

**FWO Scientific Research Network “Climate Change Law in Europe –
Klimaatveranderingsrecht in Europa” Workshop (hybrid)**

**Justice for the voiceless: human rights of future generations in climate
change law**

22 November 2022, 9:15 - 13:00 CET

University of Antwerp, City Campus, s. R. Annex (Rodestraat 14, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium)

Online participation (Microsoft Teams): [join the workshop](#)

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The exacerbation of climate change impacts has led to increased interest in the human rights of future generations. However, this notion of ‘human rights of future generations’ is not unequivocal; it holds a diversity of meanings and interpretations in policies and in different jurisdictions: it entails intergenerational justice; the responsibility of current generations, particularly decision-makers, to ensure the enjoyment of a sustainable quality of the climate for those yet unborn; who can legitimately represent future generations (children; indigenous peoples; women, etc.) and whether children are also identified in policy as representatives of future generations. Moreover, trends in litigation suggest an appeal to human rights that allows stakeholders traditionally excluded from decision making to raise concerns, on behalf of ‘the voiceless’ future generations too, in a judicial forum.

This workshop aims to unfold the complexity of legal understandings and approaches to the concept of human rights of future generations while considering the responsibility and struggles of current generations to respect and fulfill these rights.

Programme:

9:15 Welcome (coffee/tea)

PART I. The concept of future generations and intergenerational justice in climate change law

Chair: Wouter Vandenhole (University of Antwerp)

9:30 From concept to content: ‘Future generations’ in climate change law: (Gamze Erdem Türkelli, University of Antwerp)

9:40 Key note: Future generations in children's rights law (Ann Skelton, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Leiden University & University of Pretoria)

10:05 Proposed legal avenues for recognition of the rights of future generations (Hana Müllerová, Institute of State and Law Czech Academy of Sciences)

10:20 Future generations, youth, children? – Complexities of intergenerational notions in climate change law, policy and practice (Kata Dozsa, University of Antwerp)

10:35 Q&A

11:00 Break

PART II. The rights of future generations in climate change litigation – a global overview

Chair: Kata Dozsa (University of Antwerp)

11:30 What we talk about when we talk about rights of future generations in climate litigation? (Eva Balounova, Institute of State and Law Czech Academy of Sciences)

11:45 Evolving legal concepts with the awareness of 'future generations' in China (Mingzhe Zhu, University of Antwerp)

12:00 Advancing the Human Rights of future generations - Draft Guidelines of Human Rights of Future Generations (Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, GI-ESCR)

12:15 Wrap-up and Q&A

13:00 End

About the FWO Scientific Research Network:

The FWO Scientific Research Network "Climate Change Law in Europe – Klimaatveranderingsrecht in Europa" aims to boost and facilitate the development of Climate change law and governance as an autonomous field of legal studies in Flanders and in Europe more broadly. The network's activities will focus on the complex trends and interplays underpinning the development of the legal discipline around climate change mitigation and adaptation revolving around four fundamental pillars:

- *A just transition* to a low carbon economy.
- *Human rights* in climate change law.
- *Biodiversity protection* in climate change law.
- *Governance innovation* in climate change law.

The network comprises seven top-ranked Flemish and international research organisations in the field of climate law under the coordination of Hasselt University.

For further information about the network, please contact us at environmental.law@uhasselt.be.

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