

**Workshop on 'International Law and the Blue Economy',
Institute for International Law and the Humanities (IILAH),
Melbourne Law School, 7-8 May 2026**

**Convened by Professor Margaret Young
Australian Research Council [Future Fellowship FT220100418](#)**

Program

Day 1: Thursday

9:30 – 10am *Coffee and Registration*

10– 10:30 Welcome and Acknowledgment; Opening Remarks

Margaret Young

10:30–12 Panel 1: Law's Reach: Rights, Responsibilities and Growth

Elisa Morgera, 'Co-developing a Human Rights-based Blue Economy at the Climate-Nature Nexus'

Irini Papanicopolulu, 'Participatory and Emancipatory Regulation in the Blue Economy'

Erika Techera, 'Is Degrowth Essential for Ocean Sustainability? Examining the Intersection of the Blue Economy, International Law and Blue Degrowth'

Marcos Orellana, 'Plastics Pollution Treaty, Human rights and the Blue Economy'

12:00-1:00 *Lunch (and Group Photo)*

1-2:30pm Panel 2: Harm Prevention: Legal, Economic and Material Limits on Production

Lena Schønning, 'States' International Environmental Legal Obligations for Production Processes: The Case of Norwegian Aquaculture'

Pallavi Arora, 'Contestations in the Overcapacity and Overfishing Pillar of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: The Politics of Protracted Negotiations'

Amanda Turnbull, 'Marine AI Technologies: Panacea or Predicament in the Blue Economy?'

Millicent McCreath, 'Regulating the Blue Minerals Extraction Economy in Areas under National Jurisdiction'

2:30-3:00pm *Coffee break*

3:00-4:30pm Panel 3: Domestic or Global Economy: Multilateralism, Plurilateralism, Unilateralism

Ekaterina Antsygina, 'The Crisis of the International Deep-Sea Mining Regime and the Rise of Unilateralism in the Exploitation of Critical Minerals'

James Munro and Stela Rubínová, 'Legal and Economic Considerations on Fossil Fuel Subsidies in International Trade: Lessons for the Blue Economy'

Nengye Liu, 'U.S. – China Competition, the Law of the Sea and Ocean Sustainability'

Andrew Sullivan, 'Soft law and the Blue Economy; the Case of the Ocean Panel and Sustainable Ocean Plans'

5:00-6:30	Panel 4: Restoring Ecosystems: Management and Protection across Jurisdictions and Regimes Anastasia Telesetsky, 'Realizing an Aqua Economy: Ecosystem Restoration and the Blue Economy' So Yeon Kim, 'The Past, Present, and Future of Area-based Management in the Deep Seabed' Ethan Cale Beringen, 'Cities by the Sea: How do Cities Engage with International Law on the Protection of the Marine Environment?' Jeff Noro, 'International Blue Economy Frameworks and the Limits of State-Centric Ocean Governance in Small Island Contexts'
7:15pm	Conference dinner, University House (a guided short walk from the Law School)

Day 2: Friday

9am	<i>Coffee</i>
9:30-11:00	Panel 5: Legal Pluralism: Essential Voices Michelle Voyer, 'What is the Role of International Law in Bridging Indigenous and non-Indigenous Governance Systems to Support Transformative Ocean Governance?' Angelique Pouponneau, 'Who Shapes the Blue Economy? Mapping Reciprocal Influences Between SIDS and International Law' Viliame Kasanawaqa, 'Reweaving Oceanic Relationality: The Vanua-Hegemony Nexus and the Limits of International Law in Governing the Blue Economy' Erlis Nurbani, 'Empowering and Strengthening Small-scale and Adat Fishing Communities through the Right of Self-determination in Blue Economy initiatives'
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30-1:00	Panel 6: Duty to Cooperate and Support: Treaty-Regimes and Custom Arinç Onat Kiliç, 'Post-growth Legalities of Blue Finance: A Utopian Project?' Dawoon Jung, 'Regime Interaction in the Decarbonisation of International Shipping' Jacqueline Espenilla, 'Benefit-Sharing in the BBNJ Agreement: A Pathway to Blue Economic Prosperity and Ocean Equity' Matthew Carvalho, 'Lessons Learned from Global Health Law for the Blue Economy'
1:00-2:00pm	<i>Lunch (and optional recordings with MLS Engagement & Impact Officer, Greta Robenstone)</i>

2:00-3:30 Panel 7: The Commons and Differentiation: Use, Protecting and Benefit-Sharing

Yoshinobu Takei, 'International Law and the Blue Economy: A Special Case for Small Island Developing States'

Hannah Wilcox, 'The Interplay Between Deep Seabed Mining and the Blue Economy'

Rohan Nanthakumar, 'Blueing of Human Rights'

*Morgane Querel, 'The Role of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the Reduction of the Environmental Impact of the Maritime Transport Sector'

*Sam Johnston, 'The Commons Revisited: BBNJ, Sectoral Bodies and the Prospects for Coherent Ocean Governance'

3:30-4:00 *Coffee (and optional recordings with MLS Engagement & Impact Officer, Greta Robenstone)*

4:00-5:15 Panel 8: Synthesis, Closing Reflections, Further Discussion, Next Steps

Marcos Orellana, Irini Papanicolopulu, Erika Techera, Michelle Voyer, 'Reflections'

Margaret Young, 'Norms and Responsibility in the Blue Economy'

5:30pm End of workshop

* *Travel disruptions may affect in-person attendance*

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