



**Durham**  
University

Centre for Sustainable  
Development Law and Policy

Inspiring the extraordinary

# Annual Report

## 2023-2024



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## Foreword

**The Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy has continued to create opportunities for interdisciplinary research within Durham University and with international partners. During the past academic year, the Centre has grown into a hub for academic research to address our sustainability crises, fostering new collaborations and supporting research funding applications. We were proud to renew a key Memorandum of Understanding with one of our partners, the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore. Our new flagship initiative, the interdisciplinary project on “Just Transitions to a Net Zero World” (JusTNOW) received significant investment from Durham University, through the Strategic Research Fund.**

This report gives a summary of our activities over the past year. It was finalised at a time when internationally, world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future, a landmark declaration for enhanced ambition to tackle global challenges and work together towards a safe, more peaceful and sustainable world.

Much more needs to be done, 2024 has again broken temperature records, with the hottest summer so far. Hot, dry and windy conditions that drive wildfires have been made 40% more intense due to climate change. Landslides, heavy precipitation and devastating impacts of storms have worsened due to our continuation of burning fossil fuels. Extreme hardships accumulate, disadvantaging those who are already vulnerable even more.

As a research centre, we can only contribute to working together, tirelessly, and not losing the ability to imagine a better future for future generations. The Pact for the Future places Equity and Solidarity on an equal footing, these are key principles for our work and collaboration with partners.

We are looking forward to our official side event at COP29 in Baku. However, as our official side event at the UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28) and engagements with partners during the conference demonstrate, there is a need

for closer international academic collaboration. Again, the Pact for the Future acknowledges the need for interdisciplinary approaches.

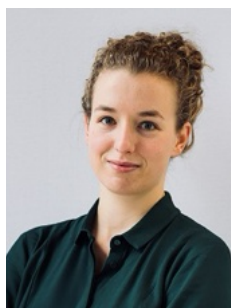
At Durham University, we take our role as an NGO with observer status very seriously and work with countries and non-party stakeholders. This work supports our teaching and research and contributes to transparency at the international and national level. Through all our projects, research, and teaching, we hope to make a positive change and contribute to the education and training of the next generation of leaders for sustainable development and a more peaceful world.

The challenge of shifting towards sustainable production patterns, consumption and living, is demanding and can only be achieved in a joint effort. We owe it to future generations that we stand up to the challenge and continue to facilitate knowledge transfer and support capacity building.

Many thanks to Dr Adefolake Adeyeye and Dr Rozemarijn Roland Holst for their contributions as Co-Directors over the past year. A very warm welcome to Dr Jia Wang (law) and Dr John Bothwell (biosciences) as new Co-Directors!



**Petra Minnerop**  
Director of the  
Centre for  
Sustainable  
Development Law  
and Policy



**Dr Rozemarijn  
Roland Holst**  
Former Co-  
Director



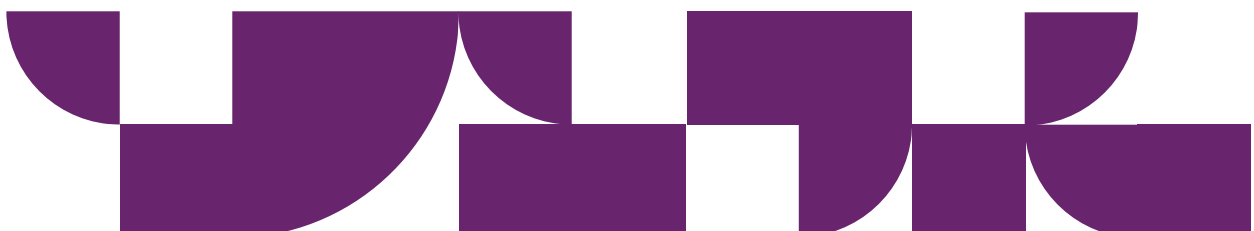
**Dr Adefolake  
Adeyeye**  
Former Co-  
Director



**Dr Jia Wang**  
Co-Director



**Dr John  
Bothwell**  
Co-Director





## About The Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy

Founded in May 2022, the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP) is a research hub operating from within Durham Law School but across the University. We have over 45 members, and each faculty has a lead within the Centre and departmental leads. The CSDLP has contributed significantly to the University's rankings submissions, such as the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings 2024 (ranked joint 36<sup>th</sup>) and ranked 19<sup>th</sup> for Sustainability in the QS World University Rankings 2025.

Our mission is to support the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions: environmental, economic, and social. Our research projects, policy work, and collaborative initiatives recognise the significance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including cross-cutting themes of education and training, gender, health, and well-being. We work on various projects, with countries and academic partners across the globe. Collaboration lies at the heart of our work, and we continuously strive to include a variety of perspectives and approaches, as well as to nurture existing and develop new partnerships. Furthermore, close collaboration with Visiting Professors, such as Justice Brian Preston, Chief Justice of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales, is

imperative in pursuing our goals. We are also working closely with the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Federal Judicial Academy of Pakistan. Key academic partners are Uppsala University, the National University of Singapore, Imperial College London, and the University of Heidelberg. CSDLP members continue to collaborate closely with a range of external initiatives, such as the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), as well as building deeper connections with partners in the Global South. Working together with a variety of stakeholders enables the Centre to adopt a global lens for the interdisciplinary research conducted, enabling us to develop and improve policy and law frameworks alongside our partners.

We understand *sustainability* as a continuous effort of the present generation to use resources without limiting their access by future generations, striving not to adversely impact the natural conditions of life that we need for the survival and well-being of the present and future generations. We are committed to contributing to the creation and maintenance of conditions under which human systems and ecosystems can exist in harmony, now and in the future.

Sustainability in all academic dimensions of the CSDLP demands that we ensure that future generations have at least equal access to research, education, and relevant resources. Moreover, sustainability in our research, teaching, and collaborations aims at sharing the benefits of knowledge with present and future generations, from a transboundary perspective.



# Aims, Objectives, and Principles

## Aims

We aim to offer and expand a platform for research integration, whereby we embed scientific research into our efforts to advance legal and policy frameworks at the local, regional, and international levels.

## Objective

Our objective is to contribute, through conceptual research and concrete projects, to the advancement of sustainable development in specific regions and countries

This objective encompasses our contribution to establishing Durham University as a globally leading hub for just transition solutions. We aim to expand our interdisciplinary capacities for in-depth research and its application for country-specific transitions to net zero economies.

## Principles

- To critically engage with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our research, teaching, convenorship, and collaborative projects.
- To continuously follow international and national developments across a broad range of jurisdictions for the integration into research, conceptual thinking and practical projects.
- To provide opportunities for our students and early career researchers, as well as colleagues.
- To build strong partnerships with communities, the private sector, and local, national and international authorities.
- To increase the awareness and knowledge of the role of women and youth in the advancement of the Agenda 2030 and the implementation of the Pact for the Future and climate action.
- To integrate sustainability in our decision-making, in terms of the use of resources, research projects, and work-related emissions.





“The Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy is an outstanding example of responsibility and dedication of the bonds between Public International Law and the need for nature and environmental protection.”

Ambassador Jose J.G.  
Betancourt Rivera,  
Ambassador of Peru to Egypt

# Overview of the Year

## 2022 – 2023

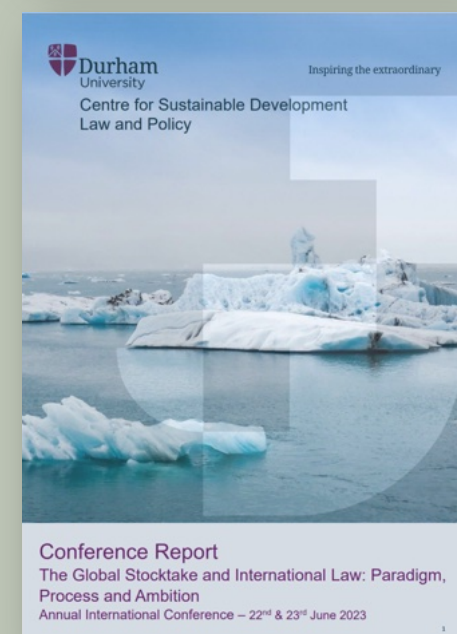
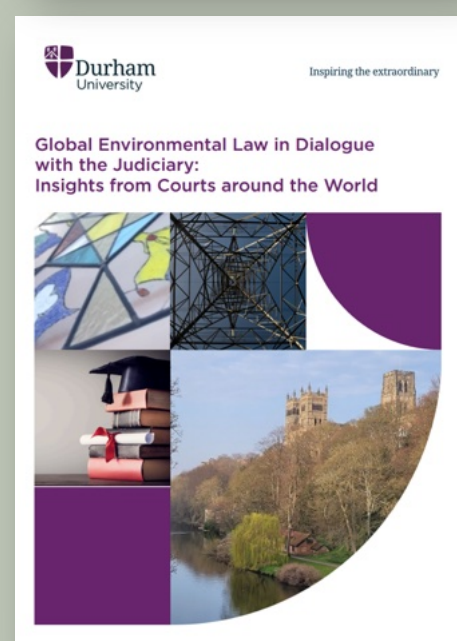
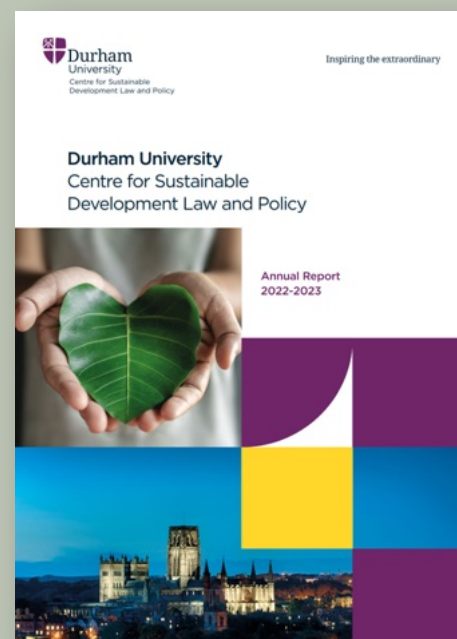
The CSDLP was founded based on our previous work around engagement with the Conference of Parties (COP) within the UNFCCC processes. Funding from the University's Strategic Priorities Fund gave us the opportunity to create a platform for interdisciplinary exchange around sustainability. Collaboration is key to our work, and we are continuously striving to include a variety of perspectives and approaches. Here are some highlights from the year 2022 -2023.

### Dialogue with the Judiciary

In a series of lectures, judges from around the world offered insights into the normative framework of Global Environmental Law from a variety of perspectives and jurisdictions. This lecture series was developed by Justice Brian Preston (Visiting Professor) and Professor Petra Minnerop (Professor of International Law).

### GST Conference

Held on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2023, this conference marked the first part of a two-part series, with the second part scheduled to take place in Singapore, convened by the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore. Building upon last year's online workshops supported by the UNFCCC Secretariat, this event focused on the global stocktake, a vital mechanism of the Paris Agreement. Presentations from world experts contributed to a dynamic environment for discussions and ensured that participants had the privilege of engaging with cutting-edge research and insights. It enabled the exchange of ideas and fostered a deeper understanding of potential of the global stocktake. The insights gained from the event will play a crucial role in shaping future actions.

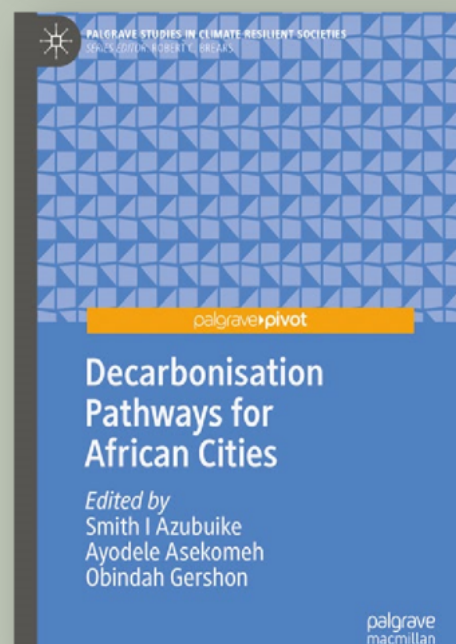


## ECR Workshop on Cross-disciplinary Sustainability Challenges

The CSDLP hosted the ECR Workshop on Cross-disciplinary Sustainability Challenges in Durham in June 2023. The workshop provided a platform for early-career researchers working on sustainability challenges and/or themes pertaining to sustainable development from a range of disciplinary angles, including law, political science, international relations, geography and the humanities. It was intended to provide an informal and constructive setting for early-career researchers to present their work, receive feedback from, and build connections with, research communities across relevant disciplines.

## Book Launch

The Book Launch of 'Decarbonisation Pathways for African Cities' was hosted on 24th May 2023. This book examines the pathways to decarbonising African cities, structured around strategies and applications in renewable energy, waste management, healthcare, telecommunication, education and governance reconfigurations for Petro-cities. The authors highlight infrastructural, governance and policy approaches to drive decarbonisation throughout the book. The opening chapter focuses on propositions for solar urban planning and the scope for decarbonisation in waste management, then examines innovative strategies for a low-carbon healthcare sector. The authors then discuss the use of hybrid power systems at remote telecommunication sites, their deployment on university campuses, and how this can be optimised to reduce carbon emissions. Further chapters explore government, private sector and civil society actions for decarbonising Kenyan cities and an overview of the political and economic choices for decarbonising Petro-cities. Finally, the closing chapter proposes mechanisms for translating COP26 takeaways into decarbonisation policies and a low-carbon framework for African cities.





# UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



# COP27

SHARM EL-SHEIKH EGYPT 2022



# COP28

## UAE



# 2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

**COP 15** - CP/MOP10-NP/MOP4  
Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth  
KUNMING – MONTREAL



# COP16

## COLOMBIA

Paz con la Naturaleza



OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC



# Convention on Biological Diversity

# Durham University's COP Steering Group

## Overview

In 2020, Durham University applied to become an accredited observer NGO at the UNFCCC, which was confirmed at COP26. Since then, this new status has intensified the University's engagement with COPS, the Agenda 2030, and the SDGs at the individual and institutional levels.

Before COP26, Durham University established the COP26 Steering Group and a delegation of 14 staff members attended COP26 in Glasgow. In preparation for COP26, the Steering Group organised a "STEAM for ACE" event series across departments and research institutes of the University, providing insights into the University's research on climate change from different perspectives.

Our academics have participated in the important Subsidiary Bodies conferences in Bonn and presented their research there, such as on projections of sea level rise under different temperature scenarios and how scientific findings can influence decisions adopted at COPs. Working within the global governance structures of the UNFCCC has strengthened our engagement and collaboration with a range of different stakeholders and it has led to further impact of our research at the international level.

Durham University also joined YOUNGO (official Children and Youth Constituency) as an accredited NGO of the UNFCCC. This engagement will further enhance CSDLP's mission of intergenerational preparedness, is a step forward to the empowerment of our Youth and will encourage further student engagement with the processes around climate change law and policy at the international level.

# UNFCCC Official Side Event at COP28

## “Finance Flows, Trade, and Closing the Ambition Gap Post-GST: Investor Engagement with Governments”

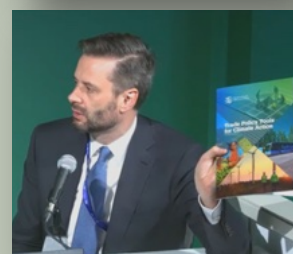
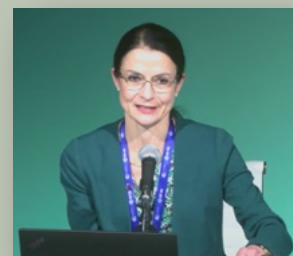
For the first time, at COP28, members of the CSDLP led with partners from the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, an official UNFCCC Side Event. Before that, CSDLP made a written submission to the technical assessment phase of the Global Stocktake.

On 3 December 2023, the panel convened to discuss key considerations for governments and financial institutions and to assess trade-investment developments, financial instruments, and the significance of GST outcomes. This session examined the role of investors, trade, and investment in addressing the ambition gap as highlighted in the technical assessment phase of the global stocktake.

According to the UNFCCC, global additional investment, and financial flows of USD 200-210 billion will be needed in 2030 to return global greenhouse gas emissions to current levels.

Private finance can play an important role in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement – not only through mobilising funding for transitions and adaptation finance but also by engaging with governments on the importance and feasibility of ambitious and decisive climate action.

Many investors are already mobilising analytical tools and investment strategies to engage governments on climate risks, including in the sovereign debt space. The alignment of the international legal frameworks on climate change with the rules on trade and investment, ranging from trade in “green” goods and services to investment protection and facilitation and dispute settlement, will be important for meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.



**OFFICIAL UNFCCC SIDE EVENT**

Finance flows, trade, and closing the ambition gap post-GST: investor engagement with Governments

Sunday 03 December 2023  
1:15-2:45PM GST  
COP28 Blue Zone Side Event Room 6  
see page 2 for location

**Session overview:**  
This session examines the role of investors, trade and investment in addressing the ambition gap as highlighted in the technical assessment phase of the global stocktake. According to the UNFCCC, global additional investment, and financial flows of USD 200-210 billion will be needed in 2030 to return global greenhouse gas emissions to current levels. Private finance can play an important role in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement – not only through mobilising funding for transitions and for adaptation finance, but also by engaging with governments on the importance and feasibility of ambitious and decisive climate action. Many investors are already mobilising analytical tools and investment strategies to engage governments on climate risks, including in the sovereign debt space.

The alignment of the international legal frameworks on climate change with the rules on trade and investment, ranging from trade in “green” goods and services, investment protection and facilitation and dispute settlement, will be important for meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. Trade, investment, and global partnerships have the potential to deliver the markets and technological innovations that are critical for effective mitigation and adaptation.

The aim of this event in the Blue Zone at COP28 is to facilitate a dialogue among practitioners, experts and negotiators on how investors and international law can facilitate accelerated progress towards closing the ambition and the implementation gaps. In the first part, the session will explore how the global stocktake can be an ambitious enabling mechanism by unlocking trade and investment that is aligned with the Paris Agreement’s temperature goal. In a second part, the discussion will focus on how investors are increasingly focused on engaging governments on their efforts to tackle climate risk.

**Moderators:**

- **Danielle Steer**  
Lead, Climate Change Law and Policy  
Center for International Law  
National University of Singapore
- **Jackie Kosowatz**  
Global Head Sustainable Investment Research  
ESG

**Panelists:**

- **Dr. Mahmood Mohieldin**  
UN Climate Change High Level Champion for COP27 and UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda
- **Gabriele Marone**  
Senior Counselor  
Research Division (ERSE)  
World Trade Organization
- **Mr Henry Poon**  
Secretary-General  
of Mr Zark Khan  
Director, Programmes and Initiatives  
Pacific Islands Forum (PIC)
- **Petra Mittering**  
Professor of International Law  
Durham University Law School
- **Nick Babin**  
Professor in Practice - Sustainable Finance  
London School of Economics
- **Faith Ward**  
Bank International Investors Group on Climate Change and Chief Responsible Investment  
Office of Global Partners Partnership

The session will also include representatives from an inter-governmental organisation, a national Government, and financial institutions.

**Organized by:** CMAI, CIL, Durham University, GEFI

This event is supported by London Stock Exchange Group plc

The Path to COP28

## Streaming Live from COP28 for St Oswald's School

On 8 December 2023 the Durham University COP28 delegation and CSDLP members connected from Dubai with pupils and staff at St Oswald's School in Durham City to mark the COP28 'Youth, Education and Skills Day'. The delegation engaged the children on the importance of the COP Conferences for saving our natural resources, especially water and the marine environment. Pupils were particularly intrigued by the 'Great Pacific Garbage Patch' and thrilled to watch a live video of the manmade waterfall sculpture at COP28 Expo City.



## ECO2 COP Schools Climate Conferences

In 2023, Durham University partnered with Durham County Council's Low Carbon Economy Team and the local educational charity OASES. Together, the online ECO2 COP 28 Schools Climate Conference was organised, which coincided with the COP28. More than 100 schools from 16 countries participated in three online conferences in December 2023, supported by a range of educational resources that were developed for children and young people. These resources were also translated into Arabic by Durham University students for schools in the host nation (the UAE) and other Arabic-speaking schools. The conferences included a live interview with Professor Chris Stokes, departmental lead for Physical Geography at the CSDLP. Being part of the COP Steering Group, he is one of the University delegates for UNFCCC COPs and is also one of the co-investigators for our recently launched JustNOW initiative. Leading up to the conference, participants were encouraged to work through a suite of educational resources designed by OASES, which focused on 'Climate Change and the History of Energy', 'Current Energy Solutions', and 'Future Energy Solutions'. During the three interactive sessions, pupils were then encouraged to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences of climate change and had the opportunity to ask questions about climate change and energy issues to a panel of experts from Durham University and Durham County Council.



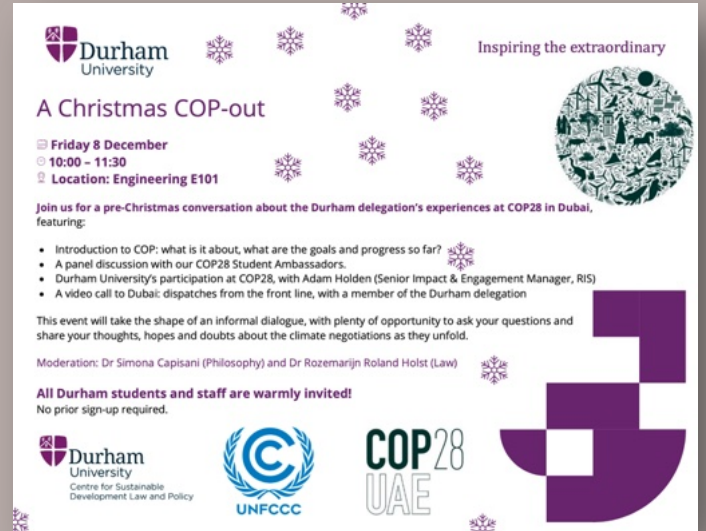
## COP-Related Events in Durham

In addition to the on-ground UNFCCC delegate, a number of our colleagues secured the virtual badges for COP28 that allow access to the ongoing negotiations and side events.

### A Christmas COP-out

One such event was the collaboration of on-ground and virtual delegates from our COP Steering Group in the form of a hybrid event, which welcomed and gathered both undergraduate and postgraduate students to discuss COP-related issues.

The event introduced COPs processes: what is it about, and what are the goals and progress so far? COP28 Student Ambassadors and Dr Adam Holden (Senior Impact & Engagement Manager) underlined the University's engagement with COP, and a live video conference call was arranged with Delegates who shared their experiences and insights from COP28's venue in Dubai UAE.



### “Global Stocktake Unveiled: Analysing Results and Future Implications”

During the Durham Global Week 2024, a panel discussion was organised for undergraduate and postgraduate students from all departments of the university. Professor Petra Minnerop and Professor Laura Marsiliani shared their views and insights as delegates at COP28 under the topic: “Global Stocktake Unveiled: Analysing Results and Future Implications”.



## COP28 Debrief at Castle

On the 13th of February 2024, Four of Durham University's COP28 delegates gathered in the Great Hall at Durham Castle to share their views on COP28 at the COP28 Debrief Event. The event was a huge success with around 250 attendees including undergraduate and postgraduate students and a big percentage of guests from the local community. The event was organised by ECO DU, Greenspace, Durham Climate Society, and Palaeontological Society.

The panel consisted of Professor Andrew Russel from the Department of Anthropology, Professor Chris Stokes from the Department of Geography, Professor Laura Marsilliani from the Department of Economics and Ghulam Mustafa Kamran from Durham Law School.

The discussions covered a variety of themes around climate change. Professor Andrew Russel shared his experiences regarding his journey to COP28 by road and emphasised promoting climate-friendly travel. Professor Chris Stokes shared his research focus and concerns concerning the impact of climate change on the cryosphere. Professor Laura Marsilliani shared her thoughts on climate-relevant economic measures and the impacts and effectiveness of the voluntary market mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Ghulam Mustafa Kamran shared his observations by highlighting the weaknesses of the climate change regime and by underlining the emerging and increasing global trend of climate litigation.



## Professor Andrew Russell's COP Travels

### Durham to Dubai: a Durham professor travels overland to COP28

CSDLP member Professor Andrew Russell (Anthropology) made his way to the UNFCCC's COP28 in Dubai using overland public transport as much as possible (primarily trains). Find out more about his experience below!

#### **How easy or difficult did you find travelling to Dubai using only public transport?**

It needed a lot of planning, but I figured out a route and made as many bookings in advance as possible, so the journey itself was a breeze. I had the benefit of using Byway, a flight-free travel specialist, for the European bookings, which meant I could focus on the Middle East. Byway uses Interrail passes for European train travel, which gives maximum flexibility in case the worst happens. It didn't, in my case – the only major delay I experienced was the first sleeper train from Amsterdam to Vienna, which arrived in Vienna six hours late. I arrived in the afternoon - but as I wasn't travelling on to Bucharest in Romania until the evening, it didn't matter. I used three different sleeper trains in Europe in total to save time and money.



I was fortunate that I could benefit from Durham University's generous research leave policy. This, with some research incentivisation funds, gave me the time and additional resources I needed to do the journey. It took twelve days in total to reach Dubai – I could have done it in ten, but it's important to factor in some time for potential delays. I visited some fascinating places en route, but remained purposeful in my itinerary so that I could reach Dubai in the shortest possible time.

The main difficulty in terms of travel was that due to the ribbon of countries currently gripped by wars and conflict in the Middle East, flying for one portion of the journey was unavoidable. After researching the different possibilities, I settled on a flight between Antalya (southern Turkey) and Amman (Jordan) as the shortest possible flight (748 km). Although this was only a tenth of the total distance, it made up one-third of the total carbon footprint for my journey.

## Which of the countries through which you travelled did you find the most memorable?

I had never visited Bulgaria, Turkey, Jordan, or Saudi Arabia before, so these were definite highlights. A day between trains in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, gave me a chance to explore its fascinating history museum and experience some Balkan hospitality. The day in Istanbul was equally amazing – crossing the Bosphorus from Europe to Asia was an experience I shall



never forget, and I was able to ease any aches and pains out at a hammam on the Asian side of the city. Amman (the capital of Jordan) was stunning, particularly the citadel. Saudi Arabia has only recently opened up to tourist travel (mostly by air), so doing that part of the journey by land felt particularly intrepid.

## What were you hoping to achieve with this journey?

UK Government greenhouse gas emission figures indicate planes give out five times more carbon per passenger mile on average than trains. Figures from UCL suggest that 60% of carbon emissions from recent COPs have come from people flying to them. Flying has become our default option for journeys that, with time and a little extra money, could easily be undertaken by rail or other greener transport options. I hope to demonstrate not just the need but the ease and pleasures of travelling overland rather than flying, particularly to European destinations. I also wanted to publicise the work of the CSDLP and the University's Environmental Sustainability in Research Working Group. I am collaborating with Byway Travel on an itinerary for people wishing to travel overland to COP29 in Baku, again by train, as much as possible. For more information or advice, please contact [a.j.russell@durham.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.russell@durham.ac.uk).





# Supporting the SDG Group – Durham University Sustainable Development Goals Group

The Durham University Sustainable Development Goals Group (SDG Group) is a university-wide group that has an advisory function to support the Global Strategy Group (chaired by PVC Global), which in turn is an advisory Group to the University Executive Committee (UEC).

## Global Ranking

Durham University is committed and continuously working towards a sustainable future for all and has been recognised in various sustainability league tables.

The university ranked 19th in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2024, which comprised three categories - Environmental Impact, Social Impact and Governance. The performance in each combined to create the overall score. The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 placed us joint 77th in the world. We performed well in SDG15: Life on Land, SDG11: Sustainable Cities & Communities, SDG17: Partnership for Goals. The ranking recognised our extensive programme of work across our educational, research, engagement and operational activities contributing to the United Nations SDGs.

The university is ranked in the top 40 in the People and Planet Green League Rankings 2022/23, where we scored 100% for Policy and Strategy, and Environmental Auditing & Management Systems. We also scored highly on Sustainable Food (90%), Education for Sustainable Development (85%) and Staff and Student engagement (80%).

### Supporting the University's transversal strategies on global engagement and sustainability

During Global Week 2024, from 24 February to 3 March 2024, more than 50 events took place involving staff, students, and the wider Durham community. This dedicated week celebrates and recognises the value of the international University community to the culture and life of Durham

University and the wider region. Importantly, Global Week provides home students with a broader perspective of the world we live in, which is more important than ever given the state of current affairs. This heightened awareness supports individuals to thrive and reach their full potential, learning how to find solutions to challenges humanity faces today. Global Week is therefore also a significant opportunity to showcase and involve the University community in addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges, including the SDG's.

**19<sup>th</sup>**

in the category of Sustainability (QS World Universities Ranking 2025)

**36<sup>th</sup>**

in THE Times Higher Impact Rankings 2024

**9<sup>th</sup>**

for SDG 16 in THE Times Higher Impact Rankings 2024

**26<sup>th</sup>**

in the 2023/34 People and Planet league table



## **JusTNOW** – *Just Transitions to a Net Zero World*

**Our vision is to lead in enabling just transitions and to harness novel interdisciplinary research and global partnerships. We aim to position Durham at the forefront of a cutting-edge twinning of green and digital transitions.**

## JustNOW – *Just Transitions to a Net Zero World*

The world is failing to find the just transition pathways to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Even the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature limit is insufficient to avoid catastrophic sea level rise and increasingly severe extreme weather events. At Durham, we already have world-leading expertise in researching the causes and impacts of climate change. With investment in the Just Transitions to a Net Zero World (JustNOW), we aim to develop a world-leading interdisciplinary work programme, to research sustainable and just solutions for accelerated decarbonisation of economies, and to achieve lasting societal well-being for present and future generations.

The JustNOW initiative also aligns with the UN SDGs and reaffirms Durham's commitment to global research excellence, while contributing to Durham's global standing. The initiative represents a unique opportunity for our academic community to make a meaningful impact. Although the CSDLP has already brought together research across disciplines and integrated it into global governance frameworks, the global scale, depth, and complexity of tasks exceeds our current expertise and capacity. Thus, the JustNOW initiative addresses this shortcoming by identifying a work programme that uses interdisciplinary research to develop sustainable and just solutions to enhance our collaborative efforts for this cause. We are confident that such an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach will enable JustNOW to yield groundbreaking solutions to address the climate crisis.



## Durham University Strategic Research Fund

JustNOW will receive funding through Durham's Strategic Research Fund (SRF). The SRF aims to stimulate significant growth in research income for the University through substantial investments in our research capability, community, and infrastructure. Under the SRF, the University has committed to invest around £5 million over four years in this groundbreaking project. This initial investment enables us to position Durham rapidly and securely at the forefront of a cutting-edge twinning of green and digital transitions. However, we aim to gradually become financially sustainable and achieve sufficient income for our projects once the initial investment has lapsed.

## JustNOW Partners

**JustNOW strengthens our existing partnerships and creates bonds with new partners across the globe. Our international partnership includes renowned universities, research institutes, professionals, private sector stakeholders, governments, and NGOs.**

Twenty-six of our JustNOW partners combine to form our research advisory board. The JustNOW Advisory Board Partners include CDP, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Copenhagen Business School, DNV, Durham County Council, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Gothenburg, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Imperial College London, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative, International Monetary Fund, KU Leuven, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, U. of London, Max Planck Law, Met Office, National Law School of India University, NUS Centre for International Law, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), University of Dundee, University of Oxford, University of Tübingen, Uppsala University, University of Oslo, The University of Göttingen, Zaporizhzhya National University.

Our approach is collaborative and through our international partnership, we endeavour to work on implementable solutions for sustainable development.

## JustNOW Away Day

We were delighted to be hosted at Gray College for our first Away day. The JustNOW Team discussed projects, team building and the hiring processes.





## JusTN0W Vacancies

The JusTN0W initiative seeks to enhance Durham's reputation and research by increasing our academic capacity and by recruiting exceptional staff to join our institution. This is not only to generate significant growth in research income but also to establish robust pipelines of diverse talent. As a result of the University's investment, the CSDLP can recruit ten new colleagues to the project.

In the academic year 2023-24, the following positions were advertised, with an envisioned start date of January 2025:

- Professor in International Law and Economic Analysis of the Law
- Associate Professor in Computer Science
- Associate Professor in Economics with a focus on AI and machine learning
- Associate Professor in Biosciences with a focus on the environmental implications
- Associate Professor in International Law with a policy focus
- Assistant Professor for joint appointment in Law and Computer Science
- Senior Business Development Manager
- Project Manager
- Research Platform Engineer



## JusTNOW International Launching Conference

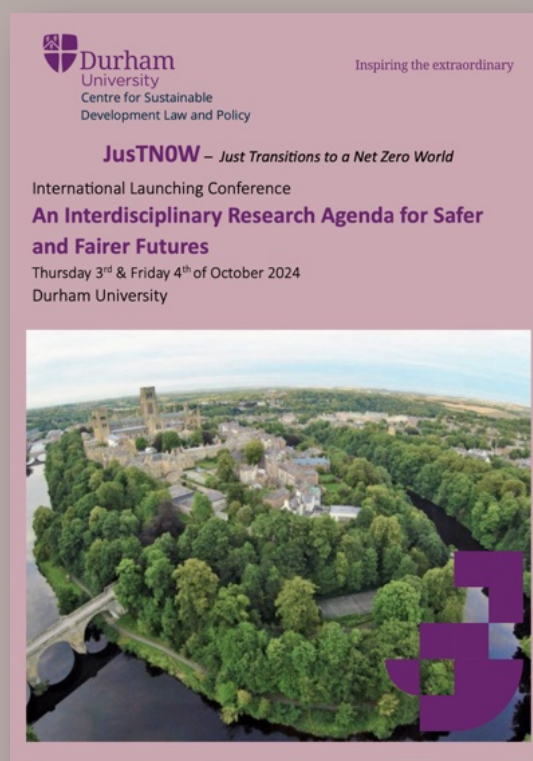
From 3-4 October 2024, the international launching conference of the JusTNOW initiative took place focusing on “An Interdisciplinary Research Agenda for Safer and Fairer Futures”. The conference objectives were:

First, to launch and co-create an interdisciplinary research agenda that supports sustainable solutions at the intersection of law, science, economics and computer science, through informing legal and policy frameworks.

Second, and in line with JusTNOW’s overarching goals, we want to enhance collaboration and co-creation of sustainability research with partners at a global scale, across academic disciplines, and beyond academia.

Our third objective is to analyse the most recent case law from leading domestic courts, international courts, and international tribunals to support governments, legal personnel, and academic colleagues in developing legal arguments for the upcoming hearing before the International Court of Justice, for future cases, and for developing national and international legal frameworks that support sustainable solutions.

The conference consisted of three panels and a workshop: In the first panel, we addressed the ‘Conditions of Climate Justice in Just Transitions.’ Climate justice and just transitions are often not discussed together, however, we perceive climate justice as a goal of just transitions. The second panel ‘Equitable, Sustainable Solutions I: AI, Digital Twins, and Environmental Strategies’, built on the first panel and addressed how AI within a setting of interdisciplinary research can be used to design environmental strategies, using a digital twin and an AI-enabled database. These environmental strategies must aim at equitable and sustainable solutions that materialise conditions of climate justice within just transitions. The third panel on ‘Equitable, Sustainable Solutions II: Multiagent Models and Instrument Analysis’ covered current and potential future instruments that provide economically feasible solutions. It built on the first panel and used AI as a tool for modelling, bringing, in addition, economic factors as well as environmental considerations.



## JusTN0W Conference Guests

Our guest speakers included Professor Mike Shipman, H.E. Mr Francois Jackman, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Professor Rowena Maguire, Dr Sven Renner, Madame Secretary Peron Johnson, Professor Jose Enrique Alvarez, Dr Sikander Shah, Ms Danielle Yeow, Dr Øystein Lund, Professor Gordon Blair, Dr Kelly Widdicks, Mr Kishan Khoday, Professor Ibibia Lucky Worika, Ms Norma Alvarez, Professor Karen O'Brien, Yasmin Batliwala MBE, Justice Jawad Hassan, Professor Simone Borghesi, Professor Marie Stenseke, Professor Joeri Rogelj, Professor Scott Barrett, Dr Sandra Batten, Dr Dato' Muhammad Faiz Azmi, Professor Christian Tietje, Professor Colin Bain, Dr Joseph Kobusheshe, Professor Jutta Brunnée, Professor Achintha Vithanage, Mr Zachary Phillips, H.E. Mr Jukka Siukosaari, Professor Rüdiger Wolfrum, Professor Andy Haines, Dr Friederike Otto, Dr Rupert Stuart-Smith.



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From our conversation with colleagues working in the world of finance, we understand that the siloed climate consensus must be shared with those who make investment decisions. This requires us to think about solutions that are economically feasible and implement just and fair solutions. The fourth segment of the conference was a workshop, ‘Interdisciplinarity for Climate Justice in A Post-Advisory Opinion World’, that delved deeper into the legal standards as they emerge from adjudication and international law, to inform the International Court of Justice advisory opinion. This analysis of the legal obligations of States in the context of climate change is not only relevant for litigation but also for legislation, and therefore, the outcome of the final workshop was informed by the preceding panels, and new legal yardsticks equally informed the discourse and the research on climate justice and on just transitions to a net zero world.





A stack of books and a graduation cap with a tassel. The books are stacked vertically, with a red ribbon tied around one of them. The graduation cap is on top of the stack. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

## Teaching and Learning

- Climate Change Law & Policy – LLB Module
- Masters' Programme in International Environmental Law

## Climate Change Law & Policy – LLB Module

The module explores the ability of the law to adequately respond to the challenges presented by climate change and the adverse effects of climate impacts.

The module aims to provide a critical introduction to climate change as a common concern of humankind: a complex global challenge that intersects law, policy and science. It provides an understanding of the role of science in law and policy-making on climate change and provides a critical introduction to and a profound understanding of the contemporary political and legal response around climate change. It offers a foundation to understand climate change as part of international environmental law and as an area of law where different legal orders (international, regional, domestic) are closely linked. It also offers a wider socio-legal context in which climate law and policy are embedded, which includes aspects of energy law, an ecological perspective of climate impacts and an awareness of inter-state as well as inter-generational inequalities of the consequences of climate change.

Selected comments from students who took the module:

'... It has easily been one of the most uniquely interesting courses I have ever taken part in while at Durham...' *Benjamin C Walton, Final Year Climate Change Law and Policy Student, Durham Law School.*

'... classes were a great joy to attend ...' *Emmanuel Taiwo, Final Year Climate Change Law and Policy Student, Durham Law School.*

'... Climate Change Law and Policy, which has been my favourite module throughout my entire degree...' *Carolina Beirne, Final Year Climate Change Law and Policy Student, Durham Law School.*

'... found the climate change module very enjoyable this year...' *Tessy Osagie-Iroguéhi Final Year Climate Change Law and Policy Student, Durham Law School.*

Final year LLB students in the Climate Change Law and Policy module led by Dr Adebola Adeyemi and Dr Smith Azubuike.




# The Influence of the Paris Agreement on Climate Litigation: The Rocky Hill Mine Case Study

Lecture delivered to our third-year law students on the Climate Change Law & Policy module by the Honourable Justice Brian Preston, Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court, New South Wales, Australia and Visiting Professor at Durham Law School.

The Honourable Justice Brian Preston, Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court, New South Wales, Australia and Visiting Professor at Durham Law School delivered a guest lecture to our 3rd year LLB (Hons) students on the Climate Change Law & Policy module on 08 February 2024. Justice Preston spoke on 'The Influence of the Paris Agreement on Climate Litigation' and shared invaluable practical insights concerning the Paris Agreement and its obligations, domestic climate regulatory instruments, and case law on climate litigation. Justice Preston highlighted ongoing challenges and the fact that the current nationally determined contributions and domestic policies are largely insufficient and risk the long-term Paris Agreement goals.

Considering his judgments, he offered insights into the extent to which climate litigation can play its part in enhancing the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement. Our students benefitted greatly from their engagement with Justice Preston which was evident from the excellent feedback after the lecture.



The Influence of the Paris Agreement on Climate Litigation: The Rocky Hill Mine Case Study

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The Hon Justice Brian J Preston





Develop the legal skills and knowledge needed to address key issues around major global challenges such as environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

## LLM in International Environmental Law

A new Masters Programme in International Environmental Law was launched in the academic year 2023-24. This LLM equips students with the skills and knowledge to tackle major global challenges, such as environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

It provides in-depth learning on foundational principles and concepts of international environmental law and addresses the intersection of legal regimes and the role of science in the development of international environmental law.

The programme covers the international climate change regime, biodiversity and general principles of international environmental law. It provides insights into the role of the intersection between science, policy and law, for the development of the relevant international agreements and their implementation at the domestic level.

# International Advisory Proceedings: A Historic Year for Climate Change Law and our Engagements

## ICJ Submission Writeshop

**The Durham Law School and CSDLP are glad to be involved in the work of the Caribbean States on their submissions to the International Court of Justice, in the advisory proceedings concerning the obligations of States about climate change.**

Professor Petra Minnerop attended an "ICJ Submission Writeshop" organised by the government of Grenada to consider legal arguments for the submission of Small Island Developing to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The submission of Caribbean States forms part of a global coalition, led by the Republic of Vanuatu, requesting the ICJ for an advisory opinion to clarify the legal obligation of States related to climate change.



A seminar was organised in partnership with the Durham Energy Institute Seminar Series and the Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy.

## The role of Small Island States in driving climate action beyond the climate change regime: A year of ground-breaking advisory proceedings before international Courts

Small Island States are leading the way by using international law beyond the climate change regime to address a fundamental inequity. Having contributed negligible amounts to the causes of anthropogenic climate change, they and their peoples are suffering the most acute and costly impacts of sea level rise, ocean warming, and increasingly extreme and catastrophic weather events.

On 21 May 2024, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea/Tribunal International du droit de la mer (ITLOS) unanimously delivered the first-ever advisory opinion on climate change; clarifying states' obligations under the law of the sea to protect the marine environment from the impacts of climate change. The request for this historic opinion was submitted by the Commission of Small Island States (COSIS). Parallel requests for advisory opinions on climate change were made before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), initiated by Vanuatu, and before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, requested by Chile and Colombia.



A stellar lineup of experts spoke at this seminar:

- **Professor Payam Akhavan**, Counsel for COSIS, Professor of International Law at Massey College, University of Toronto.
- **Catherine Amirfar**, Co-counsel for COSIS, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.
- **Zachary Phillips**, Crown Counsel with the Attorney General's Chambers of Antigua and Barbuda.
- **Dr Sarah Cooley**, Senior Director of Climate Science at Ocean Conservancy and IPCC lead author.
- **Dr Shobha Maharaj**, Science Director at Terraformation and IPCC lead author.
- **Dr Rozemarijn Roland Holst**, Assistant Professor in International Environmental Law at Durham Law School.



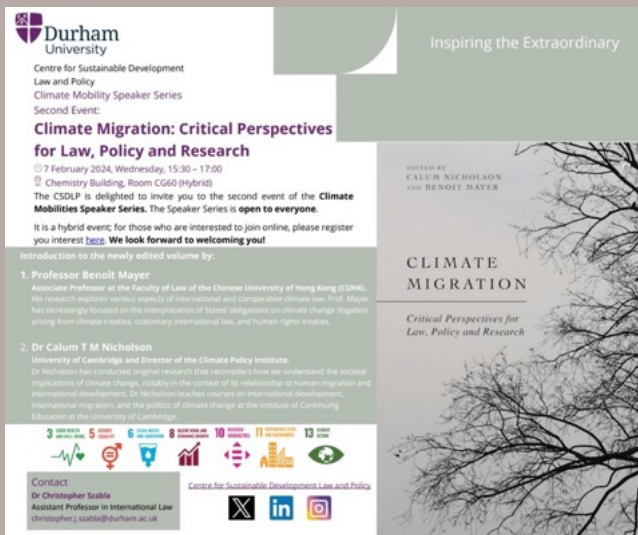
**The Climate Mobilities Group at CSDLP aims to be a hub for thinking about climate-related migration, immobility, and movement both at Durham and internationally. Bringing together disciplinary perspectives from law, the humanities, and the social sciences and connections to scholars, advocates, policymakers, and practitioners worldwide, it aims to interrogate the concepts of climate migration, mobility, and immobility as well as law and policy avenues for addressing these and related issues.**



# UNITED

# Climate Mobility Speaker Series

In December 2023, CSDLP initiated its Climate Mobility Speaker Series, spearheaded by **Christopher Szabla** (Assistant Professor in International Law) and **Simona Capisani** (Assistant Professor of Environmental Philosophy) working together with **Andrew Baldwin** (Professor of Human Geography) to illuminate issues concerning migration, refugees, and immobility related to climate change. After an opening event at Trevelyan College featuring all three in conversation on “Climate Mobilities, Ethics, and International Governance” the initiative has expanded with funding from the Society of Legal Scholars.



In February 2024, it brought to Durham **Benoit Mayer** (Associate Professor of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong) and **Calum Nicholson** of Cambridge University and the Director of the Climate Policy Institute) to discuss their new book, *Climate Migration: Critical Perspectives for Law, Policy, and Research*.

The series has also collaborated with the Climate Mobilities Working Group that Capisani co-founded at Princeton University, with the initiative cross-promoting their speaker series. In May 2024, as part of this collaboration, Capisani and Szabla travelled to Princeton for the conference ‘**Climate Mobilities: Justice, Data, and Governance**’ which Capisani helped organise and for which Szabla spoke on international legal themes.

In October 2024, the third event of the Climate Mobilities Speaker Series was held online. The talk was delivered by **Elisabeth du Parc**, Project Officer on Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Elisabeth spoke on "The IOM's Approach to Climate Mobilities," including the organisation's work related to mobile populations as they relate to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and urbanisation.

**Durham University**  
Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy

**Climate Mobilities Speaker Series**  
Third Event:  
**The International Organisation for Migration's Approach to Climate Mobilities**  
18 October 2024, Friday, 14:00 – 15:30 – Online

The CSDLP is delighted to invite you to the third event of the **Climate Mobilities Speaker Series**. The Speaker Series this term begins with an online talk by Elisabeth du Parc, Project Officer on Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), who will be speaking on "The IOM's Approach to Climate Mobilities," including the organisation's work related to mobile populations as they relate to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and urbanisation. The Speaker Series is **open to everyone**. Please scan the QR code to register your interest. **We look forward to welcoming you!**

For further information please contact:  
**Dr Christopher Szabla**  
Assistant Professor in International Law  
christopher.j.szabla@durham.ac.uk

**Elisabeth du Parc**  
Project Officer on Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

Sponsored by  
**S.L.S.**  
THE SOCIETY OF LEGAL SCHOLARS

## Confronting Climate Apartheid: law, economy, culture.

The Climate Mobilities Speaker Series has, finally, served as a springboard for Baldwin, Capisani, and Szabla success in receiving a Major Projects Grant from Durham's Institute of Advanced Study concerned with the usefulness of the concept of climate apartheid, as part of which limitations on human mobility will be integral. This project will involve nonprofit workshops, academic conferences, and the hosting of external fellows from different parts of the world and will kick off in 2025 with the focus of its activities taking place in early 2026.



## Research-led Curriculum Innovation for Sustainable Futures: Durham-Uppsala Collaboration on Intergenerational Preparedness

The Durham-Uppsala partnership builds upon a successful track record of student exchange, research collaboration, and international membership in the Matariki and Coimbra Group networks. “Durham-Uppsala Collaboration on Intergenerational Preparedness” is a ‘dual strand’ project for a collaborative Master’s programme. It fosters deeper collaboration in addressing strategic priorities, across the **climate change/energy transition, clean growth/data science, and business management intersection** in education and research.

The project started in August 2023 and a group of colleagues from both universities opened the exchange of ideas and started meeting online. As per the project plan, three colleagues from Uppsala (Dr Malou Larsson, Dr Hajo Holtz, and Dr Marios Iacovides) visited Durham on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> of September. Welcomed by Professor Minnerop and Dr Rozemarijn Roland Holst, the Uppsala colleagues were also joined by Dr Barend Van Leeuwen, Jessica Banks, and Peter Bainbridge from Durham. The Durham-led SRF project on Just Transitions to a Net Zero World (JustNOW) is supported by a colleague from Uppsala, as Advisory Board Members.

Two **online seminars were organised in October and December** – one from Durham and one from Uppsala respectively. Nonetheless, where plans around a double/joint Master’s programme were temporarily shelved due to some constraints, colleagues from both universities are continuously exploring ways to utilise this collaboration.





## Durham students visit Sweden for first Durham-Uppsala Summer School

**Our students visited our partner university in Sweden for the first ever Durham-Uppsala Summer School, an exchange programme with a focus on sustainability.**

Ten students and two members of staff from our Faculty of Arts and Humanities visited Uppsala from 3-9 June to take part in the Summer School, which builds on the strategic partnership between the two universities.

The Summer School focuses on sustainability and the environmental humanities for postgraduate students from Durham and Uppsala, to be held each summer for one week in Uppsala and one week in Durham. Both Durham and Uppsala are ranked as top 30 global universities for sustainability, which has been a key focus of the partnership to date.

One of the distinguishing features of the Summer School is that students travel by train between Durham and Uppsala. While air travel is quicker and cheaper, trains are less carbon-intensive and allow students to make the journey part of their education. Some of the travel time was devoted to shared learning.

The trip follows a visit to Uppsala by a delegation from Durham in November 2023 to explore potential research and education collaborations between the two institutions. Both institutions agreed to renew the partnership for a further five years and identified several possibilities for collaboration on research and learning, including a joint Durham-Uppsala summer school.



## Durham University Renews MoU with Centre for International Law National University of Singapore through CSDLP

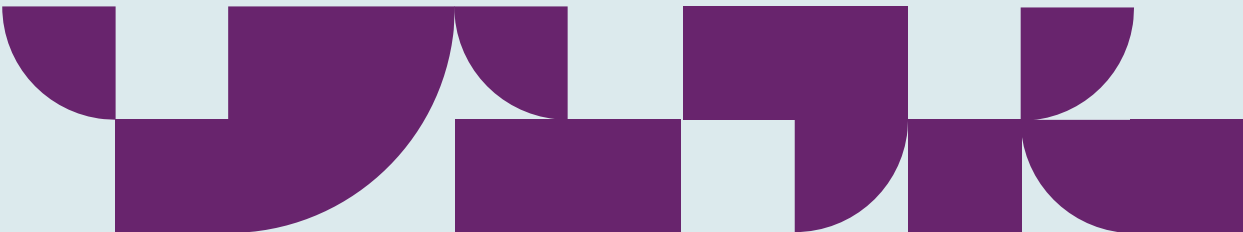
Durham University's CSDLP and the NUS CIL will be working closely for another three years, under a renewed MoU. The MoU was signed during the second part of the post-global stocktake conference in Singapore. The partnership started in November 2022 and resulted in several successful collaborations. These include, among others, our collaboration at COP27, our joint submission at SB58, and our joint efforts for the success of our official UNFCCC side event at COP28.

Professor Petra Minnerop, director of CSDLP, and Professor Laura Marsiliani, Professor of Economics, represented Durham University during the ceremonial signing in Singapore. Dr Nilufer Oral signed on behalf of NUS CIL with Ms Danielle Yeow.

We would like to thank NUS CIL for hosting a great conference and for fostering closer collaborations with existing and new partners including Universiti Malaya.

We are looking forward to working even closer with Niluer Oral, Danielle Yeow, Railla Puno and the entire team at NUS CIL.





## Engagements with the Federal Judicial Academy of Pakistan

### Continuing Professional Development in relation to Environmental Law for the Judges in Pakistan.

**On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2024, we were delighted to welcome Justice Jawad Hassan (Judge at the High Court of Pakistan) at Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP), Durham Law School, Durham University.**

On his arrival, Justice Hassan was welcomed by Petra Minnerop (The founding director of the CSDLP) and then had the opportunity to meet Lei Chen (The founding director of Durham International Dispute Resolution Institute (DIDRI)), Clara Martins Pereira (The Lead organiser of the Durham Summer School on International Arbitration), Can Eken, Ronán Feehily, and other members of the CSDLP and DIDRI. Justice Hassan also met Professor Volker Röben (Dean of the Durham Law School) to discuss the forthcoming engagements and collaborations between the CSDLP and FJA, Islamabad Pakistan and NHLD - Kinnaird Law School Lahore, Pakistan.

Justice Jawad also delivered a special guest lecture at the Durham Summer Course on International Arbitration on the topic of “The Global Trends of International Commercial Arbitration and its Symbiotic Relationship with Climate Change and Climate Finance”. In addition to highlighting the increasing importance of climate finance in international arbitration, Justice Hassan mentioned the impact of the principles established under the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts on commercial courts worldwide.

Justice Hassan also had a fruitful meeting with Kieran Jude Fernandes (the Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor for Business Development) to discuss the execution of the upcoming CPD engagements of the Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP) with the FJA, Islamabad Pakistan. Justice Hassan briefly met Dr Shaid Mahmood (the Pro Vice-Chancellor - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)).



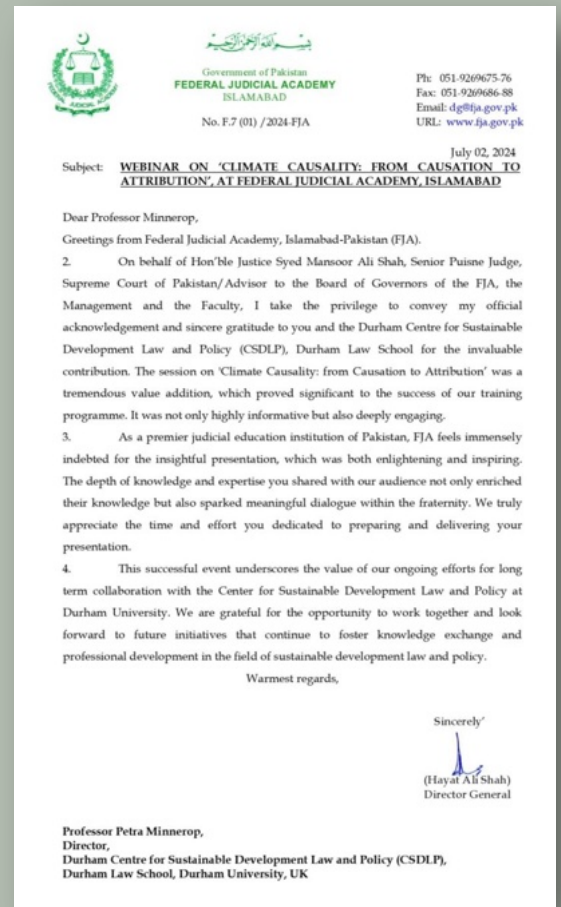
# First Lecture at the Federal Judicial Academy on Climate Causality: from Causation to Attribution

An online lecture was delivered by Professor Petra Minnerop on the topic of 'Climate Causality: from Causation to Attribution' at the Federal Judicial Academy of Pakistan. The lecture engaged around 200 Judges, Magistrates, and legal personnel from all over the country.

## The signing of the MoU at the International Launching Conference of the JusTNOW initiative.

Following these engagements, Mr Hayat Ali Shah, the Director General of the Federal Judicial Academy and Justice Jawad Hassan were invited to the International Launching Conference of JusTNOW initiative to sign the MoU between the Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy and the Federal Judicial Academy.

Under this MoU, Professor Petra Minnerop, Ashar Aftab and Ghulam Mustafa Kamran look forward to visiting Pakistan in December 2024 to deliver a CPD Course on the emerging issues related to international environmental law for Judges and legal personnel from around the country.



# Projects in Africa

## Assessing Security of Supply of Critical Minerals to the UK.

Dr Adebola Adeyemi, a member of the Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP) was successful in obtaining a grant from the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) - The Law School and Climate Crisis Fund for his project titled

"Assessing Security of Supply of Critical Minerals to the UK".

The substantial focus of this project is on assessing the resilience of the supply of critical minerals to the UK and considering the likely impact of the UK's critical minerals strategy for countries with critical minerals reserves.



## Repurposing Non-Productive Oil Wells for Clean Energy.

A collaborative workshop was organised between Durham Law School and Rivers State University on "Repurposing Disused Oil Wells for Clean Energy Production: A Regulatory Perspective".

The workshop was organised by Dr Smith I. Azubuike, FHEA who is a Fellow at the Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy, Professor Ibibia Lucky Worika and Professor Samuel Dike, and Professor Nlerum Sunday Okogbule from Rivers State University.

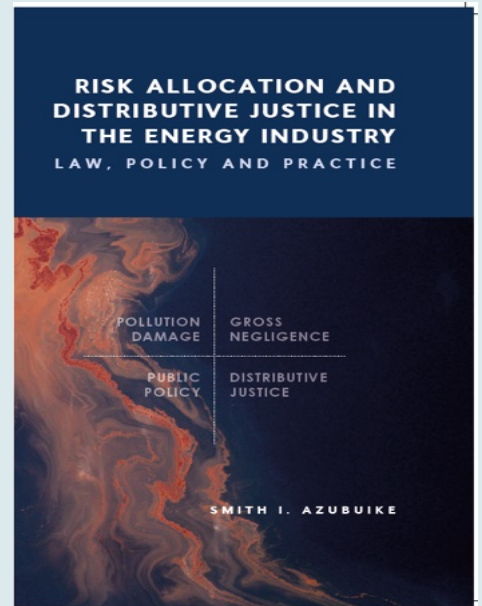
This interactive hybrid workshop featured participants from academic, industry and regulatory spheres, fruitful networking opportunities and Q&A Sessions. The workshop was also attended by representatives of regulatory authorities such as Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), and others.



# Publications

Smith Azubuike, *Risk Allocation and Distributive Justice in the Energy Industry: Law, Policy and Practice*, Edinburgh University Press (Forthcoming September 2025)

Adefolake Adeyeye, 'The Pursuit of Corporate Accountability: Climate Change Litigation and the Use of Shareholder Derivative Actions' 83 (1) The Cambridge Law Journal.



## Global Policy Special Issue - Reflections on the Architecture of Climate Law

The Special Issue on "Elements of the Architecture for Climate Law" (2024) was edited by Professor Petra Minnerop (CSDLP) and Dr Friederike Otto (Senior Lecturer in Climate Science at Imperial College London). Minnerop and Otto introduce the collection of articles in their editorial on "The Possibility of Climate Restoration Law". The Issue comprises a collection of research articles which were discussed in first drafts at the international conference that was co-convened between the Global Policy Institute (GPI) and the Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policies (CSDLP), on "Challenges to a Green Recovery: International Law, Climate Change, and Public Health".

The articles in this special issue explore the potential for climate law structures that acknowledge the limitations of states to meet their obligations and that more fully integrate scientific evidence. They argue that the aspiration of climate legislation should be achieving positive outcomes, a betterment of the climate conditions for currently disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and communities, and for future generations. And they show why now, more than ever, these prospects must inform scientific research and direct our legal imaginations.



# Student Engagement at CSDLP





## **YOUNGO Membership**

Durham University is now a member of YOUNGO – the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC.

Durham University joined YOUNGO as an accredited NGO of the UNFCCC. This engagement will enhance CSDLP's mission of intergenerational preparedness, is a step forward to the empowerment of our Youth and will encourage further student engagement with the processes around climate change law and policy at the international level.

Our current YOUNGO Student Members:

Ghulam Mustafa Kamran

Sophia Waseem Khan

## **Our students at the 2024 SUAD Youth COP Mock Negotiation**

Our three student teams were selected to participate in the 2024 SUAD Youth COP Mock Negotiation.

The Youth COP is a virtual mock negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) organized by Université Paris Cité (France), Universidade Federal do Ceará (Brazil) and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates).

The Youth COP provides an opportunity for students across the globe to experience climate negotiations through a simulation of the UNFCCC COP whilst fostering their critical thinking and interpersonal skills. The outcome document developed by the competitors of the Youth COP will be presented at COP29 this year in Baku (Azerbaijan).

Our three teams consist of interdisciplinary and inter-university undergraduate and postgraduate students who have been chosen for this international competition due to their dedication and commitment to the fields of climate change, sustainability, biodiversity, renewable energy, and just transitions. We recognise SAUD Youth COP as a platform to prepare the next generation and empower future leaders to tackle climate change.

**Our Students at the 2024 SUAD Youth COP Mock Negotiation.**

The Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP) is proud to announce the acceptance of our three student teams for participation in the 2024 SUAD Youth COP. The Youth COP is a virtual mock negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) organized by Université Paris Cité (France), Universidade Federal do Ceará (Brazil) and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates).

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**Meet the teams.**



**Sophia Waseem Khan**  
BSc Natural Sciences, Durham University.  
Student Ambassador for the Durham CSDLP.  
Member of the COP Steering Group and the SDG Group, and COP28 virtual delegate.  
Laidlaw Research and Leadership Scholar.  
Intern at the University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations.



**Vaibhav Pramode Nair**  
BSc Sustainability and Environmental Management, University of Leeds.  
COP28 Delegate for the University of Leeds.  
Laidlaw Research and Leadership Scholar.  
Youth Leader for Conscious Planet.  
Leadership-in-Action project, Mexico City, supporting IRRI Mexico.



**Carmen Tan Yu Hui**  
LLB (Hons), Durham Law School.  
Research Assistant at the Durham CSDLP.  
Decolonising the curriculum, Durham Law School.  
Working experience with the European Union.  
Legal Intern at the Federal Court of Malaysia.  
Senior Advisor at the Malaysian Youth Association for Diplomacy and Policy.



**Oliver Pugh**  
BSc Physics, Durham University  
Hatfield College Scholar 2023-24 – Physics.  
Laidlaw Research and Leadership Scholar.  
Leadership-in-Action project, Timothy Smith Network Boston, Massachusetts. Supporting underprivileged and underrepresented high school students and providing education for tech industry.



**Ghulam Mustafa Kamran**  
LLB (Hons), LLM (International Law), PhD Student, Durham Law School.  
Research Assistant at the Durham CSDLP.  
Member of the COP Steering Group, the SDG Group, and the JusTNOW initiative.  
COP28 student delegate for Durham University.  
RWWL postgraduate scholar.



**Pedro Dias da Costa Rocha**  
Postgraduate Loto Sensus (Digital Law and Data Protection), Brazilian Law School. Postgraduate Loto Sensus (Contract Law and International Trade Law) University of São Paulo.  
LLB (Hons), Centro Universitario de Bauru.  
Lawyer and partner at Amaral, Lucatto e Rocha Advogados. Volunteer and director of Patrulha Mirim in Itápolis, São Paulo, Brazil.

We congratulate and thank the SUAD Youth COP Organising Committee for marshalling this wonderful competition and we look forward to seeing the productive outcomes of this engagement.

They were not only selected among hundreds of candidates from the five continents to participate in the mock negotiations but also had an outstanding performance during the two days of negotiation activities.

Our students **Carmen Yu Hui Tan** and **Oliver Pugh** won the negotiation skills award, and **Sophia Waseem Khan** won the best speaker award at the SUAD Youth COP Competition 2024. Sophia will be joining the other YOUTH COP winning students at COY (Conference of the YOUTH) and she will be attending the COP29 as a Durham University student delegate.



**Preparations for Coimbra Symposium 2025 and student engagement via CSDLP**

Durham University is delighted and honoured to host the inaugural two-day 2025 Coimbra Group Climate Symposium as part of the Coimbra Group's fortieth-anniversary celebrations. Student environmental clubs and societies will be joining forces with CSDLP to enhance student representation and engagement on this occasion.

## Bird's Eye View

by Sophia Waseem-Khan (CSDLP Student Ambassador)

It has been an absolute pleasure working and being a part of the CSDLP this year. From first attending a student meet event in November to running multiple events, such as: 'A Christmas Cop-out' in December and 'Global Stocktake Unveiled – Analysing Results and Future Implications' workshop in February, it has been an incredible experience contributing to the Centre this year.

The Christmas Cop-Out event was an opportunity for the University community to learn about the experiences of the virtual and in-person COP28 delegation, through an informal dialogue session and a live video call to Dubai.

After COP28 ended, we ran a workshop analysing the outputs of the Global Stocktake and what it meant for our future. Brilliant, thought-provoking questions were brought to the table and everyone learnt so much from the discussion with Professor Petra Minnerop and Professor Laura Marsiliani.

As well as creating and running events, I also had the honour of being a virtual delegate for COP28, attending online panels and discussions. Through this experience, I was exposed to many different topics of discussion, such as the Global Stocktake, the Loss and Damage Fund, a Just Energy Transition, Climate Finance, Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security, and Biodiversity, to name a few, and learnt so much about these different prevalent issues along the way.

I also submitted a case study for the SDG accord, which focused on my research with the Department of Chemistry on the recovery of ammonium, magnesium, and phosphate cations from a by-product of waste-water treatment plant processes, struvite. I discussed what SDGs my research linked to, specifically Goal 3 (Zero Hunger), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 12 (Production respectively).

Furthermore, as part of my Laidlaw Scholarship Leadership in Action project, I have created a proposal for a Durham University Climate Leadership Programme, which I am very excited to continue to work on next year.

All in all, this year with the CSDLP has been a fantastic journey filled with learning, growth, and contributions to the University's climate leadership and sustainability efforts; I am so excited for all that is to come!



## Meet our Research Associates



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**Durham**  
University

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## Contact us and get involved

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