British Institute of International and Comparative Law

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Short Course: Energy & Natural Resources Law
Course Timetable & Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
	SETTING THE SCENE	
23 Feb 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	**Introduction to Energy & Natural Resources Law I: From Energy Security to Energy Trilemma (Energy Security, Energy Equity & Environmental Sustainability)** **Overview:** Energy security, whilst a pressing concern for every state, is only one of the energy-related challenges every nation faces. Alongside energy security, we now routinely speak of **energy equity**, meaning that entire populations have access to affordable energy, and **environmental sustainability**, meaning that energy is produced as far as possible from renewable or low-carbon sources and used as efficiently as possible. It does not require much consideration to see that meeting one of these requirements – security, equity, or sustainability – may well have a negative impact on one or both of the others. Hence the recent trend to speak in terms of an **energy trilemma** which requires constant effort to balance. What role can law play in the achievement of energy security in the future?	Prof Dr John Paterson Centre for Energy Law, University of Aberdeen
02 Mar 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	**Introduction to Energy & Natural Resources Law II:** ***Green Paradox & Avoiding Policy Frustration*** **Overview:** This session examines the economic and legal models that reveal which green pathways lead to policy back-fire and which policies avoid the Scylla and Charybdis of Green Paradox risks. What if in setting legal policies to achieve green energy, reduced carbon emissions, and reduce the likelihood of a climate change catastrophe, what if our policies actually enabled or locked in that very catastrophe? What if green policies could 'backfire' on us? That concept is known as the Green Paradox. We'll look at four classes of green paradox models: (i) a class of carbon tax models, (ii) a class of backstop	Prof Dr Roy Andrew Partain University of Aberdeen, School of Law Visiting Fellow, BIICL

	technology subsidy models, (iii) a class of pre-announced policy models, and (iv) a class of international carbon leakage models; then we'll look 'under the hood' of these models to see if and where risks may lay. Finally, we will examine if any safe pathways exist to avoid the risks of the Green Paradox.	
FOSSIL FUELS		
09 Mar 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	**Principles & Objectives of Oil & Gas Law & Regulation** **Overview:** With the economics of renewable energy becoming all the more attractive, some oil and gas companies are steadily revising their strategies and seeking to become 'energy companies'. Despite the global energy transition, in 2021 the oil and gas industry has rebounded, and oil prices reached their highest levels in six years. This session explores some of the most important trends and future directions in the oil and gas sector. What are the investment implications arising from a changing climate? What is the legal and regulatory framework for public participation in oil and gas decision-making and how could enhanced transparency and accountability play a role in promoting economic development and environmental protection?	Prof Paul Griffin Senior Adviser and Counsel to the Global Oil and Gas Group, White & Case LLP Ms Laury Haytayan Oil & Gas Governance & MENA Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
16 Mar 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	**Decommissioning of Offshore Oil & Gas Installations** **Overview:** In terms of decommissioning, the global offshore oil and gas industry is headed for a perfect storm. About 200 projects are expected to be disposed across the globe in 2022 while another 2,000 offshore projects will be decommissioned by 2040. Offshore installations and structures can potentially provide significant habitat for marine life - even in deep-sea locations. There is, therefore, increased interest in the international community in the possibility of converting offshore installations and structures to artificial reefs (rigs-to-reefs) to support marine biodiversity and fisheries. What is are the international and regional legal frameworks governing such activities? What are the legal obligations of States regarding the protection of the marine environment from oil-related activities and how does this relate to offshore oil and gas decommissioning?	Dr Constantinos Yiallourides Research Fellow, BIICL Lecturer, Macquarie University, Sydney

23 Mar 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) **Overview:** Coal, crude oil, and natural gas are extracted from deep within the Earth; energy is released when they are burned, but so too is carbon released. For centuries, that carbon was emitted into the atmosphere. But now, there is too much carbon in the atmosphere and every day more is released. This process of extracting carbon from the deep earth and releasing it to the skies is the main source of anthropogenic risk in causing climate change. What if we could send that carbon back into the deep earth from where it originally came and what if we could prevent carbon emissions and maybe even reduce global levels of carbon in the atmosphere? This session will focus on the engineering, risks, and legal policies that surround the practices of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).	Prof Dr Roy Andrew Partain University of Aberdeen, School of Law Visiting Fellow, BIICL
WATER & MINERALS		
30 Mar 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	*Global Water Law* **Overview:** The world has around 263 shared watercourses that cover over 40% of the freshwater needs of the world population. Yet population growth, climate change and water scarcity have become among the most serious challenges of our time. The lecture explores relevant theories, principles, and rules of International Water Law (IWL) and practical cases from around the world where water issues are more acute. What is the meaning of equitable and reasonable use of shared water sources and what are the specific contours of the duty to prevent significant harm and protect the natural environment in relation to shared water resources?	Prof Dr Zeray Yihdego Director, Aberdeen Centre for Constitutional and Public International Law, University of Aberdeen
06 April 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	Deep Sea Mining & International Law **Overview:** A key question for the future management of the oceans is whether the mineral deposits that exist on the seafloor of the ocean beyond the limits of national jurisdiction can be extracted without significant adverse effects to the environment. There is currently significant lack of information about deep-ocean ecosystems, and about potential mining technologies and, thus, there could be many unforeseen impacts if such risks are not properly regulated. What are the potential ecological impacts of deep seabed mining, what is the governing framework and what are the key and regulatory challenges and opportunities in this area in the future?	Prof Dr Maria Gavouneli National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES		
13 April 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	**Tomorrow's Energy I: Space Solar, Hydrogen, Methane Hydrates** **Overview:** What are the up and coming new technologies in new and renewable energy options? This session will discuss three of the most exciting and innovative options that are rapidly coming to potential application. Space-based solar power was once an idea in an Isaac Asimov story, but now multiple countries are working to make it real. Hydrogen is an amazing store of energy that can be harvested from multiple sources, but will it achieve the goals of its supporters? And methane hydrates are possibly the biggest idea in sustainable development that you have never heard of. This session will explore the ideas, technologies and legal policies connected with all three of these new energy options.	Prof Dr Roy Andrew Partain University of Aberdeen, School of Law Visiting Fellow, BIICL
20 April 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	**Tomorrow's Energy II: Future Fission, Nuclear Fusion and Beyond** **Overview:** Nuclear power emerged in the 1950s and has remained a steady source of energy ever since. But so too have many questions and concerns, especially in the aftermaths of NRX AECL Chalk River Laboratories, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and recently Fukushima. But innovations in engineering continue to progress and claims are made of new safety, new energy outputs, and new methods. There are innovations in both nuclear fission and nuclear fusion. This session examines the newly emerging technologies and discusses the risks and legal policies in play.	Prof Dr Roy Andrew Partain University of Aberdeen, School of Law Visiting Fellow, BIICL
27 April 2022 10:00-12:00 (UK)	**Renewable Energy Law** **Overview:** Over the past 20 years, we have seen a spectacular rise in the development of renewable energy technology and the share of renewables as an energy source. As the green transition continues apace, we are seeing significant developments in the area of "renewable energy law" – and, in particular, the disputes space. This session is structured as follows: (i) first, the scene will be set: what have we achieved so far and what can we expect from renewables in the future? (ii) second, what are the current and brewing renewable disputes across different jurisdictions? This	Ms Stephanie Collins Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher UK LLP

	part will pay close attention to events in Spain – which in 2021 saw the 50th treaty claim from renewable energy investors. (iii) third, what is the direction future renewables disputes may take, given trends and developments in the renewables sector? (iv) finally, what international law developments are we likely to see over the short to mid-term – for example, new generation investment treaties and the "modernization" of the Energy Charter Treaty?	

* Speakers and timings are subject to change