UGlobe Event: Green People, Green Judges

At the UGlobe event Green People, Green Judges, UGlobe will focus on the call for the right to a healthy environment that has taken place around the world in recent years, from India to Europe, from the US to New Zealand. This call has led to legal action all around the world. With legal action, citizens and citizen groups use courts to challenge their governments to go beyond current measures to combat climate change.

9 March 2018
Gasthuis Leeuwenbergh

Programme

15:30 - 16:00: Doors open, with coffee & tea

16:00: Opening

16:05: Welcome by the Academic Director of UGlobe, prof. Sybe de Vries

16:15 - 17:05: Pitches from:
   - **Gaute Eiterjord**
     Director of Friends of the Earth Norway
     *Climate lawsuit: The people v. Arctic oil. How Norwegian youths took the state to court*
   - **Dr. Liesbeth van de Grift**
     Assistant Professor History of International Relations, Utrecht University
     *Greening democracy: The role of environmental organisations from a historical perspective.*
   - **Ugo Taddei**
     Lawyer at Client Earth involved in climate change litigation throughout Europe
     *Air pollution in court*
   - **Dr. Edward Brans**
     Lawyer at Pels Rijcken, represented the Dutch state in the Milieudefensie clean air litigation
     *State of the Netherl./Urgenda c.s. and State of the Netherl./Milieudefensie c.s.: Two different cases.Global v. regional environmental interests*
   - **Dr. Naomi van Steenbergen**
     Researcher at the Ethics Institute at Utrecht University
     *What may we expect from individuals and from the state?*

17:00: Panel discussion and audience questions

17:30 - 18:00: Drinks
About UGlobe

Global challenges, like climate change, increasing inequality, poverty, conflicts, breaches of human rights and citizens’ concerns about identity, cannot be solved from the perspective of just one discipline. UGlobe, the Utrecht Centre for Global Challenges, brings together people from different backgrounds and disciplines to explore and study these challenges and to contribute to innovative solutions.

About the speakers

Gaute Eiterjord
Gaute Eiterjord is chair of Natur og Ungdom (Nature and Youth/Young Friends of the Earth Norway), Norway’s largest environmental organization for youth with 7,500 members and 70 local chapters throughout the country. He has been involved with the 2017 climate lawsuit brought by Natur og Ungdom, Greenpeace and others since 2015.

Dr. Liesbeth van de Grift
Liesbeth van de Grift is Assistant Professor in the History of International Relations. She specializes in the international history of rural and environmental governance in the twentieth century. In her work, she focuses on the changing relationship between governing authorities, expert communities, interest groups, and citizens. Topics that she has worked on include practices of land reclamation and rural resettlement (internal colonisation), and the role of consumer and environmental organisations in European governance.

Ugo Taddei
Ugo is a lawyer with the environmental law organisation ClientEarth. He works within the Strategic Litigation programme and focuses on clean air. His work aims to enforce compliance with EU air quality laws through litigation before national courts in EU member states. He also works to improve EU air pollution law, with a particular focus on vehicle emissions regulations. Before joining ClientEarth, Ugo was a lawyer with the Italian law firm SLCG in Florence and Milan, Italy, practising in commercial litigation and arbitration. He is a qualified lawyer in Italy and holds an honours degree in law from the University of Florence (combined LLB and LLM) and an honours degree in environmental law and policy from the University College London (LLM). He was awarded the Francis Taylor Building Prize for best overall mark in the environmental law LLM.

Dr. Edward Brans
In his practice, Edward focuses on environmental liability under private and administrative law. In addition, he provides legal assistance in disputes concerning government liability (e.g. in the case of unlawful decisions, insufficient monitoring or inadequate enforcement). Edward also represents clients in cases aimed at countering and limiting the consequences of climate change. In the area of environmental law, Edward has extensive experience in cases concerning soil contamination, asbestos or waste substances.

Dr. Naomi van Steenbergen
Naomi van Steenbergen is a philosopher and ethicist. She divides her research time between moral psychology and climate justice. Besides her academic research and teaching, she works as a translator. Naomi studied at Utrecht University and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, then moved to the University of Essex, where she wrote a doctoral thesis on Heidegger's early conceptions of philosophical method. After finishing her PhD, she spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Bucharest. Her research interests include phenomenology, philosophy of art and literature, and moral psychology.