



MELAW20 & MELP50 ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: RETROSPECT AND PROSPECTS 20-21 MAY, 2025

Weldon Law Building, Room 105, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (HYBRID)

20 May 2025, Tuesday

8:30 am - 9:00 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 am - 9:30 am **Welcome Address**

Sarah Harding, Dean, Schulich School of Law
Sara Seck, Director, MELAW
Sara Ross, Associate Director, MELAW

9:30 am - 10:30 am **Panel 1: Ocean Equity and Biodiversity**

Moderator: Cecilia Engler

Sherry Pictou, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Governance (Tier 2); Associate Professor, MELAW

Indigenous Knowledges toward Ocean Equity

Vu Hai Dang, Expert at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (virtual)
Sustainable Use of Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction: Towards a More Effective Participation of Developing States in the BBNJ Agreement Implementation

Olga Koubrak, Post-doctoral Fellow, MELAW
Effectiveness of Marine Species at Risk Conservation within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme: Taking Stock and Charting Future Courses

10:30 am - 11:30 am **Panel 2: Mining the Deep Seabed: Some Considerations**

Moderator: Erin Dobbelsteyn

Tony Puthucherril, Professor, O.P. Jindal Global Law School, India
A TWAIL Approach to Mining at Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

Devdatta Mukherjee, PhD Candidate, MELAW
To Mine or Not to Mine is Not the Only Question: On Deliberative Democracy in Deep Seabed Mining

Panel 2: Continued

Keith Edward MacMaster, Lawyer, Weldon McInnis Barristers and Solicitors
*Bypassing the Treaty: The United States, UNCLOS and Valuing Seabed Minerals –
Towards a Sustainable Seabed Mining Asset Valuation Code*

11:30 am - 11:45 am **COFFEE BREAK**

11:45 am - 12:45 pm **Panel 3: Rethinking Governance of the Marine Environment**

Moderator: Sara Ross (TBC)

David VanderZwaag, Professor Emeritus, MELAW
Governance and the Central Arctic Ocean: Cooperative Currents, Murky Waters

Sara Seck, Professor, Yogis & Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law; Director,
MELAW
Relational Approaches to Business Responsibilities for the Marine Environment

Tahnee Prior, Co-founder and Co-lead, Women of the Arctic; Killam Post-Doctoral
Fellow 2023
*Integrating a Gender-Dimension into Arctic Pollution Governance: Reflections from
North Iceland and South Greenland*

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm **LUNCH**

1:45 pm - 2:45 pm **Panel 4: Environment and the Changing Contours of Property and Personhood**

Moderator: Sara Seck

Sara Ross, Associate Professor, MELAW
*Finding the Legal Person: Models, Methods, Benefits, and Framework for Assigning
Legal Personhood to Sea Ice*

Kevin Berk, PhD Candidate, MELAW; Purdy Crawford Fellow
*Coastal Protection in Nova Scotia: A Clash of Private Property Rights and Public
Environmental Objectives*

Jodi Lazare, Associate Professor, MELAW; Associate Dean, Academic
*Private Property and Public Discourse: Industrial Animal Farming and the
Environment*

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm ***Mi'kmaw Law, Language and Art: Interactive Learning with Naomi Metallic
and Cheryl Simon***

Naomi Metallic, Associate Professor, MELAW; Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal
Law and Policy

Cheryl Simon, Assistant Professor, MELAW

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm **COFFEE BREAK**

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Keynote Address:

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP

History and Prospects of Marine and Environmental Law in the Triple Planetary Crisis – Some Reflections

5:00 pm - 5:15 pm

BREAK

5:15 pm - 6:00 pm

Early Days of MELP & Special Address:

Norm Letalik, Counsel, Metcalf & Company
Early Days of MELP

Aldo Chircop, Professor, MELAW
Special Address: MELP @50: A Retrospect of Canadian Maritime Law and Implications for the Programme's Mission

6:00 pm –

RECEPTION (Atrium)

21 May 2025, Wednesday

8:30 am - 9:00 am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Panel 5: Multi-level Fisheries Governance and Food Security

Moderator: Constance MacIntosh

Stuart Kaye, Director of ANCORS at the University of Wollongong (*virtual*)
Multilateral Fisheries Enforcement: Can Remote Sensing Technologies Strengthen the Prospects for more Effective Cooperation between States?

Jamie Baxter, Associate Professor, MELAW
Shellfish and Seaplants as Food: Lessons from and for Regulatory Reform

Cecilia Engler, Post-Doctoral Fellow, MELAW
International Fisheries and the Tangled Web of International Law

10:00 am - 11:00am

Panel 6: Ocean and Climate

Moderator: Camille Cameron (TBC)

Loveth Ovedje, PhD Candidate, MELAW
Bridging the Climate Finance Gap: Supporting Coastal LDCs and SIDS in Building Marine Resilience

Patrícia Galvão Ferreira, Associate Professor, MELAW
From Dialogue to Mechanism? Evaluating Legal Options for Ocean-Climate Action in the Paris Agreement

Constance MacIntosh, Professor, MELAW
Forced Migration at Sea: State and Ship-Master Responsibilities and Responses

11:00 am - 11:15 am COFFEE BREAK

11:15 am - 12:15 pm **Panel 7: Climate Litigation**

Moderator: Patricia Galvão Ferreira (TBC)

Erin Dobbelsteyn, Schulich Fellow 2024-2025, Research Associate, MELAW;
PhD Candidate, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law
Fundamental (In)justice and the Existential Threat of Climate Change

Camille Cameron, Professor, MELAW
Climate Litigation: Is it Worth it?

Kolawole Abiri, PhD Candidate, MELAW
Repeat Players and the Rise of Environmental Authoritarianism: A New Era in Climate Litigation

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm LUNCH

1:15 pm - 3:00 pm **Panel 8: Business in the Marine Environment: Normative Adaptations and Inclusivity**

Moderator: Jamie Baxter (TBC)

Jay L. Batongbacal, Professor, University of the Philippines College of Law;
Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea of the U.P. Law Center
Reflections on a Social-Ecological Justice Framework, Fifteen Years Later

Adebayo Majekolagbe, Assistant Professor, University of Alberta Faculty of Law
A Dualist Approach to Offshore Renewable Energy Governance

Akinwumi Ogunranti, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Manitoba
Business and Human Rights Treaty—A Hard Look at Legitimacy

Olabisi Akinkugbe, Purdy Crawford Chair in Business Law; Associate Professor, MELAW (virtual)
Geopolitics and Fragmentation in Africa's Critical Minerals and Value Chains Regimes

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm **Closing Remarks**

Sara Seck, Director, MELAW

5:00 pm – **Ferry to Dartmouth**

Ferry from Halifax to Dartmouth, Halifax Ferry Terminal, 5075 George St, Halifax
Note: the ferry departs every 15minutes at 5pm | 5:15pm | 5:30pm | 5:45pm

6:00 pm – **Dinner: Wooden Monkey**

40 Alderney Dr #305 (Above Ferry Terminal), Dartmouth
[*The Wooden Monkey Restaurant | Halifax & Dartmouth NS*](#)