolific and highly regarded scholar, Professor Olawuyi has practiced and taught energy law in Europe, North America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He has served as a visiting professor at Columbia Law School and China University of Political Science and Law, and as a senior visiting research fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. He is currently a Herbert Smith Freehills visiting professor at Cambridge University. He was formerly an international energy lawyer at Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP where he served on the firm's global committee on energy investments in Africa. He has delivered lectures on energy law in over 40 countries.

*Professor Olawuyi has published close to a hundred articles, book chapters and books on petroleum law, energy and international environmental law. His most recent book publications include *Local Content and Sustainable Development in Global Energy Markets* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), *The Human Rights-Based Approach to Carbon Finance* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) and *Extractives Industry Law in Africa* (Springer, 2018).*

*Professor Olawuyi serves on the executive committees and boards of several organizations. He is Vice Chair of the International Law Association; co-chair of the Africa Interest Group of the American Society of International Law (2016-2019); and member of the Academic Advisory Group of the International Bar Association's Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law (SEERIL). He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy*. He is a member of the Governing Council of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria, and a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators (NICARB). Professor Olawuyi holds a doctorate (DPhil) in energy and environmental law from the University of Oxford; a master of laws (LL.M.) from Harvard University; and another LL.M. from the University of Calgary. He has been admitted as Barrister and Solicitor in Alberta, Canada; Ontario, Canada; and Nigeria.*

In recognition of his "substantial contribution to legal scholarship and jurisprudence," Professor Olawuyi was awarded the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (Queen's Counsel equivalent) in the year 2020, aged thirty-seven, therefore becoming the youngest academic ever elevated to the rank of a senior advocate of Nigeria.

Professor Olawuyi is a regular media commentator on all aspects of natural resources, energy and environmental law.



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Jonathan Scherch

**Pacific Bamboo
Resources**

Dr. Jonathan Scherch has served as a Peace Corps Volunteer, founder and executive partner of “triple bottom line” business and NGO ventures, professor and Dean, and a Fulbright Scholar Specialist in a 30-year career of public service, social work, and education. He is Founder and Executive Director of Pacific Bamboo Resources, an international NGO based in Seattle, Washington, and serves as Contributing Faculty for the Social Work PhD / DSW program at Walden University. His teaching and scholarship have focused on topics of international social work practice featuring interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable community and economic development, empowerment, and resilience.

*In 1997, Dr. Scherch co-authored the book *What Have We Done? A State of the Bioregion Report for East Tennessee and the Southern Appalachian Bioregion*, which drew from his own research examining sustainable community development initiatives spanning eight U.S. states. Later, in 2005, at the invitation of the former Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, he facilitated sustainable agriculture training workshops with officials, farmers and residents of Tibetan refugee settlements in southern India. Subsequently, he produced *Sustainability in Exile: Tibetan Farmers Cultivating Compassion*, a 2012 video documentary detailing this work. A sabbatical in China afforded opportunities to learn explore topics of regional sustainable development, historical and contemporary practices, and socio-economic and ecological benefits of sustainable bamboo resource systems.*

In East Africa, he served as co-PI for “Bamboo - Creating jobs, improving livelihoods, saving forests in Kenya,” providing education and training programs to advance women and village empowerment, improved agricultural performance, reduced deforestation via bamboo cultivation best practices, and use of local cook stove technologies along with bamboo charcoal and biochar production. In 2016, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Specialist appointment in Kampala, Uganda, within Makerere University’s Department of Social Work and Social Administration. While there, he designed a new international partnership program of Pacific Bamboo Resources, eventually launched as Bamboo for Good (B4G). B4G partners on efforts serving critical needs such as sustainable agriculture and food security, post COVID-19 community / economic recovery, and environmental services of flood / erosion mitigation, and wildlife habitat restoration and protection.

In 2018, B4G received funding to support first-ever programming for community-engaged training in bamboo nursery management and sustainable usage around the critically impacted Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and Bwindi Conservation Area in Southwest Uganda. Presently, B4G is partnering with the Kibogora Polytechnic University, local governments, and citizens southwest Rwanda on proposed projects of hunger and malnutrition abatement, poverty alleviation, community economic development, and environmental conservation efforts. In July, 2019, B4G was presented to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as a best practice model for advancing and sustaining UN sustainable development goal (SDG) achievements. Previously, B4G was recognized in the 2018 Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development as “a best practice example of innovation in social work and social development to maintain a balance between humans and the planet.”



PLENARY PANEL AND ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Maria Antonia Tigre

**Global Network for
the Study of Human
Rights and the
Environment (GNHRE)**

Maria Antonia Tigre is the Director of Latin America for the Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE). Through GNHRE, she has increasingly focused her efforts on human rights-based climate litigation in Latin America. She is also a coordinator of the human rights group, with a particular focus on ecological rights, for the Global Pandemic Network (GPN), a community of scholars created to debate legal aspects associated with pandemics.

*Ms. Tigre is currently finishing her S.J.D. in international environmental law at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. Her research focuses on the current state of global environmental crises and the development of potential new legal solutions through philosophical, religious, and legal arguments. She is the author of *Gaps in International Environmental Law: Toward a Global Pact for the Environment* (ELI Press 2020). The book is a *travaux préparatoires* (source of evidence of discussion) for a potential new agreement on environmental principles, which is currently under debate at the United Nations.*

*Ms. Tigre is the author or co-author of several publications on themes related to Latin American, regional, and international environmental law. Her current research specifically focuses on issues concerning environmental rights and the reshaping of the existing framework of international environmental law. Originally from Brazil, she also researches environmental protection of the Amazon ecosystem, with an emphasis on regional cooperation. Her first book, *Regional Cooperation in Amazonia: A Comparative Environmental Law Analysis* (Brill 2017). In a TEDx talk, she argued for a regional cooperative approach for environmental protection in Amazonia.*

Ms. Tigre has previously worked in the private sector and at the World Resources Institute (WRI). She was a senior attorney at the Environment Program of the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, where she provided pro bono legal services to NGOs across the globe, especially in issues related to protected areas and the interface between human rights and the environment. Ms. Tigre is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law. She holds a dual LL.M. from the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University (Environmental Law and Comparative Legal Studies), from where she graduated magna cum laude. Ms. Tigre was a visiting scholar at Widener University Delaware Law School and the Maurice A. Dean Law School at Hofstra University. She received her LL.B. from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



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