

PROGRAMME AND CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NEW SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES: THE ROLE OF COURTS

Università di Siena
Certosa di Pontignano, Siena
26 and 27 June 2025

June 26, 2025

Introductory remarks (9:00-9.30)

Session 1 - Challenging Climate Change Before International Courts (9:30-13:00)

Chair: Riccardo Pavoni (University of Siena)

Annalisa Savaresi (University of Eastern Finland), *The Role of International Law in Climate Change Litigation*

Véronique Boillet (University of Lausanne), *Switzerland's Condemnation in the KlimaSeniorinnen Case: Implications and Consequence*

Irene Spigno (Academia Interamericana de Derechos Humanos), *Climate Change in the Inter-American System*

11:15 Coffee break

11:45 Junior scholars' presentations and debate - Chair: Valentina Carlino (University of Siena)

Session 2 - Sustainability and Courts: Questioning the Role of Civil Society (15:00-19:00)

Chair: Andrew Harding (National University of Singapore)

Christina Binder (University of the Bundeswehr Munich), *Sustainability, civil society and court: what role for local governments?*

Siri Gloppen (University of Bergen), *Promise and perils of climate litigation*

Salwa Hamrouni (University of Carthage), *Le rôle de la société civile tunisienne dans la mise en œuvre des SDGs*

Rachele Bizzari (University of Siena), *Amici Curiae in Climate Change Litigation: Fostering Dialogue between Civil Society and Regional Human Rights Courts*

17:15 Coffee break

17:45 Junior scholars' presentations and debate - Chair: Giammaria Milani (University of Siena)

June 27, 2025

**Session 3 - Future Generations and Environmental Rights: Insights from Constitutional Courts
(9.00-12:30)**

Chair: Francesco Viganò (Italian Constitutional Court, Bocconi University)

Itziar Gómez Fernández (Carlos III University of Madrid), *The legal personification of natural spaces and their constitutional dimension or the STC 142/2024 on the Mar Menor Lagoon*

Mathieu Disant (University of Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne), *La protection constitutionnelle des générations futures. Perspective française.*

Gonzalo Ramírez Cleves (Externado University of Colombia), *The Rights of Nature in Latin America: A Paradigm Shift from Anthropocentric to Ecocentric Vision*

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Junior scholars' presentations and debate - Chair: Tania Groppi (University of Siena)

Conclusions (12:30-13:15)

Xavier Philippe (University of Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference subject-matter

In the 21st century, sustainability is becoming a key constitutional concept, being increasingly entrenched in national constitutions, mainly in the area of environmental protection. Nevertheless, the implementation of such provisions is rather problematic, due to the short-term perspective of political decision-making. In most cases, the burden to enforce sustainability clauses falls on courts, as shown by the growing trend in climate litigation. Against this background, the Conference aims to explore the role played by international, constitutional and ordinary courts, including the procedural tools to make judicial remedies effective, especially in light of civil society participation.

The Conference will be organized into three sessions, with the participation of leading scholars from different countries and continents. The sessions will be dedicated respectively to: 1) Challenging Climate Change Before International Courts; 2) Sustainability and Courts: Questioning the Role of Civil Society; 3) Future Generations and Environmental Rights: Insights from Constitutional Courts.

Preferential topics to be addressed

Within the framework of the Conference subject-matter, the call for papers is especially aimed at addressing cases related to climate change, future generations, and rights of nature at both international and national levels.

Questions to be addressed may include (but are not limited to):

- a) models of constitutional justice and sustainability litigation;
- b) regional systems of human rights and sustainability;
- c) the issue of standing in sustainability litigation;
- d) the role of amici curiae in sustainability litigation;
- e) the role of experts, agencies and independent authorities;
- f) the reasoning behind courts' judgments (use of arguments in conventional or constitutional interpretation);
- g) strategic litigation;
- h) the execution of the judgments: the role of the legislator and the administration;
- i) solutions to address legislative omissions;
- j) the role of civil society.



Eligibility

The conveners encourage submissions from both PhD candidates and junior scholars (postdoctoral researchers, research fellows, assistant professors, etc.) at the early stages of their academic careers (within 7 years of completing their PhD). A maximum of 14 proposals will be selected.

To submit an abstract

Interested scholars are invited to submit a CV and an abstract, in English or French, of no more than 500 words by **March 15, 2025**. Submissions should be sent to Rachele Bizzari at rachele.bizzari@unisi.it (please use "Call for papers - New Sustainability and Courts" as the subject line of your e-mail). Applicants will be notified by April 1, 2025. Full drafts of papers must be submitted no later than June 5, 2025. Papers should not exceed 10,000 words and may be written and presented in either English or French.

Those submitting a proposal must specify whether they prefer to participate in person or online at the time of submission.

Papers presented at the Conference will be considered for publication in an edited volume.

Registration, travel, and lodging

There is no fee to participate in the Conference. The conveners will provide meals for paper presenters. Paper presenters are responsible for their own accommodation, travel and incidental expenses.

Conveners

The Conference is organized by the DIPEC Research Group at the University of Siena, within the PRIN 2022 PNRR "New Sustainability Governance (NESUS-G)", Principal Investigator Prof. Tania Groppi.

Scientific Committee

Tania Groppi
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Valentina Carlino
Giammaria Milani
Riccardo Pavoni
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Organizing Committee

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