

Call for Papers

International Workshop “Developing Robust and Sustainable Ocean Regimes for Uncertain Futures”

**Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University
28 April 2023, Singapore**

In his 2022 Ho Rih Hwa Leadership Lecture at Singapore Management University, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister of Singapore, eloquently described a world that has entered a “long perfect storm”. Minister Shanmugaratnam highlights foreboding clouds of rising inflation and economic recession, food and energy crises, climate change, mass extinction, pandemics, geopolitical tensions. All of this foreshadows a new reality. The future can no longer be proofed. Rather, the international community is facing very uncertain global futures.

Our choices today impact the possible futures we may face. Therefore, it is crucial that contemporary international law is made with desirable futures in mind. When it comes to oceans, while international community celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, we are at a critical period of developing global ocean regimes: the United Nations Conference on Marine Biodiversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and International Seabed Authority’s Mining Code are all being negotiated simultaneously.

The key research question of this workshop is centred on exploring of how global legal regimes *should* be developed to achieve a peaceful, healthy and sustainable ocean in uncertain futures. The workshop will address two categories of future scenarios. First, the ‘known unknowns’, such as pandemics, technological advancements at sea, mass extinction of marine species and the rise of China and its impact on the world’s oceans. Second, the so-called ‘unknown unknowns’ and the different ways to develop a resilient law of the sea that anticipates unexpected risks or situations. Examples could include future methods and imaginative techniques.

This hybrid workshop is co-organised by Singapore Management University, Centre for Commercial Law in Asia, with kind support of Baker McKenzie Wong & Leow, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange and American Society of International Law.

Call for abstracts

Abstracts of no more than **250 words** should be emailed to **Associate Professor Nengye LIU** (nengyeliu@smu.edu.sg) by **15 January 2023**. Selected speakers will be notified by **15 February 2023**. Speakers are required to submit a working paper by **21 April 2023**. It is anticipated that an edited book from the Workshop will be published by a prominent publisher.

Practicalities

The Workshop will be held at SMU’s state of the art Kwa Geok Choo Law Library as a hybrid event (in person + zoom). It is free of charge, though speakers and participants will cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Keynote Speakers (confirmed, in person)

Prof Shirley Scott, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra, Australia



Shirley Scott is a Professor of International Law and International Relations in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at UNSW Canberra. Professor Scott's research lies at the intersection of International Law and International Relations. One of her most significant contributions to scholarship in International Law has been her theory of international law as ideology. She has also contributed widely to on topics including the engagement of the United States with international law, Antarctic governance, Antarctica, and climate change and international security. In 2019 Professor Scott was elected President of the Asian Society of International Law (AsianSIL). She was also appointed a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Prof Karen Scott, Faculty of Law, University of Canterbury, New Zealand



Karen N Scott is a Professor of Law at the University of Canterbury, Associate Dean (Research), President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law (ANZSIL) and Editor-in-Chief of *Ocean Development and International Law* (ODIL). Karen is on the board of seven journals including the *Brill Research Perspectives on the Law of the Sea* and the *Australian Yearbook of International Law*. She researches and teaches in the areas of public international law, law of the sea and international environmental law. Karen has published over 100 edited books, journal articles and book chapters in these areas. Karen was Head of the School of Law at the University of Canterbury between 2015 and 2018. She previously taught at the University of Nottingham in the UK.

Prof Alexander Proelss, Faculty of Law, University of Hamburg, Germany



Alexander Proelss is the Chair in the International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, Public International Law and Public Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hamburg, where he is also the Director of the Institute for the Law of the Sea and for Maritime Law (ISSR). Prior to his move to Hamburg, he was Professor for Public Law, in particular Public International Law and European Union Law, and Director of the Institute of Environmental Law (IUTR) and the Institute for Legal Policy (IRP) at Trier University. International environmental law and the international law of the sea constitute the focal points of his research. Alexander Proelss has been a member of several national and international research consortia and has advised State agencies, international organizations and NGOs both in Germany and abroad on numerous occasions.

Conference Chair

Associate Professor Nengye LIU, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University



Nengye LIU is an recognized authority in the fields of the law of the sea and international environmental law. Over the past decade, Assoc Prof Liu has published 40+ refereed articles and delivered 100+ presentations about his research findings across five continents. Since 2021, he has been serving as Co-Chair of American Society of International Law's International Environmental Law Interest Group as well as Member of the Governing Board, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law. He also sits on the editorial board of *Marine Policy* and *Ocean Development and International Law*.