Private Rights for Nature
Conference

3-5 June 2020
Amsterdam

Preliminary Programme

Pre-conference – Wednesday 3 June 2020

15:00 Short welcome by Laura Burgers, Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law

15:05 Keynote speech by Eva Meijer, philosopher specialised in political rights of non-human animals, Wageningen University

15:20-16:35 Session 1 - Animals’ legal status between object and subject
Chair: Cezary Blaszczyk, assistant professor at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw

* Neither Things nor Persons: the Questionable Legal Status of Animals as ‘Non-Goods’ Eva Bernet Kempers, PhD Candidate at the University of Antwerp


* Towards new rules on animals in the Italian Civil Code. Analysis of a recent legislative proposal Giovanni Cirillo, PhD Candidate at Salerno University

17:35 Closing remarks for the day
Day 1 – Thursday 4 June 2020

10:00 Welcome by Marija Bartl, professor of transnational private law and director of ACT

10:10 – 10:30 Keynote speech (t.b.c.)

10:30 – 12:00 Session 2: Aligning the rights of nature with property law
Chair: Dorine Norren, UNESCO and SDG coordinator at the Dutch ministry of Education, Culture and Science

*Rights of Nature and land Björn Hoops, Associate professor of private law and sustainability, Groningen University

*If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck: On Gray Wolves, EU Species Protection Law and Animal Property Rights Hendrik Schoukens, lawyer and postdoctoral researcher at Gent University

*Property law and earth jurisprudence Valentijn Punt, member of the New York Bar Association and environmental consultant

*[title of presentation] Tim Williams, barrister in New Zealand, England and Wales, and PhD candidate at the University of Auckland

12:00 – 14:00 Break to have lunch at home; participants are encouraged to do whatever they need to return freshly to their screens, for instance a small walk and of course have lunch. Everyone is also more than welcome to talk each other through various chat and video-call functions.

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3: Personhood, anthropocentrism, company law
Chair: Tawnee Hill, Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law

*Between private and public rights of nature Laura Burgers, Amsterdam Centre for Transformative Private Law

*How could legal personhood work well for the Dutch Waddensea? Combined presentation by Tineke Lambooy, Professor of Corporate Law at Nyenrode Business University; Jan van de Venis, Dutch Ombudsperson for Future Generations; and Christiaan Stokkermans, notary
[title of presentation] Anna Grear Professor of Human Rights Law, Cardiff University

*The essence of legal personhood Visa Kurki, Academy of Finland Postdoctoral Fellow at the Law Faculty of the University of Helsinki

15:30 – 16:00 Introduction to the Embassy of the North Sea
Presentation by Embassy representative Anne van Leeuwen, after which a general discussion on the will of nature follows

Day 2 - Friday 5 June 2020

10:30 – 12:00 Session 4: Restorative Justice and stewardship
Chair: Femke Wijdekop, Earth Restorative Justice

*Stewardship of nature Emily Barrit, Lecturer in tort law, Kings College London

*Remedies for Nature and achieving restorative justice: A time to be vindictive? Hercules Wessels, attorney of law at BDP Attorneys, Durbanville, South Africa

*Respecting and Defending Te Urewera and the Māori Legal Tradition, Christopher Whitehead, Lecturer in law at Auckland University of Technology, formerly legal counsel in France and the USA

*Governing Nature Rights: Earth Trusteeship, Hans van Willenswaard, Co-founder of the School for Wellbeing Studies and Research, Thailand

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14:00 – 15:30 Session 5: At the coalface of private rights of nature
Chair: Daphina Misiedjan, associated researcher at the Utrecht Center for Oceans, Water and Sustainability Law and assistant professor at Erasmus University

*Liability for natural catastrophes? Anne de Vries, PhD researcher Tilburg University
*Taking environmental ethics seriously, Marius Gulbranson Nordby, Editor at Fagbokforlaget, Oslo

*The ‘Conservation Right’: A New-Reflexive Property Right Jaime Ubilla, Director of the Conservation Law Center, and Professor of Law at the Universidad Católica del Norte, Chile

*How to finance animals as a party to the dispute? A Polish perspective, Hania Misiak, Office of the Polish Financial Ombudsman and associated researcher, University of Gdansk

15:30 – 15:50 Closing speech by Bram Akkermans, associate professor and leader of the Sustainability and Private Law research program at the University of Maastricht

15:50 – 16:00 Closing Remarks by Laura Burgers