

Final Programme – Polar Law Symposium 2026 (as of 16 October)

19th POLAR LAW SYMPOSIUM 2026

Monday 9 November – Wednesday 11 November 2026

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
	Monday 9 Nov	Tuesday 10 Nov	Wednesday 11 Nov
08.00-08.30		Registration <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Registration <i>Location: The Pa</i>
08.30-09.30	Registration (08.30) Opening (09.00) <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Keynote 3 <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Keynote 4 <i>Location: The Pa</i>
09.30-10.30	Keynote 1 <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Plenary 2 <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Plenary 5 <i>Location: The Pa</i>
10.30-11.00	Morning Tea <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Morning Tea <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Morning Tea <i>Location: The Pa</i>
11.00-12.30	Parallel 1-3 <i>Location: S Block</i>	Parallel 7-9 <i>Location: S Block</i>	Parallel 13-15 <i>Location: S Block</i>
12.30-13.15	Lunch <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Lunch <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Lunch <i>Location: The Pa</i>
13.15-14.45	Parallel 4-6 <i>Location: S Block</i>	Parallel 10-12 <i>Location: S Block</i>	Plenary 6 <i>Location: The Pa</i>
14.45-15.00	Afternoon Tea <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Afternoon Tea <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Afternoon Tea <i>Location: The Pa</i>
15.00-16.00	Keynote 2 <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Plenary 3 <i>Location: S Block</i>	Plenary 7 <i>Location: The Pa</i>
16.00-17.00	Plenary 1 <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Plenary 4 <i>Location: S Block</i>	Plenary 8 <i>Location: The Pa</i>
17.00-17.30	Book Launch <i>Location: The Pa</i>	Workshop 17.00-18.00* <i>Location: S Block</i>	Closing <i>Location: The Pa</i>
18.00-19.00		Drinks <i>Location: The Pa</i>	
19.00-21.00		Dinner <i>Location: The Pa</i>	

*Note: IUCN Workshop 17.00-18.00

DAY 1 – MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2026

Registration 08.30 – 09.00

Opening 09.00 – 09.30

Robert Joseph [Karakia]

Pro Vice-Chancellor

Dean of Law

Trevor Daya-Winterbottom

Keynote 1 09.30 – 10.30

Margaret Young

Regime Interaction: As Treaties Coincide, Who Decides?

Morning Tea 10.30 – 11.00

Parallel 1 Regime Interaction 11.00 – 12.30

Chiara Macchi

Corporate Environmental Due Diligence and the BBNJ Agreement - Regime Interaction in the Protection of Polar Marine Biodiversity from Business-related Impacts

Sarah Levy PhD

Enforcement Beyond the State: Regime Interaction and Non-State Authority in International Marine Governance

Anna Marie Brennan

From the South Pole to the Moon: Lessons from the Antarctic Treaty System for Regulating Lunar Safety Zones

Edythe Weeks

A Tripartite Critical IR-Legal Lens: Utilizing the 'Ultrasound' Methodology to Detect Legal 'Seeds' and Avert Unilateral Expansionism

Parallel 2 Regime Interaction 11.00 – 12.30

Nathan Cooper

Places devoted to peace and science

Constance Johnson

Rerouting marine environmental protection: Can the ATS utilise its relationship with the IMO to achieve environmentally better area-based management approaches?

Catherine Iorns

The effect of climate change on species and ecosystems in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, and how they will affect meeting Global Biodiversity Targets

Shushmita Ahmed PhD

Banned in the South, Contested in the North: Deep Seabed Mining Governance at Both Poles

Katrina Werahiko

The Polar Convergence: A Cross-Polar Indigenous Juridical Coalition and the Tri-Dimensional Legal Personality of Polar Environments

Parallel 3 Regime Interaction 11.00 – 12.30 [Workshop]

Nafisa Yeasmin / Santeri Halonen

Polar Law and Business

Lunch 12.30 – 13.15

Parallel 4 Regime Interaction 13.15 – 14.45

Lyn Goldsworthy

The applicability of rights of nature to the Antarctic Treaty system

Trevor Daya-Winterbottom

Navigating Southern Storms: Reimagining Polar Governance

Catherine Iorns

Rights of Antarctica: Concepts, Application and Implementation

Bjørn-Oliver Magsig

Stewards Without a Mandate? Legitimacy, Mini-lateralism, and Accountability in Polar and Seabed Governance

Immaculate Nnanyonyi

Rights of Nature vs Green Colonialism - Alternative Perspectives

Parallel 5 Arctic 13.15 – 14.45

Shigeki Takaya / Yoshiaki Mori

Shigeki Takaya, Analyst, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan / Yoshiaki Mori, Research Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Arctic Governance and the BBNJ Agreement: Towards Coherence in Polar Ocean Governance

Yoshinobu Takei

Challenges to the Laying and Protection of Submarine Cables in the Arctic Region

Eleni Kavvatha PhD

Extracting the Future: EU Green Policies, Arctic Mining, and Indigenous Communities

Durgeshree Raman

Saving the Third Pole

Parallel 6 Arctic 13.15 – 14.45

Szilvia Csevár / Hilary Renick / Diana Bob

Moderated conversation with framing intervention: Who Speaks for the Arctic?
Indigenous Governance and the Criminalization of Subsistence in Law

Afternoon Tea 14.45 – 15.00

Keynote 2 15.00 – 16.00

Gary Wilson

The challenge of ensuring uptake of science advice by the Antarctic Treaty System

Plenary 1 16.00 – 17.00

Donald Rothwell / Bruno Arpi / Indi Hodgson-Johnston / Alan Hemmings

Where is Polar Law at in 2026? A Southern Hemisphere Perspective

Book Launch 17.00 – 17.30

Medy Dervovic

Book Presentation: *A Compilation of International and Regional Instruments and Case-Law on Minorities and Indigenous Peoples' Rights* (Brill Nijhoff, 2025)

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2026

Registration 08.00 – 08.30

Keynote 3 08.30 – 09.30

Nengye Liu

International Polar Law and Geopolitical Competition in Our Time

Plenary 2 Arctic 09.30 – 10.30

Medy Dervovic / Timo Koivurova / Kamrul Hossain / Marlene Payva Almonte

Future-proofing Arctic Ocean Law and Governance

Morning Tea 10.30 – 11.00

Parallel 7 Arctic 11.00 – 12.30

Benjamin J Richardson

Private Hands, Public Nature: Conservation Governance in the Arctic

Sarah Levy PhD

Exploring the Conflation of Canadian Sealing Activities in Law and Policy

Vonintsoa Rafaly / Gabriela Argüello

Science in the Arctic: between diplomacy and risk amidst a frozen governance framework

Saska Hayes

How should international environmental law respond when Arctic species migrate beyond the geographic, treaty-based and species-specific protections designed to conserve them?

Osamu Inagaki

The Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement (CAOFA) and Its Interaction with Other Relevant International Instruments and Frameworks

Parallel 8a Antarctic 11.00 – 12.30

Ethan McCormick MA

The exceptionalism frame in Antarctic politics and governance

Xueping Li

The Institutional Logic of the Antarctic Treaty System and Its Impact on the Resilience of Antarctic Governance

Nengye Liu

Republic of Korea, Middle Power and the Antarctic Treaty System

Janneke Parrish PhD

Frozen Lessons for Final Frontiers: Building Fair Labour Systems from Pole to Orbit

Jagdeep Singh-Ladhar

Exploring hydrogen in the Antarctic; Legal Incentives and Barriers

Parallel 8b Regime Interaction 13.15 – 14.45 [Workshop]

Lyn Goldsworthy

Re-thinking Polar Regimes in an Era of Compounding Global Environmental Pressures

Parallel 9 Antarctic 11.00 – 12.30

Indu Vinayagam PhD

Antarctic Tourism as a Climate Justice Problem

Ao Yu / Shuangjian Li

Antarctic Tourism: Trend, Impacts and Supervision Optimization

Constance Johnson / Indi Hodgson-Johnston

Light and shade: Considering directions and drawbacks for enhancing transparency in the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

Min Zhang PhD

An assessment of the environmental sustainability of Antarctic tourism and the past, present and potential futures of Antarctic tourism management

Francesca Marzatico

Human Rights obligations of Antarctic Treaty System Consultative Parties

Lunch 12.30 – 13.15

Parallel 10 Antarctic and Arctic 13.15 – 14.45

Wei Xing PhD

Evaluating the Adaptiveness of the Antarctic Treaty System in a Changing Global Context: A Spatial Governance Perspective

Yitong Chen

Beyond Environmental Guidelines: Antarctic Aviation Governance under the Antarctic Treaty System

Elizabeth Nyman

Exponential Growth: Potential Regulation Paths for Antarctic Tourism

Po-Kwan Liu / Hanne Nielsen

Guiding in Antarctica: mapping the professionalisation of the tourism workforce

YIANNIS ZAVROS PhD

Comparative analysis of the Arctic and eastern Mediterranean focusing on Greenland and Cyprus

Parallel 11 Antarctic 13.15 – 14.45

Smrithi Talwar

Science-Policy Interfaces at CCAMLR-44: values and evidentiary thresholds in Antarctica governance

Indi Hodgson-Johnston

Exchanged and Made Freely Available: Article III of the Antarctic Treaty in the Age of FAIR Data

Antje Neumann

Reflecting on anthropogenic noise in Antarctica through the lens of silence

Cristián Gabriel Castillo Vásquez PhD

Explaining Variation in Environmental Governance Outcomes within the Antarctic Treaty System

Parallel 12 Biodiversity and Climate Change 13.15 – 14.45

Valeria Coscini

Evaluating Wildlife Conservation Objectives in Antarctic Law

Christopher N Battershill

Biodiscovery in the Antarctic: the 'who is in control?' and 'who owns what?' may soon be moot, as we are running out of time

Bradley Mahler LLM

Québec's Legal Options in a Melting Arctic

Carrington Lowe LLM

Governance of the Arctic's Microbial World: Thawing Permafrost and Biosecurity Risk

Ayman Irfan PhD

Sounding the Alarm: Private Environmental Governance and Underwater Noise in Polar Waters

Afternoon Tea 14.45 – 15.00

Plenary 3 Antarctic 15.00 – 16.00

Akiho SHIBATA / Ayako OKUBO / Jingchao PENG / Fumika IWAMA

Antarctic Governance Challenges: From Hiroshima ATCM and Beyond

Plenary 4 Antarctic 16.00 – 17.00

Tony Press / Indi Hodgson-Johnston

Can the non-militarisation provisions of the Antarctic Treaty survive current global geopolitical shifts? A deep dive into the Antarctic law of peace

IUCN Workshop 17.00 – 18.00

Catherine Iorns

The new IUCN Strategy, Policy and Programme for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, and the interplay between science and politics on species conservation within Antarctic governance

Drinks 18.00 – 19.00

Dinner 19.00 – 21.00

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2026

Registration 08.00 – 08.30

Keynote 4 08.30 – 09.30

Valmaine Toki

The Polar Region through an Indigenous Peoples' lens

Plenary 5 Rights of Nature in Antarctica 09.30 – 10.30

Alan Hemmings

Hooks and Thorns: Engaging the Antarctic Legal System with Antarctic Rights of Nature

Linda Sheehan

Rights of Antarctica and Climate Change: Meeting Planetary Challenges with Law that Includes the Planet

Sanjay Chaturvedi

Antarctica as 'Nature' through the Lenses of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Rhetoric, Reality and Relational Ethics

Morning Tea 10.30 – 11.00

Parallel 13 Biculturalism, Climate Change and Oceans 11.00 – 12.30

Dara Dimitrov

Rāhui Tapū: The application of a Māori environmental framework to protect Antarctica and its surrounding regions

Hitomi Kimura / Chie Kojima

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and the Potential Transformation of Ocean Governance: The Case of Pikialasorsuaq/North Water Polynya

Endalew Enyew / Apostolos Tsiouvalas

Relational, Water Informed, and Co-Created Approaches to Polar and Ocean Law

Lotta Viikari

Rights of the Indigenous Reindeer Animals

Ashley Gentile

Particular Custom in the Arctic: Traditional Knowledge in Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment

Parallel 14 Polar Environment Protection 11.00 – 12.30

Juliet Chevalier-Watts

Charity Law and the Challenges of Advocacy for Polar Environments - Lessons from New Zealand

Stefan Gruber

Polar Power Index: Measuring Capability to Strengthen Stewardship and Compliance

Daphne Sroka

Sentinel Species as a Jurisdictional Trigger: Harmonizing Arctic Protected Areas under the 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion

Katerina Soltany LLM

Fishing for Change: The Urgent Need to Regulate Arctic Fisheries

Chie SATO

Role of the Precautionary Principle in the Crisis Era - Environment vs Security?

Parallel 15 Biculturalism and Indigenous Polar Governance 11.00 – 12.30

Tim Conder

Under the Shadow of Mount Erebus

Simone Mamini PhD

Frozen Rights: Indigenous Peoples and the Legal Silence on Iceberg Governance in the Arctic

Talukdar Rasel Mahmud PhD

Indigenous Environmental Jurisprudence in Polar Law: Māori, Sámi and Inuit
Approaches to the Global Commons

Sara Fusco PhD / Immaculate Nnanyonyi

Beyond the Map: How Law shapes the Arctic as a space of control

Rogena Sterling

Beyond the State: Relational Governance and the Polar Commons Gaelic and Māori
Worldviews as Frameworks for an Interdependent Arctic

Lunch 12.30 – 13.15

Plenary 6 Biculturalism and Indigenous Polar Governance 13.15 – 14.45

Sandra Morrison / Aimee Kaio / Robert Joseph / Nathan Rew

How Māori (and Indigenous) philosophies can inform and improve modern international
Antarctic governance and conservation?

Afternoon Tea 14.45 – 15.00

Plenary 7 Climate Change 15.00 – 16.00

Maiko Raita / Caroline Foster / Margaret Young

Climate Change and Antarctic Law?

Plenary 8 Polar Environment Protection 16.00 – 17.00

Romain Chuffart / Apostolos Tsiouvalas

Polar Autonomies Workshop: Regime Interaction Under Conditions of Material
Transformation

Closing 17.00 – 17.30

Trevor Daya-Winterbottom

Romain Chuffart

Nengye Liu

Indi Hodgson-Johnston

Akiho Shibata

Timo Koivurova