

Special Workshop No. 4

Re-Assessing Rights of Nature

CONVENORS: Daniel Corrigan (Marymount University)

Markku Oksanen (University of Eastern Finland)

The idea of recognizing legal rights of the natural environment can be traced to Stone's 1972 article, "Should Trees Have Standing?—Towards Legal Rights for Natural Objects." Stone argued that nature itself should be granted rights, so that the interests of the natural environment could receive legal recognition and consideration. The idea originated as a thought experiment, but transformed into a response to a proposed development project. The case was ultimately appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and while the majority did not decide to recognize the rights of nature, the idea was cited in the dissenting opinion. In the decades since this case, the idea that we should recognize legal rights of nature has begun to make progress. New Zealand has recognized the rights of two rivers and a national park area, Ecuador and Bolivia have legislated the Law of the Rights of Mother Earth, and some municipalities in the USA have decreed the rights of nature. Nevertheless, the idea is hardly fully mature, and its legal efficacy and implications remain to be seen. The purpose of the workshop is to re-assess this innovative legal idea, with the potential to revolutionize the concepts of rights, standing, and recognition as traditionally understood in Western legal systems.

THE SCHEDULE

Monday 8 July 2019

14.00-16.00

Alfonso Donoso (Institute of Political Science, P. Universidad Católica De Chile):
Nonhumans and Territorial Rights

Andreas Gutmann (University of Bremen, Germany): Pachamama as a legal person? Rights of nature and indigenous thinking in Ecuador

Pierre Brunet (Université Paris 1 - Ecole de Droit de la Sorbonne, France): *Judges' Ecology: between new legal ontology and political compromise*

16.30-18.30

Giulia Sajeva (Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy): *Environmentally-conditioned rights. Double foundations and internal limits: a good idea?*

Linnea Luuppala (Social and Moral Philosophy, Department of Political and Economic Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland): *Does Nature Have a Right to Be Restored? Developing the Rights of Nature in the Context of Ecological Restoration*

Tuesday 9 July 2019

08.30-10.30

Anna Wienhues (Keele University, UK; The Centre for Ethics of the University of Zürich, Switzerland): *Non-ranking Biocentrism: Grounding A Framework of Ecological Justice*

Daniel Corrigan (Marymount University, USA): *Climate Change and Respect for Nature: What Can Rights of Nature Contribute?*

Markku Oksanen (University of Eastern Finland) & **Anne Kumpula** (University of Turku, Finland): *Close reading Stone: An Analysis of the Arguments*