

ClimLaw: Graz NEWSLETTER

ClimLaw: Graz
Research Center for Climate Law

October, 2023 / Vol 3



So kommt das Recht in die Schule.

Ein Workshop-
Angebot der
Rechtswissen-
schaften

REWI
Thinking
Law

We work for
tomorrow

rewi.uni-graz.at



How does the law come to schools?

Read more about Uni Graz's Workshop and how ClimLaw: Graz is bringing environmental education at middle schools in Styria. See page 18.

JUSTDECARB

We look back on the project "Socially Just and Politically Robust Decarbonisation: A Knowledge Base and Toolkit for Policymakers" that started on December 2020 and to be completed in the next few months. We want to thank our sponsor JPI Climate as well as all contributors.

The project dealt with how the transition to a decarbonized society entails profound societal and social shifts. JustDecarb investigates negative impacts of these changes for certain groups and demonstrates how to shape the path to a climate neutral future in a socially just way. This toolkit was based on interdisciplinary findings and with civil society's involvement.



More information available under: <https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/en/research/research-projects/justdecarb/>



Autumn wishes



As we bid farewell to summer and welcome the colorful season of autumn, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you. We hope you had a fantastic summer filled with joyful moments and memorable experiences. This volume of the ClimLaw: Graz Newsletter serves as a non-comprehensive collection of all the significant events, developments, and achievements that have taken place not only during the summer but also beyond. It aims to keep you informed and engaged in the vital work being done by the team and affiliates of ClimLaw: Graz.

May this autumn season bring you tranquility, inspiration, and new opportunities to contribute to a greener world. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more valuable insights and updates with you in the upcoming editions of the newsletter.

Wishing you a wonderful autumn!
Best regards, ClimLaw: Graz Team





Carbon Neutral Schools

CARBON NEUTRAL SCHOOLS is an ERASMUS Project that aims to develop an online interactive e-learning course and put it freely available to schools, the main focus of the project, HEIs and vocational schools. The aim is to show schools, HEI and vocational schools, what can be done to lower carbon emission, based on practical guidelines that can be taken up without much previous knowledge on the topic and that are based on the experience that pioneer schools in the field have already implemented. The course will be therefore developed in cooperation with schools. The project will also introduce the concept of Green Ambassadors, to support and lead the organizations to the zero carbon goals. The result of the project will be developed as a collection of interactive e-learning modules.

Sponsor: EU (Erasmus)
Start: 1 November 2022
Status: Ongoing

More information at: <https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/de/forschen/projekte/>

ClimLaw Besuch im Rathaus der Stadt Graz Freitag, 17 März 2023

Das ClimLaw: Graz Team besuchte das Grazer Rathaus und traf sich mit der stellvertretende Bürgermeisterin der Stadt Graz

Wir freuen uns, ankündigen zu können, dass das ClimLaw: Graz Direktor, Prof. Oliver Ruppel, und Ass.-Prof. Gerhard Schnedl mit der Frau stellvertretenden Bürgermeisterin, Mag. Judith Schwentner (Grüne), der Stadt Graz getroffen haben.

Dieses Treffen ist der Beginn einer lang erwarteten Zusammenarbeit mit der Stadt Graz, die wir in Zukunft weiter ausbauen wollen.



Student Energy Fellowship 2023

Ms. Larissa Jane H. Houston, a prae-doc candidate at our research center has been chosen to join this year's Student Energy Fellowship cohort. The fellowship takes place from March - October 2023 and consists of a number of energy related opportunities, projects development sessions and networking with leading experts and practitioners across various energy disciplines.

Her Fellowship project "Accessing Community Energy (ACE)" project aims to develop a network and database of energy communities (ECs) from across the globe.

More information at: <https://studentenergy.org/program/se-fellowship-2023/>



Cooperation with the University of Cienfuegos, Center for Energy and Environment (CEEMA)

Prof. Oliver Ruppel and Ass.-Prof. Renate Pirstner-Ebner presented at the Center for Renewable Energy at the University of Cienfuegos, Havana, Cuba

On the 5th of April 2023 Prof. Oliver Ruppel and Ass.-Prof. Renate Pirstner-Ebner gave presentations at the Center for Renewable Energy at the University of Cienfuegos on the topic "Just Energy Transition in Times of Global Energy Crisis: An International Climate Law Perspective" and "Best Practice Models for the Promotion of Renewable Energy". After a discussion with the professors and students, the Vice Dean for Research Dunia Maria Garcia Lorenzo and the Center of Energy and Environment (CEEMA) director, Prof. Zaid Garcia Sanchez and other interested professors discussed cooperation possibilities in research and teaching between the Center for Energy and Environment the Research Center for Climate Law, University of Graz.



Forschungspreis der REWI Uni Graz

Für das Jahr 2022 wurden fünf Bewerber:Innen der Rechtswissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Graz – darunter drei aus unserem Team – mit dem Rewi Forschungspreis ausgezeichnet. Diese Auszeichnung findet bereits zum zweiten Mal an der Rewi Uni Graz statt. Unter den Preisträgern:Innen sind Dr. Renate Pirstner-Ebner, Ms. Larissa Jane H. Houston, Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, Ms. Nina Kaiser und Dr. Miriam Hofer.



Aus unserem Team wurde Dr. Renate Pirstner-Ebner mit dem REWI-Forschungspreis für ihre englischsprachige Monographie *European Energy Law* (Nomos, 2022) in der Kategorie „Englischsprachige Monographie“ prämiert. In der Kategorie „Englischsprachiger Artikel in einer Zeitschrift“ siegten Ms. Larissa Jane H. Houston und Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel in Zusammenarbeit mit ihrem Artikel „Just Energy Transitions in Progress? The Partnership between South Africa and the EU,“ (in the *Journal for European Environmental & Planning Law* 19 [2022] 31-54).

Das ClimLaw Institut gratuliert den Preisträgern:Innen und wünscht Ihnen alles Gute für die Zukunft!

2. PUBLICATIONS

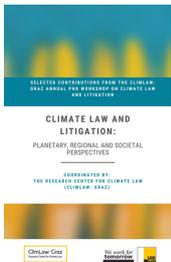
Journals Update:



“Nachhaltigkeitsrecht (NR) – Zeitschrift für das Recht der nachhaltigen Entwicklung“/Journal for Sustainable Development Law (in the area of Environment, Energy & Governance) - Co-edited by Ass.-Prof. Gerhard Schnedl

Das Journal hat ein Rebranding mit einem neuen Titelbild und einem neuen Schwerpunkt erhalten. Weitere Informationen unter: <https://www.verlagoesterreich.at/nachhaltigkeitsrecht/99.105005-27089649>.

Longform Publications:



Research Center for Climate Law (2023) Climate Law and Litigation: Planetary, Regional, and Societal Perspectives. Graz, Austria: University of Graz UniPub. DOI: 10.25364/978-3-903374-27-0 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.25364/978-3-903374-27-0>)



Pirstner-Ebner, Renate, European Energy Law – Market System for Electricity and Gas – Energy Supply Security – Green Energy System of the Future (Green Smart Grid), 2022, 1 Auflage, Baden-Baden, Germany: Nomos.



Schnedl, Gerhard, *Umweltrecht - Gesetzessammlung*, FlexLex (Fassung vom 01.09. 2023), 2 Auflage

Übersichtlicher und aktueller Arbeitsbehelf für Gerichte, RechtsanwältInnen, Umweltorganisationen und Umweltschutzvereine, diversen Interessenvertretungen, Unternehmen und betrieblichen Umweltbeauftragten sowie allen an Fragen des Umweltrechts interessierten.



Schnedl, Gerhard, *Umweltrecht*, FlexLex (Fassung vom 01.09. 2023), 9. Auflage

Grundlagen- und Arbeitsbehelf für Studierende



Haas, Simon, Literatur: Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia: Towards Making Africa the Tree of Life (März, 2023). Nachhaltigkeitsrecht - Zeitschrift für das Recht der nachhaltigen Entwicklung Heft 1, März 2023, Band 3, 110-112.

Online Publications:



Oliver C. Ruppel & Stefanie Hiemesch (2023) "Soil protection: A brief overview from an international law perspective and in light of a European Soil Health Law". In: Brauchen Böden Rechte? Entwicklungen, Notwendigkeiten und Ausblicke. EUropainfo: Das Magazin des EU-Umweltbüros. 2/23, pp. 8-9, Available at: <https://www.eu-umweltbuero.at/assets/Uploads/EUropainfo-2-23-web.pdf>



Oliver C. Ruppel & Ruda Murray, A Comparative Constitutional Analysis of Natural Resources Protection. Graz Law Working Paper Series, Working Paper No. 07-2023, Available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4411279.



Renate Pirstner-Ebner (2023) "Instruments for a Transition to the Green Energy System of the Future in Energy Law with a Focus on Renewable Energies". In: Research Center for Climate Law (2023) Climate Law and Litigation: Planetary, Regional, and Societal Perspectives. Graz, Austria: University of Graz UniPub. DOI: 10.25364/978-3-903374-27-0 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.25364/978-3-903374-27-0>)



Haas, Simon, Transboundary Movement of Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment: The Problem of Illegal Environmental Dumping from an EU and South African Perspective .(February 25, 2023). Graz Law Working Paper No. 03-2023, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4372062> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4372062>



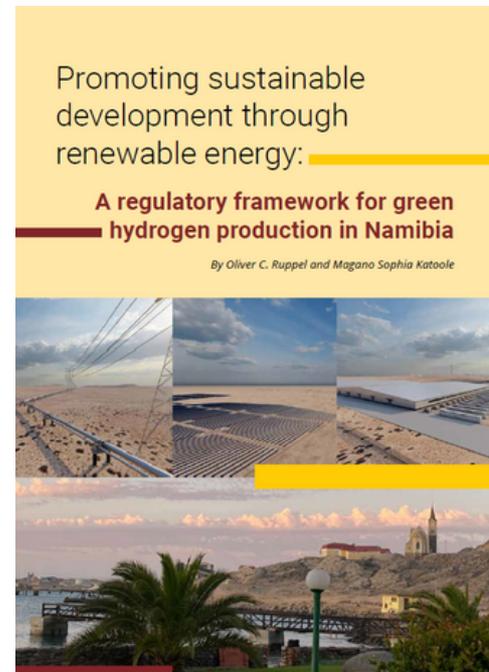
Oliver C. Ruppel & Larissa Jane H. Houston (2023) The Human Right to Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making: Some Legal Reflections, Environmental Policy and Law, 1-14, Available at: <https://content.iospress.com/download/environmental-policy-and-law/epl239001?id=environmental-policy-and-law%2Fep239001>



Ruppel, Oliver C. & Ruda Murray. Natural Resources, Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Law, 2023, Available at: <https://oxcon.ouplaw.com/display/10.1093/law-mpeccol/law-mpeccol-e393>.

Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen von grünem Wasserstoff in Namibia Donnerstag , 29 Juni 2023

Am 29 Juni 2023 wurde der Bericht "Promoting sustainable development through renewable energy: A regulatory framework for green hydrogen production in Namibia" von Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel und Ms. Magano Sophia Katoole in der namibischen Hauptstadt Windhuk der Öffentlichkeit vorgestellt. Bei der Presseveranstaltung in den Räumlichkeiten der Hanns Seidel Stiftung, welche den Bericht gemeinsam mit dem namibischen Justizministerium und dem Institut für Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Entwicklung (DROP) an der Stellenbosch Universität in Südafrika herausgab, waren u.a. hohe Vertreter:Innen der Regierung, des diplomatischen Corps sowie der namibischen Wirtschaft und Zivilgesellschaft anwesend.



Der Bericht untersucht die rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen für die Erzeugung, die Verstromung, den Transport, von Investitionen und den Export von grünem Wasserstoff vor dem Hintergrund der Bemühungen um eine nachhaltige Entwicklung in Namibia.



Foto v.l.n.r.: Toni Beukes (Hyphen Energy, Namibia), Yvonne Dausab (Ministerin für Justiz der Republik Namibia), Magano Sophia Katoole (Koautorin, Justizministerium von Namibia), Clemens von Doderer (Leiter der Hanns Seidel Stiftung, Namibia) sowie im Hintergrund online aus Graz zugeschaltet Oliver C. Ruppel (Leiter des Instituts für Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Entwicklung, Stellenbosch Universität sowie des Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht, Universität Graz).

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ClimLaw: Graz Hosts its first Land Steiermark Fellow

We are pleased to announce that we have a new researchers joining our team at ClimLaw: Graz!

Ms. Greta Česnaitytė comes to us with extensive experience in Lithuania Environmental Law, Waste Management Regulations and Sustainable Development. Ms. Česnaitytė is currently the Chief Advisor for the Waste Policy Group of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. She is also a lecturer at Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania, where she is also currently completing her PhD.

During her Fellowship, Ms. Česnaitytė a closer look at the legal regulation of the waste management sector, identifies weaknesses in current approaches and reflects on strategies that may offer adequate solutions.

We are excited to see these new perspectives and ideas and look forward to working together and achieving great things!



More research power for ClimLaw



Mr. Willem Odendaal will join our team by October as a post-phd researcher.

Dr. Willem Odendaal holds a BA Hons from Stellenbosch University, an LLB from the University of South Africa (UNISA), an LLM in International Law from Oxford Brookes University and completed his PhD in law at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. He is an admitted legal practitioner to the High and Supreme Courts of Namibia as well as a project coordinator of the Land at the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC).

At ClimLaw he will engage inter alia in the the research fields of Intertemporal Dimensions in Climate Litigation and the Developing of the Energy Market to Expand Variable Renewables: Aspects of Economic and Legal Design.

New Members of the ClimLaw Team!

Student Research Assistants:

Raimond Nrecaj

We are delighted to announce, that we are expanding our Team by welcoming Mr. Raimond Nrecaj as a Student Research Assistant. He is a law student of Uni-Graz in the process of finalizing his thesis and has a strong passion for public international Law, human rights and migration law. He will assist us in our recent research and daily office tasks. We are looking forward to good cooperation and hope to support him in his further endeavours.



Stefanie Hiemesch

We also welcome Ms. Stefanie Hiemesch as our newest Student Research Assistant who will be assisting on our latest project "Carbon Neutral Schools." Ms. Hiemesch is currently completing her law degree at the University of Graz with an interest in climate change and environmental law.

We welcome her to our team and look forward to engaging with her and supporting her throughout her research within ClimLaw: Graz.

4. PAST PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES



Advisory Committee Meeting of the Platform on Disaster Displacement

ClimLaw: Graz Director, Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, participated in the Advisory Committee Meeting of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, Château de Bossey in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1-3 March 2023. The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) with the European Union (EU) as its Chair is a State-led diplomatic initiative working towards better protection for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change.

In the image we see Prof. Oliver Ruppel member of the PDD Advisory Committee; Prof. Walter Kälin, member of the Expert Advisory Group for the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement; professor emeritus for international and (Swiss) constitutional law, University of Bern/Switzerland and Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement; Cecilia Jimenez-Damary is an internationally renowned human rights lawyer who served from 2016-2022 as Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"Alles was Recht ist"

Am Montag, 20. März 2023 war ClimLaw: Graz besuchte die Caritas der Diözese Graz-Seckau, um mit Schülerinnen und Schülern einen Vortrag über Klimawandel und Recht zu halten.

Dies war Teil einer Kampagne, die von der juristischen Fakultät der Universität Graz angeboten wurde. Ziel der Kampagne war es, Gymnasiast:Innen einen Einblick in die Forschung und den akademischen Hintergrund verschiedener rechtsbezogener Themen zu geben.



First Winter School for Climate Law in Havana

Ass.-Prof. Renate Pirstner-Ebner and Prof. Oliver Ruppel gave lectures at the first Winter School on "International, European and Cuban Climate Law" focusing on environmental and energy law at the Faculty of Law, University of Havana, from March 27th to 31th 2023. Together with the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. Dr. Andry Matilla Correa, Prof. Dagniselys Toledano and Prof. Elizabeth Valdez-Miranda they discuss further projects between the two Universities.



From the left: Prof. Oliver Ruppel, Prof. Dr. Andry Matilla Correa (Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Havana), and Ass.-Prof. Renate Pirstner-Ebner



Grazer Umweltrechtsforum 2023 „Bodenschutz im Zeichen der Klimakrise. Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen, politische Herausforderungen und Konfliktpotentiale“ Mittwoch, 26. April 2023. Universität Graz, Meerscheinschlössl

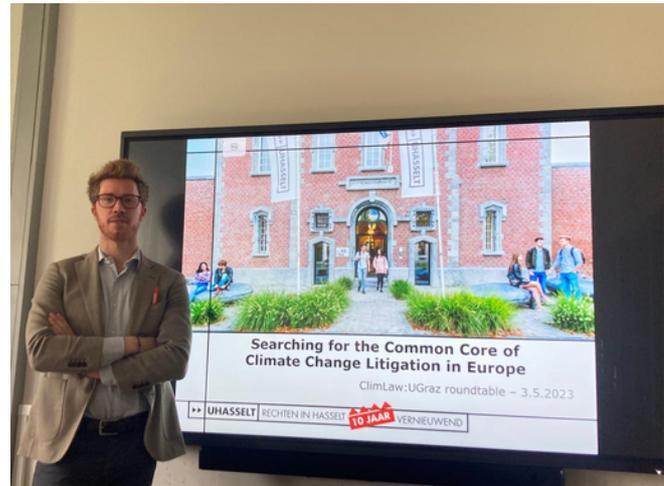


Das Forschungszentrum für Klimawandelrecht (ClimLaw: Graz) veranstaltet unter der wissenschaftlichen Leitung von Ass.-Prof. Dr. Gerhard Schnedl, Prof. Oliver Ruppel und Dr. Miriam Hofer am 26. April 2023 das 6. Grazer Umweltrechtsforum an der Universität Graz (Meerscheinschlössl). Das diesjährige Rechtsforum stand unter dem Thema "Bodenschutz im Zeichen der Klimakrise. Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen, politische Herausforderungen und Konfliktpotentiale". Das Umweltrechtsforum 2023 wird die wichtigsten Zusammenhänge zwischen dem Umweltmedium Boden und dem Klima beleuchten und unter anderem die Bodenstrategie 2023 für Österreich vorgestellt

Nähere Informationen finden Sie unter: <https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/de/climlaw-graz/veranstaltungen/>

ClimLaw: Graz 5th Roundtable Talk Wednesday, 03 May 2023

We welcomed Assistant Professor Matteo Fermeglia (Hasselt University, Belgium and Università degli Studi di Udine, Italy) who spoke on the "Latest Developments and International Trends in Climate Litigation" and provided an overview of the most recent advancements in climate litigation, taking a closer look at some correlations between climate litigation and human rights. Asst. Prof. Fermeglia is known for his extensive research in the field of International and European Environmental Law and has published on topics relating to energy security, air pollution and EU Environmental Policy and Legislation.



It has been a pleasure to host Asst. Prof. Fermeglia and we look forward to welcoming him for future ClimLaw: Graz events.

REWI Faculty Day "Thinking Law Beyond Borders" - Global challenges, common solutions Friday, 5 May 2023



This year's Faculty Day was dedicated to REWI Graz international cooperation. 21st century legal research requires bundling forces across disciplines and promoting dialogue beyond borders. Each specialized center provided their own programmes focused on various aspects of research and cooperation.

We, at ClimLaw: Graz, provided two sessions: the first in German on the topic "Ziviler Ungehorsam der Klimabewegung: Rechtliche, moralische und politische Sichtweisen (Civil disobedience of the climate movement: Legal, moral and political perspectives)" and the second "Climate Lawsuits as a Transnational Instrument of Climate Policy".

A special thank you to our guests: Prof. Paul Gragl, Institut für Europarecht, Universität Graz; Prof. Heidelinde Luef-Kölbl, Institut für Strafrecht, Strafprozessrecht und Kriminologie, Universität Graz; Mr. Marek Hubbell, Fridays for Future; Mr. Manuel Pirker, Erde Brennt Graz; Mr. Valentin Bast, Last Generation; Asst. Prof. Matteo Fermeglia, University of Hasselt; and Ms. Greta Česnaitytė, Mykolas Romeris University.

REWI Faculty Day Snapshots



“The Climate Crisis: Hope for the Earth. Hope for humanity?” Laudato Si Conference, Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Kroatien,

Monday 8 May 2023

On Monday, May 8, 2023, Laudato Si' week was celebrated at the Croatian Catholic University with a day-long program of workshops and lectures aimed at raising awareness of climate change

More information can be found at:

<https://www.unicath.hr/ekoloska-i-humanitarna-akcija-laudato-si-platforme-usmjerena-na-pomaganje-obiljelima-od-leukemije-i-limfoma>.



ClimLaw: Graz 6th Roundtable Talk Wednesday, 10 May 2023

We welcome our Steiermark-Fellow Ms. Greta Česnaitytė (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania) who will be speaking on the "Sustainable Consumption and Production: Reviewing the EU Waste Management Directive" providing an overview of the linkages between sustainable development, responsible consumption and production and its implication on end use waste management. Ms. Česnaitytė works as the Chief Advisor of the Waste Policy Group for the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.



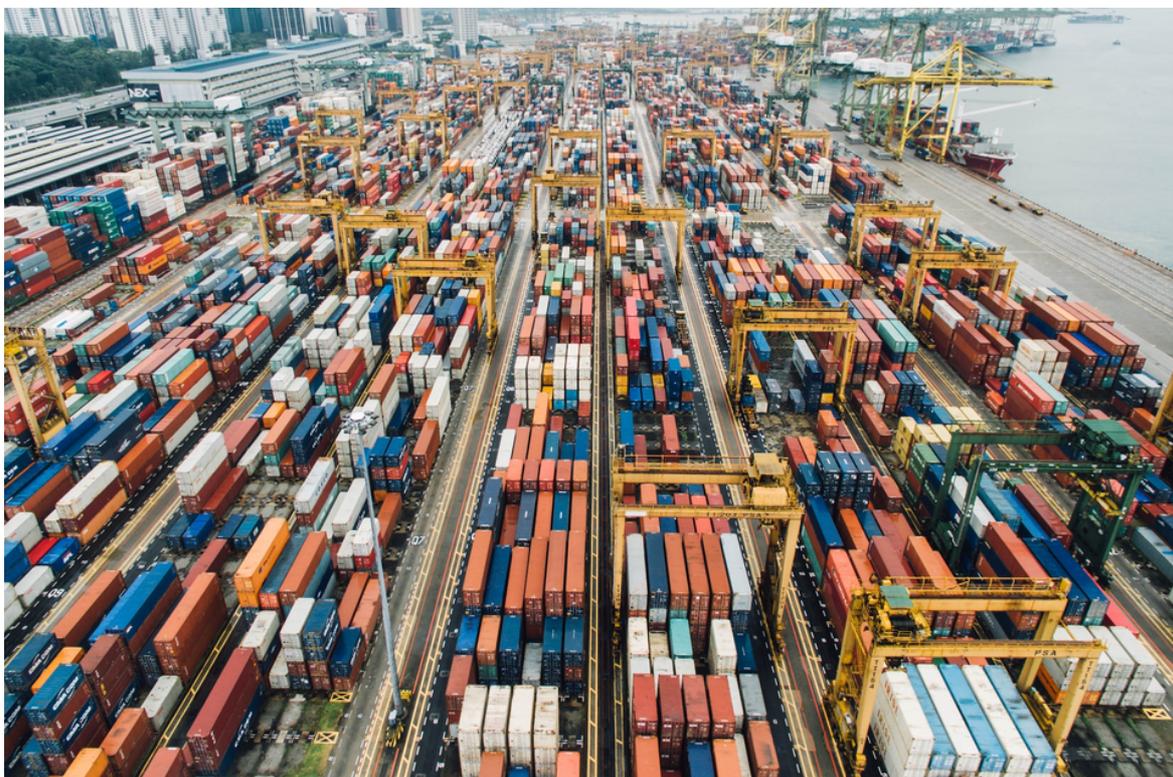
We are pleased to have Ms. Greta Česnaitytė with us as we cooperate and continue further research during her research stays with ClimLaw: Graz.

“The Value of Nature in International Trade”. Expert Workshop on Sustainability Chapters in Free Trade Agreements – Research Gaps and Future Role, Ecologic Institute and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability, German Environment Agency,
Thursday, 11 May 2023

Prof. Oliver Ruppel, representing the University of Graz, along with partners from German Environment Agency; Stellenbosch University and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability hosted the Expert Workshop on Sustainability chapters in Free Trade Agreements.

The workshop is part of a research project of Ecologic Institute and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability, funded by the German Environment Agency. The project assesses existing literature as well as about 80 globally representative Free Trade Agreements, combining the TREND database with a qualitative analysis of their provisions. The workshop presented and discussed the project's preliminary findings and open questions.

More information on the project can be found at: <https://www.ecologic.eu/19258>.



Seminar Excursion - Photovoltaic plant, Bärnbach, Styria Tuesday, 23 May 2023



On 23 May 2023, Ass.-Prof. Renate Pirstner-Ebner, as part of the seminar "Umwelt-, Energie-, und Klimaschutzrecht – Energierecht und Klimaschutz", facilitated an excursion to the ground mounting Photovoltaic Plant (PV Plant) in Bärnbach, Styria. The excursion took place in cooperation with Mag. Roland Wolfart and Rafael Skoff from Energie Steiermark.

The students were given first-hand insight into the happenings and events of the PV Plant.

We are excited to foster such cooperation and to provide our students with these one of a kind experiences.

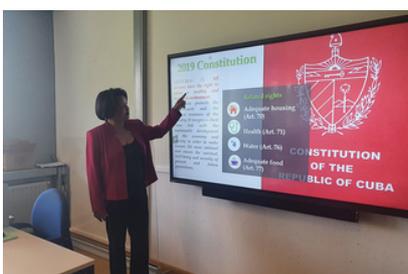
Prof. Dr. Dagniselys Toledano, University of Havana - Visiting Professor

During her stay in Graz, Prof. Dr. Dagniselys Toledano presented a number of lectures and presentations at ClimLaw: Graz and the University of Graz.

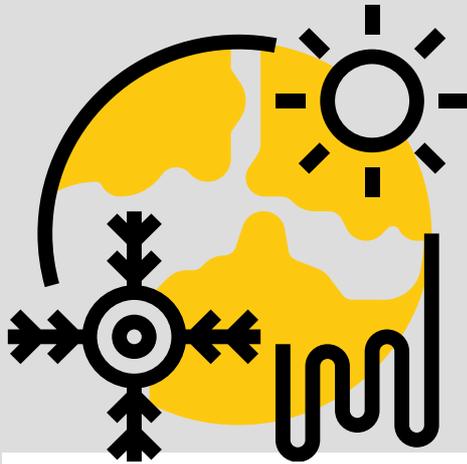


We welcome Prof. Dr. Dagniselys Toledano (University of Havana, Cuba), as a visiting professor from the University of Havana, for a research stay at the University of Graz. Prof. Toledano is a specialist in Cuban environmental and energy law. In this context, she has taught at the Universidad Bolivaria de Venezuela, Interamerica University of Puerto Rico and Vigo University in Spain. Now she teaches Cuban environmental and energy law with a focus on climate protection at the Faculty of Law in Graz. On Tuesday, 23.5.2023, Prof. Toledano gave a lecture on the topic "Climate Change and Renewable Energy: Reality and Regulation in Cuba" in the seminar "Umwelt-, Energie-, und Klimaschutzrecht – Energierecht und Klimaschutz" under the direction of Ass. Prof. Dr. Renate Pirstner-Ebner. Additionally, Prof. Toledano presented on the last day of the ClimLaw: Graz Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation, on the topic "Transitions in the South: Climate Law from a Cuban Perspective". And finally, on Wednesday, 31.05.2023, Prof. Toledano held a Roundtable talk on the "New Cuban Environmental Law and the Constitutional Reform 2019" providing an overview of the new Cuban environmental law and highlighting the issues related to the new Cuban constitution.

It has been both an honour and a privilege to host Prof. Toledano and we look forward to future collaborations between ClimLaw: Graz, the University of Graz and the University of Havana.



ANNUAL CLIMLAW PHD WORKSHOP



ClimLaw: Graz Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation in cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), German Umweltbundesamt (UBA), Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities (ASSELLAU) and the Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP)

from Monday, 22 - Friday, 26 May 2023, the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz) had the pleasure of hosting its annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation in Cooperation with International Partners

We are thrilled to announce the successful closing of our ClimLaw: Graz 2nd Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our partners who made this event possible. We would also like to thank our extensive list of expert presenters. Without their invaluable support and contribution, this conference would not have been possible as well as our coordinator, moderator and host Larissa-Jane Houston and co-facilitator Carlotta Garofalo for their assistance in making this event a success.

The event brought together experts, professionals, researchers and doctoral candidates from all over the world. We are pleased to announce that the workshop was a resounding success, with attendees enjoying informative and inspiring keynote speeches, engaging panel discussions, and interactive discussions. The workshop focused on the latest trends in climate law and litigation and provided a platform for networking and collaboration. We had the privilege of hosting some of the most innovative and knowledgeable experts in the field, who shared their expertise and insights with the attendees. The conference was an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn from each other, share ideas, and connect with like-minded individuals.

Information can be found at:
<https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/en/research/research-projects/annual-climlaw-phd-workshop/>



Workshop Recordings now available

The recordings from our recent conference: “ClimLaw: Graz Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation”, have been edited and are available to be viewed on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@climlawgraz>. A playlist containing all workshop recordings can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTAbaiaNcip6PiLS0dAUEAljBQR9yfcdZ>

12:00 - 12:30 Official Opening

Prof. Oliver Ruppel: Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz) and Development and Rule of Law Programme, Stellenbosch University (DROP)

Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities (ASSELLAU)

Dr. Nadja Salzborn / Dr. Harald Ginzky: German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA)

ClimLaw: Graz
Research Center for Climate Law

UN environment programme

Umwelt Bundesamt

ASSELLAU
Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in African Universities

We are committed to bringing the best and most innovative speakers, panelists, and discussions to our future workshops, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

ClimLaw: Graz
Research Center for Climate Law

KARL-FRANZENS-UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ
UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

UNI
GRAZ

ClimLaw: Graz 2nd Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation

in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA), the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities (ASSELLAU) and the Development and Rule of Law Programme, Stellenbosch University (DROP)

Monday, 22 May - Friday, 26 May 2023
12:00 - 17:00 CET
Online (Zoom)

UN environment programme

Umwelt Bundesamt

ASSELLAU
Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in African Universities

Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY OF
FURTHER EDUCATION
DROPP

The Development and Rule of Law Programme

Once again, thank you for your support and participation and we look forward to furthering our workshop outcomes with each passing year.

#phdworkshop #climlawgraz #climatelaw #climatelitigation

**“Ecosystems degradation and biodiversity loss: A international trade perspective”. The Triple Planetary Crisis: The Role of Scholars and the Decision-makers, Webinar organised by the journal Environmental Policy and Law (EPL) and IOS Press,
Monday, 5 June 2023**

ClimLaw: Graz Director, Prof. Oliver C Ruppel, participated in a panel discussion at the Environmental Policy and Law webinar on "The Triple Planetary Crisis: The Role of Scholars and the Decision-makers".



Background

In an address of June 2, 2022 at the Stockholm+50 Conference, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that we have not kept our promises on the environment since our consumption is “at the rate of 1.7 planets a year” and the “global well-being is in jeopardy”. Inger Andersen, UNEP executive director, also underscored that “If we do not change, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste will only accelerate.” The alarm bells rung by the UN decision-makers have been based upon the findings of several scientific reports in 2022 (including IPCC6; UNEP and WMO). Thus, the gathering storms indicate a planetary-level environmental crisis. Do they cast shadows of the coming events before in the 21st century? Humankind seems to be sleepwalking into an existential ‘triple planetary crisis’ almost akin to some of the catastrophic events that devastated the world in the 20th century.

For those who would have liked to attend the webinar but didn't get a chance, kindly find the webinar recording at: <https://environmentalpolicyandlaw.com/triple-planetary-crisis>

7th African Soil Partnership plenary meeting

21-22 June 2023

Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel held together with Mr Harald Ginzky, from the German Environment agency a presentation on “Model law on Sustainable Soil Management in Africa”.



The African Soil Partnership (AfSP) was established in May 2015, consisting of the Sub-Saharan countries and specialises on regional actions through implementation plans, which are revised at the yearly AfSP plenary meetings. It covers subjects similar of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) which is a recognized mechanism established in 2012, with the mission to position soils in the Global Agenda through collective action. Such as the promotion of Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and improvement of soil governance in order to guarantee healthy and productive soils by providing essential ecosystem services towards food security.

Climate Litigation and Action in Africa

On July 10th Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel held a lecture at the University of Regensburg on the topic “Climate Change: Action and Law in the Global South and Beyond the West”.

This talk forms part of the lecture series Climate Change: Action and Law in the global South and Beyond the West organized by Prof. Dr. rike Krämer-Hoppe (DIMAS/University of Regensburg) with Dr. Paul Vickers (DIMAS/Leibniz Science Campus). It deals with pressing questions of climate change and approaches the issue from different disciplines ranging from law to ethnography.



The legal and regulatory framework for sustainable development in Namibia Oil and Gas Conference

Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel was invited as a panel guest at the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference on the 16th and 17th August 2023 powered by the Economic Association of Namibia (EAN), Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) in strategic partnership with the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR).



5th Assellau Scientific Conference and General Assembly on Legal Policy Measures on Genetically Modified Organisms in Africa

Nairobi on 22-23 August 2023

On the Topic of the Role of scientific bodies (IPCC, IPBES, SPP) for the law in addressing the triple planetary crisis, Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel was invited to take part in the expert discussions and contribute at the 5th Montevideo Environmental Law Programme convened in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Alliance for Science on the sidelines of the Africa Biennial Biosciences Conference.

5TH ASSELLAU SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON LEGAL AND POLICY MEASURES ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN AFRICA



ClimLaw Workshop an steiermärkischen Mittelschulen

In der Woche vom 11.09.2023 durften Prof. Ruppel, Stefanie Hiemesch und Raimond Nrecaj im Rahmen des Workshops der Uni Graz "So kommt das Recht in die Schule" den SchülerInnen des BRG Judenburg sowie der HAK und HLW in Voitsberg einen Überblick über den Klimawandel und das Klimaschutzrecht geben.



Es wurde zum einen unsere Arbeit am Forschungszentrum sowie unsere Schwerpunkte und Forschungsthemen vorgestellt. Anschließend folgte eine Präsentation über das nationale und internationale Klimaschutzrecht, in welcher unter anderem zentrale Begriffe wie Klimawandel, Klimaschutzrecht, Klimagerechtigkeit und Klimaklagen erläutert wurden. Des Weiteren wurden die wichtigsten internationalen Übereinkommen, sowie die österreichische Rechtslage betreffend dem Klimaschutz näher erörtert. Auch wurde näher auf aktuelle und globale Entwicklungen sowie Forschungen zum Klimawandel eingegangen. Zum Abschluss hatten die SchülerInnen noch die Möglichkeit Fragen zum Thema "Studieren an der Uni Graz" zu stellen. Der Workshop gestaltete sich besonders interaktiv und zeigte einmal mehr, dass Themen wie Klimaschutz, Umwelt und Nachhaltigkeit der jungen Generation ein besonderes Anliegen sind.

Österreichische Umweltrechtstage in Linz

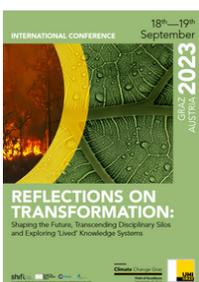
Frau Dr. Pirstner-Ebner durfte bei den diesjährigen Umweltrechtstagen in Linz teilnehmen und einen Vortrag zum Thema "Beschleunigtes Genehmigungsregime bei Leitungen präsentieren. Die Generalthematik der Veranstaltung handelte rund um die Energiewende - Anlagen, Leitungen und Speicher.



© Fotocredit: Anja Hartl

Das Rechtspolitische Forum für aktuelle Umweltrechtsfragen (ÖWAV) fand am 20. bis 21. September 2023 an der JKU Linz statt. Es wurden Vorträge von lokalen wie auch internationalen Professoren, Anwälten und Interessensvertretungen gehalten. Thematisiert wurden neue Entwicklungen im Bereich des Europarechts, öffentlichen- sowie privaten Umweltrechts. Besonderes Augenmerk fiel auf zukünftige Entwicklungen wie die Energieraumplanung, der Schutz der Biodiversität sowie die Energiewende in Gemeinden.

Reflections on Transformation: Shaping the Future, Transcending Disciplinary Silos and Exploring 'Lived' Knowledge Systems



Between September 18th and 19th the International Conference "Reflections on Transformation" took place at the University of Graz.

Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel held among many contributing experts a presentation on "Climate Change - past present and future injustice: Considerations from a South African Legal Perspective". Main topics at the event were social inequalities and climate justice, education, as well as consensus vs agonistic practices.

International Conference, Conceptualizing Environmental Justice in the Legal and Regulative System: An International Empirical and Normative Perspectives, Bar-Ilan University, Faculty of Law, Israel, Tuesday, 13 June 2023,

ClimLaw: Graz Director, Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, provided the first session presentation titled "Climate Change and Environmental Justice: Legal Considerations from a South African Perspective" during this year's international conference hosted at Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

The full programme and information can be found at:
<https://www.biu.ac.il/en/event/13744>

5. RECENT APPOINTMENTS

- Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel as been appointed as "Regional Forum Liaison Officer" of the Environment, Health and Safety Law Committee, International Bar Association (IBA), London, UK, <https://www.ibanet.org/officer/officerList/3019>
- Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel as been appointed as "Member International Advisory Board", Horizon 2020 Phy2Climate Project (a global approach for recovery of arable land through improved phytoremediation coupled with advanced liquid biofuel production and climate friendly copper smelting process), <https://www.phy2climate.eu>
- Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel as been appointed as "Member of the Global Strategic Litigation Council (GSLC) for Refugee Rights", Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility and Cornell Law School, <https://zolberginstitute.org/initiatives/gslc/>

6. CLIMLAW IN THE MEDIA

25.04.2023, Kronen Zeitung

Alarmstufe Rot bei der Bodenversiegelung

Mehr als 1200 Hektar werden bei uns jährlich zubetoniert, aber eine Strategie fehlt, während Hektar um Hektar verloren geht...

Ein Beitrag unter Mitwirkung von Ass-. Prof. Gerhard Schnedl - <https://www.krone.at/2989833>.



05.06.2023, News24

OPINION | Civil disobedience and the climate activist movement: A last resort for action?

Written by: Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel

In the absence of a global and concerted effort to address climate change, civil disobedience and the climate activist movement seem to be a last resort for some, writes Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel.

https://www.news24.com/fin24/Climate_Future/Solutions/opinion-civil-disobedience-and-the-climate-activist-movement-a-last-resort-for-action-20230602.

13.06.2023, Kleine Zeitung

Klimaschutz: Wird Klagen das neue Kleben?

Der Verfassungsgerichtshof prüft in den nächsten Wochen Klimaklagen. Bleibt nur noch der rechtliche Weg, um Klimaschutz einzufordern - und wie aussichtsreich sind diese Klagen? Ein Beitrag unter Mitwirkung von Ass-. Prof. Gerhard Schnedl.

Mehr dazu unter: https://www.kleinezeitung.at/politik/innenpolitik/6298154/vfGH-prueft_Klimaschutz_Wird-Klagen-das-neue-Kleben



23.06.2023, orf.at

RH: Böden für Lebensmittelproduktion bundesweit planen

In Krisenzeiten sei Österreich nicht ausreichend vorbereitet, sich selbst mit Lebensmitteln zu versorgen. Zu diesem Schluss kommt der Rechnungshof in einem Bericht mit dem Titel "Versorgungssicherheit". Demnach bestehe dringender Handlungsbedarf, landwirtschaftliche Nutzflächen zu erhalten. Fragen der Raumordnung sind derzeit Ländersache - und das müsse sich ändern.

Ein Beitrag unter Mitwirkung von Ass.- Prof. Gerhard Schnedl.

<https://steiermark.orf.at/player/live>.



30.06.2023, Allgemeine Zeitung
Wasserstoff lohnt sich fürs Land

Stabiles Namibia verfügt über die idealen Ressourcen

Das Rennen um die grüne Wasserstoffherstellung in Namibia nimmt ein Tempo an, bei dem sich selbst die am gleichen Strang ziehenden Rollenspieler gegenseitig übertrumpfen. Gestern wurde eine neue Studie für einen sich ändernden Rechtsrahmen vorgestellt und andernorts das Projekt den Medien näher erklärt. In Namibia überstürzen sich scheinbar momentan die Entwicklungen rundum die anvisierte Herstellung von grünem Wasserstoff. Gestern hatte das Unternehmen Hyphen Hydrogen Energy (Hyphen), Namibias Partner bei der Entwicklung des grünen Wasserstoffprojekts, zu einer Informationsveranstaltung eingeladen und andererseits stellten Oliver Ruppel und Magano Katoole ein Forschungspapier mit dem Titel „Ein rechtlicher Rahmen für die Erzeugung von grünem Wasserstoff in Namibia“ in den Räumlichkeiten der Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) vor.



Mehr unter: <https://www.az.com.na/energie/wasserstoff-lohnt-sich-furs-land2023-06-30>.

The logo for news ORF.at, featuring the word "news" in white lowercase letters, a red bullseye icon, and "ORF.at" in white uppercase letters, all on a blue rectangular background.

06.07.2023, orf.at

Klimaklagen lassen Druck steigen

Neben Protesten und öffentlichkeitswirksamen Klebeaktionen gewinnen Klimaklagen zunehmend an Bedeutung, wenn es darum geht, Politik und Unternehmen zu strengeren Maßnahmen für den Klimaschutz zu verpflichten. Vorreiter sind die USA.

Aber auch in Europa sind einige wegweisende Urteile ausständig. Österreich hinkt bei den juristischen Möglichkeiten hinterher. Laut einer Untersuchung des Grantham Institute der London School of Economics hat es zwischen 1986 und 2022 weltweit rund 2.000 Klimaklagen gegeben. Rund die Hälfte aller Klagen im europäischen Raum sei allein in den vergangenen fünf Jahren erfolgt, stellte Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, Leiter des interdisziplinär arbeitenden Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht an der Uni Graz gegenüber ORF.at fest. Mehr dazu: <https://orf.at/stories/3320828/>

17. August 2023, economist.com

Understanding the economic landscape as dissected by experts

Die Stellenbosch Business School stellte am 17 August in Kapstadt, Südafrika, den Rahmen für eine Momentum High Table Discussion an der die PanelistInnen, darunter Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, über die Erforschung von Herausforderungen und möglicher Lösungen der wirtschaftlichen Entwicklung in Namibia diskutierten.

Prof. Ruppel wies in seinem statement auf die Sonne der namibischen Flagge hin, die für den Reichtum an Bodenschätzen stehe. Diese können dem Land viele Möglichkeiten geben zu einem attraktiveren Wirtschafts- und Investmentstandort zu werden.



Weitere Informationen unter: <https://economist.com/na/81761/editors-desk/understanding-the-economic-landscape-as-dissected-by-experts/>

Blogbeitrag für Geplante Aufhebung der IG-L-Geschwindigkeitsbeschränkung („Lufthunderter“) auf der Tauern Autobahn in Salzburg

Nachdem das Bundesland Salzburg bereits im November 2022 die nach dem Immissionsschutzgesetz – Luft (IG-L) verordnete Geschwindigkeitsbeschränkung für eine Teilstrecke der West Autobahn (hier war für den Salzburger Zentralraum ein „Luft-80er“ vorgesehen) aufgehoben hat (LGBl 2022/89), steht jetzt auch der „Lufthunderter“ auf der Tauern Autobahn vor dem Aus. Konkret soll das nach dem IG-L verordnete luftgüteabhängige und damit flexible Tempo-100-Limit auf der A 10 zwischen Salzburg und Golling (LGBl 2015/26 idgF) mit 1. November 2023 aufgehoben werden. So sieht es jedenfalls ein entsprechender Verordnungsentwurf des Landeshauptmannes von Salzburg vor. Begründet wird die Aufhebung damit, dass die Stickstoffdioxid-Grenzwerte auf dem genannten Autobahnabschnitt seit drei Jahren nicht mehr überschritten wurden. Auch sei einer wissenschaftlichen Studie zufolge nicht damit zu rechnen, dass die Grenzwerte in Zukunft überschritten werden, und zwar auch dann nicht, wenn Tempo 130 wieder gilt.

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Schnedl, Facultas Rechtsblog vom 26. September 2023

Der Blogbeitrag befasst sich mit der rechtlichen Zulässigkeit der Aufhebung des Salzburger „IG-L-Lufthunderters“ und liefert Argumente für dessen Aufrechterhaltung – näher dazu: <https://www.facultas.at/recht/igl>



**KLEINE
ZEITUNG**

Ist Klimaschutz ein Menschenrecht?

Sechs Jugendliche haben 32 Staaten auf Klimaschutz geklagt und ziehen nun vor den Europäischen Gerichtshof für Menschenrechte. Geklagt werden die EU-Staaten, Norwegen, Türkei, Schweiz, Großbritannien und Russland.

Am 26. September 2023 begann vor dem EGMR die größte Klimaklage der Geschichte. Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, Leiter des Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht in Graz betonte die Tatsache, dass die Klage überhaupt dort gelandet ist, als besonders. Der Fall habe großes Potenzial, künftig die Art und Weise zu bestimmen, wie Nationalstaaten mit Klimafragen umgehen.

Näher

dazu:

<https://www.kleinezeitung.at/home/klistenspecial/klistegross/6325758/Jugendliche-verklagen-EU-Ist-Klimaschutz-ein-Menschenrecht>



7. UPCOMING EVENTS

Runder Tisch zum Thema: „Historische Verantwortung“

Donnerstag, 9. November 2023, 12-14 Uhr

Moot-Court- und Verhandlungsraum (B, EG) im RESOWI (Universitätsstrasse 15), Universität Graz

Ein interaktiver interdisziplinärer Workshop organisiert vom Profilbereich Climate Change, dem Arbeitsbereich Praktische Philosophie am Institut für Philosophie und dem Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht [ClimLaw: Graz] an der Universität Graz in Kooperation mit dem Dokumentations- und Kooperationszentrum Südliches Afrika (SADOCC), Wien.

Historische Verantwortung aus unterschiedlichen Perspektiven

Durch die Mitgestaltung europäischer Geschichte - auch Kolonialgeschichte - zählt Österreich heute zu den wohlhabendsten Industriestaaten der Welt. Dies bringt auch historische Verantwortung mit sich. Eine aktuelle Debatte fokussiert sich auf den Umgang mit Museumsobjekten aus kolonialem Erwerbskontext, geht jedoch weit darüber hinaus.

In der Klimakrise ist es von zentraler Bedeutung, jene Bevölkerungsgruppen, die unter den Folgen des Klimawandels besonders leiden zu unterstützen. Insbesondere arme und armutsgefährdete Menschen sowie marginalisierte Bevölkerungsgruppen sind sowohl vom Klimawandel als auch seinen Folgen besonders betroffen und dies vor allem in Ländern des globalen Südens. Das ist zugleich eine Frage von Klimagerechtigkeit als auch von historischer Verantwortung.

Programm

Koloniale Kulturgüter und unterschiedliche Formen der Wiedergutmachung

Prof. Walter Sauer, Historiker und Leiter der SADOCC, Wien

Historische Verantwortung für die Klimakrise

Prof. Lukas Meyer, AB Praktische Philosophie, Institut für Philosophie, Universität Graz

Perspektive / Beispiel Namibia

Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, Leiter ClimLaw, Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Graz

Kommentar (Englisch)

Dr. Willem Odendaal, Jurist und Steiermark Fellow, ClimLaw: Graz, Universität Graz

Diskussion: Parallelen / Unterschiede

Anmeldung zur kostenlosen Teilnahme

Per E-Mail an Frau Larissa Jane Houston (larissa.houston@uni-graz.at) mit dem Betreff: "Runder Tisch Historische Verantwortung".

Anmeldeschluss ist am **Mittwoch, 8. November 2023**.

Es gibt nur eine begrenzte Anzahl von Plätzen, also melden Sie sich bald an, um Ihren Platz zu sichern.



We work for
tomorrow

ClimLaw: Graz
Research Center for Climate Law



SADOCC
Dokumentations- und Kooperationszentrum
Südliches Afrika

Climate Change Graz
Field of Excellence
University of Graz



ClimLaw: Graz Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation in cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), German Umweltbundesamt (UBA), Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities (ASSELLAU) and the Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP)

PHD CANDIDATES FOLLOW UP AND RESEARCH DISCUSSION

Thursday, 23 November 2023
16:00 - 18:00 CET

We would like to invite you to attend a PhD discussion focused on your research in the field of Climate Law. This discussion aims to provide support, foster collaborative work, and facilitate networking among fellow researchers.

During this discussion, you will have the opportunity to present your research, receive feedback, and engage in fruitful discussions with other PhD candidates specializing in Climate Law. This event aims to create a platform for knowledge sharing, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the exploration of potential research synergies.

We believe that this PhD discussion will not only enhance your research journey but also provide a valuable opportunity for networking and building relationships with peers who share your passion for Climate Law.

Register using the following link: <https://uni-graz.zoom.us/j/9251234567890>

We look forward to your presence at this event and the valuable insights you will contribute to the discussion.