



Climate Change Impact on International Trade and Health Law

Key themes

International Climate Change Law

International Trade Law

International Health Law

23-24 September 2022 10am-1pm UK time
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84740500997?pwd=K1YzdmZqV0c3NkpjcEtQN05JZHFXdz09>

Meeting ID: 847 4050 0997

Passcode: 684026

The main communication channel for this Forum is via email: confuciusinsitute@bangor.ac.uk

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23rd September

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Welcome & Opening

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Programme

24th September

10:00AM - 11:00AM KEYNOTE

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Legal analysis of the applicability of international cooperation in addressing climate change in the global trade sector. Case study: World Trade Organization (WTO).

23RD SEPTEMBER 10.10AM-11.10AM

Risks of Carbon Emission Policies Being Subjected to ISDS Proceedings and the Proposed Countermeasures for China

Professor Kong Qingjiang
CUPL, Beijing, China

ABSTRACT

In response to climate change, countries have introduced various measures to reduce carbon emissions, but the carbon emission policies have also exhibited their ramifications for foreign investment regulation. Recently, certain countries' carbon emission policies have been subjected to the Investor-State Investment Dispute Settlement (ISDS) proceedings for impairing foreign investors' economic interests and contravening relevant international investment agreement provisions. If disputes are to be resolved through international investment arbitration, the right to regulate the host country on the ground of climate change will be compromised by the property rights of foreign investors. Should the award favour investors, the host state usually would have to compensate investors financially with large sums of public money. In this context, implementing carbon emission policies will be at risk. It is therefore submitted that China should promptly update and improve the existing international investment agreements, where provisions on the power of the host state to regulate climate change purposes are to be systematically incorporated, and the availability of the clauses on expropriation and fair and equitable treatment is to be limited. At the same time, it is also necessary to formulate flexible industrial incentives or exit policies while strengthening compliance with carbon emission policies to avoid the risk of triggering investment arbitration.

23RD SEPTEMBER 11.10AM-11.40AM

On the China-India investment dispute settlement mechanism with the view of 'Asian Century'.

**Professor Gong Xiangqian
Beijing Institute of Technology, Law School, China**

ABSTRACT

The most vigorous part of the relations between China and India has always been economic relations, and the economic development of the two countries is also complimentary. China and India could improve the investment dispute settlement between the two largest emerging powers to truly embrace the 'Asian Moment' or/and 'Asian Century'. However, the two countries need to face the challenges of the China-India investment dispute settlement mechanism: 1) The China- India investment protection agreement came into force on August 1, 2007, but was canceled by the Indian Government in 2018; 2) Article 9 of the Agreement sets up three pre-procedures for investment arbitration while requiring foreign investors to 'exhaust the local remedies'; 3) Chinese companies have to endure the difficulty in seeking local remedies when facing the Indian government's law enforcement. To explain the reason why India and China have not reached a new bilateral investment treaty, the author analyzes some differences in the investment dispute settlement between China and India: 1) different orientations of investment protection and facilitation; 2) different preferences for ISDS mechanism; 3) Understanding of 'exhaustion of local remedies.'

In order to enhance the game power of emerging countries in global economic governance, the 'world factory'" China and the 'world office' India must unite to welcome the 'Asian Century.' So, it is time to restart and upgrade the BIT between China and India, which is necessary to include the above improvements to protect investors. As to the reconstruction of the China-India Investment Dispute Settlement Mechanism, the author gives some suggestions:

1) Establish a transnational dispute prevention platform: "Coordination Committee", including governments, Companies, and NGOs; 2) improve procedures for the investors' right to ISDS, that is, clarify the waiting procedures and minimum period; 3) safeguarding the prompt and effective local judicial remedies, i.e. "Providing effective means for investment-related claims and exercise of rights". In conclusion, the "Asian Century" urgently waits for a new bilateral investment agreement.

23RD SEPTEMBER 11.40AM-12.10AM

**Climate Change and Global Health Governance:
A Multi-level Cooperative Approach**

**Assistant Professor Shuai Guo
CUPL, Beijing, China**

ABSTRACT

This article explores the relationship between climate change and global health governance on one hand. On the one hand, climate change is a big threat to global health, causing numerous climate risks such as rising sea levels and extreme heat and resulting in expanding health problems ranging from respiratory to infectious diseases. Moreover, the healthcare industry also leads to carbon emissions and climate change, including supply chain manufacturing, energy sources, and emissions directly from a healthcare facility and related vehicles. The international health community has long been researching the mutual impacts of climate change and global health governance. Awareness has been raised regarding climate-change-related health issues and reducing health industry emissions. International cooperation is essential, yet international law is overlooked in this regard. This article thus proposes a multi-level cooperative approach to address climate change issues from a global health law perspective. These approaches consist of statutory hard-law such as international conventions or bilateral treaties and soft-law guidelines and industry best practices that put obligations on both state parties and non-state actors. This article further studies the position of China and observes that China is making efforts to resolve both climate change and health issues and calls for more active actions at the global level.

23RD SEPTEMBER 12.10PM-12.40PM

Responding to Challenges of Climate Change and The Possible Role of Chinese Courts.

**Associate Professor Hua Lan
CUPL, Beijing, China**

ABSTRACT

Facing the increasing challenges and emergencies of climate change, more and more climate change-related cases are filed worldwide. Some cases are related to individual and specific rights and obligations, such as the distribution and implementation of quotas under the regulations of emission trade schemes; some cases are related to more general issues such as advancing climate change policies or creating public awareness. It seems that courts may play an important role in dealing with the issue of global climate change. However, the Chinese judicial system is different from the courts in many other countries in the national systems. It is necessary and important to explore what kind of role and the possible way Chinese courts can play in facing the emergency of climate change.

23RD SEPTEMBER 12.40PM-1.10PM

Climate Change: Priorities for the International Law of the Sea

Dr Hayley Roberts, Bangor University, UK

ABSTRACT

The ocean is the heart of our planet and plays a crucial role in regulating climate. However, its large-scale absorption of greenhouse gas emissions has led to ocean warming, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and the melting of sea ice and glaciers and has increased the vulnerability of marine biodiversity. These impacts have the capacity to bring devastating change on a global scale.

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (LOSC) has been famously described as a constitution for the oceans. It establishes rules governing all matters relating to the uses and protection of the ocean and its resources and sets out several maritime zones in which these rules operate. Yet, despite the critical impacts of climate change on the ocean, the LOSC does not regulate activities for the specific purpose of preventing the negative effects of climate change. In fact, it does not refer to climate change at all.

This paper introduces some of the key impacts of climate change on the ocean and how these may be dealt with under the LOSC and considers what the priorities for the law of the sea should be moving forward.

24TH SEPTEMBER 10.00AM-11.00AM

**International Trade Law and Policy, Climate Change,
and Sustainable Development: New Directions in
Europe and China**

Donald Lewis -Professor and Consultant

ABSTRACT

While climate change, or climate action, may be properly treated as a separate discipline, as in the Paris Agreement and the work of the UNFCCC, increasingly, it is viewed as intertwined with the larger field of sustainable development. This approach was adopted by the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) at Cambridge University. This is also the orientation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - wherein Climate Action constitutes SDG 13. Consequently, climate change, including its agendas and research outcomes, has potentially very wide applicability to many, if not most, of the 17 SDGs.

At the same time, we have witnessed the emergence of more robust, pro-active international trade law and policy initiatives geared to tackle head-on the exigencies of climate change while also expanding the role of sustainability in fashioning new or reformulated trade rules and doctrines. Such initiatives include the introduction of carbon tariffs, carbon border adjustment measures, anti-subsidies actions directed against fossil-fuel incentives, new subsidy rules promoting renewable energy development, and, very importantly, critical scrutiny of environmentally harmful processes and production methods (PPMs). Moreover, bilateral FTAs and RTAs (such as the CPTPP) increasingly include provisions and chapters on climate action and sustainable development - in the bilateral context, this is true for the UK, EU, and China. Importantly, the stalled EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) includes a lengthy chapter addressing sustainable development.

This multi-pronged mobilization is not only occurring in the West, as epitomized by the EU's Green Deal and the recently adopted US Inflation Reduction Act, but likewise in China. The Chinese government has recently issued a new Five-Year Plan to boost green development of its industrial sectors and adjust its economic structure to support green, low-carbon and circular development and achieve its carbon peak and neutrality goals. Moreover, in March 2022, the NDRC issued new guidelines on greening China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, of even greater significance, in June 2022, the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) released six Special Policy Studies, four Scoping Studies, and a Special Study on gender mainstreaming - in support of "ecological civilization" and sustainable development. It is noteworthy that one of the CCICED Scoping Studies addresses sustainable trade and investment and reveals a high degree of policy convergence and synchronicity with new Western trade law and policy initiatives, notwithstanding current geopolitical tensions. Tracking the West, this study identifies specific focus areas for future work: border carbon adjustments, green tariff preferences (especially concerning plastics substitutes), and the reform of environmentally harmful subsidies. Finally, in another Scoping Study, the CCIED has strongly emphasized the importance of digitalization to advance sustainability and ameliorate climate change.

24TH SEPTEMBER 11.00AM-11.30AM

The Jurisdiction of Transnational Climate Change Litigation from The Perspective of International Law

Guo Jiahao

**University of International Business and Economics,
Beijing, China**

ABSTRACT

Since the entry into force of the Paris Agreement in 2016, the number of climate change litigations has been rapidly increasing worldwide, including many transnational climate change litigations with foreign companies and foreign countries as defendants. Such transnational climate change litigation is not only regarded by the court as a way for the plaintiff to seek relief but also as a judicial means for the court state to supervise foreign countries in fulfilling their climate change treaty obligations. However, the current international climate change treaties do not stipulate the jurisdiction of the courts of the parties over such transnational climate change litigation. In judicial practice, countries often exercise jurisdiction over transnational climate change litigation according to their domestic laws. This paper argues that under the current situation of unclear provisions of international climate change treaties, parties should abide by the international treaty law, international customary law and general principles of international law when exercising jurisdiction over transnational climate change litigation. International climate change treaties should add and improve jurisdiction clauses to clarify the jurisdiction of the courts of the parties over transnational climate change litigation, which can avoid possible international disputes and better realize the objectives of climate change treaties.

Key Words: Transnational Climate Change Litigation; Paris Agreement; International Environmental Law; Jurisdiction

24TH SEPTEMBER 11.30AM-12.00PM

Climate-Related Oceanic Loss and Damage and the Law of the Sea.

Virginie Rouillard Le Court de Billot
Bangor University, UK

ABSTRACT

The oceans play an essential role in the regulation of climate change; however, simultaneously is severely affected by irreversible effects.[1] These effects have a multitude of consequences on the marine environment, such as ocean acidification, sea level rise, warming and altering the cryosphere.[2] Each of these phenomena is the source of loss and damage according to the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), which is one of the bodies created by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regime to provide support and policy responses to states most vulnerable to climate change.[3] These affect deleteriously and irreversibly the coastal communities and more acutely vulnerable states, such as the Maldives. The Maldives, according to scientific predictions, will be one of the first islands within the next fifty years that will disappear underwater due to climate-induced sea level rise.[4]

Accordingly, this presentation will focus on two areas of international law, the relationship between the UNFCCC and United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) regimes, in providing the legal basis for the issue of climate-related loss and damage, which each provide legal landscape.

Hence, it will critically analyse the current legal regime for loss and damage under the UNFCCC and its limitation in providing effective remedies to states vulnerable to oceanic loss and damage.

To then focus on the role of (UNCLOS) regarding climate-related oceanic loss and damage affecting its states' parties' rights and obligations.

[1] IPCC, Chapter 5 - Changing Ocean, Marine Ecosystems, and Dependent Communities, in IPCC SROCCC (2019) 450.

[2] IPCC, SROCCC Technical Summary 42-44.

[3] Ariadna Anisimov and Lola Vallejo, 'Loss and Damage under the UNFCCC: ways forward for the Warsaw International Mechanism' (2019) IDDRI Issue Brief, available at <<https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/issue-brief/loss-and-damage-under-unfccc-ways-forward-warsaw-international>> accessed 01 February 2022.

[4] NASA - Earth Observatory, 'Preparing for Rising Seas in the Maldives' <<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/148158/preparing-for-rising-seas-in-the-maldives>> accessed 007 February 2022.

24TH SEPTEMBER 12.00PM-12.30PM

The Transparency Obligations in Post-World Trade Organisation Era: How Will China Read and Respond?

**Assistant Professor Yifan Zhou
CUPL, Beijing, China**

ABSTRACT

Transparency is known to be one of the fundamental principles underpinning the WTO administration. As WTO is wrestling with the deepest crisis since its inception, there exists a clear tendency to include broader and deeper transparency obligations in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), United States-Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and among which, China has either been an active player or a close monitor. Naturally, a lingering question will be raised about how China will read and respond to the enhanced transparency obligations in the post-WTO era.

24TH SEPTEMBER 12.30PM-1.00PM

Legal analysis of the applicability of international cooperation in addressing climate change in the global trade sector. Case study: World Trade Organization (WTO)

**Alice Uwajambo & Prof Gong Xianqian
Beijing Institute of Technology, China**

ABSTRACT

While World Trade Organization (WTO) has to regulate international trade through different rules, it also has to participate in addressing climate change. Climate change impacts different aspects of global society, including impacts on the trade industry, either through physical impact on different fields of the trading industry or through imposed global regulations to address climate change. On the other hand, the trade industry also contributes to the global emissions of GHGs through different technologies and through different rules adopted by WTO or related agreements. Such circulation of impacts implicates that neither climate change agreements, not WTO can deal with climate change alone but through international cooperation. Generally, international cooperation is not a new topic in international agreements, but its applicability for addressing climate change in the trade sector is not clearly understood. WTO, as a single global organization to regulate trade, does not deny climate change and its impacts, as highlighted in some of its discussions. Yet, based on some documentation, WTO has put a bit of distance to some rules on climate change. Additionally, WTO has no specific policy on climate change mitigation and adaptation that can guide its state parties to implement climate change policies established by climate change agreements, including the Paris agreement. State parties take the initiative to adopt some measures related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Such lack of a coherent framework between WTO states parties results in challenging the trade sector and delaying the achievement of global climate change ambitions set by climate change agreements, including the ambitions of the Paris agreement. Our study will explore the current initiatives of WTO in addressing climate change and the legal perspective of international cooperation in addressing climate change in the trade sector. Moreover, after highlighting different challenges accounted for by such cooperation, our study will propose solutions to address those challenges.

Keywords: International cooperation, WTO, climate change, Paris agreement.

Presenter's Biographies

All biographies are presented in alphabetical order

Virginie Rouillard Le Court de BILLOT

Virginie Rouillard Le Court de Billot, is a second-year PhD candidate at Bangor University. She is originally from Mauritius, and her doctoral research focuses on international climate change law and the law of the sea – specifically, looking at the effects of climate-related oceanic loss and damage on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and research into the potential legal remedies under the law of the sea. Virginie holds an LLM in the Law of the Sea from Bangor University and an LLB from Aberystwyth University, Mauritius Branch Campus.

Xiangqian GONG

Xiangqian GONG is a Professor of Law at the Beijing Institute of Technology since 2007. He holds a PhD in International Law and a Master of Law (LLM) from Wuhan University and a Bachelor of Law (LLB) in History from Hunan University of Science and Technology.

His current research interests include international health law, International health regulations and environmental law. Prof GONG is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, Standing Member of the Board, Chinese Health Law Society, Standing Member of the Board, Environmental Law Branch of Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences and a Member of the National Health and Quarantine Expert Committee of China.

He has numerous peer-reviewed publications and books, and he is the principal investigator for a number of projects amongst which are: “On the Obligation to Report in International Health Regulations (2005)”, Key Project of China Law Society; “Studies on legal issues on SEA regime from the perspective of Maritime community with a shared future”, Research Project of Ministry of Education of PRC; “On Water Constraints to Unconventional Gas Production in East Asia”, Research Project of National University of Singapore Foundation; “Chinese NGOs and Global Health Governance”, Research Project of Indiana University.

Qingjiang KONG

Professor Kong is the Vice Dean of the School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). He holds a PhD in Law from Wuhan University, a Master's degree in Law from East China Institute of Political Science and Law, and a BSc from Nanjing University. His current research interests include wide aspects of International Law, and he has over 150 peer-reviewed journals and book publications. Prof Kong's professional affiliations include the following:

Editor of *The Chinese Journal of Global Governance* (Brill),

Associate Member, of the International Academy of Comparative Law

Hua LAN

Lan Hua is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). She holds law degrees from Wuhan University Law School (Master's and J.S.D.). She has taught required courses in International Law, as well as Upper-level courses in International Human Rights law, Selected EU Case Studies, Jessup Moot Court Competition, and China and WTO. Professor Lan Hua has served for many years as the faculty advisor and coach of the CUPL teams in the Philip C Jessup



International Law Moot Court Competition and the Moot Court competition of International Law of Seas.

Her current research interests include climate change law, International Environmental Law, European Law, and International Human Rights Law. She has published numerous law review articles and book chapters and has been involved in many research projects on international environmental law, especially climate change issues. She is a legal expert for the Chinese government on negotiations on climate change issues and participated in the negotiations on the Katowice Rulebook of the Paris Agreement. Her representative book is *Implementation Mechanisms of Multilateral Environmental Agreements* (2011).

Donald J. LEWIS

Prof Lewis obtained his A.B. cum laude in international relations from the University of Southern California (1976) – where he was the George C. Moore Scholar; his J.D. from Emory University School of Law (1980); and his LL.M. from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) (1981). He is a Member of the State Bar of Georgia. He reads, types, and speaks Mandarin Chinese.



Prof Lewis has advised international law firms, investment banks, and multinational corporations on Chinese law matters, including as a Consultant with White & Case, Hong Kong. He has served as an expert Advisor and Consultant to UNESCAP on international trade and investment issues, including trade facilitation (2005-10; 2019-20). In association with the Australian Government (AusAID), he has worked closely with the ASEAN governments of Indochina (Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia) on trade policy and WTO-related trade and regulatory reforms (2006-08).

Donald Lewis is a Research Associate and was previously an Adjunct Professor with the University of San Francisco (USF) School of Management (2017-). At USF, Prof Lewis taught the MBA course China's Belt and Road Initiative, Regional Economic Integration, and International Trade Regulation for U.S. Business. He is also active in transnational law and business research and publications at USF. He is also a Teaching Fellow at the College of Law Australia, Sydney, Australia – where he teaches International Commercial and Investment Arbitration (2021-).

Prof Lewis was a Foreign Law Expert/Lecturer and previously a Visiting Professor in the School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) in Beijing, China (2018; 2020). He was an Academic Advisor for the CUPL FDI Moot Team, China's national champions and, in the global rounds, achieved 19th Highest-Ranked Team (2020).

Prof Lewis has recently acted as Legal Consultant for UNESCAP on the Readiness for Cross-Border Paperless Trade Project, funded by the WTO Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), for the national governments of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, and Timor-Leste (2019-20); and separately as a UNESCAP legal consultant for Timor-Leste (2021-22).

Prof Lewis has lectured and spoken publicly worldwide on contemporary Chinese law. He has been a Visiting Scholar in the East Asian Legal Studies program (EALS), Harvard Law School; Visiting Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Law; and Visiting Lecturer, University of Zurich Faculty of Law in Switzerland. He has acted as an expert witness in China- and Hong Kong-related litigation and arbitration on four continents – in the United States (2nd, 9th, 5th, and Federal Circuits), Canada, China, Australia, Hong Kong, and South Africa.

He has published extensively on China's Belt and Road Initiative. His co-authored publications include: "Dynamic synergies between China's Belt and Road Initiative and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals" in the *Journal of International Business Policy* (Springer, 2021); "One Belt, One Road, One World: Where is US Business Connectivity?" in *China's Belt and Road Initiative – Changing the Rules of Globalization* (Springer, 2018); "OBOR Roadmaps: The Legal and Policy Frameworks" in *TDM OBOR Special Issue (Transnational Dispute Management, 2017)* and in *The Belt and Road Initiative: Law, Economics, and Politics* (E.J. Brill, 2018); and as author: "OBOR in the context of China-EU FDI and China's evolving economic diplomacy" in *China-European Union Investment Relationships: Towards a New Leadership in Global Investment Governance?* (Edward Elgar, 2018).

His books include *China's Participation in the WTO* (2005), *The China Investment Manual* (1998), *PRC Joint Ventures: Drafting and Negotiating Contracts* (1997), and *The Life and Death of a Joint Venture in China* (1996). His articles have appeared in the *Hong Kong Law Journal*, *Studies in Trade and Investment*, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, and *Computer and Telecommunications Law Review*, among others. He has been a featured contributor to *China Daily Online*. He is also the co-founder of the leading English language periodical on Chinese legal developments, *China Law & Practice*, and the *China Law* section of the *Hong Kong Law Journal*.

Jiahao GUO

Guo Jiahao is a PhD candidate at the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) School of Law, Beijing, China. He majored in International Law. His scholarly interests include international environmental law and treaty law. Guo Jiahao received his B.A. in Law, B.A. in Finance and L.L.M. in International Law from the Capital University of Economics and Business (CUEB), Beijing, China. He also holds an L.L.M. from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, U.S.A.

Shuai GUO

Shuai Guo is an Assistant Professor of Law at the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). He holds a PhD from Leiden University, a Master of International Law (LLM) and a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from CUPL.

His current research interests include international trade law, international investment law, international financial law, international insolvency law, and public health law. Shuai Guo has published numerous peer-reviewed articles, books and book chapters and has been involved in many research projects on international law. He has successfully secured over seven research grants and has a vast amount of professional experience and affiliations with INSOL International Early Research Academics, International Insolvency Institute NextGen Leadership Program, New York, the University of Texas at Austin, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the World Trade Organization, Geneva, to name a few.



Hayley ROBERTS

Dr Hayley Roberts- Senior Lecturer in Public International Law / Director of Research, Impact & Engagement, Bangor University

Dr Hayley Roberts is an international lawyer specialising in the law of the sea. She was educated at the University of Wales, Bangor, completing a PhD in the legal protection of underwater cultural heritage in the UK, the US and international law in 2012. She joined as a Lecturer in Public International Law in 2013 and became a Senior Lecturer in 2019. Dr Roberts' main research interests are in the protection of underwater cultural heritage, issues relating to climate change and the oceans/heritage, and specific matters relating to the dispute settlement procedure in the Law of the Sea Convention. She is currently writing a monograph on State-owned Shipwrecks and International Law, to be published by the University of Wales Press in 2023. She is also PI on an AHRC-funded grant that examines marine cultural heritage as a climate adaptation priority, working with a team of researchers at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Dr Roberts is Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and has been appointed to the UK National Decade Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. She also sits on the Law Council of Wales' Education Committee and is Chair of the Welsh National College's Law, Criminology and Policing Subject Panel. Dr Roberts has been a consultant to UNITAR for the law of the sea training.

Yifan ZHOU

Yifan Zhou has been an Assistant Professor of Law at the China University of Political Science and Law since August 2021. He holds a PhD in International Law from the Renmin University of China, a Master of Law (LL.M) from Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn NY and a Bachelor of Law (LL.B) from Wuhan University of China. His current research interests include International Law, Trade and Investment Law, and Innovation & Technology Governance.

Yifan Zhou is a standing committee member of the Beijing International Economic Law Research Association, an attorney in China and New York, and Chartered Financial Analyst, Level I.

He has published several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and contributed to a number of white papers and projects among which are the following:

- Thoughts on Accelerating the Development of China into a World Highland of Science and Technology Innovation, *People's Tribune*, Vol. 741: 7 (2022) (forthcoming).
- Studies on the Proposals of the United States, European Union and Japan regarding the WTO's Subsidies Rules Reform and China's Responses, *Pacific Journal*, Vol. 30: 7 (2022), 79-92.
- Restructuring international economic rules under the Belt and Road Initiative, chaired by Prof. Jin Huang, the China University of Political Science and Law and China Law Society, 2021.
- A comparative study of the legal regulation of capital's unregulated expansion in the cultural and entertainment industry in China, chaired by Prof. Xiaobo Fan, China University of Political Science and Law and China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2021.
- China and the World Trade Organization reform, chaired by Huan Qi, China University of Political Science and Law and China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, 2021.



Alice UWAJAMBO

Alice UWAJAMBO received a bachelor's degree in chemistry with education at the University of Rwanda in 2014, Master's degree in environmental and Natural resources protection law at the Ocean University of China (OUC) in 2018. Currently, she is pursuing her PhD research in International Environmental Law at the Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) in China. Her research interest involves the legal analysis of Environmental impact assessment in the BBNJ agreement (agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) and the necessity to address climate change in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction through the EIA regime in the BBNJ agreement.

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