UPCOMING EVENTS AND CALLS

**Launching Ius Commune Case Book**
Judicial Review of Administrative Action

On 27 October 2017, Maastricht University organizes a conference on Judicial Review of Administrative Action. At this conference, high level speakers from all over Europe and also from the US discuss the similarities and differences of Judicial Review of Administrative Action. Questions discussed are to what extent a ius commune is developing and whether EU law has had a harmonizing effect on national legal systems. The conference is organized on occasion of the launching of the Ius Commune Casebook on Judicial Review of Administrative Action. The conference is a very special opportunity to listen to and discuss with some of the most outstanding legal scholars of EU and comparative administrative law, amongst which Auby (Paris), Prechal (CJEU Luxemburg), Rose Ackerman (Yale), Craig (Oxford) and others. The conference is open to students.

**IUS Commune Congress 2017**
23 - 24 November, Utrecht

In November the IUS Commune Congress is organized for the twenty-second time, for an overview of the full programme click here. On Friday the 24st UCWOSL organizes two workshops ‘Environmental Law’. There will be presentations of different highly distinguished speakers. A detailed programme of the first workshop you can find here. The second workshop starts at 14h and the programme can be find here.

If you are interested, you can fill in this registration form.

**PhD Defences**

**November 3rd:** Daphina Misiedjan will defend her PhD thesis titled: ‘Towards a Sustainable Human Right to Water, Supporting vulnerable people and protecting water resources’. With Suriname as a case study, her research focuses on the development of the human right to water and how it fits into the sustainable management of water resources.

**December 7th:** Aikaterini Argyrou will defend her PhD thesis in the field of sustainability, social entrepreneurship and law. Her research focuses on the examination of a normative framework for social entrepreneurship that delivers substance to the concept of sustainability.

**January 29th:** Willemijn van Doorn-Hoekveld will defend her PhD thesis on the role of compensation regimes in three EU Member States (Belgium, France and the Netherlands) in the implementation and effectiveness of transboundary river basin management plans with regard to flooding.

**Vergelijkend onderzoeken soortenbeschermingsrecht**  
[In Dutch]

Het ministerie van EZ heeft een opdracht aan UCWOSL verstrekt om een vergelijkend onderzoek te doen naar de toepassing van het soortenbeschermingsrecht bij de toelating van duurzame energieprojecten, zoals windparken op land en op zee, solarfields en dergelijke. Chris Backes en Sanne Akerboom zullen dit onderzoek uitvoeren met een team van experts uit Denemarken, Duitsland, Belgie en het Verenigd Koninkrijk.
Center for Energy Research becomes part of UCWOSL

As of October the Centre for Energy Research (CER) has become a research unit within the Utrecht Centre for Water, Oceans and Sustainability Law (UCWOSL). The Centre for Energy Research was established on January 1st 2010 by Prof Simone Pront. Until July 1st 2017 the Centre was attached to the Faculty of Law of Amsterdam University. In 2017 a few research projects will be finalised under the responsibility of the University of Amsterdam.

The Centre examines the energy system to fulfil its primary function: the supply of heat, light and power to end users, in short and long term. Thus, the Centre chooses an independent position in relation to many actors in the energy sector. One of the core activities of the Centre has been to organise workshops for societal and governmental partners. On multiple occasions the Centre has produced research reports for business and governmental partners.

One of the research projects that transferred to UCWOSL is the City-Zen project. This is a European project aimed at investigating the institutional and legal barriers for energy innovation on the basis of several demonstration projects in Amsterdam, Grenoble and other European cities. The next months, this project will focus specifically on the role of the vulnerable end-user and the corresponding legal framework and protection mechanisms.

Over the next months, UCWOSL and the Centre will work on a joint research program. This program will contain three research perspectives: the end-user, sustainability and multi-level legal regimes and governance. This way, the research program will be formulated broader and new research activities can be developed. The Centre will be directed by Marleen van Rijswijk and the research coordinator is Anoeska Buijze. Via this link you can visit the staff page. We will keep you posted on the progress!
Just before the summer break, the writing teams of UCWOSL travelled way up North for the purpose of relaxation, teamwork and content. With a group of 27 people, we sailed on a Skûtsje (a seventy-foot traditional sailing ship) on the Frysian lakes. All hands on deck were needed in order to sail the century-old ship to an island on the other side of the lake. After having lunch on the island, the teams sailed back to the harbour for a follow-up workshop on the publications. The writing teams gave short presentations about their progress, and discussed their planning and ideas with the rest of the groups. That evening, before going to Utrecht, we had drinks and dinner on the terrace overlooking the lake.

PhD defence Cathy Suykens


On Monday 2 October, Cathy Suykens defended her thesis, which is a joint PhD as a result of collaboration between the KU Leuven and Utrecht University. The PhD deals with water quantity management in transboundary waters in the European Union and prof. Kurt Deketelaere and prof. Marleen van Rijswick have been the supervisors of this PhD.

This PhD thesis has looked at the relevant EU requirements for water quantity management in transboundary waters and the way these have been implemented in a specific river basin in the EU, the Scheldt. A case study of the river basin mechanism governing the Delaware River in the United States has been conducted with the goal of identifying lessons learned for the EU. The theoretical backbone of this research is represented by resilience theory. Resilience theory relates to the ability of a system to recover from and adapt to certain hazardous events in a timely and efficient manner. The case studies of the Scheldt and the Delaware have provided the necessary tools to identify Critical Success Factors (CSFs), which have been applied to the management of transboundary waters in the European Union. Each CSF has resulted in a specific set of recommendations, both geared toward the level of the EU and the International River Basin Districts. An Enhanced Cooperation Model has been proposed as well as the concept “River Basin District Security”, which is derived from the more commonly known “water security”, as a comprehensive assessment tool to be used in (International) River Basin Districts.
Summer School Future Deltas

From Monday 28 August to Friday 1 September 2017 the interdisciplinary Summer School Future Deltas on ‘Delta problems’ took place. Specific themes were land subsidence, flooding, coastal dynamics, salt water intrusion and delta cities. The Summer School is a collaboration between the Faculty of Geosciences and the Utrecht Centre for Water, Oceans and Sustainability Law (UCWOSL). Among the 22 participants were master students, PhD candidates and professionals from different countries. The intensive program included both lectures (mornings) and field trips/excursions (afternoons). The main activities were organized in Utrecht (Achter Sint Pieter) and Middelburg (Roosevelt Academy). UCWOSL employees also actively participated in the programme. Dr Andrea Keessen provided an introductory lecture into the legal aspects of delta management. Dr Herman Kasper Gilissen gave a lecture about flood risk governance and moderated a ‘serious game’ on delta management. Wouter Ernst presented (legal) solutions for salinization in agriculture. Dr. Gilissen also organized an excursion to the ‘Zelfredzaam Eiland Dordrecht’ on Friday 1 September. The summer school was evaluated very positively by its participants.

Troubled Waters Conference in Luxemburg


Otto Spijkers presented a poster on the legal consequences of non-participation in arbitral proceedings under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). He compared two recent examples of non-appearance. The aim of the poster presentation was to examine these – and other – similarities and differences, in order to reach some general conclusions on the legal effects of non-participation.

Lan Nguyen presented a poster on ‘The UNCLOS Dispute Settlement Bodies and the Development of the Law of the Sea’. The poster aimed to examine the question regarding whether and to what extent the dispute settlement bodies established under UNCLOS have contributed to the development of the law of the sea.

The event was a huge success with over 100 participants from Luxembourg, elsewhere in Europe and around the world attending the event. We offer our sincere gratitude to the organisers of the event - the Max Planck Institute and Vrije Universiteit Brussel - and the financial support provided by the Luxembourg National Research Fund.

Daphina Misiedjan part of the Diversity Task Force & Nominated for the Black Achievement Encouragement Award

Daphina Misiedjan has become part of the Diversity Task Force of Utrecht University. This Task Force is a University-wide committee aimed to drive the ambition the University has to increase inclusion and diversity in the widest sense of the word. As part of the Diversity Task Force Daphina will focus on policies to attract more staff with diverse backgrounds and implement measures which will assist in guaranteeing an engaging and safe space for all students in the classroom. You can find more information here.

Daphina has also been nominated for the Black Achievement Encouragement Award. The Black Achievement Award Gala will be held on October 29th in Amsterdam. For more information, you can click here.

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China aims for a transition towards integrated river basin management and a shift from the focus on the use of the river towards integrated protection of ecosystems. Therefore the Changjiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC) develops an integrated law for the Yangtse river. This extraordinary task asks for discussion with countries who already have experience with the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Visit to the Netherlands
A Dutch team existing of Rijkswaterstaat (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment), the Dutch Water Authorities and the Utrecht Centre for Water, Oceans and Sustainability Law invited a team from the CWRC for a visit to the Netherlands to discuss experiences within the European Union (the Water Framework Directive) and the Netherlands. During their stay the Chinese delegation visited several projects in the Netherlands such as the Room for the River project near Nijmegen/Lent, the Maeslant barrier, the Kinderdijk and Rijkswaterstaat at Lelystad and Waterboard Rivierenland in Tiel.

On September 6th 2017 an intensive workshop was organised at Utrecht University. After a warm word of welcome by the dean of the Utrecht University School of Law, professor Ton Hol, several aspects of IWRM were discussed. For more information about the speakers and topics see our website.

Visit of Anita Foerster (Melbourne Law School)
On 4 August 2017 Dr. Anita Foerster (Senior Research Fellow at the Melbourne Law School) visited Utrecht to discuss Dutch and EU water governance and the development of a new teaching and research program about disaster and climate adaptation law.

Dr Herman Kasper Gilissen hosted her for an one-day intensive learning program. During a morning session, relevant topics in the broad field of water law and governance were discussed. In the afternoon, an excursion to the Nijmegen/Lent Room for the River project was scheduled.

On the basis of this successful meeting, the potential for further collaboration between the Utrecht Centre for Water, Oceans and Sustainability Law (UCWOSL) and the Melbourne Law School is being investigated.
At the EELF conference in Copenhagen, Andrea Keessen presented her ideas on how manure is in between classification as a resource and as a waste material. This idea arose out of the observation that in many places – including the Netherlands - manure is an environmental problem, as it causes air, soil and water pollution (in fresh and marine waters) because there is far more manure available than what is needed to fertilize crops. It is an interesting legal question whether a substance can be both a resource and a waste material. The legal definition allows for such ambiguity. Whether something is legally seen as waste depends on the action of the holders: whether they discard something or not. The rules seem to be clear about the resource status of manure. The new waste framework Directive (2008/98) clearly states that it does not apply to manure unless it is destined for incineration, landflling or use in a biogas or composting plant. And quite recently the European Court of Justice held in C-113/12 Brady v EPA that slurry is a byproduct (and not waste), provided that the producer intends to market the slurry on terms economically advantageous to himself in a subsequent process and reuse is a certainty, without any further processing prior to reuse and as part of the continuing process of production. The current heap of manure produced by cattle is so big that cattle owners have to pay other farmers to use their manure. Put your own manure on your own fields and it costs around 3 Euros per cubic metre, put it on other fields and the costs are 5-15 Euros or have it processed for 20-30 Euros per cubic metre. Thus, surplus manure cannot be sold on terms economically advantageous to the owner. Hence surplus manure is waste and should be treated as such with the aim of returning to the situation where manure is a valuable resource again. Marleen van Rijswick, Sanne Akerboom and Chris Backes were al so participants of this conference. Marleen van Rijswick and Lorenzo Squintani (University of Groningen) held a presentation about effective protection of water resources and Marleen van Rijswick chaired a session on water rights, Sanne Akerboom held a presentation about a sustainable and responsible use of gas and Chris Backes was chairman of a session about EU nature protection law.

**Studiemiddag Projectbesluitvorming**

5 oktober [In Dutch]

Op 5 oktober vond er in de Raadzaal van de Universiteit Utrecht een studiemiddag plaats over projectbesluitvorming in de nieuwe Omgevingswet. Deze middag is georganiseerd door UCWOSL in samenwerking met het advocatenkantoor Pels Rijcken & Droog, Jeever Fortuijn, de Unie van Waterschappen, Rijkswaterstaat en het Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu. De middag maakt deel uit van een serie studiemiddagen over de omgevingswet.

De eerste lezing deze middag van Henk Gierveld betrof de participatie van burgers bij het nieuwe projectbesluit. Daarna gaf Frank Groothuijse een uiteenzetting van de inhoudelijke mogelijkheden van het projectbesluit. Tot slot sprak Hans Besslink over de gevolgen van het projectbesluit op het omgevingsplan en welke inhoudelijke keuzes gemaakt kunnen worden binnen een projectbesluit.

Na het plenaire gedeelte zijn de deelnemers in groepen uitgegaan om in een workshop aan de slag te gaan met een casus.

**Seedfunding Proposals awarded to UCWOSL**

Last month there were a couple of seedfunding proposals awarded to UCWOSL. You can find a description of three of them here:

*From the law of the river toward the right of the river: a sustainable shift?*

Traditionally the institutional, regulatory, financial and administrative arrangements to manage and govern the river and allocate its use and resources are called the ‘Law of the river’. This governance framework aims at providing water security and a sustainable use of the river, taking into account ecological, economic and social values. However, this traditional approach appears inappropriate to protect the ecological and some of the social values, especially for ecological vulnerable groups and indigenous people. Recent judgments and legislative initiatives in different jurisdictions have both changed perspectives on and opened new possibilities for the legal landscape for water management. Specifically, in March 2017, both New Zealand and India granted legal rights to rivers, respectively the Whanganui river and the Ganges and Yamuna rivers. Two months later, the Constitutional Court of Colombia has granted legal rights to the Atrato River. The commonality in these different legal developments is the consideration that conservation efforts vis-à-vis water resources need to be expanded, for the river itself and often combined with the rights of indigenous people or other environmentally vulnerable groups.
The possibility for applicants of granting a “(human) right to a non-human entity” deserves further scrutiny, and its implications for (transboundary) river basin management have remained largely underexplored in literature. The challenges associated with granting such a right are multifaceted and touch upon several disciplines. This seed money will allow the in-depth exploration of this topic by setting up a special issue publication and organising an international workshop in this regard.

**Visiting professor Dire Tladi; governing the marine global commons**

Despite substantial improvements in terrestrial and human environments, marine organisms and ecosystems continue to degrade due to pollution, overfishing, acidification, and climate change. Indeed, one of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals is “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.” One key reason that this has heretofore been difficult is that most of the oceans are not subject to national jurisdiction. States have little incentive to refrain from harming the marine environment, including through fishing practices and polluting activities. In order to work toward this goal, countries are developing an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Yet the development of such a legally binding instrument would raise some questions concerning its relationship with existing instruments and institutions. The seed money project allows a two-month visit by prof. Dire Tladi of the University of Pretoria to Utrecht University. During this time, he will conduct research on the topic of the potential role of the International Seabed Authority in the proposed international agreement on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. While at Utrecht, prof. Tladi will also give a lecture open to all academic staff.

**Applicants:** Alex Oude Elferink, Catherine Blanchard and Rak Kim.

**A COST Action on negative emissions technologies**

It is increasingly apparent that meeting internationally agreed-upon climate change targets will require negative emissions technologies that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. At such large scales, they will pose risks and call for dedicated governance mechanisms. This project would catalyze inter- and transdisciplinary research on this at Utrecht, and lead to submissions for a COST Action and possible a Horizon 2020 grant.

**Applicants:** Jesse Reynolds (UCWOSL), Detlef van Vuuren and Frank Biermann.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL INDICATORS**

Jerusalem, September 23-25, 2017

From the 23rd to 25th of September, UCWOSL researcher Anoeska Buijze participated in the International Conference on Environmental Legal Indicators, held at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Environmental law has a prominent role in safeguarding environmental quality and ecological integrity, in the prevention of and adaptation to climate change, and in ensuring that people can keep enjoying a good quality of life in harmony with their environment. Yet, in public discourse the role of environmental law is underexposed. International reports on the state of the environment fail to pay attention to the quality of environmental law, and hence miss an opportunity to highlight a viable solution to improve environmental quality.

During this three day conference, an international group of researchers came together to identify indicators that can provide a clear picture of the quality of environmental law – a picture that will offer action perspectives to policy makers and to society at large. The conference included visits to the different ecosystems in Israel and Palestine, where the impact of environmental law on these sites was discussed – an experience that challenged our vision on what makes environmental law work.

The indicators remain to be tested at research stations in the Kidron Valley and the Negev.
New Candidates affiliated to UCWOSL

Kenneth Kang is a new postdoc researcher who will be working with the UCWOSL team till the end of this year. He holds a PHD in International Law and a Masters in Chinese Civil and Commercial Law from Xiamen University (China), as well as a BA in Geography with Chinese studies from the University of Nottingham.

Kenneth is interested in the sociology of law, international public law, international water law, transboundary hydropower-infrastructure decision making and system-environment theory. He has recently published articles in the *International Journal of Law and Context*, and *Law and Critique*. The summaries of the papers can be found here: [International Water Law Explained in “Operational Terms”](#), [Embracing the Study of Paradoxes in Hydropower Dams](#).

He is currently developing a new theoretical approach which aims to reformulate the notion of “integration” within resource management studies.

Lan Nguyen recently joined Utrecht University as a Lecturer of Public International Law and Associate Researcher of UCWOSL and NILOS.

Lan holds a B.A in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and an LL.M in International Law from the University of Cambridge, for which she was awarded the Clive Parry Prize for International Law. Lan is completing her PhD on dispute settlement in Law of the Sea also at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests lie in public international law, law of the sea, settlement of international disputes and the management and resolution of maritime disputes in Asia. Her PhD focuses on understanding the contributions of the dispute settlement bodies of the UNCLOS to the development of law of the sea.
Recent conferences and contributions to conferences

29 March 2017: 'Meet the Professor', Utrecht, Marleen van Rijswick on Waterlaw.
1 April 2017: Alumnidag: Daphina Misiedjan en Marleen van Rijswick: Water 4 all.
3 April 2017: Remco Nehmelman over ontwikkelingen in openbaar bestuur voor de kring van Dijkgraven
13 April 2017: Symposium ‘Waterschap & Wetenschap’ as part of studentpracticum water law.
15 May 2017: Marleen van Rijswick, Herman Kaser Gilissen en Willemijn van Doorn-Hoekveld Startbijeenkomst AllRisk
24 May 2017: Anouska Buijze and Herman Kasper Gilissen: worksession OECD Water Governance Indicators.
29 June 2017: LANDac Conference, Muntgebouw Utrecht, Liping Dai, Xia Yu, Frank Groothuijse en Marleen van Rijkswic

Recent publications

Books
Prof. dr. Ch.W. Backes, Mr. Drs. L. Boerema, Prof. mr. dr. A.A. Freriks, Mr. Drs. M.M. Kaajan, Natuurbeschermingsrecht, Den Haag: Sdu uitgevers, 389 pp.

Bookparts/Chapters
Articles


T. R. Bleeker, De knellende criteria van het rechterlijk bevel en verbod in: F. van de Pol e.a. (eds.) Weeffouten in het BW, Nijmegen: Ars Aequi Libri 2017


Annelies Freriks, Soortenbescherming in de Aanvullingswet natuur Omgevingswet, Tijdschrift voor Natuurbeschermingsrecht 2017, nr. 2, pp. 61-71.


Precautionary Management and the Development of Future Fishing Opportunities: The International Regulation of New and Exploratory Fisheries, Caddell, J.R. (The paper is due to be published in the next issue of the International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law)

Reports

