



UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Research Center for Climate Law
(ClimLaw: Graz)



ClimLaw@5

REPORT

2021 - 2025

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Foreword

ClimLaw@5

5 years of the Research Center for Climate Law at the University of Graz

On 17 June 2020, the University of Graz celebrated the founding of the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz) in an opening ceremony held in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. It was, so to speak, resurrected from the crisis. At the time, Austrian and international experts welcomed this noble endeavor during the event with their excellent specialist contributions.

But strictly speaking, the founding idea for ClimLaw: Graz goes back even further, namely to 2018, when an international conference on climate protection law was held as part of the Environmental Law Forum at the University of Graz, during which the idea of establishing such a center took shape in discussions with contributors. The names of the climate law experts who gathered in Graz at that time still read like a ‘who’s who of international climate protection law’ today.

Our esteemed colleague Prof. Eva Schulev-Steindl and her colleagues at the time seized this momentum, and enormous efforts and planning ultimately led to the establishment of the research center at Attemsgasse 11, where I have been involved since its inception. Shortly afterwards, Prof. Eva Schulev-Steindl accepted a position as rector at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna.

Under these changed circumstances, I enthusiastically took charge of the centre’s fortunes. Looking back, I am particularly grateful for this experience because, after more than two decades in Africa, it allowed me to quickly learn a great deal about the University of Graz, but also about Austria, its politics, laws and customs. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the two rectors, Polaschek and Riedler, for their excellent support and consistently good cooperation over the past five years, as well as to the deans of law, Bezemek and Schmölzer, and the heads of department, Poier and Bertel.

While we at ClimLaw: Graz, we have been working hard, weathering the coronavirus pandemic, networking the centre internationally, regionally, and nationally, and much more, the past five years have flown by. And when we look at the fruits of our labour since then and in this ClimLaw@5 report, with all due modesty, we can be proud of what has been achieved so far. Perhaps even more importantly, we can look forward with excitement and confidence to what lies ahead. Unfortunately, the climate

crisis is here to stay, and the planet's carrying capacity is increasingly exhausted, which means that our portfolio of tasks is likely to expand.

As one of the first research centres of its kind in the world and the first (and so far only) one in Austria, we have been able to contribute to raising awareness of the centre and this still new field of expertise. Awareness that law and climate protection are inextricably linked.

Legal regulations at the national, regional, and international levels are essential for effectively combating climate change. Only the law can create the binding framework and enforcement options for climate protection measures. Without these, climate targets remain, at best, political declarations of intent. The law is therefore a key instrument for implementing climate protection. It enables states, companies, and individuals to take responsibility – or to demand it.

Despite the threat it poses, the planetary emergency also offers an extraordinary opportunity for transformation by addressing deficiencies in governance, outdated energy and economic models, and other causes that have brought our shared natural environment to the brink of tipping points. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at an alarming rate. However, the world could be on the verge of a major energy transition as leading technologies, solutions, and green business trends become mainstream and overcome the divide between the ‘global North and South’.

This will require diplomatic skill, economic power, and legal ingenuity to shape resources, incentives and opportunities through targeted efforts to replace outdated subsidy paradigms (e.g., for fossil fuels) with progressive and reasonably designed taxes, reforms to the lending practices of multilateral development banks, risk mitigation in climate finance, and institutions for the international transfer of green technologies.

Legal and institutional progress must be made in order to respond more effectively to the pressing problems of climate change and anticipate further crises. This includes the completion of a global environmental pact, greater involvement of the International Court of Justice, new mechanisms for citizen participation and involvement, and other legal measures to improve effective governance in the environmental sector and related areas (e.g., concerning corruption, the behaviour of multinational companies, and much more). Companies must be encouraged to drive the transition to a sustainable global economy through stricter regulations and better incentives.

Climate lawsuits, international agreements, and issues of global justice require the continuous development of laws and policies. The numerous court rulings in climate lawsuits in various courts around the world confirm this trend.

Many countries around the world have introduced climate laws that establish institutions to steer national climate policy and measures for climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk management, and loss and damage. At ClimLaw: Graz, we are closely monitoring these developments in our research. Such laws are passed by the legislative bodies of government and set the strategic direction of national climate policy. They contain medium- or long-term emission reduction targets or pathways, are designed to be cross-sectoral, and provide mechanisms for transparency and accountability.

Our comparative legal research on the impact of climate laws worldwide also focuses on the means by which these laws take effect: setting targets and carbon budgets, reporting requirements, assessing and reviewing progress, developing macroeconomic and sectoral plans and strategies, requiring climate considerations to be taken into account in public decision-making processes, access to independent expert advice, procedures for public participation, and related issues of energy transformation and mobility transition.

In numerous research projects, we work closely with other universities, research institutions, think tanks, and international organisations to investigate the legal, economic, and political foundations for more successful climate protection. Drawing on our team's expertise, we regularly promote projects that generate ideas for transforming the economy and society. We are committed to the acceptance of climate human rights and social participation. That is why we develop communication formats that make knowledge about climate change, justice issues, energy transformation, and much more accessible to students, pupils, experts, and laypeople.

At ClimLaw: Graz, we are not only committed to climate protection but also to greater individual and geographical equality at all levels. Given my African background, it is no surprise that we have placed a special focus on North-South dialogue and cooperation with Africa and, more recently, with South America.

However, we are also aware of our position in the heart of Europe, with Austria's special proximity to South-Eastern Europe, Italy, and its German-speaking neighbours. I am therefore all the more delighted that ClimLaw: Graz is a founding member of the European Society for Climate Law, which was established in Berlin in September 2025.

Concerning teaching, we have recently developed an outstanding specialisation in climate, environmental, and sustainability law. This unique programme enables our students to receive in-depth training in these areas of law in line with the guiding principle of sustainable development. The specialisation focuses on Austrian law with all its international and European law references, which are essential for these areas of law. In addition, the political and socio-economic framework conditions of climate, environmental, and sustainability law, and thus the necessary interdisciplinary components, are also taught.

Emphasis is also placed on transdisciplinary dialogue between science, practice, and politics. Building on a universal legal foundation, our specialisation offers science- and career-oriented specialised training in Austrian, European, and international climate, environmental, and sustainability law, taking interdisciplinary components into account. English-language courses also ensure the international focus.

The specialisation is also part of the interdisciplinary profile area ‘Climate Change Graz’ at the University of Graz. It thus essentially implements the university’s principle of research-led teaching, in which members of the profile area are also involved. The research center is part of the interdisciplinary profile area ‘Climate Change Graz’ at the University of Graz for good reason. Through networking and cooperation with experts from the fields of climate science, climate policy, climate economics, and climate ethics, we pursue a transdisciplinary approach.

Other cooperation partners in Austria can be found at the national, regional, and local levels: we are at home in the world and in Graz, Styria. With this openness on the one hand and our roots on the other, we work with municipalities, cities, ministries, the Federal Environment Agency, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, the Climate Change Centre Austria, the Centre for Human Rights, and other university centres at the University of Graz, various trade associations, and partisan and non-partisan institutions. The same applies to exchanges with the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as the legal profession.

In recent years, we have already succeeded in establishing a solid network of institutional partnerships and university collaborations throughout Austria and worldwide. These include, to name but a few: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Environment Ministers’ Conference, the World Food Organisation, various German political foundations, and many more.

As of today, we have active university partnerships as a research centre with Bar Ilan University in Israel, the Research Academy at the Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility in Berlin (Germany), the Universities of Bari and Padua (Italy), the Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies at the Institute for State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague (Czechia), Renmin Law School in Beijing (China), the Laudato si' Centre at the Catholic University (Croatia), the Centre for Climate and Justice at the University of Reading (United Kingdom), the Global Academy on Natural Resource Law and Governance (Canada), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), the University of Brasilia (Brazil), Cornell Law School (United States), the Climate Justice Initiative at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (Scotland), the Fraunhofer Centre for International Management and Knowledge Economy in Leipzig (Germany), the Environmental Law Forum, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, Geneva (Switzerland), the Association of Environmental Law Teachers at both African and Middle Eastern universities, and many more.

We are particularly proud to have been accepted as a centre in the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), a committee under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that supports developing countries in building their capacity to combat climate change. We are happy to provide legal assistance and capacity building in this area. The research centre is now already available as a competent and sought-after partner for scientific expert opinions, legal dialogue, and knowledge cooperation in the field of climate protection law. There are times when a wide variety of languages are spoken at the research centre: German, English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Persian, Croatian, Slovenian, Czech, Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Dutch, Gaelic, Estonian, Turkish, Afrikaans, Ukrainian, Russian and Romanian are the ones I have counted so far, although I may have forgotten a few.

What do I wish for ClimLaw: Graz from here on? The center must naturally continue to deepen its commitment to its core activities: These include 1) research and development, 2) teaching and training, 3) cooperation and capacity building, and 4) social engagement. Overall, the following priorities should be set: Legal consolidation and integration of current knowledge on climate, including climate variability and climate change, as well as the diverse interactions between human socio-economic and ecological systems and the climate system. Further development and implementation of an innovative, interdisciplinary research programme that addresses existing and new legal issues related to forward-looking research on climate impacts, adaptation, and mitigation measures that support human socio-ecological climate resilience. Further intensification of research results through publications, research

papers, seminars, and the dissemination of results to relevant professional and interest groups, including the wider public. Acquisition, procurement, and management of research projects with a growing number of pre- and post-doctoral students and research assistants. Increased organisation and coordination of specialised workshops, training events, conferences, and other suitable measures, such as summer and winter schools, with partners worldwide on the topic of climate law. Preparation and submission of joint funding applications to secure financing for ClimLaw: Graz, as well as internal university promotion of partnerships and collaborations in climate law research across faculty boundaries. Establishment of further strategic partnerships and collaborations in the field of climate law in Austria, Europe, and internationally. Provision of expertise to industry, diplomacy, and other private and public organisations.

I could go on with the list, but I make no claim to completeness. We have ambitions and will strive to achieve the best within our existing capacities. When I look at the long list of publications, lectures, events, etc. already listed by our team, I am confident that we will continue with the same vigour. Without a doubt, as Albert Einstein once said, not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts. The famous quote suggests that not all important things are measurable and that not all measurable things are important. Nevertheless, in our ClimLaw@5 Report, we have compiled what our small team has achieved over the past five years. And I am very impressed.

The founding of ClimLaw: Graz five years ago created an excellent platform where law and climate protection can meet, inform, and engage in discourse in a cross-border and transdisciplinary manner. I would like to thank my colleagues at ClimLaw: Graz for their outstanding academic achievements over the past five years. I would also like to thank our Scientific Advisory Board and our Stakeholder Board, as well as everyone who has accompanied and advised us over the past five years.

Research for the future: that is what it says on our website. With this in mind, I wish the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz) all the best and every success in the coming years as it continues its immensely important work.

Oliver C. Ruppel
 Director, Research Centre for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)
 University of Graz

Graz, November 2025



ClimLaw: Graz
INTRODUCTION
& BACKGROUND

The **Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)** was founded at the University of Graz on **17 June 2020**, with its opening marked by an international conference. The idea for the center had been growing for some time, as climate change increasingly showed itself not only as a scientific and political challenge, but also as a legal one. Questions of responsibility, justice, and effective regulation are now central to how societies respond to the climate crisis. ClimLaw: Graz was created to provide a place where these questions could be studied in depth and in dialogue with other disciplines.

1. Origins and Purpose

At its foundation, ClimLaw: Graz set out to examine how law can contribute to climate protection, both in Austria and internationally. The center brings together expertise on environmental law, human rights, energy law, and international law, and applies it to the specific challenges posed by climate change. Its first publication, *Climate Law: Current Opportunities and Challenges*, collected reflections from the opening symposium and demonstrated from the beginning that the center's work is intended to connect scholarship with real-world developments.

We work for
tomorrow



Invitation to the opening of

ClimLaw: Graz

Research Center for Climate Law

June 17th 2020, 3 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Online Conference
University of Graz

Please send your registration to
anne.schubert@uni-graz.at
until June 10th 2020

University of Graz | Universitätsstr. 15 | 8010 Graz

Program

3 p.m.	Words of welcome Rector Prof. Dr. Martin Polaschek Dean Prof. Dr. Christoph Bezemek Prof. Dr. Eva Schulev-Steindl, ClimLaw: Graz
3:20 p.m.	Talks and discussion (in English) Climate Law: A New Dawn Prof. Dr. Jaap Spier, University of Cambridge, UK
	Climate Law and Climate Science: Joint Enabler for a new Climate Enlightenment? Prof. Dr. Oliver Ruppel, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
4:30 p.m.	Presentation of the Research Center
4:45 p.m.	Break
5 p.m.	Talk and panel discussion (in German) Wider die Zähmung der Spinner – Zum Staatsziel Klimaschutz ("Against the Taming of the Crazies - On the State Objective Climate Protection") Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Kerschner, JKU Linz
	Klimagrundrecht, CO ₂ -Budget und Klimarechnungshof: Pro und Contra ("Fundamental Right to Climate Protection, CO ₂ -Budget and Climate Court of Audit: Pros and Cons")
Host:	Eva Schulev-Steindl
Participants:	Katharina Rogenhofer MSc, RA Mag. Michaela Krömer LL.M, Prof. Dr. Gottfried Kirchengast, Mag. Miriam Hofer, Doz. Mag. Dr. Stephan Schwarzer, RA Dr. Wilhelm Bergthaler
	6:30 p.m. End

The task of the research center is to critically observe and analyse current developments in climate change law from an Austrian, European, and global perspective. ClimLaw: Graz conducts research projects with national and international partners focusing on climate change law or environmental law. The expertise of the center's members lies in the field of climate-relevant national, comparative, and international public law. Through close networking and cooperation with experts from the fields of climate science, climate policy, climate economics, or climate ethics, ClimLaw: Graz pursues a transdisciplinary approach. Thereby, research at ClimLaw: Graz deals with topics such as climate negotiations, climate lawsuits, climate liability, climate conflicts, climate migration, and many more. This makes it possible to link legal analysis with the broader debates and knowledge needed for effective climate action. Beyond academic study, the center also serves as a partner in dialogue and cooperation, offering legal expertise, contributing to policy debates, and supporting knowledge exchange in the field of climate protection law.



Eva Schulev-Steindl and Oliver Ruppel at the BOKU, Vienna

2. Position within the University

ClimLaw: Graz is based in the Faculty of Law, Public Law and Political Science Institute, and forms part of the University of **Graz's Field of Excellence “Climate Change Graz.”** This connection places the center within an interdisciplinary network that brings together research across the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. It allows legal perspectives to be developed in direct exchange with climate science, policy studies, economics, and ethics.

Within the Faculty of Law, ClimLaw has established itself as a point of reference for students, scholars, and practitioners who are interested in how legal systems respond to the challenges of climate change. Its position both in the faculty and on the broader research network ensures that legal analysis is not treated in isolation, but as part of the university's broader effort to understand and address climate change from multiple angles.

3. Areas of Focus

- **Climate Change Law:** International climate change law, European climate change law, national climate change law, comparative legal analysis, climate litigation and liability, comparative analysis of lawsuits, burdens of proof, human rights claims, and North–South dynamics;
- **Environmental & Energy Law:** frameworks for renewable energy, community energy, smart grids, and just decarbonization, green transition and policy, legal aspects of the European Green Deal, circular economy, digital transition, and just transition;
- **World Trade Law and climate change:** These two fields are intertwined, with international rules like those from the World Trade Organization (WTO) influencing climate policy and the transition to a low-carbon economy. While trade rules can create barriers, they also provide a framework for promoting climate action through mechanisms like allowing environmental standards, reducing tariffs on green goods, and ensuring open government procurement for climate-friendly projects. This relationship is complex, requiring global coordination;
- **Sustainable Development Law:** Sustainable Development and climate change law are interconnected, with legal frameworks for both driving policies that address the climate crisis while aiming for equitable development. Key elements include international agreements like the Paris Agreement, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and principles like

"common but differentiated responsibilities". Domestic laws also play a crucial role in fostering greenhouse gas reduction, renewable energy, and community adaptation to climate impacts;

- **Human Rights & Gender:** protection of fundamental rights in the face of climate change, and attention to gender equality in climate law and policy, participation and access to justice, public participation, access to information, and fair procedures in climate decision-making, legitimacy, fairness, and ethical dimensions of climate law in practice;
- **Urban Climate Law:** Urban Climate Law is gaining significance as city-level policy makers are facing a range of political constraints while they need to figure out how to meet their climate commitments surrounding climate mitigation policies across the buildings, transportation, waste, and energy sectors, among others;
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and digitalisation offer new opportunities both for environmental protection, climate mitigation, and adaptation, yet also impose certain risks such as high energy consumption and potential environmental degradation;
- **Applied Topics:** climate migration, security issues, international negotiations, and legal responses to climate-related disasters.



ClimLaw: Graz
ORGANISATIONAL
STRUCTURE

1. Current Team



Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver Ruppel, LL.M.

Prof. Ruppel is the head of the Research Centre for Climate Change Law (Clim: Law) at the Institute for Public Law and Political Science at the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz. He is a renowned expert in climate law.

Since 2011, he has been a full professor of public, mercantile and international law at the Faculty of Law at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, where he also heads the Development and the Rule of Law Programme.

Ruppel is, among other things Principal Investigator at the field of excellence Climate Change Graz of the University of Graz, member of the Climate Protection Law working group of the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA) climate research network.

He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Fraunhofer Centre for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW), Leipzig, Germany and Professor Extraordinaire at Strathmore Law School, Nairobi, Kenya, the Catholic University of Central Africa, Yaoundé, Cameroon, the European Law Faculty, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Xiangtan University, China.

His research focuses on public and international law as well as comparative law (global North and South). A particular focus is on sustainability law and the interfaces of international and national environmental and climate protection law with human rights, world trade law and the law of international organisations.

Individual memberships

- European Association for Climate Law (EACL).
- Global Strategic Litigation Council (GSLC) for Refugee Rights at the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, Cornell Law School (USA).
- Advisory Board of the Montevideo Program on Environmental Law at the United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi (Kenya).
- Member of the Board, School for Climate Studies, Stellenbosch University (South Africa).
- Scientific Advisory Board, EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program Project: A Global Approach to Reclaiming Farmland through Improved Phytoremediation - Phy2Climate.
- Principal Investigator, Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz at the University of Graz.
- Academic Advisory Board of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP Academy) Vienna.
- Committee on Environmental, Health and Safety Law of the International Bar Association (IBA), London (UK).
- Climate Protection Law Working Group of the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA) climate research network.
- Climate Law Initiative, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (Scotland).
- Expert Group on Soil Protection Law, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Rome, (Italy).

- Scientific Advisory Board, Global Pandemic Network, Rome (Italy).
- Non-Resident Distinguished Fellow, Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW), Leipzig.
- Wildlife Justice Commission, The Hague (Netherlands).
- Scholarship Commission, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Switzerland).
- World Commission on Environmental Law at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- European Environmental Law Forum (EELF).
- Consortium for Geopolitical Studies of the Sahel, Cornell University (USA).
- German Society for African Law (GfAR).
- Society for International Economic Law (SIEL).
- Swiss and South African Society for International Law (ILA).
- Advisory Committee of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (formerly Nansen Initiative), Geneva (Switzerland).
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs) Ethics Network, Paris (France).
- Commission for Legal Pluralism, Zurich (Switzerland).
- Association of Environmental Law Teachers at African Universities (ASSELLAU).

Publishing functions or scientific journals/serial publications

- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the African Journal of Climate Law and Justice, United Nations Environment Programme.
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Springer Nature: Frontiers of Environmental Law series, Springer Verlag.
- Co-editor of the series “Klimaschutzrecht und Governance” (Climate Protection Law and Governance), Nomos Verlag, together with Eva Schulev-Steindl, Till Markus, and Hana Müllerová.
- Member of the editorial board of the journal Environmental Policy and Law, IOS Press.
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the journal Soil Security, Elsevier.
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board, University of Namibia Law Review.
- Co-editor of the series International Yearbook on Soil Law and Policy, Springer Verlag, together with Harald Ginzky.
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Journal of African Foreign Affairs (JoAFA), Adonis & Abbey Publishers Ltd.
- Co-editor of the series Recht und Verfassung in Afrika (Law and Constitution in Africa), Nomos Verlag, together with Hartmut Hamman and Hatem Elliesie.
- Member of the scientific advisory board of the series “Legal Perspectives on Global Challenges,” Eleven Publishers, together with Jaap Spier.
- Co-editor of the series “Environmental Law and Policy: Towards Making Africa the Tree of Life,” Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS), together with Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting.

Lectures and Presentations

2025

- „Umweltschutz, Menschenrechte und Klimagerechtigkeit im unabhängigen Namibia: Mission im Spannungsgefüge langer Schatten der Vergangenheit?“. 50-Jahr-Feierlichkeit des Bremer Afrika Archivs und des Namibia Projektes (CAS – CASS - Bremen – Windhoek), Bremen, Germany, 27 November 2025.
- „ClimLaw: Graz – Was ist passiert und was kommt noch?“ ClimLaw@5, Festakt 5 Jahre Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz). „Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz – Verbunden im Recht? Meerscheinschlössl, Graz, 25 November 2025.
- „Rückmeldung aus dem Herzen des Amazonas: Klimaverhandlungen oder Klimasünde?“. Roundtable Post COP30 Veranstaltung zu den Ergebnissen der UN-Klimakonferenz 2025 (UNFCCC COP 30) welche vom 10-21 November 2025 in Belém, Brasilien, stattfand. Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz), 24 November 2025.
- „The intersections between public policy, human rights, climate change and the global economy in times of conflict“. CESUPA (Centro Universitário do Pará), Belém, Brazil, 7 November 2025.
- National Congress, Auditorium of the Chamber of Deputies, Brasília, Brazil, 5 November 2025.
- “A model law for sustainable soil management in Africa: Model for other jurisdictions?”. Seminar on climate, biodiversity and land use, Research Group on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, University Center of Brasília (CEUB), Law School Auditorium 3 Campus in Asa Norte, Brasília, Brazil, 4 November 2025.
- “What’s missing? Climate justice in times of global transformation”. Seminar in Preparation for COP 30 of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, Supreme Federal Court of Brasil, Praça dos Três Poderes, Brasília, Brazil, 3 November 2025.
- A model law for sustainable soil management in Africa: Regional Consultation Conference, Northern, Western and Central Africa, Cairo, Egypt, 15-16 October 2025.
- A model law for sustainable soil management in Africa: Regional Consultation Conference, Eastern and Southern Africa, Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 25-26 September 2025.
- “Soil Protection and Climate Law”. Climate Law in Europe: Taking Stock, Looking Forward. 1st Conference, European Association of Climate Law, Berlin, Germany, 22-23 September 2025
- “First Draft of the Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management in Africa”, Sixth Parliament / Fifth Ordinary Session and Other Meetings under the African Union Theme for the year 2025: “Justice For Africans and Persons of African Descent through Reparations”. Pan African Parliament, Midrand, South Africa, 30 July 2025.
- “Understanding Climate-related Human Security Risks”, Webinar on Human Rights, Security and National Adaptation Plans Nexus: A Holistic Approach to Women and Human Mobility, organised by the UNFCCC Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) in cooperation with ClimLaw: Graz and the ACE Observatory, 28 July 2025.
- “Soil protection and management in the EU and beyond: The current state of legal research”. Research Agendas for Legal Protection of Soil in the EU / Agendas de investigação para a proteção jurídica do solo na UE, International Conservations Union, World Commission on Environmental Law, Expert Group for Soil and Sustainable Agriculture Law at the University of Lisbon, Law School, Lisbon, Portugal, 9 June 2025.
- Phy2Climate Projekttreffen „Fuligno“, Via Faenza, Florence, Italy, 21 May 2025.

- “International, European and Croatian Environmental Law”, public lecture Integral Ecology lecture, Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia, 15 May 2025.
- “High Level Segment / Panel Discussion / Book Launch “A Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management In Africa”, Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Study (STIAS), Wallenberg Research Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 29 April 2025.
- Consultative meeting with members of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) on the finalisation of the Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management in Africa, Lanzerac Estate and Conference Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 28 April 2025.
- Write-Shop and consultative meeting on the finalisation of the Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management in Africa, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 24 – 29 April 2025.
- “Governance for Sustainable soil management and digitalisation in Africa: Time for a Pan-African approach?” (with Harald Ginzky), STIAS Seminar Series, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS), Stellenbosch, South Africa, 15 April 2025.
- “The nexus”, Digitalisation, AI, Sustainability and Soil Protection: Multiple Perspectives, Workshop organised by the Stellenbosch University (SU) Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP) in cooperation with the SU School for Climate Studies and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS), Wallenberg Conference Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 8 April 2025.
- Annual LLM Conference Digitalization, AI, Sustainability and Soil Protection. Focus: International Trade Law, Wallenberg Conference Centre, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS), 10 Marais Road, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 7 April 2025.
- Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia – the fifth edition (ELP5) Autorentreffen, Hanns Seidel Stiftung, House of Democracy, Dr Frans Indongo Street, Windhoek, Namibia, 1 April 2025.
- “Presentation of the first draft of a new model law on sustainable soil management for the African continent”, Official Invitation to the Pan African Parliament Committee Sittings of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Justice, and the Committee on Gender, Johannesburg / Midrand, South Africa, 27 February 2025.

2024

- “Legal Transformation towards more sustainable, resilient and inclusive agri-food systems“, High-Level Dialogue 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Riad, Saudi-Arabia, 5 December 2024.
- “Sustainable soil protection in times of food insecurity“, Pan African Parliament, Special Session by the Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Nairobi, Kenya, 4–6 December 2024.
- „Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Völkerrecht“, 7. Grazer Umweltrechtsforum, Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Fokus des Naturschutzrechts: Rahmenbedingungen und Herausforderungen für Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise, Meerscheinschlössl, Graz, 20 November 2024.
- „Civil liabilities in the climate catastrophe“, Fall School on Climate Change and Biodiversity, Hotel Seggauberg, Seggau 23 October 2024.
- “La restauration de la nature et le rôle des constitutions nationales pour l'avenir des ODD“, 1ère Conférence internationale des pays d'Afrique du Nord sur l'environnement et le changement climatique, Faculté des sciences juridiques et politiques, Université Hassan I, Settat, Maroc, en

partenariat avec l'Association des professeurs de droit de l'environnement des universités du Moyen-Orient et d'Afrique du Nord, Settat, Maroc, 16 October 2024.

- “Project Developments in preparation of a Model Law on Soil Management in Africa”, Committee on Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), Midrand, South Africa, 27 June 2024.
- “The EU Nature Restoration Law”, International Advisory Board Meeting, H2020 Phy2-Climate Project, Novi Sad, Serbia, 4-7 June 2024.
- “The future of the SDGs: A Comparative Constitutional Rescue Plan?”, International Conference on Shaping Climate Law: Dynamic Roles of State and Non-State Actors, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic, 30-31 May 2024.
- “South African Soil Law” Workshop on “Soil Law and Governance in South Africa and Beyond”, held at the Lanzeracs Estate and Conference Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 19 April 2024.
- “Key legal issues related to just energy transition partnerships in Southern Africa”, Science-Stakeholder Workshop: Just Energy Transition Partnerships, Department of Philosophy, Section Moral and Political Philosophy, University of Graz, 18 April 2024.
- “The new Kenyan soil policy and its relevance for the Model Law for Soil Protection in Africa”, Kenyan Soil Society, Windsor Country Club, Nairobi, Kenya, 21 February 2024.

2023

- “Wem gehört die Wolke: Ist Klima- und Ressourcengerechtigkeit mit dem heutigen internationalen Eigentumsrecht erreichbar?“ Veranstaltungsreihe Nachhaltigkeit im Fokus, Fachhochschule Salzburg, 21 November 2023.
- Keynote, International Forum on Yellow River Ecological Civilisation, Jinan, Shandong Province, China, 17 November 2023.
- “Climate Science, Legislation and Action in Africa”, Cameroon Academy of Sciences (CAS) Week in the Service of National Development under the High Patronage of the Prime Minister of Cameroon, Head of Government on the theme "Climate Change and the Implementation of the National Development Strategy (NDS30), Yaoundé, Cameroon, 26 October 2023.
- “Transición energética justa en tiempos de crisis climática mundial: Una perspectiva de derecho internacional”, Convención Científica Internacional Universidad de Cienfuegos, Cuba, 25 October 2023.
- “The International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change: Obligations of States and Legal Consequences?”, 5th OPEC-OPEC Fund Annual Legal Workshop on Responsibility of States regarding Climate Change, OPEC Secretariat, Vienna, Austria, 23 October 2023.
- “Le droit international de la protection des sols et l'importance d'une loi modèle africaine”, Atelier “Model Law for Sustainable Soil Management in Africa” organisé par l'Agence allemande pour l'environnement (UBA), le Development and Rule of Law Program (DROP), Stellenbosch University, Afrique du Sud et le Laboratoire de recherche en droit des affaires de l'Université Hassan 1er, Settat, Maroc, 10 October 2023.
- “Climate Change - past, present and future injustice: Considerations from a South African Legal Perspective”.
- International Conference | Reflections on Transformation: Shaping the Future, Transcending Disciplinary Silos and Exploring ‘Lived’ Knowledge Systems, Graz, 18-19 September 2023.
- “The Role of scientific bodies (IPCC, IPBES, SPP) for the law in addressing the triple planetary crisis”. 5th ASSELLAU Scientific Conference and General Assembly on Legal and Policy

Measures on Genetically Modified Organisms in Africa and Regional Consultations on the 5th Montevideo Environmental Law Programme convened in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Alliance for Science, Nairobi, Kenya, 22-23 August 2023.

- “The legal and regulatory framework required to facilitate the successful development of an oil and gas economy in Namibia”. Namibia Oil and Gas Conference, organised 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), Mercure Hotel and Conference Centre, Windhoek, Namibia, 16-17 August 2023.
- “Climate Change: Climate Litigation and Action in Africa”. Faculty of Law, University of Regensburg, 10 July 2023.
- “The EU Soil Health Law”, International Advisory Board Meeting H2020 Phy2Climate Project, Fraunhofer Institute (UMSICHT), Sulzbach-Rosenberg, Germany, 26-28 June 2023.
- “A Model law on Sustainable Soil Management in Africa”. Seventh meeting of the African Soil Partnership, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Rome, Italy, 21-22 June 2023.
- “Climate Change and Environmental Justice: Legal Considerations from a South African Perspective”. International Conference, Conceptualizing Environmental Justice in the Legal and Regulative System: An International Empirical and Normative Perspectives, Bar Ilan University, Faculty of Law, Israel, 13 June 2023.
- “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, 5 June 2023.
- “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, 11 May 2023.
- “The Climate Crisis: Hope for the Earth. Hope for humanity?” Laudato Si Conference, Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia, 8 May 2023.
- “An African Soil Governance Project - Towards a Model Law”. Committee Rural Economy, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Pan African Parliament, Midrand Johannesburg, South Africa, 2 May 2023.
- „Internationales Bodenschutzrecht“ Umweltrechtsforum 2023, Bodenschutz im Zeichen der Klimakrise: Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen, politische Herausforderungen und Konfliktpotentiale, (co-organizer), University of Graz, 26 April 2023.
- “Just Energy Transition in Times of Climate Change: Regulatory Challenges”. Centro de Estudios de Energía y Medio Ambiente (CEEMA), University of Cienfuegos, Cuba, 3-4 April 2023.
- “International and European Climate Law” Winterschool, International and European Climate Law, Faculty of Law, University of Havana, Cuba, 23-31 March 2023.
- “Loss and Damage from Climate Change”. Platform on Disaster Displacement Advisory Committee Workshop 2023, Château de Bossey in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, 1-3 March 2023.

2022

- “The Protection of Soil under International Law”. International Soil Law and Governance Conference, held hybrid in cooperation with the Institute of Law of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), the Research Center on Climate Change Law [ClimLaw: Graz], Faculty of Law of University of Graz, the German Environmental Agency (UBA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), (co-organizer), 20 October 2022.
- „Der Baum des Lebens – Umweltrecht und Umweltpolitik in Namibia“. Forum Südliches Afrika: SADOCC-Bibliothek, Vienna, 22 September 2022.
- “Climate Diplomacy and Mitigation, Adaptation and Governance”. Hybrid African Regional Forum on Climate Change, Stellenbosch University and Global Alliance of Universities on Climate, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 6 September 2022.
- “Legal and Regulatory Framework of Green Hydrogen in Namibia”. National Conference / EAN Annual Conference 2022 Namibia: Towards a Green Hydrogen Hub in Africa, Windhoek Country Club, Namibia, 16-17 August 2022.
- “Climate Change Responsibility and Liability: EU and South African Perspectives” together with Prof. Matteo Fermiglia, Climate Law Workshop, Old Main Building, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, (co-organizer), South Africa, 28 Juli 2022.
- “Greening Trade Law for Global Climate Governance? Road to Stockholm+50 and Beyond”. Webinar Envisioning Our Environmental Future in advance of World Environment Day, 3 June 2022.
- „Afrika: Ein Marschallplan fürs Klima“. Pfingstdialog „Geist & Gegenwart“ unter dem Generalthema „Green Europe“, Schloss Seggau, 1-2 June 2022.
- „Die Klimahaftung von Unternehmen“. Frühjahrstagung der Österreichischen Juristenkommission „Klimawandel und Menschenrechte“, Hotel Donauschlinge, Schlägen, Austria, 26-28 May 2022.
- “Climate Law and Climate Science”. Graz 1st Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation in cooperation with UNEP, UBA and ASSELLAU held at the Research Center for Climate Law, Faculty of Law (REWI), University of Graz, (co-organizer), 23-27 Mai 2022.
- “Regulatory Challenges, at the Green Hydrogen Production from a Namibian Environmental Law and Policy Perspective”. Green Hydrogen Workshop, Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Environmental Lawyers Network of Namibia (ELNN), House of Democracy, Windhoek, Namibia, 21 April 2022.
- “The Emergence of Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia over the Past Decade”. Book Launch of the fourth Edition of Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia, Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) Auditorium, Windhoek, Namibia, 20 April 2022.
- “Africa’s Energy Transition”. Roundtable of the Royal African Society, London, UK, 18 January 2022.

2021

- “Climate Action (SDG13) and the Role of Human Rights in Law Suits”. Webinar “Sustainable Development and Human Rights”, Faculty of Law, Universidade Catolica De Santos, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 12 November 2021.
- “Assessing Climate Law from a Namibian Perspective”. Annual Environmental Compliance Namibia - Compliance, Enforcement and Prosecution, Organised by Intelligence Transfer, Safari Court Hotel and Conference Center, Windhoek, Namibia, 28-29 October 2021.

- “Come Together: Energy Communities as a Solution for Energy Poverty within Austria”. United Nations High Level Dialogue on Energy, Ministerial Thematic Forum, New York, USA, Webinar, 23 June 2021.
- “Soil Protection and the Right to Food for a Better Common Future”. Webinar Panel of high-profile experts, Our Earth Matters: Pathways to a Better Common Environmental Future, Environmental Policy and Law, IOL, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 5 June 2021.
- “Free Trade under the AfCFTA: Are You Ready for the Potential Growth in Business?” Hybrid Webinar South African Road Freight Authority Annual Convention, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, 29 May 2021.
- “International Standards for National Environmental Liability Laws: The African Perspective”. Workshop on International Corporate Liability for Environmental Harm, German Environment Agency (UBA), Berlin, Germany, 22 April 2021.
- “The Role of Human Rights in Climate Law-suits”. GPODS (Global Policy, Diplomacy, and Sustainability Fellowship) lecture, New Delhi, India, 13 March 2021.

Supervised theses

2023

Diploma thesis

- Grundrecht auf Umweltschutz in Österreich: Eine kritische Analyse der rechtlichen und politischen Herausforderungen im Kontext des Klimaschutzrechts
Christina Brandstätter
- “DO NOT SIGNIFICANT HARM (DNSH)”: Österreichs Nichtigkeitsklage für mehr Klimaschutz in der Taxonomie-Verordnung 2020/852/EU
Chiara Elena Kreuzer

2024

Diploma thesis

- Das EU Renaturierungsgesetz: Eine rechtliche Analyse im Lichte des European Green Deal unter besonderer Berücksichtigung möglicher Chancen und Risiken für österreichische Landwirte
Stefanie Hiemesch

2025

Diploma thesis

- Juristische Einordnung des EGMR-Urteils „Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz und Andere vs. Schweiz“ aus österreichischer Perspektive anhand ausgewählter Urteilsaspekte
Pia Faist

Doctoral thesis

- “Switch on the Light” - A National and Supranational Comparative Law Study on Access to Energy: Austrian and South African Perspectives
Larissa Jane Hedwige Houston
- Der Schutz geografischer Angaben für Weine in der EU und Südafrika: Eine rechtsvergleichende Entwicklungsperspektive für das Protokoll über geistige Eigentumsrechte des Abkommens über die afrikanische kontinentale Freihandelszone
Simon Haas



Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr.iur. Gerhard Schnedl

Gerhard Schnedl is Assistant Professor at the Department for Public Law and Political Science and a member of the research center for climate law ClimLaw: Graz, which was established at the department. He is also a member of the field of excellence Climate Change Graz at the University of Graz and the Climate Protection Law working group of the Climate Change Center Austria (CCCA) climate research network. His research focuses on Austrian constitutional and administrative law with cross-references to EU law, in particular in the field of Austrian and European environmental, climate and sustainability law. His textbook on environmental law, published by Facultas Universitätsverlag Vienna, is particularly noteworthy.

Gerhard Schnedl is co-organizer of the Graz Environmental Law Forum, a series of scientific events dedicated to current topics of Austrian, European and international environmental law. He is also co-editor of the journal "Nachhaltigkeitsrecht (NR), Zeitschrift für das Recht der nachhaltigen Entwicklung", founded in 2021 by Verlag Österreich, in the field of Environment, Energy & Governance and co-editor of the series "Studien zu Politik und Verwaltung" published by Böhlau Verlag. He works as a speaker and consultant in all areas of environmental law.

Individual memberships

- Climate Advisory Board of the City of Graz
- Associated Member, Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz at the University of Graz
- Climate Protection Law Working Group of the Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA) climate research network
- Member of the Climate Advisory Board of the City of Graz

Publishing functions for scientific journals/serial publications

- Co-editor of the series "Studien zu Politik und Verwaltung" (Studies on Politics and Administration), Böhlau Verlag/Verlag De Gruyter Brill, together with Ernst Bruckmüller, Klaus Poier, and Eva Schulev-Steindl.
- Co-editor of the journal "Nachhaltigkeitsrecht" (NR), a journal on sustainable development law, Verlag Österreich, in the field of "Environment, Energy & Governance," together with Katharina Häusler, Malte Kramme, and Stefan Storr.

Lectures

2025

- „Bodenverbrauch im Zeichen der Klima- und Biodiversitätskrise – Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen, politische Herausforderungen und Konfliktpotentiale“, im Rahmen des vom Ziviltechniker-Forum für Ausbildung und Berufsförderung Graz veranstalteten Hybrid-Seminars „Flächensparende Raumplanung – Konsequenzen für die zukünftige Siedlungsentwicklung“, Graz, 16 October 2025.

2024

- „Rechtsschutz im österreichischen Naturschutz- und Biodiversitätsrecht. Einzelpersonen im Abseits, Umweltanwälte unter Druck und Umweltorganisationen auf der Überholspur“, im Rahmen des vom Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz) am Institut für Öffentliches Recht und Politikwissenschaft der Universität Graz in Kooperation mit Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte Graz veranstalteten Grazer Umweltrechtsforums 2024 „Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Fokus des Naturschutzrechts. Rahmenbedingungen und Herausforderungen für Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise“, Graz, 20 November 2024.

2023

- „Mit den Gerichten gegen die Klimakrise?“ an der Robert Jungk Bibliothek für Zukunftsfragen in Salzburg, im Rahmen der Klima- und Energiepartnerschaft „Salzburg 2050“, Salzburg, 27 November 2023.
- „Österreichisches Bodenschutzrecht“ im Rahmen des vom Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz) am Institut für Öffentliches Recht und Politikwissenschaft der Universität Graz in Kooperation mit dem Climate Change Centre Austria und der Stadt Graz veranstalteten Grazer Umweltrechtsforums 2023 „Bodenschutz im Zeichen der Klimakrise. Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen, politische Herausforderungen und Konfliktpotentiale“, Graz, 26 April 2023.

2021

- „Bedeutung der öffentlichen Auflage der Projektunterlagen durch die UVP-Behörde sowie Stellung von Bürgerinitiativen, Standortgemeinde und Nachbarn im UVP-Verfahren“ im Rahmen einer Bürgerversammlung der Gemeinde Premstätten, Premstätten, 7 October 2021.

2020

- „Neue Entwicklungen im öffentlichen Recht – Judikatur“ im Rahmen des vom Österreichischen Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband (ÖWAV) und dem Institut für Umweltrecht der Universität Linz (IUR) veranstalteten Webinars zum Thema „Österreichische Umweltrechtstage: Aktuelles im Umweltrecht“, 16 September 2020.
- „Rechtliche Grundlagen der Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung (UVP)“ im Rahmen einer Bürgerversammlung der Gemeinde Premstätten zum Thema „Baurestmassendeponie und A2 Vollanschluss“ in Premstätten, 26 February 2020.

Supervised theses

2022

Diploma thesis

- Klimakrise und Energiewende als Herausforderung einer zukunftsorientierten Raumordnung – Wie kann die Raumordnung die Umwelt schützen?
Franz Silly

2023

Diploma thesis

- Paradigmenwechsel im österreichischen Abfallrecht – Das Abfallende unter Zugrundelegung des EuGH Urteils C-238/21, Porr Bau GmbH/BH Graz Umgebung
Lukas Schmidt

Bachelor's thesis

- Die (geplante) Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz-Novelle 2023 – eine kritische Würdigung
Anja Flucher

2024

Diploma thesis

- Bodenschutz in Österreich in Zeiten des Klimawandels. Die Gemeinde im Fokus des übermäßigen Flächenverbrauchs und der zunehmenden Bodenversiegelung
Linnéa Lieli

2025

Diploma thesis

- Das Recht auf Umweltinformation nach dem Umweltinformationsgesetz des Bundes in Bezug zur neu geschaffenen Informationsfreiheit gemäß Art 22a B-VG und dem Informationsfreiheitsgesetz
Mark Sommerauer
- Windkraftanlagen im Kontext von Raumplanung und behördlichen Genehmigungsverfahren – Neuerungen durch die UVP-G-Novelle 2023, die EU-BeschleunigungsVO sowie RED III
Florian Kohlfürst

Bachelor's thesis

- Die geplante Oö. Ausschlusszonenverordnung für die Errichtung von Windkraftanlagen vor dem Hintergrund unionsrechtlicher Vorgaben für Beschleunigungszonen. Der Anlassfall Windpark Sandl
Daniel Mayr

Currently in progress

Diploma thesis

- Der rechtliche Rahmen für Kunststoffe und Kunststoffabfälle: ein rechtsvergleichender Blick auf Österreich und Deutschland im internationalen und europäischen Kontext
Sarah Maria Damm
- Föderalismus und europäisches Umweltrecht: Herausforderungen bei der Umsetzung von EU-Umweltrechtsakten in Österreich
Markus Sparouz

Bachelor's thesis

- Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen für die Errichtung und den Betrieb von Photovoltaikanlagen auf landwirtschaftlichen Flächen in der Steiermark: Eine Analyse unter Berücksichtigung aktueller Entwicklungen für die angestrebte Energiewende
Michaela Grah



Mag. Dr. iur. Renate Pirstner-Ebner

Renate Pirstner-Ebner is a Senior Scientist at the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz) and the Department for Public Law and Political Science at the University of Graz. In addition to constitutional and administrative law in the light of EU law, her research interests include energy law with a focus on climate protection energy law (including renewable energies, energy efficiency, the energy system of the future). She is the author of the textbooks “Energierecht” (facultas-Verlag) and “European Energy Law” (Nomos-Verlag). For the latter, she was awarded the research prize of the Faculty of Law at the

University of Graz. She is also an associate member of the field of excellence “Climate Change Graz” and of the Climate Protection Law working group of the Climate Change Center Austria (CCCA) climate research network. She leads cooperation projects with the Faculty of Law at the University of Havana (including the Climate Law Winter School Havana) and the University of Cienfuegos. She is also a lecturer in energy law at the University of Leoben.

Individual memberships

- Member of the Climate Protection Law Working Group at the University of Graz (working group of the Climate Chance Center Austria)
- Associated Member, Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz at the University of Graz

Publishing functions for scientific journals/serial publications:

- Editor of the Flexlex Energy Law collection (facultas Verlag)

Lectures

2025

- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: 5 Years University Cooperation with Cuba; Round Table Clim:Law together with Prof. Dagniselys Toledano (Faculty of Law, University Havana), 20 May 2025.

2024

- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: Die regulatorische Seite der zukunftsversprechenden Alternative Wasserstoff, für: EPCON - 29. Energierechtskongress, imh Konferenzen , Vienna, Austria, 18 April 2024.

2023

- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: New Developments in European Climate Energy Law, II Convencion Cientifica International: XII Taller International de Energia, Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, University of Cienfuegos, Cuba, 25 October 2023.
- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: (Beschleunigtes) Genehmigungsregime bei Leitungen, Österreichische Umweltrechtstage, Institut für Umweltrecht der Universität Linz in Kooperation mit der

Gesellschaft für Wasser und Abwasserwirtschaft GmbH, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, Austria , 20 September 2023.

- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: Energy Efficiency First? Considerations on Energy Saving and Law, für: Clim:Law: Graz 2nd PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation, ClimLaw: Graz Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht, University of Graz, 26 May 2023.
- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: Best Practice Models for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in European and Austrian Law, University of Cienfuegos (Cuba), 3 April 2023.

2022

- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: Principles of European and Austrian Climate Energy Law, Climate Energy Law, ClimLaw: Graz Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht und Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät der Universität Havana, University of Havana, Cuba, 29 June 2022.
- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: Innovative Climate Energy Law with a focus on Renewable Energies, für: 1st Annual Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation - The Business of Climate: Trade and Energy, ClimLaw: Graz Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht, University of Graz, Austria 27 May 2022.

2021

- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: Das (grüne) Energiesystem der Zukunft im Kontext aktueller Rechtsentwicklungen, für: Tagung der AGKlimaschutzRecht, AGKlimaSchutzRecht, Graz, Austria, 26 February 2021.

2020

- Pirstner-Ebner, Renate: European and Austrian Climate Protection Energy Law - Overview and Perspectives, für: Internationales Seminar - "Social Rights and Environmental Rights", University of Havana, Cuba, 19 February 2020.

Supervised theses

2022

Diploma thesis (awarded the Linda Rauter Prize, University of Graz 2023)

- Die Unabhängigkeit der Energieregulierungsbehörde im Kontext der Entgelttarifierung
Anna Zeller

2023

Diploma thesis

- Von erneuerbaren Energien und finanziellen Anreizen. Eine Untersuchung des österreichischen Fördersystems für erneuerbare Energien nach dem Erneuerbaren-Ausbau-Gesetz im Vergleich zum deutschen Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz
Jessica Marent

- Rechtsfragen zum Peer-to-Peer-Energiehandel im Rahmen einer öffentlichen und privaten Blockchain unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Kontrolle, Verantwortlichkeit und Haftung
Semjon Lorber
- Grüner Wasserstoff im Energierecht
Sebastian Brass

2024

Diploma thesis

- Rechtsinstrumente zur Verfahrensbeschleunigung im Energierecht
Bianca Konrad
- Aktuelle Entwicklungen am Strommarkt - das neue EIWG auf dem Prüfstand
Julia Hoffmann

2025

Diploma thesis

- Biogas und Biomethan im Energierecht - Ein Rechtsvergleich zwischen Österreich und Deutschland
Mattias Stöhr
- Energieeffizientes Bauen - eine rechtliche Untersuchung des Gebäudesektors
Hannah Gollob
- Raumplanung und Verfahrensbeschleunigung im Energierecht
Gerald Gutmann
- Künstliche Intelligenz und Smart Grids im Energierecht
Lara Kaidisch

Currently in progress

Diploma thesis

- Speicher im Energierecht - ein Rechtsvergleich zwischen Österreich und Deutschland
Ines Kanzian



Atieh Khatibi B.Sc. LLB. M.Sc. MA

Atieh Khatibi is a committed and accomplished legal scholar with a diverse background in environmental law and policymaking, primarily focusing on climate change law and environmental science engineering, with an emphasis on sustainable development and policymaking. She holds both a BSc and MSc in Natural Resources Engineering from renowned universities in Iran, Isfahan University of Technology and the University of Tehran, respectively. She also holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master's in Environmental Law. Presently, she serves as a Research Project Assistant at the ClimLaw Center on the "Climate Law, Environment, and Human Rights" project, while pursuing her PhD at the University of Graz. In addition to her academic pursuits, she obtained a fellowship in 2019 and worked for adelphi in Berlin as a Project Assistant under the Cross Culture Programme, concentrating on the Climate Action programme in Iran and researching climate mitigation targets outlined in National Determined Contributions (NDC). Atieh has extensive experience in national and international projects, including collaborations with UNDP Iran on initiatives like the International Carbon Sequestration and Hamoun wetland conservation and management (Sistan Project). Furthermore, she contributed for over five years to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management project (ICZM) in Iran's southern provinces. With expertise in facilitation and mediation, demonstrated by her role as an International Mediation Campus Fellow based in Germany, Atieh is dedicated to addressing climate change and peacebuilding and has been recognized as a 2021 Climate Ambassador by the Global Youth Climate Network. Her substantial research contributions, including publications in prestigious journals and participation in policy briefs, underscore her proficiency in environmental decision-making frameworks and international environmental law. With a strong foundation in decision-making tools and legal expertise, Atieh is well-positioned to make significant contributions to environmental law, sustainable development, human rights, and peacebuilding.

Atieh Khatibi is a committed and accomplished legal scholar with a diverse background in environmental law and policymaking, primarily focusing on climate change law and environmental science engineering, with an emphasis on sustainable development and policymaking. She holds both a BSc and MSc in Natural Resources Engineering from renowned universities in Iran, Isfahan University of Technology and the University of Tehran, respectively. She also holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master's in Environmental Law. Presently, she serves as a Research Project Assistant at the ClimLaw Center on the "Climate Law, Environment, and Human Rights" project, while pursuing her PhD at the University of Graz. In addition to her academic pursuits, she obtained a fellowship in 2019 and worked for adelphi in Berlin as a Project Assistant under the Cross Culture Programme, concentrating on the Climate Action programme in Iran and researching climate mitigation targets outlined in National Determined Contributions (NDC). Atieh has extensive experience in national and international projects, including collaborations with UNDP Iran on initiatives like the International Carbon Sequestration and Hamoun wetland conservation and management (Sistan Project). Furthermore, she contributed for over five years to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management project (ICZM) in Iran's southern provinces. With expertise in facilitation and mediation, demonstrated by her role as an International Mediation Campus Fellow based in Germany, Atieh is dedicated to addressing climate change and peacebuilding and has been recognized as a 2021 Climate Ambassador by the Global Youth Climate Network. Her substantial research contributions, including publications in prestigious journals and participation in policy briefs, underscore her proficiency in environmental decision-making frameworks and international environmental law. With a strong foundation in decision-making tools and legal expertise, Atieh is well-positioned to make significant contributions to environmental law, sustainable development, human rights, and peacebuilding.

Individual Memberships

- Associated early-stage researchers, Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz at the University of Graz
- Volunteer, Environmental Peacebuilding Association (USA)
- Climate Ambassador, Global Youth Climate Network (GYCN), World Bank Group
- International Mediation Campus Fellow (Germany)
- YOUNGO (Children and Youth constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

Lectures

2025

- Co-Lecturer – International Climate Change Law, Policy, and Litigation Institute for Public International Law, University of Graz – Winter Semester 2025/2026.

- Soil Law and Climate Protection, The link Between the ICJ 2025 Climate Advisory Opinion and Soil Protection, The European Association of Climate Law (EACL) Conference, Berlin, 23 September 2025.
- Women and Climate Security Risks in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), *“Human Rights, Security and National Adaptation Plans Nexus: A Holistic Approach to Women and Human Mobility”* United Nations Climate Change PCCB Network, 28 July 2025.
- Frontline or Footnote? Review of Women’s Rights Inclusion in International and National Laws and Policies Addressing Climate-Security Risks; Case Study: Iran, PhD workshop related to the seminar on human rights, democracy, diversity, and gender, University of Graz in Venice, Lido, the Global Campus for Human Rights, 16 May 2025.

2024

- Co-Lecturer – International Climate Change Law, Policy, and Litigation Institute for Public International Law, University of Graz – Winter Semester 2024/2025.
- Climate Law in the EU and Austria, Fall School on Climate Change and Biodiversity, University of Graz, 24 October 2024.
- Climate-Gender-Conflict Nexus in Afghanistan: Implications for Women’s Human Rights, “Human Rights in Afghanistan: Exploring New Topics and Addressing Persistent Challenges”, The Raul Wallenberg Institute, Istanbul, 5 June 2024.
- An Assessment of UNFCCC Legal Regime Effectiveness to Support Gender-Responsive Climate Actions: A Women’s Human Rights-Based Approach, ClimLaw: Graz 3rd Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation, University of Graz, 23 May 2024.
- Introduction to Climate Change and Human Rights Course: Module 2: Human Rights in Climate Negotiation and Process, Agreements and Action, Together for Environment Organisation, 30 April 2024.



Mag.iur. Florian Kohlfürst

Florian Kohlfürst studied law at the University of Graz. During the course of his studies, he developed a great interest and enthusiasm for the topics of environmental, energy, and climate protection law. As part of his diploma thesis, he finally examined innovations for wind turbines in relation to spatial planning and official approval procedures in Austrian law (with a focus on the EU Acceleration Regulation, the EIA Act Amendment 2023, and RED III).

Parallel to the last semesters of his studies, he also worked in a law firm with a relevant focus on the above-mentioned areas of activity.

As a university assistant, he now supports the research center and concentrates his research activities on the areas of environmental, energy, and climate protection law with a focus on national law.

Individual Memberships

- Associated early-stage researchers, Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz at the University of Graz

Lectures

2025

- Climate Negotiations- International Cooperation to Combat Climate Change, Summer School, “Negotiate your future”, Graz, Austria, 16 September 2025.
- IG-L 100 – Aktuelle Entwicklungen am Beispiel der Steiermark, ZVR-Verkehrsrechtstag 2025, Vienna, Austria, 2 October 2025.



Florentine Schmölzer

Florentine Schmölzer has been supporting the Institute of Public Law in office management since 2023. She is studying law at the University of Graz. Having already been supporting us at the Research Centre for Climate Protection Law since the beginning of May, we are delighted to announce that she will now be a permanent member of our team.

2. Former Members

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank former members of our research center. Your contribution has been essential to our development over the past years and will not be forgotten.

- Univ.Prof.in Mag. Mag. Dr.iur. Eva Schulev-Steindl, LL.M.
- Dr.in Miriam Hofer
- Dr.in Larissa Houston
- Dr.in Carlotta Garofalo
- Dr.in Julia Wallner
- Mag. Paul Schweighofer
- Mag.a Stefanie Hiemesch
- Raimond Nrecaj
- Mira Debelak
- Ass.jur. Simon Haas, LL.M. (Stellenbosch)
- Viola Moisesbichler, BA
- Petra Damm
- Anne Schubert, MA

3. Former Visiting Fellows

Alessandra Accogli

Alessandra is a visiting researcher from University College Dublin, Sutherland School of Law, where she recently submitted her doctoral thesis on the legal protection of carbon sinks. Specifically, her work aligns at the intersection of climate change law, environmental law, and human rights law. With the help of a case study on peatlands in Ireland, she investigates the tensions and synergies between protecting and restoring peatlands as important carbon sinks in Ireland and respecting the human rights of local people who depend on the ecosystem for their livelihoods and/or culture. During her three months research stay, Alessandra will be involved in a number of ongoing activities at ClimLaw: Graz. In particular, she will work under the guidance of Prof Oliver Ruppel on a joint publication that aims to investigate how the findings of Alessandra's doctoral thesis – which promote integrating a human rights lens into legal measures on ecosystem protection and restoration – can serve as a general framework for analysing the tensions between global demands for carbon sink protection and local realities, thereby allowing for application in diverse contexts. She will also hold two sessions as part of the Lecture series on "International Climate Change Law, Policy and Litigation".

Greta Česnaitytė

Ms. Greta Česnaitytė comes to us as a **Land Steiermark Fellow** with extensive experience in Lithuanian 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 takes 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!

Ebru Demir

Associate Professor Ebru Demir holds a full-time position and is a Lecturer at the International Law Department of Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, Ankara, Turkey. She stayed in ClimLaw: Graz as a **Land Steiermark Fellow**. She also holds a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at Aarhus University, Denmark, where she is currently researching climate change applications before the European Court of Human Rights. Associate Professor Demir specializes in International Human Rights Law, International Environmental Law, and International Criminal Law. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table, and her unique insights promise to make this session an enlightening one. This is a fantastic opportunity to delve into the intricacies of systemic integration and the role of the European Court of Human Rights, and to explore the nuances of interpreting conventions within this context.

Ferlanda Luna

Ms. Luna is a lawyer and PhD candidate in Political Economy at the Centre for Social Studies (CES) at the University of Coimbra. She specialises in "Public Policies, Social and Collective Rights" and has an MA in Regional Economics and Public Policy (UESC), Brazil. She has been a Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology PhD fellow (2023- 2027). Her research interests relate to studies about the Right to the City and public policies for urban development, focused on formal settlements, encompassing social and economic indicators to improve local public policies. Currently, her PhD research involves urban informality and the climate crisis from the perspective of mitigation of the consequences of climate change through the lens of social justice in two medium-sized Brazilian cities. The research aims to use multi-level governance concepts and law regulation to discuss policymakers' responsibilities to manage and evaluate measures to face the vulnerabilities of risk areas within the context of climate change.

Matjaz Nahtigal

Matjaz Nahtigal is head of the Chair in International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. He teaches courses in international law and international development. He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, where he also completed his doctorate. He continued with his graduate studies at Harvard Law School, in the United States, where he finished his master's and doctoral program and obtained a degree in Science Juris Doctor (SJD) in 2001. He studied the areas of legal reforms and inclusive and transparent institutions in the Central and East European Countries during the period of transition and post-transition.

Willem Odendaal

Dr. Willem Odendaal will join our team by October as a post-Phd researcher. 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 wells as a project coordinator of the Land at the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC). At ClimLaw he will engage *inter alia* in 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.

Zoran Turza

Dr. Zoran Turza, an Associate Professor of Theology at the Catholic University of Croatia, served as a Research Guest Professor at the Research Center for Climate Law from February to August 2024. His research focused on ecological ethics, particularly within Catholic theology and Pope Francis's teachings, as they relate to the moral imperative of caring for creation. During his time at the Center, Dr. Turza critically examined how theological reflections, especially those in the papal encyclicals and speeches, address global calls for climate justice. His research provided valuable insights into the legal challenges and ethical dimensions of climate legislation, both nationally and internationally. This academic engagement deepened his understanding of the complexities involved in creating fair and sustainable climate laws. His work highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to lawmaking, recognizing the need for ethical principles to support the development of just legal frameworks, while remaining mindful of the broader legislative and policy implications.

4. Scientific Advisory Board

- **Prof. Dr. Daniel Ennöckl, LL.M.**
Professor of Public Law at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU)
- **Prof. Dr. Matteo Fermeglia**
Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam
- **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gottfried Kirchengast**
Professor of Geophysics, University of Graz
- **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Lukas H. Meyer**
Professor of Philosophy, University of Graz
- **Univ.-Prof. MMag. Dr. Eva Schulev-Steindl, LL.M.**
Rectorate of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
- **Prof. Dr. Jaap Spier**
Senior Associate, University of Cambridge
- **Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr.rer.soc.oec. Karl Steininger**
Professor of Climate Economics and Sustainable Transition, Universität Graz
- **Univ.-Prof.in Mag.a Dr.in Erika Wagner**
Professor of Environmental Law, Johannes Kepler University Linz
- **Prof. Dr. Gerd Winter, Dr. h. c., Lic. rer. soc.**
Professor of Public Law, University of Bremen
- **Prof. Zhou Ke**
Director of the Environmental and Resources Law Teaching and Research Center, Renmin University Beijing
- **Prof. Zhu Xiao**
Professor of Environmental and Resources Law, Renmin University Beijing

5. Stakeholder Board

- **Univ.-Lekt. Mag. Gregor Schamschula**
Managing Director, Ökobüro Alliance of the Environment Movement
- **DI Manfred Assmann**
Managing Director, Austrian Water and Waste Management Association (ÖWAV), Vienna
- **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Bergthaler**
University of Linz, Attorney at Law Haslinger/Nagele Rechtsanwälte GmbH Wien
- **Mag. Andrea Gössinger-Wieser**
Climate Protection Coordinator, Province of Styria
- **Mag. Martin Niederhuber**
Attorney at Law, Niederhuber & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Wien
- **Ana Stanič, LL.M. Bcom.**
Director and Founder of E&A Law, London, UK



ClimLaw: Graz Networks, Partnerships & Collaboration

Overview

ClimLaw: Graz has built a strong and diverse network of academic, institutional, and international partnerships that enhance its research, teaching, and societal impact. These collaborations strengthen the center's role in advancing legal and interdisciplinary responses to climate change at the national, European, and global levels. Through participation in international networks, cooperation with universities, and engagement within the University of Graz's Field of Excellence *Climate Change Graz*, ClimLaw fosters dialogue across disciplines and borders.

In addition, the center is a member of the UNFCCC Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) Network, contributing to global efforts to enhance capacity building for climate action. It is also part of the **Working Group on Climate Protection Law (WG ClimateProtectionLaw)** under the **Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA)**, and plays an active role within the **Field of Excellence “Climate Change Graz”**, which unites over 120 scholars working on the scientific, social, and legal dimensions of the climate crisis.

1. Academic and Institutional Partners

ClimLaw: Graz has established formal and emerging collaborations with a wide network of institutions, including:

- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**
<https://www.unep.org/>
- **Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities (ASSELLAU)**
- **CICERO Center for International Climate Research (Norway)**
<https://cicero.oslo.no/en>
- **Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway)**
<https://www.nmbu.no/en>
- **London School of Economics and Political Science (UK)**
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/>
- **University College London (UK)**
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/>
- **Czech Academy of Sciences – Institute of State and Law (Czech Republic)**
<https://www.ilaw.cas.cz/en/research-and-projects/class/about.html>
- **University of Havana (Cuba)**
<https://www.uh.cu/home/>
- **University of Padova (Italy)**
<https://www.unipd.it/en/>
- **Bar Ilan University (Israel)**
<https://sustainability.biu.ac.il/en#:~:text=The%20School%20of%20Sustainability%20initiates%20and%20supports%20the%20development%20of,research%20at%20Bar%20Ilan%20University.>
- **DROP, The Development and Rule of Law Programme at Stellenbosch University (South Africa)**
<https://drop.sun.ac.za/>
- **Renmin Law School (China)**
<http://iso.ruc.edu.cn/ENGLISH/Aboutus/LawPolitics/index.htm>
- **University of Reading, England**
<https://research.reading.ac.uk/centre-for-climate-and-justice/>
- **UNFCCC / Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)**
https://unfccc.int/pccb_activities
- **CCCA / AG Klimaschutzrecht, Austria**
<https://ccca.ac.at/netzwerkaktivitaeten/ccca-arbeitsgruppen/ag-klimaschutzrecht>
- **Global Academy on Natural Resource Law and Governance, Canada**
<https://www.grassrootsglobal.net/ga26/>
- **UBA, Umweltbundesamt, Germany**

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de>

- **UBA, Umweltbundesamt, Austria**
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at>
- **Zentrum für Menschenrechte, University of Graz, Austria**
<https://trainingszentrum-menschenrechte.uni-graz.at/de/ueber-das-zentrum/>
- **IKEM, Institut für Klimaschutz, Energie und Mobilität, Germany**
<https://www.ikem.de/en/>
- **EACL, European Association of Climate Law, Germany**
<https://www.ikem.de/en/eacl/#:~:text=The%20European%20Association%20for%20Climate%20in%20Europe%20and%20beyond>
- **The Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz, Austria**
[Centre for Southeast European Studies](https://www.ug.ac.at/centres-and-institutes/centres/centres-for-southeast-european-studies)

These partnerships illustrate ClimLaw's commitment to international collaboration, academic excellence, and practical engagement in the global pursuit of sustainable and just climate governance.

2. Field of Excellence-Climate Change Graz

To understand the complex effects of climate change and develop practical solutions, interdisciplinary collaboration is essential. Within the **Field of Excellence “Climate Change Graz”**, more than **120 scientists** work together to address the environmental, social, and legal challenges of climate change.

ClimLaw: Graz contributes to this network with its expertise in **climate protection law** from Austrian, European, and international perspectives. Its members' specialization in **public, comparative, and international law** forms the foundation for joint research and close collaboration with experts in **climate science, policy, economics, and ethics**.

Key examples include:

- The **JUSTDECARB Project**, which examined fairness and political robustness in decarbonization processes.
- Regular **stakeholder workshops** on equitable climate neutrality and national/regional decarbonization pathways.
- **Roundtables and seminars** on biodiversity law, COP negotiations, historical responsibility, and climate justice.

Visiting postdoctoral fellows, initiated by the field of excellence, contribute to the international networking of members and the research center. They enrich cooperation in the profile area with international perspectives and practical experience, including by holding roundtable discussions on topics such as “The Legal Nexus between International Climate Law and Local Land Protection” with Alessandra Accogli and “Historical Responsibility” with Willem Odendaal.

3. New Partnerships

ClimLaw: Graz maintains strategic partnerships with leading institutions across Europe and beyond, fostering collaborative research, academic exchange, and capacity building in climate law, environmental governance, and sustainability.

Catholic University of Croatia – Laudato si’ Center for Christian Responsibility and Care for All Creation

On **10 September**, ClimLaw: Graz hosted colleagues from the **Catholic University of Croatia**, who are establishing an interdisciplinary research center on climate change in Zagreb. The meetings explored opportunities for cooperation in **climate law, sustainability, integral ecology, and human rights**, and shared experiences in managing interdisciplinary research programs. Both institutions agreed to strengthen collaboration through **joint teaching, research projects, and summer schools**, and a **Memorandum of Understanding** will be signed during the **ClimLaw@5** event. Key participants included **Prof. Dr. Zoran Turza, Prof. Dr. Ivana Brstilo Lovrić, and Gabrijela Bajić**.



Project team meeting at ClimLaw: Graz with colleagues from the Catholic University of Croatia

University of Bari Aldo Moro

At the **University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy)**, preparations are underway to establish a new **Research Center for Climate Protection Law**. Professors **Pamela Martino** and **Giuseppe Naglieri** initiated this cooperation, which will begin with a one-week research stay at ClimLaw: Graz following participation in **ClimLaw@5**. The visit will serve to develop a **Memorandum of Understanding** and define the framework for future joint research, teaching, and exchange activities.

Impressions from ClimLaw





Founding conference of the European Association for Climate Law, Berlin September 2025

Cooperations



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



United Nations Climate Change
PCCB Network



Centre for Southeast European Studies
Zentrum für Südosteuropastudien





ClimLaw: Graz PUBLICATIONS

Overview

Since its foundation in 2020, **ClimLaw: Graz** has developed into a vibrant center of academic publishing and knowledge exchange in the field of climate and environmental law. The center's publications reflect both the diversity of its research and its strong international network. Members of ClimLaw have authored and edited numerous books, journal articles, and special issues with leading academic publishers and journals, and the *Carbon & Climate Law Review Journal*.

A defining feature of the center's publication work is its commitment to **open access** and collaboration. Many of its edited volumes and reports are freely available, ensuring that legal scholarship on climate change is accessible to a broad audience of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Through these publications, ClimLaw: Graz contributes to advancing legal thinking on topics such as climate responsibility, liability, energy transition, human rights, biodiversity, and sustainable soil management.

You can find below an overview of the main publications of ClimLaw: Graz, including official volumes, open-access books, journal articles, newsletters, special issues, and other scholarly contributions that reflect the center's broad research engagement over the past five years.

1. Open-Access Books

Over the past five years, **ClimLaw: Graz** has produced and contributed to an impressive range of edited volumes and open-access books that reflect its central research themes — from climate change law, liability, and governance to biodiversity, soil protection, and sustainable development. These publications are the result of close cooperation between ClimLaw members and international partners. They are widely accessible through open-access formats, reinforcing the center's commitment to disseminating climate law scholarship globally.

List of Books (2021-2026)

- Ginzky, H, Ruppel, OC (Eds) (forthcoming 2026) *Legislating for the Future: The Pan-African Model Law for Sustainable Soil Management*. Recht und Verfassung in Afrika | Law and Constitution in Africa Vol. 49, 450 pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Schnedl, G, Ruppel, OC, Walcher, M (Eds) (forthcoming 2026) *Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Fokus des Naturschutzrechts. Rahmenbedingungen und Herausforderungen für Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise*. Verlag Österreich, pp. (Deutsch).
- Ginzky, H, Ruppel, OC, Heuser, IL, Grinlinton, D, Khatibi, A, Kameri-Mbote, P, Rodriguez-Eugenio, N (Eds) (2025) *International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy*, Vol. 7. Springer, Cham, 400pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Ruppel, OC, Ginzky, H, Murray, R (eds.) *Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa: Insights from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia*. Recht und Verfassung in Afrika | Law and Constitution in Africa Vol. 47, 871 pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Rodríguez Eugenio, N, Ginzky, H, Hannam, I, Heuser, I, Itey, CJ, Ruppel, OC, Sambo, PT (2024) *Second Special Edition on Soil Governance: Journal for Soil Security*. (Open Access / Englisch).

- Schnedl, G, Ruppel, OC, Hofer, M (eds) (2024) Bodenschutz im Zeichen der Klimakrise: Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen, politische Herausforderungen und Konfliktpotentiale. Verlag Österreich, 226pp (Deutsch).
- Schnedl, G (2020; 2nd ed. forthcoming 2026) Umweltrecht. facultas Universitätsverlag, Wien, 351 pp. (Deutsch).
- Fischer, EV (2024) Kausalität im Klimaschutz: Zur Individualzurechnung von Klimafolgen an Unternehmen. In: Ruppel, OC, Schulev-Steindl, E, Markus, Müllerova, H (2024) Schriftenreihe Climate Change Law and Governance | Droit et Gouvernance du Changement Climatique | Klimaschutzrecht und Governance. Vol. 2, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 387pp (Deutsch).
- Ginzky, H, De Andrade Corrêa, F, Dooley, E, Heuser, IL, Kameri-Mbote, P, Kibugi, R, Ruppel, OC (Eds) (2024) International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy, Vol. 6. Springer, Cham, 331pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Research Centre for Climate Law (eds) (2023) Climate Law and Litigation: Planetary, Regional and Societal Perspectives, Contributions from the ClimLaw: Graz Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation, 1st Edition, Graz: University of Graz UniPub, 162pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Schulev-Steindl, E, Hinteregger, M, Kirchengast, G, Meyer, L, Ruppel, OC, Schnedl, G, Steininger K (eds) (2022) Climate Change, Responsibility and Liability. Climate Change Law and Governance, Vol. 1, Nomos, Baden-Baden, 525pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Ruppel, OC, Ruppel-Schlichting, K (eds) (2022) Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia – Towards Making Africa the Tree of Life. Fourth Fully Revised Edition. Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Windhoek & Law and Constitution in Africa, Vol. 43, Nomos, Baden-Baden, 670pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Ginzky, H, Dooley, E, Heuser, IL, Kameri-Mbote, P, Kibugi, R, Markus, T, Ruppel, OC (eds) (2022) International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy (2020/21) Vol. 5, Springer Nature, Cham, Switzerland, 520pp (Englisch).
- Ginzky, H, Dooley, E, Heuser, IL, Kasimbasi, E, Kibugi, R, Markus, T, Qin, T, Ruppel, OC (eds) (2021) International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy (2019) Vol. 4, Springer Nature, Cham, Switzerland, 433pp (Englisch).
- Schulev-Steindl, E, Ruppel OC, Kerschner, F (eds) (2021) Climate Law - Current Opportunities and Challenges: Essays from the Official Opening of ClimLaw: Graz. Series on Legal Perspectives on Global Challenges, Vol. 6, Eleven International Publishing, The Hague, 157pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Ruppel, OC, Ginzky H (eds) (2021) African Soil Protection Law. Recht und Verfassung in Afrika, Bd. 41, Nomos, Baden-Baden. 537pp. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Schnedl, G, Kirchengast, G, Schulev-Steindl, E, Steininger, K (2020) *CO₂- und Umweltsteuern. Wege zu einer umwelt-, sozial- und wirtschaftsgerechten Steuerreform*. Böhlau Verlag, Studien zu Politik und Verwaltung, Bd. 116, Wien–Köln–Weimar, 241 pp. (Deutsch).

2. Book Chapters and Contributions to Edited Volumes

In addition to major edited volumes, members of ClimLaw: Graz have contributed a wide range of chapters to national and international collective works. These chapters address core topics such as climate governance, liability, environmental justice, human rights, sustainable soil management, biodiversity, and the relationship between trade and the environment. The diversity of publishers — including Nomos, Springer, Brill, Routledge, and Oxford University Press — reflects the center's broad academic reach and engagement with global climate law debates.

List of Contributions (2021–2026)

- Ruppel, OC, Kohlfürst, F, Debelak, M (forthcoming 2026) Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Völkerrecht. In: Schnedl, G, Ruppel, OC, Walcher, M (Eds) (forthcoming 2026) Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Fokus des Naturschutzrechts. Rahmenbedingungen und Herausforderungen für Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise. Verlag Österreich, pp. (Deutsch).
- Ruppel, OC, Murray, R (2025) African Regional Economic Integration and the International Law of Development. In: Tietje, C, Birhanu, F, Klimke, R, Handbook on the AfCFTA Forthcoming Routledge. (English).
- Ruppel, OC, Murray, R (2025) The African Continental Free Trade Area: Positioning in the AU Constitutional Order and Relevance for Leapfrogging (Sustainable) Development? In: Magliveras, Konstantinos/Olivier, Michele (eds.), The Constitutional Order of The African Union: Principles, Practice and the Road Ahead, Forthcoming Brill. (English).
- Ruppel, OC, Murray, R (2025) The Pan-African Parliament: Origins, Status, Legal Basis, and its Role in Developing the AU Constitutional Order. In: Magliveras, K, /Olivier, M (eds.), The Constitutional Order of the African Union: Principles, Practice and the Road Ahead, Forthcoming Brill 2025. (English).
- Ginzky, H, Ruppel, OC (2025) Executive summary. In: Ruppel, OC, Ginzky, H, Murray, R (eds.) Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa: Insights from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. Recht und Verfassung in Afrika | Law and Constitution in Africa Vol. 47, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 19-42. (Open Access / English).
- Ferrier, H, Ruppel, OC (2025) Country report for Mozambique. In: Ruppel, OC, Ginzky, H, Murray, R (eds.) Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa: Insights from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. Recht und Verfassung in Afrika | Law and Constitution in Africa Vol. 47, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 393-465. (Open Access / English).
- Murray, R, Ruppel, OC (2025) Country report for Namibia. In: Ruppel, OC, Ginzky, H, Murray, R (eds.) Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa: Insights from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. Recht und Verfassung in Afrika | Law and Constitution in Africa Vol. 47, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 467-547. (Open Access / Englisch).
- Murray, R, Ruppel, OC (2025) Country report for South Africa. In: Ruppel, OC, Ginzky, H, Murray, R (eds.) Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa: Insights from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. Recht und Verfassung in Afrika | Law and Constitution in Africa Vol. 47, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 549-645. (Open Access / English).

- Georgina E.T. Naluzze, GET, Ruppel, OC (2025) Country report for Uganda. In: Ruppel, OC, Ginzky, H, Murray, R (eds.) Legal Pathways to Sustainable Soil Management in Africa: Insights from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. *Recht und Verfassung in Afrika | Law and Constitution in Africa* Vol. 47, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 647-696. (Open Access / English).
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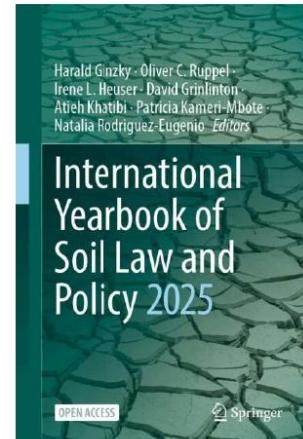
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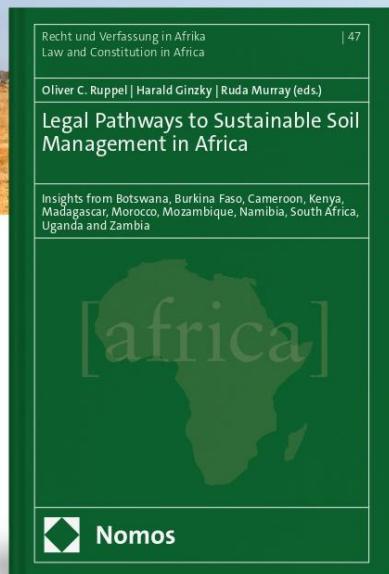
Sammlung
242 Seiten, broschiert
ISBN 978-3-7046-9431-7 (Print)
Erscheinungsdatum: 17. Mai 2024

59,00 € (Print)

Preise inkl gesetzlicher MwSt



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Edited by Prof. Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, LL.M., Dr. Harald Ginzky and Ruda Murray

2025, 871 pp., hc., € 199.00

ISBN 978-3-7560-0210-8

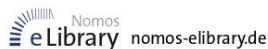
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This publication is based on a project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on a "Model Law for Sustainable Soil Management in Africa". One of the key findings of the research underscores the urgent need for more comprehensive soil protection laws and coordinated efforts to tackle the root causes of soil degradation in Africa. It highlights legal pathways to improve soil management and ensure the long-term sustainability of Africa's soil resources. The book provides an in-depth analysis of soil protection efforts across various African countries, including Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia.

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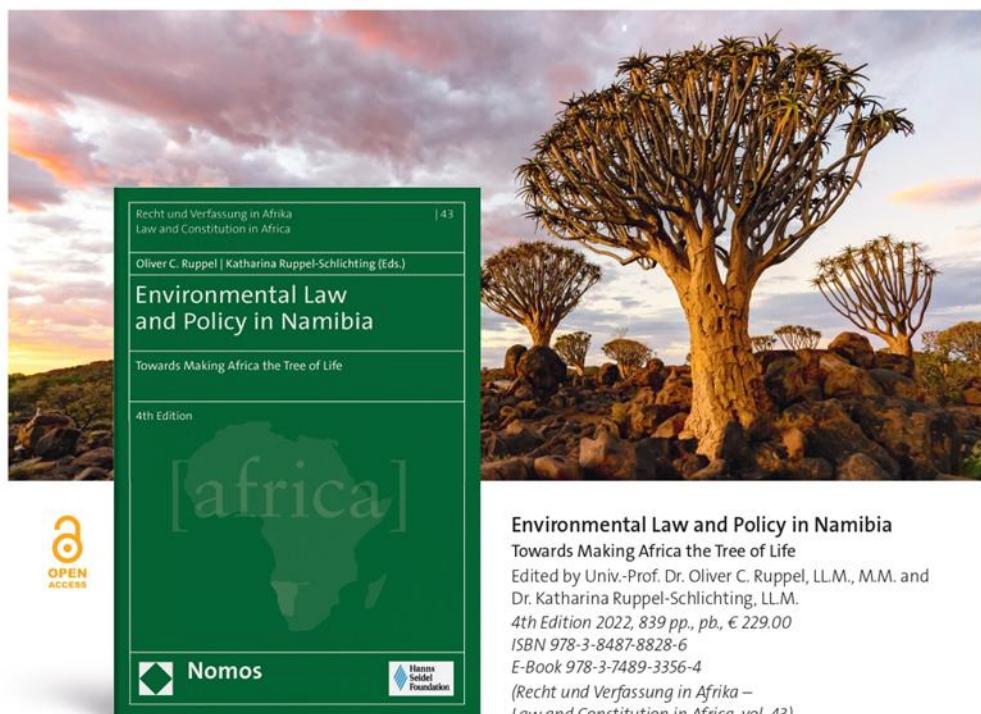
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4th Edition 2022, 839 pp., pb, € 229.00
ISBN 978-3-8487-8828-6
E-Book 978-3-7489-3356-4
(*Recht und Verfassung in Afrika – Law and Constitution in Africa*, vol. 43)

With contributions by

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Legal Instruments for Sustainable Soil Management in Africa

This book presents an important discussion on future options for sustainable soil management in Africa from various perspectives, including national soil protection regulations, the role of tenure rights, the work of relevant international institutions such as the UNCCD and FAO, and regional and international cooperation.

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Hadjah Yahyah, Lecturer, School of Law, Kampala International University, Uganda.

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African Soil Protection Law



The protection of soil and the sustainable management of soils is a precondition for sustainable development, food security and the survival of humankind. Africa is the continent with the least land degradation. Yet, the pressure on soils is already enormous and continuously increasing due to a range of factors, including poverty, over-exploitation, population growth and climate change. Drivers of unsustainable soil management include overstocking, overgrazing, water erosion, landslides, and over-application of agro-chemicals. In light of this, the underlying legal, societal and political conditions have been comparatively analysed in "African Soil Protection Law". Distinct country studies from Kenya, Cameroon and Zambia serve to comparatively expose the serious imped-

iments of soil in Africa. While mapping out options for model legislation for improved sustainable soil management in Africa, the publication addresses intertwined, interdisciplinary and complex questions pertaining to soils, which may also be of comparative interest to other continents and jurisdictions.

Editors

Prof. Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, Professor of Law and Director, Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP), Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

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African Soil Protection Law

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Edited by Prof. Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, LL.M. and Dr. Harald Ginzky
2021, 528 pp., pb., € 138.00
ISBN 978-3-8487-6693-2
(*Law and Constitution in Africa*, vol. 41)
<https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748908043>

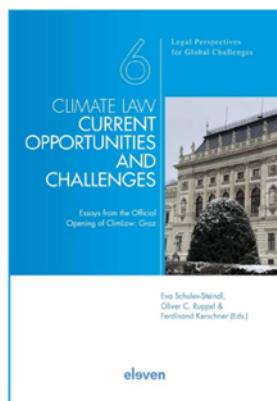


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Essays from the Official Opening of ClimLaw: Graz



Eva Schulev-Steindl, Oliver C. Ruppel, and Ferdinand Kerschner (eds.)

In June 2020, the research center for climate law ClimLaw: Graz was officially opened at the University of Graz, Austria. As part of the festive opening, distinguished members of the Scientific Board of ClimLaw: Graz and PhD students specialising in climate law gave presentations on current opportunities and challenges in climate law. This volume assembles the essays and provides a testimony of the official launch of ClimLaw: Graz. Climate change presents one of the greatest challenges of our time and calls for legal, interdisciplinary and coordinated responses. This volume offers a glimpse into the diverse and pressing issues of climate law subject to ongoing research at ClimLaw: Graz. Current developments in climate law are critically observed and analysed from the national, EU and global perspective in steady dialogue with other disciplines. In doing so, ClimLaw: Graz is envisaged to become a nationally and internationally connected research, teaching and networking platform.

For interested readers, this book offers insight into selected aspects of the current legal debate on climate change and climate protection.

2021 | 158 pp. | paperback
Series: Legal Perspectives on Global Challenges (6)

ISBN: 978-94-6236-237-6
€ 25.00 / \$ 32.99 / £ 27.00

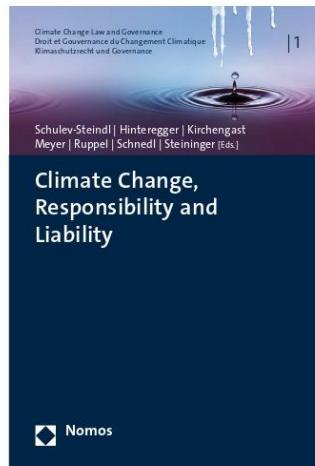
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Climate Protection Law



The recent past has seen a rise in litigation seeking to hold specific private and public actors liable for their contribution to and impacts of climate change, with a relatively low success rate. This highlights the need for further research into the reasonable and just distribution of responsibility for mitigation and adaptation. This book unites renowned researchers from various disciplines to explore the challenges and opportunities of assigning responsibility and liability for climate change to specific actors. Thereby, the importance of interdisciplinary scientific dialogue on climate change is strengthened, and a new generation of jurists is to be provided with novel arguments for protecting our climate system.

Climate Change, Responsibility and Liability

Edited by Univ.-Prof. MMag. Dr. Eva Schulev-Steindl, LL.M., o.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Monika Hinteregger, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gottfried Kirchengast, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Lukas H. Meyer, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, LL.M., M.M., Asst.-Prof. Dr. Gerhard Schnedl and Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Karl W. Steininger

2022, 525 pp., pb. € 149.00

ISBN 978-3-8487-8707-4

(Climate Change Law and Governance | Droit et Gouvernance du Changement Climatique | Klimaschutzrecht und Governance, vol. 1)

www.nomos-shop.de/isbn/978-3-8487-8707-4

With contributions by

Christoph Bezemek, Wei Cao, Marcelo de Araujo, Oliver Dörr, Mastawesha M. Engdaw, Daniel Ennöckl, Judith Fitz, Michael Hanemann, Monika Hinteregger, Birgit Hollaus, Gottfried Kirchengast, Verena Madner, Lukas Meyer, Lydia A. Omuko-Jung, Julia Pleiel, Mareike Rumpf, Oliver Ruppel, Kirsten Schmalenbach, Gerhard Schnedl, Eva Schulev-Steindl, Jaap Spier, Andrea K. Steiner, Karl Steininger, Erika Wagner, Julia Walner and Ke Zhou.

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3. Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Members of **ClimLaw: Graz** regularly publish in national and international law journals, reflecting the center's broad thematic reach and global network. Their articles cover topics such as climate governance, human rights, environmental justice, energy transition, soil protection, and the intersection of trade and climate law. The publications appear in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *Environmental Policy and Law*, *Zeitschrift für Umweltrecht (ZUR)*, *Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law*, *Journal for Soil Security*, *Journal of European Environmental & Planning Law*, and the *African Journal of Climate Law & Justice*.

Many of these works are published in **open-access formats**, ensuring accessibility for readers worldwide. They demonstrate ClimLaw's substantial contribution to comparative and interdisciplinary climate law research.

List of Articles (2021-2026)

- Ruppel, OC (2025) Africa de Novo? Selected Legal Aspects Pertaining to the AfCFTA in a post-Covid World, *African Yearbook of International Law* 25 (forthcoming). (English).
- Ginzky, H, Ruppel, OC (2025) Digitalisierung, künstliche Intelligenz und Nachhaltigkeit im Kontext der nachhaltigen Bodenbewirtschaftung: Die zukünftige Rolle von Recht und Governance? *Zeitschrift für Umweltrecht (ZUR)* (forthcoming). (Deutsch).
- Ruppel, OC, Khatibi, A (2025) “Assessing Namibia’s Climate-related Laws and Policies: Applying the Human Rights Integration Framework for Climate Policy Evaluation”, *Namibian Journal of Social Justice* (Special issue: Climate Justice and Resource Extractivism) Vol 4, 2024, 90-128 (Open Access / English).
- Schnedl, G, Sommerrauer, P (2025) Grazer Umweltrechtsforum 2024: Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Fokus des Naturschutzrechts – Rahmenbedingungen und Herausforderungen für Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise. *Nachhaltigkeitsrecht (NR)*, 93–94.
- Kohlfürst, F, Schlenk, M (2025) Offene Fragen zur GaskennzeichnungsV. Recht der Umwelt (RdU), 105–108.
- Ruppel, OC (2024) The future of the SDGs: A comparative constitutional rescue plan? *International Journal of Environmental Policy and Law*, Vol. 54, 155-187 (Open Access / English).
- Ruppel, OC, Houston, LJ (2024) Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung als Menschenrecht bei Umweltentscheidungen: Einige rechtliche Überlegungen. *Zeitschrift Klima und Recht (KlimR)*, Vol. 11, 322-332 (Deutsch).
- Ruppel, OC, Murray, R (2024) A Global Comparative Constitutional Analysis of Natural Resources Protection, *Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law (ICL)*, Vol. 18, 255-310. (Open Access / English).
- Ruppel, OC, Murray, R (2024) “Transparency and accountability in the loss and damage debate? A critical analysis of South Africa’s position” *African Journal of Climate Law & Justice (AJCLJ)*, Vol. 1., 21-56. (Open Access / English).
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- Ruppel, OC, Murray, R (2023) A Comparative Constitutional Analysis of Natural Resources Protection, *Graz Law Working Paper Series* No 07-2023. (Open Access / Englisch).
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- Ruppel, OC, Dobers, C (2022) SDGs und Pariser Abkommen: Symbiose zur Verwirklichung Von Menschenrechten und Klimaschutz? *Nachhaltigkeitsrecht*, vol. 4, 462–470 (Deutsch).
- Ruppel, OC, Dobers, C (2022) The Paris Agreement: A Symbiosis for the Protection of Human Rights and Climate Change? In: *UNFCCC@30: Climate Change. Environmental Policy and Law*, Vol. 52 No. 5-6, 399–409. (Open Access / English).
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- Schnedl, G (2020) Neue Entwicklungen im Öffentlichen Recht – Judikatur. In: *Jahrbuch des österreichischen und europäischen Umweltrechts 2020*, IUR (Ed.), 25–48.

4. Special Journal Issues – Carbon & Climate Law Review (CCLR)

Since 2023, ClimLaw: Graz has collaborated with the Carbon & Climate Law Review (CCLR) to produce three consecutive special issues emerging from the Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation. These editions highlight the Center's commitment to nurturing early-career research and advancing international dialogue on climate law, governance, and justice.

Special Issues

- **Carbon & Climate Law Review, Vol. 19 (2025), Issue 2 — Special Issue: Climate Law and Litigation III.**
Guest Editor: **Atieh Khatibi**
 - Full Issue: <https://cclr.lexxon.eu/issue/CCLR/2025/2>.
 - Editorial by Atieh Khatibi: <https://doi.org/10.21552/cclr/2025/2/3>.
- **Carbon & Climate Law Review, Vol. 18 (2024), Issue 1 — Special Issue: Climate Law and Litigation II.**
Guest Editor: **Larissa Jane H. Houston**
 - Full Issue: <https://cclr.lexxon.eu/issue/CCLR/2024/1>.
 - Editorial by Larissa Jane H. Houston: <https://doi.org/10.21552/cclr/2024/1/3>.
- **Carbon & Climate Law Review, Vol. 17 (2023), Issue 3 — Special Issue: Climate Law and Litigation I.**
Guest Editor: **Larissa Jane H. Houston**

- Full Issue: <https://cclr.lexxion.eu/issue/CCLR/2023/3>.
- Editorial by Larissa Jane H. Houston: <https://doi.org/10.21552/cclr/2023/3/3>.

Carbon & Climate Law Review

We are pleased to announce the publication of a special issue of the Carbon & Climate Law Review (CCLR) in collaboration with the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz) at the University of Graz.

This special issue explores recent developments and key perspectives in climate law and governance.

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5. ClimLaw Perspectives

ClimLaw Perspectives provides a concise overview of the latest trends and research findings in climate change law. This segment is designed to inform and keep readers up to date with the latest developments in the field. Each issue presents key topics, groundbreaking studies, and innovative approaches to tackling climate-related legal challenges. By presenting complex information in an easily accessible format, ClimLaw Perspectives aims to promote deeper understanding and encourage readers to engage in thoughtful discussions. Both published issues are available online and can be accessed via <https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/de/unsere-forschung/climlaw-perspectives/>.

- *ClimLaw Perspectives Issue 1: Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making.*
- *ClimLaw Perspectives Issue 2: Just Transition – Equitable Policy Pathways to Carbon Neutrality in the Energy Sector.*



ClimLaw Perspectives

Issue 1 - June 2024

Public participation in environmental decision making

Author: Larissa Jane H. Houston and Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel – Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)
at the Faculty of Law, University of Graz.

JustDecarb Project:

The JUSTDECARB project seeks to bring together leading social science and humanities researchers from four disciplines (philosophy, political science, economics, and law) across four countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Norway, and UK) in pursuit of two overarching project objectives: To fill critical gaps in the knowledge base relating to socially just and politically robust decarbonisation, with a particular focus on inclusive processes and redistributive measures (the scientific objective); To develop a 'toolkit' to help European policymakers steer transition processes in a socially just and politically robust direction (the policy objective).

The JustDecarb project has been nationally funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

Key Messages:

1. Public participation is a necessary step for legitimising legislation and policies as well as for garnering support from the public for policy implementation
2. Within international environmental level, public participation has been protected within Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
3. The public consists of any and all interested or concerned parties that may be affected by an environmental decision
4. There are various tools that can be used interchangeably or simultaneously to promote public participation

1. What is Public Participation?

Public Participation can be better understood as the direct or indirect involvement of stakeholders in decision-making about policies, plans or programmes in which they have an interest.

2. What are the benefits of Public Participation?

It promotes democracy by allowing citizens to actively participate in decision-making processes, thereby ensuring that their voices are heard and their interests are represented. Additionally, it enhances sustainable development initiatives by fostering collaboration between government institutions, NGOs, and local communities, leading to more effective and inclusive solutions. Moreover, public engagement in governance processes helps to increase knowledge and skills, empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities and society as a whole. Furthermore, it expands knowledge pools amongst local communities, as diverse perspectives and experiences are shared and valued, contributing to a more inclusive and

ISBN 978-3-990000-000-0

comprehensive understanding of social issues. In addition, the use of citizen participation mechanisms legitimizes state actors and improves transparency and accountability amongst government institutions, as decisions are made in a more open and participatory manner. Lastly, citizen engagement improves the state's decision-making capabilities by incorporating a wider range of perspectives and expertise, resulting in more informed and effective policies and programs. However, public participation and its positive and negative outcomes are often dependent on how the public wishes to participate in decision making.

3. Are citizens willing to participate?

As an example, according to 2022 Eurostat data, in certain countries across the EU, a certain percentage of individuals take part in e-voting or use online consultations.

To compare Austria with the EU, 13.88% of the Austrian population participate in online voting or consultations whereas only 8.41% of the EU population, as a whole participate in online voting. These figures are increasing

6. Legal Compilations and Statutory Editions

In addition to research-focused publications, ClimLaw: Graz members contribute significantly to legal education and practice through the preparation of authoritative compilations of environmental and climate law. These regularly updated editions serve as essential reference tools for students, practitioners, and policymakers in Austria and beyond. They demonstrate the center's ongoing engagement in bridging academic scholarship with legal implementation and teaching.

Kerschner (Hrsg), WRG. Kurzkommentar Wasserrechtsgesetz, Verlag Österreich, Wien 2022, 1080 S.

a) Einführung öffentliches Recht, S. 1 – 14 (gemeinsam mit Chiara Rockenschaub).

b) §§ 1 – 4 WRG, S. 21 – 40 (gemeinsam mit Chiara Rockenschaub)

1. Umweltrecht, facultas Universitätsverlag, Wien

a) 2. Auflage, 2026, in Ausarbeitung.

b) 1. Auflage, 2020, 351 S.

B. Gesetzesausgaben

1. FlexLEX Umweltrecht, facultas Universitätsverlag, Wien

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b) 3. Auflage, Fassung vom 1. 9. 2024 (2024), 1144 S.

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2. FlexLEX Umweltrecht Studium, facultas Universitätsverlag, Wien

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ClimLaw: Graz RESEARCH PROJECTS

Overview

Since its establishment, ClimLaw: Graz has developed a dynamic research portfolio that combines academic inquiry with practical policy relevance. The center's projects reflect its interdisciplinary approach and its focus on the most pressing legal dimensions of climate change. Core research themes include climate litigation and liability, migration and human rights, energy and environmental law, sustainability governance, and the nexus between climate change and security.

Through both national and international collaborations, ClimLaw has secured competitive external funding to advance research that bridges law, policy, and social justice. The following projects illustrate this focus:

1. Major Projects

a) JUSTDECARB — Socially Just and Politically Robust Decarbonisation: A Knowledge Base and Toolkit for Policymakers

The *JUSTDECARB* project, funded under the JPI Climate SOLSTICE programme, explored how societies can transition to climate neutrality in ways that are both socially just and politically robust. The project ran from December 2020 to November 2023 and involved a consortium of leading European research institutions, including CICERO (Norway), the London School of Economics (UK), University College London (UK), the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, the Czech Academy of Sciences, and the University of Graz (ClimLaw: Graz).

The initiative addressed the central challenge of ensuring that decarbonisation does not deepen inequality or trigger social backlash, but instead contributes to fair and democratic societal transformation. It combined insights from philosophy, political science, economics, and law to produce a comprehensive policy framework (“toolkit”) for governments seeking to steer equitable low-carbon transitions.

Aims

The project is based on the cooperation of scientists and researchers from four different disciplines in social sciences and humanities, namely: philosophy, political sciences, economics and law. The researchers come from and are based in four different countries, those being Austria, the Czech Republic, Norway and the United Kingdom. Their two main research goals can be outlined as follows:

- Filling critical gaps in our knowledge concerning socially just and politically robust decarbonisation, focusing especially on inclusive processes and redistributive measures (this being the scientific goal);
- Developing a toolkit which is supposed to help European decision makers to manage transition processes towards a socially just and politically robust future (this being the goal of scientifically grounded political counselling).

Funding and Partners

- **Programme:** JPI Climate SOLSTICE – *Enabling Societal Transformation in the Face of Climate Change*
- **Duration:** December 2020 – November 2023
- **Funding (University of Graz):** €106,000

- **Lead Institution:** CICERO Center for International Climate Research, Oslo, Norway

Consortium Partners

- **CICERO Center for International Climate Research, Oslo, Norway** (Håkon Sælen, Gunnell Sandanger, Marianne Aasen)
- **Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway** (Guri Bang, Kirsti Stuvøy, Hana Vetrakova)
- **London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom** (Misato Sato, Aurélien Saussay, Samuel Fankhauser)
- **University College London, London, United Kingdom** (Fergus Green)
- **University of Graz, Graz, Austria** (Lukas Meyer, Larissa Jane H. Houston, Santiago Truccone-Borgogno, Oliver Rüppel, Harald Stelzer, Eva Schulev-Steindl, Rob Macquarie)
- **Institute of State and Law, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic** (Hana Mullerová, Monika Feigerlová, Rita Simon, Eva Balounová, Adam Novák)

Key Outcomes & Impacts

The project produced an interdisciplinary set of studies on the ethical, social, and legal aspects of just transitions. It developed models of harmless loss and legitimate expectations, analysed labour-market transformations, and explored political legitimacy and resistance to climate policy. The flagship result, the Toolkit for Policymakers: “Just and Robust Transitions to Net Zero” (2023), offers concrete guidance for governments to design equitable and politically feasible decarbonisation strategies.

Launched at a high-level seminar in Oslo, the Toolkit is now referenced by the ILO, World Bank, and European Investment Bank. ClimLaw: Graz contributed key legal expertise on human rights, procedural justice, and public participation, strengthening cooperation with European partners and informing future initiatives such as EU Horizon “AdJUST” and the CHANSE-HERA Crisis Programme.



More Information

- <https://climate-change.uni-graz.at/de/transformation-der-gesellschaft/justdecarb/>
- <https://cicero.oslo.no/no/prosjekter/justdecarb>

b) Carbon Neutral Schools — Promoting Climate Action through Education

The *Carbon Neutral Schools* project, funded under the **EU Erasmus+ Programme**, aims to empower schools and educational institutions to contribute to climate protection actively. The project develops an **interactive e-learning course** designed to help schools, higher education institutions (HEIs), and vocational schools understand and implement effective strategies for reducing carbon emissions.

Building on the experiences of pioneering schools across Europe, the course provides **practical, accessible guidelines** that can be applied without prior expertise. Developed in close cooperation with partner schools, it demonstrates concrete steps that educational institutions can take to progress towards **carbon neutrality**.

Aims

The project's primary goal is to make **climate education and action accessible** to all schools by:

- Developing an open-access **online training platform** on carbon reduction practices.
- Sharing **best practices** from schools that have already taken steps towards climate neutrality.
- Introducing the concept of "**Green Ambassadors**", who will guide and support institutions in achieving zero-carbon goals.
- Providing educators and students with **interactive e-learning modules** that translate sustainability goals into actionable school-level initiatives.

Funding & Partners

- **Programme:** EU Erasmus+
- **Start:** 1 November 2022
- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Funding (University of Graz):** €33,740
- **Coordinator:** University of Graz (ClimLaw: Graz)
- **Consortium Partners:** European higher education institutions and partner schools collaborating on course design and testing.

Key Outcomes & Impact

The project will deliver a collection of interactive e-learning modules freely available to schools, HEIs, and vocational institutions. By fostering engagement through education, *Carbon Neutral Schools* aims to create a new generation of environmentally responsible students and institutions committed to achieving zero-carbon targets.

Through the development of educational tools and the *Green Ambassador* initiative, the project supports the integration of climate literacy into European education systems, promoting long-term behavioural change and institutional responsibility.



More Information

- <https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/de/unsere-forschung/projekte/>
- <https://www.carbon-neutral-schools.eu/>

2. Other Completed Projects

a) EU Energy Communities

The project *EU Energy Communities* examines the legal frameworks governing energy communities across the European Union, with a particular focus on Austria and Italy. Its objective is to provide a comparative legal overview and to identify broad legal, technological, and financial criteria for establishing and maintaining energy communities in different regional contexts. ClimLaw: Graz contributes legal research and comparative analysis, including publications on regional developments, a comprehensive report on the evolution of energy communities, and an overview of regulatory requirements for their establishment.

Funding

Banca di Italia and Università degli Studi di Padova – Research Grant for PhD/Postdoctoral candidate

Partner Institution: Università degli Studi di Padova

Start: October 2023

b) Erasmus International Projects with the University of Havana

ClimLaw: Graz has been actively engaged in a long-term academic cooperation with the **University of Havana**, focusing on *Climate, Environmental, and Energy Law* and the annual **Climate Law Winter School**. These projects aim to strengthen international collaboration between European and Latin American universities, promote knowledge exchange in the field of environmental and energy law, and support the integration of climate law into higher education curricula in Cuba and beyond.

Each project was supported by the **European Commission (Erasmus+)**, with the **University of Graz** acting as a key partner institution. The initiatives have been implemented under consecutive annual calls, with the following details:

- **Cooperation Project:** *Climate, Environmental and Energy Law and Climate Law Winter School at the University of Havana*
 Funding Body: **European Commission**
 Budget (University of Graz): **€8,000**
 Application Date: **January 2020 (Call 2020)**
- **Cooperation Project:** *Climate, Environmental and Energy Law and Climate Law Winter School at the University of Havana*
 Funding Body: **European Commission**
 Budget (University of Graz): **€7,000**
 Application Date: **November 2021 (Call 2022)**
- **Cooperation Project:** *Climate, Environmental and Energy Law and Climate Law Winter School at the University of Havana*
 Funding Body: **European Commission**
 Budget (University of Graz): **€11,000**
 Application Date: **October 2022 (Call 2023)**
- **Cooperation Project:** *Climate, Environmental and Energy Law and Climate Law Winter School at the University of Havana*
 Funding Body: **European Commission**
 Budget (University of Graz): **€9,000**
 Application Date: **December 2023 (Call 2024)**
- **Cooperation Project:** *Climate, Environmental and Energy Law and Climate Law Winter School at the University of Havana*
 Funding Body: **European Commission**
 Budget (University of Graz): **€8,000**
 Application Date: **November 2024 (Call 2025)**

Through these recurring projects, ClimLaw: Graz continues to build a strong and enduring partnership with the University of Havana, contributing to global capacity-building in climate and energy law and advancing mutual understanding between European and Latin American legal systems.

c) Workshop Series on Sustainable Development Practice and Climate Justice (Cross-Culture Programme-CCP)

The “**Sustainable Development Practice and Climate Justice**” workshop series was a joint initiative between the **Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)**, **University of Graz**, and the **Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa)** in Germany, organized within the framework of the **Cross-Culture Programme (CCP)**. This workshop was organized and facilitated by Atieh Khatibi and Larissa Jane H. Houston online between **June and November 2024**. The series aimed to strengthen participants’ understanding of sustainable development, climate justice, and project management in the context of global environmental and societal transformation.

Overview and Objectives

The workshop sought to equip participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical tools to design and implement projects aligned with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and climate justice principles. It placed particular emphasis on issues of sustainable development, circular economy, gender and climate justice, project design and management, and proposal development. The sessions combined lectures, interactive exercises, and peer collaboration to foster applied learning and cross-cultural dialogue.

Key Themes

- Climate justice, gender equality, and health impacts of climate change
- Sustainable development and circular economy approaches
- Project planning, stakeholder engagement, and proposal writing
- Monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination methods
- Peer-led case studies on climate adaptation and resilience

Outcomes

The workshop series empowered participants to develop actionable and locally relevant project proposals that integrate sustainability and justice principles. It enhanced participants’ capacities in project management, advocacy, and policy engagement, while also facilitating an international professional network for continued collaboration between CCP fellows and academic experts.

d) Balancing of Interests in Vorarlberg Nature Conservation Law – Function, Dimensions and Evaluation

Commissioned by the Vorarlberg Nature Conservation Council, this applied study analyzed 100 administrative decisions by Vorarlberg’s conservation authorities (2008–2018) involving negative nature conservation assessments. The research assessed how conservation interests were balanced against competing economic and infrastructural goals and proposed reforms to enhance legal clarity and transparency in the balancing process.

The study recommends that authorities be legally obliged to explicitly identify, weigh, and justify conflicting interests in individual cases, ensuring approvals are granted only under exceptional circumstances when overriding public interests exist.

3. Research Proposals Submitted

ClimLaw: Graz has also actively participated in several competitive research funding calls, demonstrating its strong interdisciplinary engagement and ambition in advancing climate and environmental law:

- **ClimaGUIDS (COST Action):** Climate Governance for Urban Development and Sustainability (Proposal Reference OC-2024-1-27331), 2024.
- **DEMETRA (Horizon Europe):** *Designing Effective Pathways and Measures for the EU's Transition to Climate Neutrality* (Proposal No. 101185002; Lead: University of Amsterdam, 2024).
- **INTERGEN (ERC Advanced Grant):** *Intergenerational Justice and Sustainability* (Lead: Bar Ilan University – The Interdisciplinary School of Sustainability & Environment, 2024).
- **ProTECTO (Law):** Stand-alone research project on *Energy Communities* in collaboration with the University of Padova (2023).
- **Climate Law: Closing Austria's Regulatory Gap:** Submitted to the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund (ACRP), Budget: €110,271 (2022).
- **Citizens at its Core:** Re-modelling Energy Communities for Renewable Energy Generation in Africa, submitted to the European Commission (Horizon Europe), Budget: €595,000 (2022).



ClimLaw: Graz
CONFERENCES,
WORKSHOPS
& EVENTS

Introduction

Over the past five years, ClimLaw: Graz has established itself as a leading forum for dialogue and collaboration in the field of climate and environmental law. Through a wide range of events, including international conferences, expert roundtables, public lectures, and academic workshops, the center has created spaces for critical exchange between researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and civil society. These events address some of the most pressing issues at the intersection of law, climate governance, and sustainability, ranging from climate litigation and energy transition to biodiversity, human rights, and the global just transition.

ClimLaw's activities are characterized by a strong interdisciplinary and transnational approach, often developed in partnership with international organizations, universities, and research networks. By increasing dialogue between legal scholars and experts in climate science, policy, and ethics, the center contributes to bridging the gap between theory and practice. Its conferences and workshops not only advance cutting-edge research but also inform public debate and policy development, reinforcing the role of law as a key instrument in addressing the climate crisis and supporting sustainable societal transformation.

1. International Soil Law and Governance Conference 2022

The *International Soil Law and Governance Conference*, held online on 20 October 2022, was jointly organized by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz) at the University of Graz, and the German Environment Agency (UBA), in cooperation with UNEP and FAO. The conference brought together legal scholars, scientists, and policymakers from international and regional organizations to discuss the growing importance of soil protection, sustainable management, and governance in addressing global environmental challenges.

The event featured four thematic sessions. It opened with a session on *Soils: Future Challenges and Good Governance*, where **Patricia Kameri-Mbote (UNEP)** emphasized that soil is both a habitat and a carbon sink and must be integrated into multilateral environmental agreements. **Dirk Messner (German Environment Agency)** connected soil governance to the global crises of war, climate change, and biodiversity loss, urging formal recognition of soil as a vital natural resource within legal systems. **Andrea Vettori (European Commission)** presented the *EU Soil Strategy for 2030* and the forthcoming *EU Soil Health Law*, which aim to ensure healthy soils across the European Union by 2050. Complementing these perspectives, **Li Lifeng (FAO)** and other speakers underscored the critical role of soil protection in maintaining global food security amid ongoing conflicts and environmental degradation.

The second session, *Best Practices and Innovative Regulatory Approaches*, focused on national and regional legal developments. **Harald Ginzky (UBA)** outlined Germany's plans for a new soil law designed to enhance prevention, monitoring, and cross-sectoral coordination. **Pamela Towela Sambo (University of Zambia)** shared findings from a comparative African study on soil legislation in Cameroon, Kenya, and Zambia, highlighting the challenges posed by agriculture, mining, and rapid urbanization. **Qin Tianbao (Wuhan University, China)** described China's "ecological civilization" model, which integrates specific soil protection laws such as the *Farmland Protection Law* and the *Black Land Protection Law* within broader environmental legislation. **Gernot Stöglehner (BOKU)**

demonstrated how integrated spatial and energy planning can help reduce land consumption and support climate-friendly urban development.

The third session, *Sustainable Soil Management and Climate*, explored the interconnections between soil science and climate policy. **Christine Stumpp (BOKU)** presented research on soil physics, water balance, and erosion control, stressing the importance of long-term data collection and active collaboration with stakeholders. **Herwig Ranner (European Commission)** discussed the *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture* under the UNFCCC, emphasizing agriculture's key role in climate action and sustainable soil management.

The final session, *Soil, International Cooperation, and Food Security*, addressed global governance and food systems. **Natalia Rodríguez Eugenio (FAO)** highlighted the efforts of the FAO and the *Global Soil Partnership* in promoting stronger soil governance worldwide and supporting the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. **Francis Tetteh (African Soil Partnership)** spoke about declining soil fertility and persistent food insecurity in Africa, calling for the adoption of national soil policies and more robust legal instruments to ensure sustainable soil management.

Overall, the conference emphasized that soils are central to addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity. While legal and governance frameworks for soil protection remain fragmented, they are gradually evolving at international, regional, and national levels. Effective soil governance, the participants agreed, requires close cooperation across scientific, legal, and political fields, linking local practices with global sustainability objectives. The discussions concluded with a shared call for integrated and enforceable soil protection laws, stronger international coordination, and recognition of soil as a non-renewable global common essential for life on Earth.

2. Grazer Umweltrechtsforen

Organized by Gerhard Schnedl for several years now, the Graz Environmental Law Forums have also been part of the annual program of the Research Center for Climate Law for some time.

The **Environmental Law Forum 2023**, held on **26 April 2023** at the University of Graz under the theme “*Soil Protection in the Context of the Climate Crisis – Legal Frameworks, Political Challenges and Conflict Potentials*,” brought together experts from academia, government, and civil society to discuss the growing importance of soil protection in Austria and beyond. Organized by our **Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)** the event explored the legal, environmental, and political dimensions of soil governance in light of accelerating climate change.

Following opening remarks by **Christoph Bezemek**, Dean of the Faculty of Law, and **Elke Kahr**, Mayor of Graz, the first session examined Austria's current framework conditions and challenges in soil management. Presentations by **Arthur Kanonier (TU Vienna)**, **Gundula Prokop (Environment Agency Austria)**, and **Paul Himmelbauer (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning)** addressed issues such as climate-related impacts on land use, soil contamination, and the development of a national soil strategy.

The second session turned to the international and European context. **Oliver Ruppel (ClimLaw: Graz)** outlined the foundations of international soil protection law, while **Paul Kuncio (CIPRA Austria)** highlighted the relevance of the Alpine Convention. **Katharina Häusler (nhp Rechtsanwälte)**

discussed the European Union's Soil Strategy for 2030 and its implications for EU soil legislation, and **Harald Ginzky (German Environment Agency)** provided insights into the German approach to soil protection law.

A third session focused on the Austrian legal landscape. **Gerhard Schnedl (ClimLaw: Graz)** presented the structure of Austrian soil protection law, followed by **Mario Walcher (Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte)**, who analyzed the recent amendments to the Styrian Spatial Planning Act and their implications for climate protection. **Miriam Hofer (ClimLaw: Graz)** discussed spatial conflicts in land use, and **Maria Philomena Bertel (University of Graz)** addressed the need for climate adaptation through responsible land management.

The final panel discussion, moderated by **Michael Lohmeyer** of *Die Presse*, brought together voices from politics, business, environmental organizations, and academia. Participants included **Sandra Krautwaschl** (Member of the Styrian Parliament), **Gerfried Weyringer** (Styrian Economic Chamber), **Simon Pories** (WWF Austria), **Georg Eisenberger** (Eisenberger Law Firm), and **Petra Kickenweitz** (architect and urban planner). The debate centered on the legal and policy challenges of balancing economic development, agricultural needs, urban planning, and environmental protection under the pressures of the climate crisis.

Overall, the Environmental Law Forum 2023 underscored the urgency of developing coherent and enforceable soil protection policies, integrating climate adaptation and sustainable land use into national and European legal frameworks, and fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders to ensure the long-term preservation of this essential natural resource.



The **7th Graz Environmental Law Forum (Grazer Umweltrechtsforum 2024)** took place on **20 November 2024** at the University of Graz under the title "*Biodiversity and Restoration in the Focus of Nature Conservation Law – Framework Conditions and Challenges for Politics and Practice in the Context of the Climate Crisis.*" Organized by the **Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)** in cooperation with **Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte**, the event gathered experts from academia, administration, and legal practice to discuss current developments in biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration at the international, European, and national levels.

After the opening by **Gerhard Schnedl** and **Oliver C. Ruppel** from ClimLaw: Graz, **University Rector Peter Riedler**, and **Mayor Elke Kahr**, the first session addressed *international, EU, and German legal frameworks*. **Oliver Ruppel** explored biodiversity and ecosystem restoration in international law, while **Paul Kuncio** from CIPRA Austria examined these issues through the lens of the Alpine Convention. **Markus P. Beham** (University of Passau/FU Berlin) presented on biodiversity and restoration within EU law, followed by **Florian Stangl** (nhp Rechtsanwälte), who discussed the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation in the Member States. **Wolfgang Köck** (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig) then analyzed Germany's constitutional and legal requirements for biodiversity and restoration, identifying practical challenges in implementation.

The second session focused on *Austrian legal foundations*. **Peter Bußjäger** (University of Innsbruck) examined biodiversity and restoration under Austrian law, while **Fabiana Scheibenreif** (Austrian Chamber of Agriculture) discussed the implications of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation for agriculture and forestry. **Thomas Neger** (Ulm Neger Partner Rechtsanwälte, Graz) addressed the controversial topic of wolf, bear, and otter protection, analyzing Austria's derogation and culling permits in light of recent case law from the Court of Justice of the European Union.

In the afternoon, discussions turned to *practical and procedural issues* within Austrian biodiversity and nature conservation law. **Gerhard Schnedl** (ClimLaw: Graz) examined legal remedies and the growing role of environmental organizations in litigation, noting the increasing tension with public environmental authorities. **Gerhard Rupp** (Office of the Styrian Provincial Government) called for stronger cooperation between climate protection and nature conservation, emphasizing that the two should work in synergy rather than opposition. **Mario Walcher** (Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte, Graz) addressed biodiversity and nature protection in permitting procedures.



ur:g
umwelt.recht:graz
umweltrechtsforum 2023

Bodenschutz im Zeichen der Klimakrise

Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen, politische Herausforderungen
und Konfliktpotentiale

26. April 2023

Zeit: 9:15 – 16:30 Uhr

Ort: Universität Graz, Meerscheinschlössl, Mozartgasse 3, 8010 Graz

Wissenschaftliche Leitung:

Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz)

Institut für Öffentliches Recht und Politikwissenschaft

Universität Graz

Gerhard Schnedl, Oliver Ruppel, Miriam Hofer



Mit freundlicher
Unterstützung der Stadt Graz
GRAZ



09:15 Begrüßung

Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Christoph Bezemek, BA, LLM.
Dekan der Rechtswissenschaftlichen Fakultät, Universität Graz

Elke Kahr
Bürgermeisterin der Stadt Graz

I. Rahmenbedingungen und Herausforderungen in Österreich

Vorsitz: Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Schnedl, ClimLaw: Graz

Klimawandel, Bodenmanagement und Raumordnung

Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Arthur Kanonier, TU Wien

Bodenverunreinigungen und Bodenverbrauch in Österreich

D^{ré}in Gundula Prokop, Umweltbundesamt, Wien

Die (geplante) Bodenstrategie für Österreich

Dipl.-Ing. Paul Himmelbauer, Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz, Wien

10:30-10:50 Diskussion
10:50-11:15 Kaffeepause

II. Rechtliche Grundlagen: Völkerrecht – EU – Deutschland

Vorsitz: Mag. a Dr. ⁱⁿ Miriam Hofer, ClimLaw: Graz

Internationales Bodenschutzrecht

Ass.-Prof. Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver Ruppel, LL.M., ClimLaw, Graz

Bodenschutz aus der Perspektive der Alpenkonvention

Mag. Paul Kuncio, CIPRA Österreich – Alpenkonventsbüro Wien

Europäisches Bodenschutzrecht vor dem Hintergrund der EU-Bodenschutzstrategie

2030

Dr. Katharina Häusler, npn Rechtsanwälte Wien/Salzburg/Graz

Deutsches Bodenschutzrecht

Dr. Harald Ginzky | Umweltbundesamt Dessau

12:15-12:45 Diskussion

12:45-13:30 Mittagspause (Buffet)

III. Rechtliche Grundlagen: Österreich

Vorsitz: Ass.-Prof. Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver Ruppel, LL.M., ClimLaw: Graz

Österreichisches Bodenschutzrecht

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Schnedl, ClimLaw: Graz

Boden- und Klimaschutz nach dem StROG – Neuerungen durch die Bau- und Raumordnungsnovelle 2022

Mag. Mario Walcher, LL.M., Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte Graz

Raumbezogene Nutzungskonflikte

Mag.^a Dr.ⁱⁿ Miriam Hofer, ClimLaw: Graz

Boden Nutzung und Klimawandelanpassung

Univ.-Prof.ⁱⁿ Mag.^a Dr.ⁱⁿ Maria Philomena Bertel, Universität Graz

14:30-15:00 Diskussion

15:00-15:30 Kaffeepause

IV. Podiumsdiskussion: Bodenschutz im Zeichen der Klimakrise

Moderation: Michael Lohmeyer, Tageszeitung „Die Presse“

Abgeordnete zum Steirischen Landtag Sandra Krautwaschl

Präsident der Landwirtschaftskammer Steiermark ÖR Franz Titschenbacher (angefragt)

Dr. Gerfried Weyringer, WKO Stmk

Simon Pories, BSc, WWF Österreich

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Georg Eisenberger, Eisenberger Rechtsanwälte Graz/Wien/Brüssel

DIⁱⁿ Petra Kickenweitz, Architektin und Stadtplanerin, Graz

Ende: 16:30 Uhr

Anmeldung bis 18. April 2023: petra.damm@uni-graz.at

7. Grazer Umweltrechtsforum 2024

Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Fokus des Naturschutzrechts

Rahmenbedingungen und
Herausforderungen für Politik und
Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise



**Mittwoch
20. November 2024
09:15 – 16:45 Uhr
Meerscheinschlössl**

HOHENBERG
RECHT & KANWALTE

UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ

Forschungszentrum für
Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw:Graz)



PROGRAMM

7. GRAZER UMWELTRECHTSFORUM

09:15 Eröffnung und Begrüßung

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard **Schnedl**, wissenschaftlicher Leiter
Grazer Umweltrechtsforum, ClimLaw: Graz
Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver C. **Ruppel**, LL.M., Leiter, ClimLaw: Graz
Dr. Peter **Riedler**, Rektor der Universität Graz
Elke **Kahr**, Bürgermeisterin der Stadt Graz

I. RECHTLICHE GRUNDLAGEN: VÖLKERRECHT – EU – DEUTSCHLAND

Moderation: Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Schnedl, ClimLaw: Graz

09:30 Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Völkerrecht

Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver C. **Ruppel**, LL.M., ClimLaw: Graz

09:50 Biodiversität und Renaturierung aus der Perspektive der Alpenkonvention

Mag. Paul **Kuncio**, CIPRA Österreich - Alpenkonventionsbüro Wien

10:10 Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Unionsrecht

PD DDr. Markus P. **Beham**, LL.M., Universität Passau/FU Berlin

10:35 Diskussion

10:50 Kaffeepause

11:20 Umsetzung der EU-Renaturierungsverordnung in den Mitgliedstaaten

Dr. Florian **Stangl**, LL.M., nhp Rechtsanwälte, Wien/Salzburg/Graz

11:45 Biodiversität und Renaturierung in Deutschland: Verfassungsrechtliche Erfordernisse, rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen und praktische Herausforderungen

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang **Köck**, Helmholtz Zentrum für Umweltforschung, Leipzig

12:15 Diskussion

12:30 Mittagspause

PROGRAMM

7. GRAZER UMWELTRECHTSFORUM

II. RECHTLICHE GRUNDLAGEN: ÖSTERREICH

Moderation: Mag. Mario Walcher, LL.M., Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte Graz

13:30 Biodiversität und Renaturierung im österreichischen Recht

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Peter **Bußjäger**, Universität Innsbruck

13:55 EU-Renaturierungsverordnung: Auswirkungen und Perspektiven aus Sicht der Land- und Forstwirtschaft

Mag. a Fabiana **Scheibenreif**, Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich

14:15 Schutz von Wolf, Bär und Fischotter: Österreichische Entnahmew- bzw Abschussgenehmigungen im Lichte aktueller EuGH-Judikatur

Mag. Dr. Thomas **Neger**, Ulm Neger Partner Rechtsanwälte, Graz

14:35 Diskussion

14:50 Kaffeepause

Moderation: Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, LL.M., ClimLaw: Graz

15:15 Rechtsschutz im österreichischen Naturschutz- und Biodiversitätsrecht: Umweltorganisationen auf der Überholspur und Umweltanwälte unter Druck

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard **Schnedl**, ClimLaw: Graz

15:35 Naturschutz und Klimaschutz: Miteinander statt Gegeneinander!

Mag. Gerhard **Rupp**, Amt der Stmk LReg

15:55 Naturschutz und Biodiversität im Anlagenverfahren

Mag. Mario **Walcher**, LL.M., Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte, Graz

16:15 Diskussion

16:30 Resümee

16:45 Ende



3. ClimLaw-Roundtables

In recent years, several smaller-scale events have been held. Experts from various fields were invited to participate in roundtable discussions, where they gave presentations on current topics in climate, environmental, and energy law, followed by discussion and question-and-answer sessions.

This section provides an overview of the roundtables held to date:

Faculty Lunch and 1st ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

11 October 2022

Presenters: Professor Oren Perez, Dean, Bar Ilan University, Law Faculty, Ramat-Gan, Israel. Founding Director: SSRN-Hebrew Research Network (HRN) and Co-director: Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Digital Governance.

Topic: Transnational networked authority.

2nd ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

24 November 2022

Presenter: Professor Elizabeth Valdés-Miranda Fernández, Professor of International Public Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Havana.

Topic: International law, access to energy and climate protection from a Cuban perspective.

3rd ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable – Internal Discussion on Climate Discourse with members from Friday's for Future, Last Generation, Erde Brennt, and CCCA

19 January 2023

Presenters: Marek Hubbell, Fridays for Future; Valentin Bast, Last Generation; Manuel Pirker, Erde Brennt; Katrin Brugger, CCCA.

Topic: A discussion/talk with some representatives and professors regarding climate activism and discourse at the moment.

4th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

21 March 2023

Presenter: Lena Kohlrausch (Universität Leipzig und Kompetenznetzwerk "Zukunftsherausforderungen des Umweltrechts").

Topic: Status Quo der deutschen Klimaschutzrahmengesetzgebung.

5th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

3 May 2023

Presenter: Assistant Professor Matteo Fermeglia, Hasselt University, Belgium and Università degli Studi di Udine, Italy.

Topic: "Latest Developments and International Trends in Climate Litigation" providing an overview of the most recent advancements in climate litigation and taking a closer look at some correlations between climate litigation and human rights.

6th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

10 May 2023

Presenter: Greta Česnaitytė, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania.

Topic: "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 implications on end-use waste management.

7th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

31 May 2023

Presenter: Professor Dagniselys Toledano, University of Havana, Cuba, specialist in Cuban environmental and energy law.

Topic: "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.

8th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

9 November 2023

Presenters: Professor Oliver C. Ruppel, Director of the ClimLaw: GrazResearch Center; Professor Walter Sauer, Professor of the Institute for Economic and Social History; Professor Lukas Meyer, Professor of Philosophy and Head of the Practical Philosophy Department at the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Graz; Dr. Willem Odendaal, Lawyer from Namibia and postdoctoral fellow at ClimLaw: Graz.

Topic: Historical responsibility.

9th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

13 December 2023

Presenter: Professor Oliver C. Ruppel, Director of the ClimLaw: Graz Research Center.

Topic: COP 28: Endgame or Game Changer?

10th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

10 April 2024

Presenter: Dr. Gerfried Koch, Head of the Department of Energy and Climate in the municipality of Baden; Dr. Celin Gutschi, Associate at Eisenberger Rechtsanwälte GmbH.

Topic: Klimaschutz - Gemeinden und Energiegemeinschaften.

11th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

8 May 2024

Presenter: Matjaz Nahtigal, head of the Chair in International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana.

Topic: 20 Years EU-Enlargement: A Slovenian Perspective.

12th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

22 May 2024

Presenter: Associate Professor Ebru Demir, Lecturer at the International Law Department of Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, Ankara, Turkey.

Topic: The Principle of Systemic Integration and European Court of Human Rights: How to Interpret a Convention?

13th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

12 June 2024

Presenter: Ferlanda Luna, lawyer and PhD candidate in Political Economy at the Centre for Social Studies (CES) at the University of Coimbra.

Topic: Urban Informality and Climate Crisis: An Ethnography of the Economics of Development in Two Medium-Sized Brazilian Cities.

14th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

25 November 2024

Presenters: Professor Oliver C. Ruppel, Director of the ClimLaw: GrazResearch Center; Mag. Andrea Gössinger-Wieser, Climate Protection Coordinator for Styria; Dipl.-Ing. Alexander Griebler, BSc, Scientific Project Manager, Resources Innovation Center, Leoben; Dr. Holger Hoff, Transdisciplinary Interface Manager (TIM) in the Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz, University of Graz; Dr. Julia Möller-Klapperich, LL.M., Institute for International Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law; Priv.-Doz. MMag. Dr. Harald Stelzer, Institute of Philosophy, Practical Philosophy, Field of Excellence Climate Change Graz, University of Graz.

Topic: Post COP 29: Solidarität für eine grüne Welt oder zurück zu alten Energien und Konkurrenzen?

15th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

27 November 2024

Presenter: Dr.in Julia Möller-Klapperich, LL.M., Institute for International Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law

Topic: Recht der Common European Data Spaces und das Klimaschutz(energie)recht der EU

16th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

12 December 2024

Presenter: Alessandra Accogli, Postdoctoral Climate Change Fellow at the ClimLaw Research Center at the University of Graz, who completed her PhD in Law at University College Dublin Sutherland School of Law.

Topic: The Legal Nexus between International Climate Law and Local Land Protection

17th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

22 May 2025

Presenter: Professor Dagniselys Toledano, University Havana, Cuba, specialist in Cuban environmental and energy law.

Topic: Climate and Environmental Law and Litigation in Cuba.

18th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

11 June 2025

Presenters: Catherine Bane, Professor of Law at the University of Oslo, and Head of the Department for Energy and Resources Law, Norway; Dr. Celin Gutschi, policy advisor at the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism, Austria.

Topic: Hydrogen: An Energy Source of the Future.

19th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

20 October 2025

Presenter: Hazhar Ayyoub Jamali, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich and a Steiermark Fellow at the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz).

Topic: Limits and Potential of Remedies in Climate Change: Lessons from the KlimaSeniorinnen Case.

20th ClimLaw: Graz Roundtable

29 October 2025

Presenter: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Tetiana Drakokhrust, Doctor of Law and Professor at the Department of Theory of Law and Constitutionalism, Faculty of Law, West Ukrainian National University (Ternopil, Ukraine) and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz.

Topic: Climate and Energy Law in Ukraine: Challenges and Green Recovery in Times of War



From left to right: Greta Česnaiytė, Dr. Larissa Houston, Prof. Matteo Fermiglia, Oliver Ruppel and Dr. Carlotta Garofalo

Round Table ClimLaw: Climate and Environmental Law and Litigation in Cuba

Organised by the Research Centre for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)

Thursday, 22 May 2025

12:30-14:00

SR 15.34 RESOWI Part D, 3rd Floor

Universitätsstraße 15, University of Graz, 8010, Graz



Speaker: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dagniselys Toledano

Dagniselys Toledano is a professor of law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Havana. She is a specialist in Cuban environmental, energy, climate and maritime law. Prof. Toledano is also an advocate for environmental law, maritime law, corporate law, commercial law and trade law. She has taught at the Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela, Interamerican University of Puerto Rico and Vigo University in Spain. Now she teaches Cuban environmental, energy law and climate law at the Faculty of Law in Graz. Her legal research activities focus on environmental, energy, climate and maritime law.

To register to attend the event:

E-Mail: climlaw@uni-graz.at with the subject: Climate Law Cuba

Registration closes on Wednesday, 21 May 2025

There are limited seats available so be sure to reserve yours!

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Research Center for Climate Law
(ClimLaw: Graz)



Round Table ClimLaw – Hydrogen: an Energy Source of the Future

Organised by the Research Centre for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)

Wednesday, 11 June 2025

11:30-13:00

SR 15.34 RESOWI Part D, 3rd Floor
Universitätsstraße 15, University of Graz, 8010, Graz

Content:

(Green) Hydrogen is one of the basic energy sources of the energy system of the future. This Round Table deals with the legal transformation to a hydrogen economy. It focuses on current developments for implementing the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Directive 2024 in Austria and legal instruments promoting hydrogen power plants from a Norwegian perspective.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Catherine Banet

Interaction between hydrogen permitting and hydrogen offtake agreements

Catherine Banet is Professor of Law at the University of Oslo, and Head of the Department for Energy and Resources Law, Norway. Prof. Banet is a member of the Academic Advisory Group of the Section on Energy, Environment and Infrastructure Law of the IBA and Chair of the Board of the Norwegian Energy Law Association. Her legal research activities focus on energy market design, energy transport infrastructures regulation, support schemes and financing models, focusing on renewable energy and notably offshore wind, climate change mitigation measures such as carbon capture and storage (CCS), and hydrogen regulation.

Dr. Celin Gutschi

Transformation of the Renewable Gas Directive 2024 into Austrian National Law - with focus on hydrogen

Celin Gutschi has a background as an international associate at the Institute for Civil Law, Foreign and Private International Law at the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz. In her research activities she focuses on the legal framework for energy communities, in particular in various Member States of the European Union. Celin Gutschi was also an associate at law firm Eisenberger Rechtsanwälte, dealing with energy law issues. Now Celin Gutschi is policy advisor at the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism.

To register to attend the event:

E-Mail: cimlaw@uni-graz.at with the subject

Registration closes on Tuesday, 10 June 2025

There are limited seats available, so be sure to reserve yours!

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Research Center for Climate Law
(ClimLaw: Graz)



Round Table ClimLaw: Limits and Potential of Remedies in Climate Change: Lessons from the KlimaSeniorinnen Case

Organised by the Research Centre for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)

Monday, 20 October 2025

17:00-19:00

SR 15.34 RESOWI Part D, 3rd Floor

Universitätsstraße 15, University of Graz, 8010, Graz

Speaker: Hazhar Ayyoub Jamali

Hazhar Ayyoub Jamali holds a PhD in International and European Law from Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich, where he conducts research on climate change and human rights at the Institute for International Law and Comparative Constitutional Law. In addition, he is a Steiermark Fellow at the Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz), where he will continue his academic engagement during his stay. For his presentation, he will explore the limits and potential of remedies in the context of climate change litigation, using the landmark KlimaSeniorinnen case as a central example.

To register to attend the event

E-Mail: climlaw@uni-graz.at with the subject: KlimaSeniorinnen

Registration closes on Friday, 17 October 2025

There are limited seats available so be sure to reserve yours!

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Research Center for Climate Law
(ClimLaw: Graz)



Round Table Clim:Law:

Climate and Energy Law in Ukraine: Challenges and Green Recovery in Times of War

Organised by the Research Centre for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)

Wednesday, 29 October 2025

12:15-13:15

SR 15.34 RESOWI Part D, 3rd Floor

Universitätsstraße 15, University of Graz, 8010, Graz

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Tetiana Drakokhrust

Tetiana Drakokhrust is a Doctor of Law and Professor at the Department of Theory of Law and Constitutionalism, Faculty of Law, West Ukrainian National University (Ternopil, Ukraine). She is also a Research Fellow at the Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz.

Content:

The presentation explores the development of climate and energy law in Ukraine under wartime conditions. It focuses on the main legislative acts regulating renewable energy and energy efficiency, the impact of the war on energy security and environmental policy, and the prospects for Ukraine's "green recovery" and integration into the European Green Deal framework.

To register to attend the event:

E-Mail: climlaw@uni-graz.at with the subject:
Climate and Energy Law in Ukraine

Registration closes on Tuesday, 28 October 2025

There are limited seats available, so be sure to reserve yours!

ClimLaw: Graz
Research Center for Climate Law

Climate Change Graz
Field of Excellence
University of Graz



ROUND TABLE IMPRESSIONS OVER THE YEARS













Einladung

DIE ERGEBNISSE DER UN-KLIMAKONFERENZ COP30 UND IHRE AUSWIRKUNGEN AUF KÜNFTIGE GENERATIONEN -

**WAS BEDEUTET DIES AUCH FÜR KLIMAREPARATIONEN
UND MÖGLICHE KLAGEN?**

am 24. November 2025

von 17:00 bis 19:00 Uhr

UNICORN (Conference Deck)

Schubertstraße 6a, 8010 Graz



**Das Land
Steiermark**

4. PhD Workshops on Climate Law and Litigation

Overview

ClimLaw: Graz has established itself as a hub for academic exchange and dialogue in climate law and environmental governance. Over the past five years, the center has organized and co-hosted a range of international conferences, workshops, and symposia that bring together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from across the globe.

A flagship initiative in this context is the Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the German Environment Agency (UBA), and the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities (ASSELLAU). The workshop provides early-career researchers with a platform to present their work, engage in critical discussion, and strengthen international collaboration. Each edition has focused on a specific dimension of climate law, from litigation and governance to human rights and transdisciplinary approaches.

To date, three editions of the PhD Workshop have been successfully organized, reflecting the growing international scope and academic impact of this initiative. Detailed information, programmes, and conference reports for all editions can be found on the ClimLaw: Graz website: <https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/en/research/research-projects/annual-climlaw-phd-workshop/>.

a) ClimLaw: Graz 1st Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation (2022)

The inaugural ClimLaw: Graz Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation was held from 23 to 27 May 2022 in cooperation with UNEP, Germany's Umweltbundesamt (UBA), and ASSELLAU (Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities). The workshop aimed to provide a dedicated space for PhD candidates and researchers to present ongoing work and engage in scholarly dialogue on emerging issues in climate law.

Unlike broader environmental law workshops, this event focused specifically on climate law and litigation. This workshop aimed to deepen scholarly engagement with climate law's most pressing challenges by focusing on five thematic sessions:

- *The Law & Politics of Climate*
- *Climate Litigation and Human Rights*
- *Climate Change & Litigation in the Global South*
- *Climate & Nature: Water, Land, Soil, Air*
- *The Business of Climate: Trade and Energy*

Over five days, doctoral candidates, academics, and experts presented research, exchanged ideas, and discussed how climate litigation, governance, and legal strategies evolve across jurisdictions. The workshop sought to fill a niche in academic exchange by focusing on climate law and litigation—rather than broader environmental law, thus providing a focused environment for emerging researchers globally. The workshop was also integrated into the University of Graz seminar "*Comparative Climate Law and Litigation*," establishing a direct link between academic teaching and international research dialogue.

Further information and report:

https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/projekte/climlaw/ClimLaw_Graz_Annual_PhD_Workshop_on_Climate_Law_and_Litigation_-_Complete_Report_2022_1.pdf

b) ClimLaw: Graz 2nd Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation (2023)

The 2nd Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation was held online from 22 to 26 May 2023, continuing ClimLaw: Graz's commitment to fostering international dialogue and research collaboration in climate law. The workshop gathered experts, professionals, and doctoral researchers from across the globe to discuss cutting-edge developments in climate litigation, governance, and human rights.

The three-day event featured keynote speeches, expert panels, and interactive sessions that examined the evolving role of law in addressing the climate crisis. Participants explored themes such as Climate Change & International Law in Times of Global Crisis, Climate Litigation: Individuals, States, Companies, Nature, Loss & Damage, Causation, Compensation & Liability, Sustainable Trade & Investment Law, and Just Transitions & Legal Pathways to Carbon Neutrality, engaging in vibrant academic exchange and cross-regional dialogue.

The workshop was a resounding success, offering participants an opportunity to network, share ideas, and develop collaborations for future research. Recordings of all sessions are available online, and the event concluded with a **Call for Papers** for a *special issue of the Carbon & Climate Law Review (CCLR)*, inviting contributions inspired by the workshop discussions. Importantly, a book was published based on contributions from this workshop:

Climate Law and Litigation: Planetary, Regional, and Societal Perspectives (University of Graz UniPub, 2023).

Further Information and Book:

<https://doi.org/10.25364/978-3-903374-27-0>

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 from African Universities



The Role of International Investment Law in Protecting Fossil Fuel Investments

Lea Di Salvatore

Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment
A JOINT CENTER OF COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL AND COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL

26/05/2023

c) ClimLaw: Graz 3rd Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation (2024)

The 3rd Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Litigation was held from 23–24 May 2024 at the University of Graz, organized by ClimLaw: Graz in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Germany's Umweltbundesamt (UBA), the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers from African Universities (ASSELLAU), and the Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP) at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

This workshop continued ClimLaw's mission to promote interdisciplinary and international research collaboration among emerging scholars in climate law. The 2024 edition brought together PhD candidates, academics, and practitioners to discuss cutting-edge developments in global climate governance, litigation, and justice.

The event featured four thematic sessions, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation, Climate Justice and Human Rights, Legal Strategies for Climate Advocacy, and Climate Litigation, each combining expert presentations with PhD research discussions. Key speakers included Prof. Benoit Mayer (CUHK LAW, Hong Kong), Assoc. Prof. Matjaž Nahtigal (University of Ljubljana), Prof. Hana Müllerová (Czech Academy of Sciences), Assoc. Prof. Ebru Demir (Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University), and Assoc. Profs. Rita Simon and Monika Feigerlová (Czech Academy of Sciences).

The workshop fostered an interactive and collaborative environment, featuring academic dialogue and a field visit to the Botanical Gardens of Graz. Following the event, a Call for Abstracts was issued for a special issue of the Carbon & Climate Law Review (CCLR), continuing ClimLaw's commitment to linking academic research with high-impact publication opportunities.

Further Information:

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



PhD Workshop 2024 – Excursion to the Botanical Garden in Graz



Partners at the PhD Workshop:

Prof. Benoit Mayer
Associate Director,
Reading Centre for Climate and Justice
University of Reading, School of Law

Dr. Hana Müllerová
Head of the Centre for Climate Law and
Sustainability Studies (CLASS)
Institute of State and Law
Czech Academy of Sciences





**ClimLaw:
Graz 3rd Annual
PhD Workshop
on Climate Law
and Litigation**

**23 – 24
May 2024**

SR 67.01
Elisabethstr. 27/EG

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

**We work for
tomorrow**

www.uni-graz.at



PROGRAMME

24 MAY 2024

SR 67.01 Elisabethstraße 27/EG

09:00 – 09:30: **Opening remarks and recap of previous day**

09:30 – 11:30

LEGAL STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE ADVOCACY

A look at how law can be used as a tool for climate advocacy, including through public interest litigation and legal challenges to government and corporate actions.

Assoc. Prof. Rita Simon

Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies, Prague, Czech Republic

Unleashing the climate argument in the European regulation (mitigating consumption)

Assoc. Prof. Monika Feigerlová

Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies, Prague, Czech Republic

The role of private international law in climate litigation

PhD Candidate Presentations

Question and answer sessions

11:30 – 13:30:

Visit to the Botanical Gardens

13:30 – 14:30: **Lunch**

14:30 – 16:30

CLIMATE LITIGATION

A discussion of recent and landmark cases in climate litigation, and the role of courts in driving climate policy.

Climate Litigation Panel:

To discuss climate litigation from the regions of the world that you work in or the sector in which you operate.

Moderator:

Larissa Jane H. Houston LLM

Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz), University of Graz, Austria

PhD Candidate Presentations

Question and answer sessions

16:30 – 17:30:

Feedback, Discussion and Closing Remarks

THE WORKSHOP WILL COVER TOPICS SUCH AS CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION, CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, LEGAL STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE ADVOCACY, AND CLIMATE LITIGATION.

CONFERENCE DETAILS AND FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:



climlaw.uni-graz.at/en/research/research-projects/annual-climlaw-phd-workshop/

REGISTER TO ATTEND THE EVENT ONLINE AT:



uni-graz.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5csdeCpqTwvEtB9h9DuHBx8ppPlu3VnxU3k

CONTACT

Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw: Graz)
Attemsgasse 11/ground floor, 8010 Graz
E-Mail: climlaw@uni-graz.at



ClimLaw: Graz
Research Center for Climate Law

PROGRAMME

23 MAY 2024

SR 67.01 Elisabethstraße 27/EG

09:00 – 09:30: **Welcome and Opening remarks**

09:30 – 12:00

CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

An exploration of how international law addresses climate change, including the various legal tools used by countries across the globe for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Prof. Benoit Mayer

Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK LAW), Hong Kong

Environmental impact assessment as a tool for climate change mitigation

Assoc. Prof. Matjaz Nahtigal

Department of International Law, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

UN Sustainable Development

Agenda and a Paris Climate Agreement: mutually exclusive or mutually reinforcing?

PhD Candidate Presentations

Question and answer sessions

12:00 – 13:30: **Lunch**

14:00 – 16:00

CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

A focus on the intersection of climate change and human rights, including how legal frameworks can address the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities.

Prof. Hana Müllerová

Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Centre for Climate Law and Sustainability Studies, Prague, Czech Republic

Climate Justice and Human Rights of Children and Future Generations.

Assoc. Prof Ebru Demir

Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara, Turkey

Conceptualising 'Climate Vulnerability' in Human Rights Law: Looking at the Climate Change Applications before the European Court of Human Rights.

PhD Candidate Presentations

Question and answer sessions

16:00 – 17:30:
Feedback and Closing Remarks

5. Other Events

UN Climate Change PCCB Network Session: Human Rights, Security, and National Adaptation Plans Nexus

On 28 July 2025, ClimLaw: Graz, co-organized a virtual session under the umbrella of the **UN Climate Change Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB) Network**, in collaboration with the ACE Observatory. The event, titled “*Human Rights, Security and National Adaptation Plans Nexus: A Holistic Approach to Women and Human Mobility*,” brought together international experts to explore the intersection of climate change, human rights, and security, with a special emphasis on gender equality and climate-induced mobility.

Oliver Ruppel and Atieh Khatibi addressed the growing importance of integrating human rights and security perspectives into national adaptation planning. In addition to organizing the session, Atieh Khatibi presented her research on “*Women and Climate Security Risks in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*”. Her presentation highlighted how climate change operates as a “*threat multiplier*”, intensifying displacement, resource-related conflicts, and food and water insecurity, particularly affecting women and marginalized communities. Drawing on comparative case studies, she emphasized the importance of integrating human rights and gender-sensitive frameworks into national adaptation policies to ensure that climate responses are inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

This event underscores ClimLaw: Graz’s active engagement within international climate governance networks and its contribution to advancing human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to climate adaptation.

Recording available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/human-rights-security-and-national-adaptation-plans-nexus-a-holistic-approach-to-women-and-human>



Impressions from selected international conferences



Prague, June 2024



Stellenbosch, April 2025

Filling the gaps in EU Energy Community Formulation: Lessons from the Global South

Tuesday, 18 June 2024
15:00 - 17:30 CET
Online via Zoom

Register at:
<https://uni-graz.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Eqc-mgrDkqE9YORFWndmukmLrsocRvmisF>





ClimLaw: Graz
TEACHING,
TRAINING
& OUTREACH

1. Specialisation in Climate, Environmental, and Sustainability Law (University of Graz)

The Specialization in Climate, Environmental, and Sustainability Law forms part of the Law Diploma Program at the University of Graz. It provides an in-depth legal education focused on Austrian, European, and international environmental and climate protection law, framed by the overarching goal of sustainable development. This specialisation combines legal expertise with interdisciplinary perspectives, integrating political, socio-economic, and ethical dimensions.

Objectives and Focus

The program aims to train students in understanding and applying legal frameworks that address environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and sustainability. Central to the specialization is Austrian law, but with significant links to EU law and international environmental agreements. It also encourages a transdisciplinary dialogue between academia, politics, and practice, supported by the university's *ClimLaw: Graz – Research Center for Climate Law* and its interdisciplinary initiative *Climate Change Graz*.

Qualification Profile and Competences

Graduates gain comprehensive knowledge in:

- Austrian, European, and international environmental law, including specific regulatory areas;
- Climate law, energy law, and climate policy at national and EU levels;
- The legal principles of sustainability and related socio-economic contexts.

They develop the ability to:

- Apply legal reasoning and problem-solving to environmental and climate-related cases;
- Analyze legal literature, court decisions, and use legal databases effectively;
- Integrate interdisciplinary knowledge and communicate complex legal concepts both in German and English;
- Reflect critically on the social and economic implications of environmental and climate law.

Relevance and Career Prospects

Given the urgency of global challenges such as climate change, energy transition, and sustainability, legal expertise in these areas is increasingly sought after. Graduates are prepared for professional roles in public administration, the judiciary, law firms, political and policy advisory functions, NGOs, environmental agencies, international organisations, and academia.

Structure and Teaching

The specialization comprises **21 ECTS credits** and includes courses such as:

- Introduction to Environmental Law
- Advanced Environmental Law
- Climate Policy and Climate Protection Law in Austria and the EU
- Seminar in Climate, Environmental, and Sustainability Law

Courses are taught in both German and English, often featuring team-teaching and practical case studies.

Module Content and Learning Outcomes

Students study the foundations and structure of environmental law, special administrative law areas (e.g., water, waste, and industrial installations), and international environmental law developments (Rio Declaration, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement). They explore European and Austrian climate protection regimes (EU Climate Law, Green Deal, Austrian Climate Protection Act), as well as energy law issues concerning renewable energy, efficiency, and new technologies.

Graduates are expected to independently analyze complex environmental legal questions, assess international and comparative climate law developments, and critically engage with the evolving field of sustainability law.

2. Outreach and Educational Engagement

School Workshops

As part of its broader mission to promote climate law literacy and public understanding of sustainability governance, ClimLaw: Graz actively contributes to educational outreach beyond the university setting. Within the framework of the Faculty of Law's Schulworkshops ("School Workshops") initiative, members of ClimLaw engage with secondary school students to introduce pressing contemporary legal issues in accessible and thought-provoking ways.

In February 2024, Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel, Director of ClimLaw: Graz, conducted a workshop titled "Klimakrise oder Recht auf Zukunft? Ein überlebenswichtiges Rechtsgebiet?" ("Climate Crisis or the Right to a Future? A Vital Field of Law"). The session examined how law can be a crucial tool for tackling the climate crisis and protecting the rights of future generations. By linking global environmental challenges with legal principles and climate justice, the workshop invited students to explore the relationship between law, ethics, and sustainability. This initiative highlights ClimLaw's commitment to promoting early engagement with climate law and inspiring the next generation to think critically about the role of legal systems in advancing a just and sustainable future.

Fall School on Climate Change and Biodiversity

In **October 2024**, members of **ClimLaw: Graz** actively contributed to the **Fall School on Climate Change and Biodiversity**, held from **21–25 October 2024**. The Fall School, organized under the University of Graz's Field of Excellence – Climate Change Graz, brought together experts and students from diverse disciplines—including ecology, law, economics, geography, and sustainability science—to explore the complex interactions between climate systems, ecosystems, and human societies.

Representing ClimLaw: Graz, **Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel** and **Atieh Khatibi** delivered key sessions within the legal module “*Governance of Risks and Legal Liabilities*”. Prof. Ruppel presented on **civil liabilities in the context of the climate catastrophe**, highlighting how legal systems can address responsibility and compensation in climate-related harms. Atieh Khatibi introduced participants to **climate law in Austria and Europe**, providing insights into evolving EU climate legislation and governance frameworks.

Their contributions reflected ClimLaw’s interdisciplinary approach and commitment to integrating legal perspectives into wider discussions on climate and biodiversity. The Fall School served as an excellent platform for collaboration among researchers, practitioners, and students, reinforcing ClimLaw’s engagement in teaching and research initiatives within the University of Graz and its *Field of Excellence – Climate Change Graz*.





Exchange visit to Havana & Cienfuegos, Cuba, April 2023



3. Selected Courses held by ClimLaw Members

In this chapter, we would like to present a selection of courses that were held by members of the research center. These include lectures, courses, and seminars.

International Climate Change Law, Policy and Litigation (Comparative Law Aspects)

This seminar was usually held by Prof Ruppel, who was assisted by different university assistants.

It focuses on selected aspects of comparative climate law and climate litigation. Climate law will be analyzed from a national (constitutional and public law) perspective and within the international context. The module has a particular focus on the complex legal questions arising from climate change, which influence other legal fields and backgrounds, such as politics, litigation, nature, and trade. Climate change law is often highly politicized due to its cross-cutting nature, cross-border relevance, and due to the particular interest of professionals in environmental and resources sectors, public policy, government, non-government, and private sectors. It is a critical field of law because of its climate

justice-related sensitivity to the social and economic opportunities, people, nations, continents, humanity, nature, and the world at large. Since its inception the international legal regime of climate change has branched off into numerous areas and related processes for the implementation of climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gasses emissions) and adaptation measures, making it also relevant to basically all branches of domestic public law (constitutional, administrative, criminal etc.) and public international law (environmental law, human rights, humanitarian issues, international trade, investment law etc.), as well its regional dimension (i.e. European Union law, African Union law etc.).

As part of this seminar, students will have access to an international PhD Workshop: ClimLaw: Graz Annual PhD Workshop on Climate Law and Climate Litigation in cooperation with UNEP, UBA, and ASSELLAU. The ClimLaw: Graz PhD Workshop is introduced to address the gap in Climate Law research by providing a workshop directly tailored to Climate Law and its various nuances. As an international workshop, there are no limits to region or topic; as such, each year the workshop will cover different or expanding elements of climate law while also seeking to address developments in climate litigation and the rule of law. This makes the module truly cross-cutting, comparative, and interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on insights from various jurisdictions as well as from economics, ethics, international relations, political science, and natural sciences.

Sustainable Development Law

Prof Ruppel will first hold this seminar in the summer semester of 2026. It will deal with the principles of sustainable development under international law as a legal concept. The focus will be primarily on the principles of sustainable development and their impact on other areas of law, for example, in relation to climate change.

Klimapolitik und Klimaschutzrecht in Österreich und der EU

This course is part of the interdisciplinary approach pursued by the research center. For this reason, this course is taught by Prof. Ruppel and Prof. Brudermann (Institute for Environmental Systems Science).

It explores climate policy on both the European and Austrian levels, providing students with a deep understanding of the legal and policy frameworks that shape contemporary climate action. It covers the fundamentals and key areas of Austrian and EU climate protection law, including the European Climate Law, the European Green Deal, and the Austrian Climate Protection Act (KSG). Beyond the legal and political aspects, the course also integrates insights from psychology, examining how human behavior, perception, and decision-making processes influence responses to climate change. Students discuss what psychological factors and societal conditions are necessary to promote a sustainable and climate-conscious society, thereby connecting legal knowledge with behavioral and social science perspectives.

Upon completion of the course, students will be equipped to critically discuss and evaluate key issues in Austrian and European climate policy. They will be able to identify and analyze complex legal questions that emerge in connection with climate change and its regulatory challenges. Furthermore, students will develop the capacity to apply relevant theories and legal procedures within the European and Austrian climate law frameworks, enabling them to approach climate-related legal problems with both analytical precision and contextual understanding.

Einführung in das Umweltrecht

This lecture is usually held in the winter semester by Ass. Prof. Gerhard Schnedl.

It provides an in-depth introduction to the fundamentals and structural features of Austrian environmental law, viewed within the broader framework of international and European Union environmental law. It examines the key principles, objectives, and sources of environmental legislation across different regulatory levels, covering topics such as environmental protection, constitutional and administrative aspects of environmental law, and the organisation of environmental governance in Austria. Students explore the various instruments of environmental administrative law, including mechanisms for public participation and legal protection. In addition, the course addresses private and criminal aspects of environmental law, as well as special areas of regulation and other branches of law with environmental relevance. Current developments and pressing issues in environmental law are discussed to connect theoretical foundations with contemporary legal practice.

After completing the course, students will be able to understand the fundamentals and structural features of environmental law, recognize environmental law issues, and discuss current events in environmental policy and assess them from a legal perspective with the aid of legal texts.

Ausgewählte Bereiche des Umweltrechts

This course is also held by Ass. Prof. Gerhard Schnedl and offers an in-depth exploration and specialization in selected areas of general and specific environmental law. It focuses on key Austrian legal instruments such as the Environmental Information Act (UIG), the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (UVP-G), the Industrial Plant Law under the Trade Regulation Act (GewO), the Water Rights Act (WRG), and the Waste Management Act (AWG). Students develop a foundational understanding of environmental constitutional law, the organisation of environmental administration, and the mechanisms of legal protection within administrative environmental law. Through guided case studies and instructor-led discussions, participants apply their acquired knowledge to concrete legal situations, enhancing both analytical and practical skills. The course also includes experiential learning components, such as participation in the Graz Environmental Law Forums or attendance at an environmental law hearing before the Styrian Provincial Administrative Court. Additionally, a guest lecture by a practicing lawyer provides professional insights into environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures from a legal perspective.

After completing the course, students will be able to identify complex environmental law issues, resolve legal cases with the aid of legal texts, and analyze statements made by practitioners.

Energierecht und Klimaschutz

Although this seminar is not part of the specialization field, it has enjoyed great popularity for years. It is held by Dr. Pirstner-Ebner ever since.

The course offers a discussion-based exploration of the fundamental principles and current legal challenges in international, European, and Austrian energy law, with a particular emphasis on climate protection and sustainable energy regulation. Key topics include the EU Green Deal, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, energy storage, and the legal implications of digitalization and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and power-to-gas (hydrogen) systems. The seminar is designed in close collaboration with the energy industry, integrating guest lectures and interactive discussions with professionals to bridge theory and practice. To conclude the course, students participate in an excursion to a renewable energy facility—such as a hydrogen production site, wind farm, hydroelectric plant, or biogas plant—together with representatives from the energy sector, providing hands-on insight into the practical application of energy law in the context of climate protection.

The course enables students to acquire both foundational and advanced knowledge in international, European, and Austrian energy law. It trains them to recognize, analyze, and resolve complex legal issues related to the energy sector, particularly those arising from the transition toward sustainable and climate-friendly energy systems. Through discussion and collaboration with experts and representatives from the energy industry, students develop a deeper understanding of the practical and regulatory challenges of contemporary energy law and enhance their ability to engage critically and constructively in professional legal discourse within this dynamic field.



**Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt
iSd § 4 Curriculum für das
Diplomstudium der
Rechtswissenschaften
an der Universität Graz**

„Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht“

Sprecher des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes:

Prof. (Stellenbosch) Dr. Oliver Ruppel, MM, LL.M.

Stellvertreter:

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gerhard Schnedl

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§ 1 Gegenstand, Qualifikationsprofil und Relevanz des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes

(1) Gegenstand des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes

Der Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt bietet eine vertiefte Ausbildung in den Bereichen Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht. Die genannten Rechtsbereiche stehen im Zeichen des Leitbildes einer nachhaltigen Entwicklung („sustainable development“). Im Zentrum des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes steht das österreichische Recht mit all seinen – gerade für diese Rechtsbereiche essentiellen – internationalen und europarechtlichen Bezügen. Ergänzend werden die politischen und sozio-ökonomischen Rahmenbedingungen des Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrechts und damit die notwendigen interdisziplinären Komponenten vermittelt. Wert gelegt wird aber auch auf einen transdisziplinären Dialog zwischen Wissenschaft, Praxis und Politik.

Der Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt ist eingebettet in das an der Rechtswissenschaftlichen Fakultät eingerichtete Forschungszentrum zum Klimaschutzrecht – ClimLaw: Graz – als Teil des interdisziplinär ausgerichteten profilbildenden Bereichs „Climate Change Graz“ der Universität Graz. Der Schwerpunkt verwirklicht damit ganz wesentlich den universitären Grundsatz einer forschungsgeleiteten Lehre, in die auch Mitglieder des genannten Profilbereichs eingebunden werden sollen.

(2) Qualifikationsprofil und Kompetenzen

Aufbauend auf der universaljuristischen Basisausbildung bietet der Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt eine wissenschafts- und berufsorientierte Spezalausbildung im österreichischen, europäischen und internationalen Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht unter Berücksichtigung interdisziplinärer Komponenten. Der internationale Bezug wird durch englischsprachige Lehrveranstaltungen verstärkt.

Die Absolventinnen und Absolventen des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes verfügen über fundierte Kenntnisse:

- im österreichischen, europäischen und internationalen Umweltrecht mit speziellen Vertiefungen
- im österreichischen, europäischen und internationalen Klimaschutzrecht mit speziellen Vertiefungen, etwa im Bereich Energierecht
- in der österreichischen, europäischen und internationalen Klimapolitik
- im Nachhaltigkeitsrecht
- in den sozio-ökonomischen Grundlagen des Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrechts.

Die Absolventinnen und Absolventen des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes sind in der Lage:

- mit dem im Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt erworbenen juristischen Problembewusstsein rechtswissenschaftlich zu argumentieren
- das erworbene Fachwissen auf praktische Fälle anzuwenden und Rechtsfragen nach den anerkannten Methoden der Rechtswissenschaft unter Erstellung eines wissenschaftlichen Anmerkungsapparates zu lösen
- Fachliteratur zu nutzen und Gerichtsentscheidungen zu analysieren
- facheinschlägige Datenbanken effektiv anzuwenden
- erworbene Wissen interdisziplinär einzusetzen
- je nach sprachlichen Vorkenntnissen dem Diskurs zum Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht auch in englischer Sprache zu folgen und juristisch zu argumentieren
- die gesellschaftlichen und sozio-ökonomischen Implikationen des Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrechts zu reflektieren
- Teamfähigkeit, mündliche und schriftliche Kommunikationskompetenz sowie Organisationsfertigkeiten in ihre Arbeit einzubringen.

(3) Bedarf und Relevanz für die Wissenschaft und den Arbeitsmarkt

Umweltschutz, Klimawandel, Energiewende und Nachhaltigkeit sind Themen von besonderer politischer Brisanz. Ihre wirtschaftliche und gesellschaftliche Bedeutung wird in den kommenden Jahren noch erheblich zunehmen, stellt die aktuelle Umwelt-, Klima- und Energiekrise doch eine der größten Herausforderungen unserer Zeit dar. Dieser Herausforderung hat sich auch die Rechtswissenschaft zu stellen, zumal das Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht in den letzten Jahren bzw. Jahrzehnten rasant gewachsen ist. Die Rechtsentwicklung ist in den genannten Rechtsbereichen freilich noch nicht abgeschlossen, vor allem das Klima- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht befindet sich erst im Aufbau. Juristische Expertise ist hier also von immer größer werdender Relevanz. Sowohl im wissenschaftlichen Bereich als auch auf dem Arbeitsmarkt werden die im Rahmen dieses Ausbildungsschwerpunktes vermittelten Kenntnisse daher entsprechend stark nachgefragt werden.

Die Absolventinnen und Absolventen des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes sind befähigt zu juristischen Tätigkeiten im Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitssektor. Dies umfasst insbesondere den Einsatz in den folgenden Bereichen:

- öffentliche Verwaltung
- Justiz
- Anwaltschaft
- Politik
- Rechts- und Politikberatung
- Europäische und internationale Organisationen
- Umweltorganisationen und sonstige NGOs
- Umweltanwaltschaften
- berufliche Interessenvertretungen
- Wirtschaftsunternehmen
- Forschung und Lehre.

§ 2 Allgemeine Bestimmungen

(1) Umfang

Der Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt umfasst 21 ECTS-Anrechnungspunkte.

(2) Unterrichtssprache

Die Lehrveranstaltungen des Spezialisierungsschwerpunktes werden in deutscher und englischer Sprache abgehalten.

(3) Kombinationslehrveranstaltung

Die Lehrveranstaltung „*Klimapolitik und Klimaschutzrecht in Österreich und der EU*“ (VU) sowie zumindest ein Seminar im Bereich „*Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht*“ werden als Kombinationslehrveranstaltung iSd § 4 Abs 2 Z 2 des Curriculums für das Diplomstudium der Rechtswissenschaften angeboten.

(4) Team-Teaching

Seminare im Bereich „*Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht*“ können in Form von Team-Teaching abgehalten werden.

§ 3 Lehrveranstaltungsübersicht

Lehrveranstaltungen:	LV-Typ	ECTS	KStd	M/S/PI
Einführung in das Umweltrecht	VO	3	2	S
Umweltrecht Vertiefung	KS	5	2	PI
Klimapolitik und Klimaschutzrecht in Österreich und der EU	VU	3	2	PI
Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht	SE	10	4	PI
Gesamt ECTS:		21	10	

§ 4 Inkrafttreten, Auflassung und Übergangsbestimmungen

(1) Inkrafttreten

Der Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt tritt mit 1. Oktober 2025 in Kraft.

(2) Auflassung

Der Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt wird mit 30. September 2026 aufgelassen. Eine Verlängerung ist möglich, bedarf jedoch einer weiteren Genehmigung gemäß § 4 des Curriculums für das Diplomstudium der Rechtswissenschaften.

(3) Übergangsbestimmung

Studierende, die sich zu diesem Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt angemeldet haben, haben gemäß § 4 Abs 2 Z 5 des Curriculums für das Diplomstudium der Rechtswissenschaften die Möglichkeit, die im Spezialisierungsplan vorgesehenen Lehrveranstaltungen binnen zwei Semestern nach Auflassung des Spezialisierungsschwerpunkts zu absolvieren.

Anhang: Spezifische Modulbeschreibung

In Ergänzung zur Beschreibung des „Modul N: Spezialisierung“ in Anhang des Curriculums für das Diplomstudium der Rechtswissenschaften wird der vorliegende Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt wie folgt beschrieben:

Modul N	Spezialisierungsschwerpunkt: Klima-, Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsrecht
ECTS-Anrechnungspunkte	21
Inhalte:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grundlagen und Strukturmerkmale des österreichischen Umweltrechts im Kontext des Umweltvölkerrechts und des Umweltunionsrechts Allgemeines Umweltrecht: Umweltschutz und Umweltrecht, Rechtsetzungsebenen und Rechtsquellen des Umweltrechts, Einteilung des Umweltrechts, Ziele und Prinzipien des Umweltrechts, Umweltvölkerrecht, Umweltunionsrecht, Umweltverfassungsrecht, Umweltverwaltungsorganisation, Instrumente des Umweltverwaltungsrechts, Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung und Rechtsschutz im Umweltverwaltungsrecht, Umweltprivatrecht, Umweltstrafrecht Besonderes Umweltrecht im Überblick: Teilrechtsgebiete des Umweltrechts sowie sonstige Rechtsgebiete mit Umweltrelevanz Vertiefung und Spezialisierung in ausgewählten Bereichen des Umweltverwaltungsrechts, z.B. Umweltinformationsgesetz (UIG), Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz (UVP-G), Betriebsanlagenrecht der Gewerbeordnung (GewO), Wasserrechtsgesetz (WRG), Abfallwirtschaftsgesetz (AVG) – in enger Kooperation mit der Praxis Vertiefung und Spezialisierung im Umweltvölkerrecht: Überblick über die Entwicklung des Umweltvölkerrechts von dessen Frühphase bis heute mit Schwerpunkt auf der im Zeichen der „nachhaltigen Entwicklung“ stehenden Rio-Konferenz von 1992 sowie der Rio-Folgeprozesse; weitere brisante Situationen, Projekte und Ereignisse im Bereich des Umweltvölkerrechts Klimapolitik auf europäischer und österreichischer Ebene Grundlagen und ausgewählte Bereiche des europäischen und österreichischen Klimaschutzrechts (Europäisches Klimagesetz, europäischer Green Deal, österreichisches Klimaschutzgesetz – KSG) Psychologie des Klimawandels und menschliches Entscheidungsverhalten Internationales Klimaschutzrecht und Klimaschutzpolitik (Klimarahmenkonvention der Vereinten Nationen, Kyoto-Protokoll, Pariser Abkommen) und deren wesentliche Umsetzungsmechanismen auch im Hinblick auf die Verknüpfung mit anderen Bereichen des nationalen und internationalen Rechts – in bereichsübergreifender, vergleichender und interdisziplinärer Perspektive

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ausgewählte Aspekte des vergleichenden Klimaschutzrechts und der Klimaprozessführung (Klimaklagen) in interdisziplinärer Perspektive • Völkerrechtlicher Grundsatz der nachhaltigen Entwicklung als Rechtskonzept und in Bezug auf diverse Rechtsbereiche, insb. in Bezug auf den Klimawandel • Grundlagen und aktuelle Rechtsfragen im internationalen, europäischen und österreichischen Energierecht mit Schwerpunkt Klimaschutzenegierecht, z.B. Erneuerbare Energien, Energieeffizienz, Energiespeicherung, Digitalisierung und neue Technologien im Energierecht – in enger Kooperation mit der Praxis • Darstellung, Analyse und Diskussion von Entscheidungen der österreichischen Höchstgerichte (OGH, VwGH, VfGH) sowie von EuGH und EGMR zu Fragen des zivilen- und öffentlich-rechtlichen Immissionsschutz- und Umwelthaftungsrechts.
Erwartete Lernergebnisse und Kompetenzen:	<p>Studierende sind nach Absolvierung des Moduls in der Lage,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • die Grundlagen und Strukturmerkmale des Umweltrechts zu verstehen, umweltrechtliche Probleme zu erkennen und das umweltpolitische Tagesgeschehen zu diskutieren bzw. unter Zuhilfenahme der Gesetzestexte rechtlich zu beurteilen • komplexe umweltrechtliche Probleme zu erkennen, Rechtsfälle zu lösen und Ausführungen von Praktikerinnen/Praktikern zu analysieren • aktuelle Entwicklungen und Fragestellungen des Umweltvölkerrechts zu analysieren, zu diskutieren und kritisch auszuwerten • grundlegende Themen der österreichischen und europäischen Klimapolitik zu erörtern und zu bewerten • komplexe gesetzliche Fragestellungen, die der Klimawandel mit sich bringt zu erkennen und zu erörtern • Theorien und Verfahren, die für das europäische und österreichische Klimarechtsregime relevant sind, zu analysieren und anzuwenden • Theorien und Verfahren, die für das internationale Klimarechtsregime relevant sind, zu analysieren und anzuwenden • über Fragen des Klimawandelrechts in Theorie und Praxis kritisch zu reflektieren und Aspekte des Klimaschutzrechts und der Klimapolitik auch aus der Fallperspektive zu erläutern • ihr Wissen zu verschiedenen internationalen, vergleichenden und nationalen Rechtsmaterialien zu Klimapolitik und Klimarecht zu vertiefen und anzuwenden • die internationale Perspektive der Theorie und des Rechts der nachhaltigen Entwicklung sowie die aktuellen Entwicklungen auf diesem Gebiet zu verstehen und zu erörtern • die Grundlagen des internationalen, europäischen und österreichischen Energierechts zu verstehen, spezifische

	<p>energierechtliche Rechtsfragen zu erkennen und zu lösen und diese mit Praktikerinnen/Praktikern zu analysieren</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spezialfragen des zivil- und öffentlich-rechtlichen Immissionsschutz- und Umwelthaftungsrechts eigenständig und fächerübergreifend zu bearbeiten.
Lehr- und Lernaktivitäten, -methoden:	(Lehr-)Vortrag, Literaturstudium, Analyse von Fallbeispielen, Übungsbeispiele, Referate, Gruppenarbeiten, Diskussion
Häufigkeit des Angebots:	jedes Studienjahr



**ClimLaw: Graz
MEDIA
& COMMUNICATION**

Overview

ClimLaw: Graz places strong emphasis on communication, outreach, and public engagement. Through its digital platforms, media presence, and open-access publications, the center ensures that innovative research in climate law and governance reaches both academic and non-academic audiences. By combining scholarly excellence with accessible communication, ClimLaw fosters informed dialogue on the legal and institutional dimensions of climate change.

Website

The **official ClimLaw: Graz website** — <https://climlaw.uni-graz.at> serves as the central hub for information about the center's research, projects, events, and publications. It provides:

- Updates on **ongoing and completed research projects**;
- Access to **open-access publications**, including the *ClimLaw Perspectives* series;
- Details on **international partnerships, academic programs, and events**; and
- A news section highlighting ClimLaw's **involvement in conferences, media appearances, and collaborations**.

The website functions as both a public information resource and a networking platform for academics, policymakers, and practitioners interested in climate law.

LinkedIn and Social Media Presence

ClimLaw: Graz maintains an active professional presence on **LinkedIn**:

<https://at.linkedin.com/company/climlaw-graz>



The LinkedIn platform serves as an essential communication tool for:

- Sharing **research news, event updates, and publications**;
- Promoting **international collaborations and project outcomes**; and
- Building a professional community of researchers, policymakers, and students working on climate and environmental law.

Through regular updates and engagement, ClimLaw has grown its international network and enhanced visibility within global academic and policy circles.

ClimLaw: Graz Newsletter

Since 2022, the **ClimLaw: Graz Newsletter** has served as a key instrument for disseminating the center's research highlights, event announcements, and policy insights. Each issue features:

- Updates on **projects, workshops, and field activities**;
- Articles and interviews with **ClimLaw researchers and partners**;
- Reports from **international conferences and PhD workshops**; and
- A spotlight on **new publications and research collaborations**.

The newsletter circulates digitally among ClimLaw's international partners, academic institutions, and policy networks, enhancing engagement and visibility.

All four issues of the ClimLaw: Graz Quarterly Newsletter (Volumes 1–4) are available for open access at:

<https://climlaw.uni-graz.at/de/ueber-das-zentrum/climlaw-graz-newsletter/>

Media and Communication (Public Outreach & Expert Commentary)

2025

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ClimLaw: Graz FUTURE OUTLOOK

ClimLaw: Graz

The Future Outlook

The United Nations Environment Programme in its 2025 publication on *Climate change in the courtroom: Trends, impacts and emerging lessons* captures that:

“Climate ambition around the world remains inadequate to meet the challenge of our climate crisis. Despite improvement in countries’ mitigation and adaptation targets, and numerous corporate pledges to achieve net zero emissions in the future, the international community is still a long way from achieving the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement. In response, individuals, children and youth, women, human rights groups, communities, Indigenous Peoples’ groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), business entities, and national and subnational governments have turned to courts, tribunals, quasi-judicial bodies, or other adjudicatory bodies, including Special Procedures at the United Nations and arbitration tribunals. Through these bodies and institutions, they have sought relief through the enforcement of existing climate laws; integration of climate action into existing environmental, energy, and natural resources laws; orders to legislators, policymakers, and business enterprises to be more ambitious and thorough in their approaches to climate change; establishment of clear definitions of human rights and obligations affected by climate change; and compensation for climate harms. As these cases become more frequent and numerous, the body of legal precedent grows, forming an increasingly well-defined field of law (...). Court decisions may not only be drivers of forward- looking climate ambition but also mechanisms to deter backsliding. Decisions by courts may hold governments accountable for climate commitments already made under various instruments, including multilateral environmental agreements. Importantly, courts may at times impose limits on climate regulation or recognize the limits of their own power to provide a remedy.

At the same time, courts are increasingly serving as forums for adjudicating a wide array of disputes arising under the evolving legal architecture of climate change. As more climate-related laws are codified and new systems for mitigation and adaptation are implemented, the number, type and legal character of disputes continue to diversify. Not all cases push in the same direction. For example, litigation regarding carbon offsets and credits often resembles commercial contract disputes, and climate-washing cases aim to police misleading speech in consumer and investor markets about the climate change- related performance of products—often without directly addressing the substantive ambition of climate action. In addition, lawsuits filed by regulated entities frequently challenge the stringency of climate regulations or contest other regulatory choices governments make in their implementation and application of climate-related laws. Courts also may be asked to adjudicate trade-offs between climate change and other environmental, economic and social interests. These cases underscore that the terrain of climate litigation is not uniform, and the interests of plaintiffs are not unidirectional. Rather, climate litigation is a complex and diverse field that shapes and contests the global response to climate change. The field involves a multiplicity of actors, forums, legal strategies and outcomes. Significantly, climate litigation as a field is becoming a model for other climate-adjacent fields such as plastics and biodiversity litigation.”

In light of the aforementioned, the years ahead present both challenges and opportunities for ClimLaw: Graz to position itself as a leading hub for innovative, interdisciplinary climate law research and education. As the climate crisis intensifies and global governance frameworks evolve, the center must not only respond to legal developments but actively shape them through thought leadership, collaboration, and strategic vision. Our future efforts will focus on deepening the legal understanding of the complex interactions between climate systems, human behaviour, and socio-economic structures. This will require a stronger integration of law with environmental sciences, economics, and policy studies, ensuring that legal scholarship remains at the forefront of interdisciplinary climate research. ClimLaw: Graz will continue to provide evidence-based guidance for climate governance, focusing on the legal mechanisms that enable resilience, adaptation, and transformation at multiple scales.

A major priority will be the expansion of our research and teaching capacity. We aim to attract more and more talented doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, foster innovative research groups, and build a vibrant academic community that thrives on diversity and global engagement. Strengthening links with international research networks will allow ClimLaw: Graz not only to act as a bridge between Austrian, European and global perspectives in climate law.

To ensure long-term sustainability, ClimLaw: Graz will pursue strategic partnerships and funding opportunities at all levels. Such multilevel climate governance involves coordination between various actors at different scales - local, regional, national, and international - to address climate change in its entirety and with all geopolitical and sectoral specificity. It recognises that climate change requires action beyond a single government level and includes both state actors (like governments) and non-state actors (like businesses, NGOs, and civil society) in decision-making processes. In this, it will be our goal is to ensure that global and national climate action translates into effective, on-the-ground actions by engaging all walks of society.

Joint research initiatives, collaborative grant applications, and partnerships with public institutions, private actors, and civil society will secure a solid foundation for continued growth. Finally, our center will remain committed to translating academic insight into real-world policy impact. By engaging actively with policymakers, industry representatives, and international organisations, ClimLaw: Graz shall contribute to shape effective and equitable climate law frameworks - both within Austria and beyond. In doing so, ClimLaw: Graz shall not only to contribute to research the law of climate change, but to be a driving force in its evolution, implementation and monitoring, thus building legal pathways towards a more sustainable, just, and climate-resilient future.

Ultimately, on “our highway to hell” (as per Antonio Guterres) we need to convince the industry and global politics beyond borders, that both the economy and climate protection are two sides of the same coin. Some may think this is a conundrum – especially in politics. However, climate protection, law and the economy are inextricably linked, as the legal framework must shape economic interests in such a way that climate targets can be achieved. On the one hand, climate protection requires legal regulations and government investment to reduce emissions and finance adaptation measures. On the other hand, the economy can view climate protection as an opportunity for innovation and growth. Moreover, we need to shape new ways of climate diplomacy in order to achieve transformative climate justice, which

demands recognition, that the Global South and the Global North face different realities, which imply different capacities, resources and priorities, which in turn call for different responsibilities countering the climate crisis. At ClimLaw: Graz we want to do our part to help bridge this gap.

November 2025

The ClimLaw: Graz – Team

Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Naturschutzrecht

Recht, Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise

Biodiversität im Kontext der Klimakrise: Rechtliche Perspektiven auf internationaler, europäischer und nationaler Ebene

Neben der Klimakrise zählt die Biodiversitätskrise zu einer der größten Herausforderungen unserer Zeit. Sie zeigt sich in einem massiven und rasch voranschreitenden Rückgang der biologischen Vielfalt: Weltweit sind zahlreiche Tier- und Pflanzenarten ausgestorben oder vom Aussterben bedroht, weil ihre Lebensräume durch menschliche Aktivitäten zerstört oder erheblich beeinträchtigt wurden. Um den Verlust der Biodiversität zu stoppen, sind rechtliche Anstrengungen auf globaler, regionaler und nationaler Ebene erforderlich.

Ein zuletzt auf EU-Ebene viel diskutiertes Instrument ist die Renaturierung, also die Wiederherstellung geschädigter Ökosysteme. Die Beiträge dieses Sammelbands beleuchten die rechtlichen Grundlagen des Biodiversitätsschutzes im Völkerrecht, im Unionsrecht und im österreichischen Recht. Im Zentrum steht die EU-Renaturierungs-VO und deren Auswirkungen auf die Mitgliedstaaten, insbesondere auf Österreich.

Darüber hinaus werden aber auch Fragen des Rechtsschutzes, aktuelle Judikatur zum Artenschutzrecht, die Stellung des Naturschutzes und der Biodiversität im Anlagenverfahren sowie die Wechselwirkungen zwischen Biodiversitätsverlust



Schnedl/Ruppel/Walcher (Hrsg)
Biodiversität und Renaturierung im Naturschutzrecht
Recht, Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise

Sammlung

Seitenanzahl
200 Seiten, broschiert
ISBN
ISBN 978-3-7046-9771-4 (Print)
Erscheinungsdatum
31. Dezember 2025
54,00 € (Print)

Preise inkl gesetzlicher MwSt

veragoesterreich.at

Kundenservice: T: +43-1-610 77-123
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Forschungszentrum für
Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw:Graz)

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Festakt 5 Jahre Forschungszentrum für Klimaschutzrecht

(ClimLaw: Graz)

Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz –
Verbunden im Recht?



Dienstag
25. November 2025
09:00 Uhr
Meerscheinschlössl



Anmeldung & Information
cilmaw@uni-graz.at

Veranstaltungsort:
Meerscheinschlössl
Mozartgasse 3, 8010 Graz
Veranstaltungsdauer:
9:30 – 17:00 Uhr

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PERSPEKTIVEN FÜR UMWELT & GESELLSCHAFT

PROGRAMM

09:00: Registrierung und Kaffee

Teil 1: 5 Jahre ClimLaw: Graz

Moderation:

Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, LL.M.
 Leiter des Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz) und
 Principal Investigator am Profilbereich Climate Change, Universität Graz

09:30: Eröffnung und Grußworte

Dr. Peter Riedler
 Rektor der Universität Graz

Prof. Dr. Željko Tanjić
 Rektor der Katholischen Universität von Kroatien
Univ.-Prof.in Dr.in iur. Gabriele Schmölzer
 Dekanin der REWI-Fakultät der Universität Graz
Univ.-Prof.in Mag.a Dr.in iur. Maria Bertel
 Leiterin des Instituts für Öffentliches Recht und Politikwissenschaft der Universität Graz

10:10: Offizielle Unterzeichnung des Memorandum of Understanding zwischen ClimLaw: Graz, Universität Graz und Laudato si' Center for Christian Responsibility and Care for All Creation, Katholische Universität von Kroatien

10:20: ClimLaw: Graz - Die Anfänge

Univ.-Prof.in Mag.a Mag.a Dr.in iur. Eva Schulev-Steindl, LL.M.
 Rektorin der Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

10:40: ClimLaw: Graz - Was ist passiert, was kommt als Nächstes?

Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, LL.M.
 Leiter des Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz) und
 Principal Investigator am Profilbereich Climate Change, Universität Graz

Teil 2: Klimaschutzrecht im Mehrebenensystem

Moderation:

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. iur. Gerhard Schnedl
 Assistenzprofessor am Institut für Öffentliches Recht und Politikwissenschaft und Mitglied
 des Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht ClimLaw: Graz

11:00: Internationales Klimaschutzrecht

Prof. Dr. Michael Rodi
 Geschäftsführender und wissenschaftlicher Direktor sowie Leiter der Forschungsakademie
 am Institut für Klimaschutz, Energie und Mobilität e.V., IKEM, Berlin

**11:20: Europäisches Klimaschutzrecht – Neueste Entwicklungen im
Unionsrecht und Klimaklagen**

Prof. Dr. Markus Beham, LL.M. (Columbia)

Professor für Öffentliches Recht, Völker- und Europarecht an der Europa-Universität
Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

11:40: Kaffeepause

12:00: Österreichisches Klimaschutzrecht – Aktuelle Entwicklungen

Dr. iur. Moritz Tiefenthaler und Franziska Marhold, BA

Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Klima- und Umweltschutz, Regionen
und Wasserwirtschaft

**12:20: Rechtsrahmen und Strategien für regionale Klimaschutzmaßnahmen –
Steiermark**

Mag.a Andrea Gössinger-Wieser

Leiterin des Referats Klimaschutzkoordination, Land Steiermark

12:40: Kommunale Klimaschutzmaßnahmen - Stadt Graz

Mag.a Judith Schwentner

Stellvertretende Bürgermeisterin der Stadt Graz

13:00: Mittagspause

Teil 3: Buchvorstellung und der Wert internationaler Kooperationen

**14:00: Präsentation der Publikation „Biodiversität und Renaturierung im
Naturschutzrecht. Recht, Politik und Praxis im Zeichen der Klimakrise“
(erscheint im Verlag Österreich)**

Moderation:

Ass.-Prof. Mag. Dr. iur. Gerhard Schnedl

Assistenzprofessor am Institut für Öffentliches Recht und Politikwissenschaft und
Mitglied des Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht ClimLaw: Graz

**14:10: The value of international partnerships for the promotion of
climate law and justice**

Prof.in Pamela Martino

Professorin für vergleichendes öffentliches Recht an der Aldo-Moro-Universität Bari

Dr. Giuseppe Naglieri

Assistenzprofessor für vergleichendes öffentliches Recht an der
Aldo-Moro-Universität Bari

Teil 4: Diskussionsforum: Klimaschutz – was kann die Wirtschaft tun?

Moderation:

Prof. (Stellenbosch) MM Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, LL.M.

Leiter des Forschungszentrums für Klimaschutzrecht (ClimLaw: Graz) und Principal Investigator am Profilbereich Climate Change, Universität Graz

14:30: Auftakt

Mag.a Elisabeth Zehetner

Staatssekretärin für Energie, Start-ups und Tourismus im Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus

14:50: Impulse

DI Günther Lichtblau

Leiter des Bereichs Klima und Energie im Umweltbundesamt

Mag. Markus Oyrer, BSc LL.B.

Referent in der Abteilung für Umwelt- und Energiepolitik der WKO

Mag. DI Markus Steinhäusler

Group Public Affairs, voestalpine

Christian Tesch

Geschäftsführer, oecolution

Mag. Mario Walcher, LL.M.

Rechtsanwalt und Partner, Hohenberg Rechtsanwälte

PD Dr.in Teresa Weber, MSc.

Forschungsinstitut für Urban Management and Governance, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

15:50: Diskussion unter Einbeziehung des Publikums

16:30: Voraussichtliches Ende und anschließendes Networking mit Weinausklang

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Illustrationen: stock.adobe.com/ARM; freepik.com

Layout: Kommunikation und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, Universität Graz