

**GLOBAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME****Workshop****THE DOMINANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW: TAKING STOCK FOR RIO+20**

**Villa Schifanoia - Sala Belvedere  
Via Boccaccio, 121 Firenze  
European University Institute**

**PROGRAMME****FLORENCE, 18 MAY 2012**

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- 9:00 – 9.10     *Welcome Address*  
Miguel Poiares Maduro | EUI
- 9.10 – 9.30     *Opening Remarks*  
Denny Ellerman | EUI and MIT  
Jerneja Penca and Fabiano de Andrade Correa | EUI

**PANEL 1: Climate Change and International Law**

Discussant: Moritz Hartmann | Freie Universität Berlin

- 9:30 - 10:00     **Climate Change as Discourse**  
Stephen Humphreys | LSE
- 10:15 - 11:00     Debate
- 11:00 - 11:30     *Coffee break*

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## **PANEL 2: Green Economy as an Engine of Sustainable Development**

Discussant: Nicole Ahner | EUI

11:30 - 12:00      **Climate, Trade and Investment Law**  
Markus Gehring | Cambridge University

12:15 - 13:00      Debate

13:00 - 14:30      *Lunch*

## **PANEL 3: Obscured by Climate**

Discussant: Jerneja Penca | EUI

14:30 - 15:00      **Women in the Climate Process and a Story of the Marginalised**  
Karen Morrow | Swansea University

15:15 - 16:00      Debate

16:00 - 16:30      *Coffee break*

## **PANEL 4: From Climate Change to Sustainability**

Discussant: Fabiano de Andrade Correa | EUI

16:30 - 17:00      **Instrument Choice and Replication**  
Christina Voigt | University of Oslo

17:15 - 18:00      Discussion

18:00 - 18:15      *Closing Remarks*  
Denny Ellerman | EUI and MIT

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## Abstract

Climate change (CC) is increasingly presented as one of the major challenges of contemporary global governance. Supported by ever stronger scientific evidence and mobilised public support, the problem has been receiving constant attention in the media, and has been mainstreamed in the political and legal spheres, arguably not to the same extent as other environmental or developmental issues.

CC is evolving into both an independent policy area and a distinct discipline of scholarly inquiry; the dominance of the climate rhetoric is manifested in an expanding variety of scientific and scholarly journals, conferences, university courses, and legislative/regulatory measures which focus on this problem area. Such popularity has an intrinsic ambiguity: on the one hand, it allows for a deeper understanding and investigation of the problem, and raises the profile of non-traditional governance themes - in particular those problems directly affected by or affecting the warming climate (such as vulnerability of the poor); on the other hand, it also obscures other equally pressing ones.

As the sustainable development agenda is being revisited in the run up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (“Rio+20”), including setting a new focus on ‘a green economy in a context of sustainable development’ and its institutional framework, it is important to recall the attention of the academic and public policy community about the multitudes of environmental and sustainable development law and other global governance objectives, and locate the problem of climate change within it. Thus, the opportunity is appropriate for evaluating the dominance of climate change and the institutional, legal, policy and discursive mechanisms that have been used in relation to this problem. The analysis may include instruments, institutions, actors, science and ethics, and other political and legal strategies that have been used, should have been or should be used in the future. Equally, the momentum of re-evaluation should be used to raise questions of what gets obscured by the climate-centred agenda, how power politics is replicated in this case, what legal consequences arise from this political prioritisation, whether the concerns related to environmental law in the past years have been the right ones and many other relevant questions.

## Participants

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