

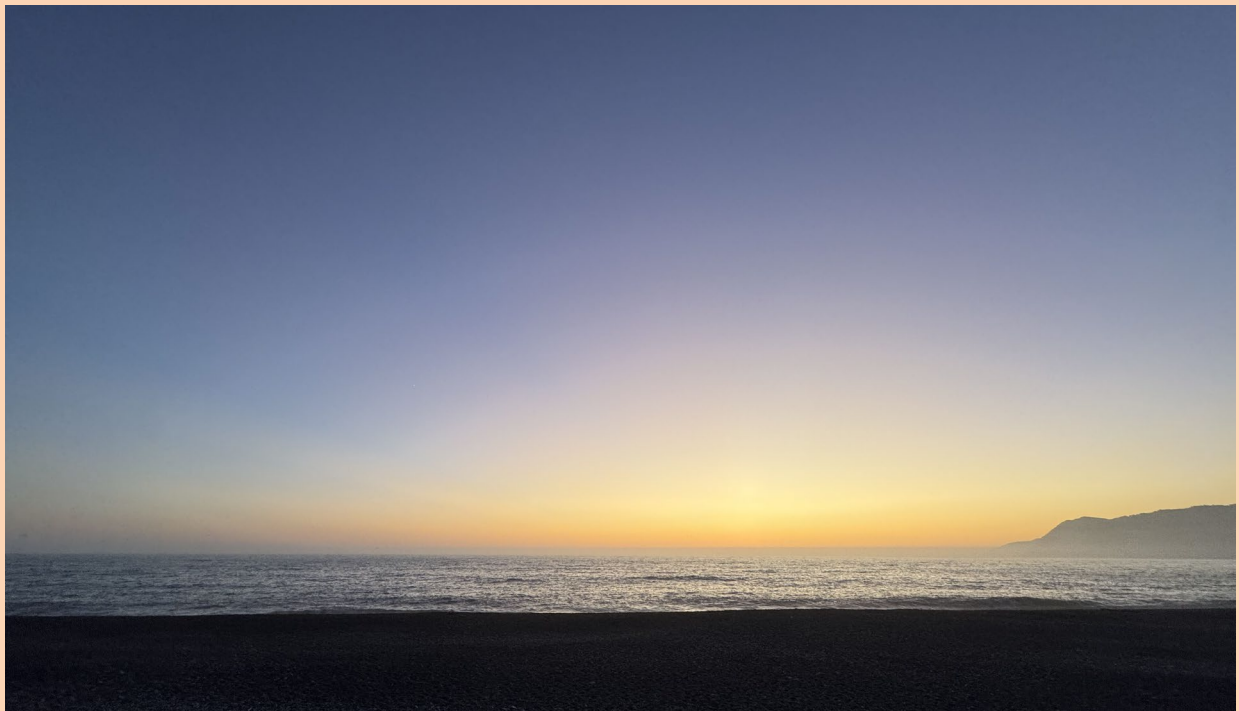


The Ursula Brunner Lecture Series

The Globalisation of Climate Law

Professor Harro van Asselt, PhD
(University of Cambridge)

Thursday, 12 November 2026, 18 h15-20 h
University of Zurich, Main Building, Rämistrasse 71,
Zurich, Lecture hall KOL-H-317



Abstract

Climate law is on the move. Its spread can be seen as a sign of the pervasive nature of climate change and the growing recognition of the important role of law in addressing this challenge. However, as I will argue during this lecture, it is vital to carefully examine why, how, and with what effects climate law is travelling. Such an analysis can help to generate insights into the actors, processes, potential, and limitations of the diffusion of climate law. It can also help to inform more effective legal interventions in pursuit of global climate goals. In this lecture, I will illustrate how the globalisation of climate law can be studied through the complementary lenses of public international law, comparative law, transnational law, and norm and policy diffusion, and outline an agenda for further research.



Professor Harro van Asselt, PhD

Harro van Asselt is the Hatton Professor of Climate Law with the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge. At Cambridge, he is also a Fellow of Hughes Hall and a Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law. He is also a part-time Professor of Climate Law and Policy at the University of Eastern Finland, and an Affiliated Researcher with the Stockholm Environment Institute. Professor van Asselt has published widely on international and domestic climate law. He is co-author of *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law* (2nd edition, OUP, 2024).

Programme

18:15 Welcome and Introduction

Prof. Dr. Johannes Reich

18:25 The Globalisation of Climate Law

Professor Harro van Asselt, PhD

19:10 Discussion and Q&A

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Helen Keller

20:00 Conclusion

Prof. Dr. Johannes Reich

Language and Format of the Event

The event will take place in English, and the format will be in-person only. No advance registration is required, although places are limited.

The Ursula Brunner Lecture Series

The Ursula Brunner Lecture Series was initiated in 2021 by Prof. Dr. Helen Keller, Prof. Dr. Johannes Reich, and Dr. Corina Heri in honour of the late Dr. Ursula Brunner († 2019), a distinguished lawyer and legal academic who contributed prolifically to the development of environmental law in Switzerland. The lecture series is dedicated to the relationship between environmental law and human rights, especially in the context of the climate crisis. Aiming at a multidisciplinary perspective, we invite distinguished speakers to share their views on some of the most pressing issues in the field to which the lecture series is devoted.