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This two-day workshop examines legal strategies to implement sustainability, confront the climate crisis, and pursue justice on a burning planet. We focus on two approaches: ***pushing the boundaries of existing law*** through innovative interpretations, as seen in the global rise of climate litigation, and ***renewing the law*** by crafting new legal concepts, such as the campaign to recognize ecocide as an international crime.

Our starting point is simple: despite decades of scientific warnings, expert assessments, and governance efforts, meaningful political action to curb emissions, halt ecological destruction, and hold corporate polluters accountable remains insufficient. Environmental law, shaped within capitalist frameworks that helped drive the ecological crisis (Hwang 2022), struggles to bring development pathways within planetary boundaries. Even with thousands of environmental agreements and countless "green solutions," escalating climate impacts and ecological violence render the planet increasingly unjust and difficult to inhabit (Barry, 2012).

In response, two complementary strategies have emerged. First, climate litigation has expanded across jurisdictions to pressure governments and companies, supported by transnational expert and activist networks (Setzer & Higham 2023; Aykut et al. 2024). Second, the push to criminalize ecocide—revived through campaigns led by figures such as Polly Higgins—has gained political traction, with Pacific Island states submitting a formal proposal to amend the Rome Statute in 2024. National and regional initiatives to adopt ecocide laws are proliferating.

Against this backdrop, we invite scholars from law, IR, political science, sociology, and criminology to debate the dynamics, intersections, and limits of climate litigation and ecocide law.

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DRAFT PROGRAM

Day 1. Climate Litigation: Innovating within the boundaries of existing law (29.01.2026)

Time	Description
10:30	Registration and Opening Remarks (Stefan C. Aykut & Juneseo Hwang)
11:00-12:30	Session I: **Prerequisites and resources** for climate litigation Chair: Frank Adloff **Michael Kalis**: On the "Justiciability" of climate change **Noah Walker-Crawford**: "Causation": Scientific evidence for responsibility in court **Anna-Julia Saiger (tbc)**: The role of national courts in international climate law **Lea Frerichs:** Insights from the database for German climate litigation
12:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Session II: **Effects** of climate litigation (chair: Laura Affolter) **Ivano Alogna**: The "toolbox" for corporate climate litigation (online) **Cathrin Zengerling** / **Stefan Aykut** / **Antje Wiener**: Legal and societal effects of litigation **Sandrine Maljean-Dubois**: The ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change **Joana Setzer**: Effects of non-climate-aligned litigation: The anti-ESG movement
16:00	**Visit at ITLOS** (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea)
19:00	Conference Dinner

Day 2. Ecocide Law: A New Paradigm for Justice? (30.01.2026)

Time	Description
10:00	Registration and Opening Remarks (at 10:20 by Juneseo Hwang)
10:30-12:00	Session I: On the Necessity of Ecocide Law Chair: **tbd** **Sue Miller** on the new horizon of the global ecocide law movement **Anne Dienelt** on the Application of global and EU ecocide laws **Suhong Yang** on Ecocide law for the protection of human Rights
12:00	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Session II: On the Intersections Chair: Centre Fellow or **Rosaleen Duffy** **Saba Pipia** on animal law, environmental law, and criminal law **Rimona Afana**: Confronting the merchants of death driving genocide and ecocide: Grassroots initiatives against the military–industrial complex
15:00	Coffee & Tea
15:30-17:00	Session III: On the Limits Chair: **Juneseo Hwang** **Audra Mitchell** on Conceptual limits of genocide and ecocide from a bioplurality perspective **Rosaleen Duffy** on Centring Animals in Ecocide: Lessons from biodiversity conservation for climate breakdown **Damien McIlroy** on Global just transition, green capitalism, and the ecocide-genocide nexus
17:15	Open Discussion: Film watching (10 mins) & Reflections from the floor
18:00	Closing (by Frank Adloff, Christine Hentschel, and Stefan Aykut)