

31ST HELSINKI SUMMER SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

26-30 AUGUST 2019



INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: PROCESS AS DECLINE

Since the 1970s, international environmental law has expanded significantly in quantity and scope to address environmental problems, such as climate change, ozone depletion, and biodiversity loss. Legal practitioners have presented legally sophisticated and complex solutions to improve the state of the global environment. In practice, these approaches have had little effect on human and environmental health protection. *Can the current preferred modus operandi of international environmental law respond effectively to the massive environmental and human health crises of the present and future?*

The 31st Helsinki Summer Seminar on International Law seeks to address such fundamental questions from a critical theoretical perspective. The seminar encourages international environmental law scholars to *unlearn* pragmatic, instrumentalist or functionalist ways of *doing* international environmental law. Participants are invited to reflect on the underlying structures of social, cultural, political, geographical, historical and legal relations that shape, constrain and influence the epistemological and ontological contours or boundaries of international environmental law.

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Professor Michael Mehling
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Associate Professor Karin Mickelson
University of British Columbia

Dr Sabaa Khan
UEF Law School

Professor Jan Klabbers
University of Helsinki

Professor Martti Koskenniemi
University of Helsinki

Professor Kati Kulovesi
UEF Law School

Professor Harro van Asselt
UEF Law School

Professor Jorge E. Viñuales
University of Cambridge



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