

*Call for Papers***International Workshop “Small States and Arctic Sustainability”  
Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University  
20 November 2024, Singapore****Synopsis**

Our planet is facing social-ecological disruption by human activities at a scale with no parallels in human history. The impact of climate change is most visible in the Arctic, which are warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet (IPCC Special Report 2019). In recent years, the melting Arctic become rich grounds for the development of international law and governance in areas such as new shipping routes, fishing grounds, tourism and green energy transition. While every single move of great powers, e.g., the United States and China, is being scrutinized, it is noted that five out of eight Arctic Council Members – Finland, Norway, Iceland, Greenland (through Denmark) and Sweden are so-called small states.

“Small states, by their very nature, share specific concerns and common interests, such as environmental and economic vulnerabilities.”<sup>1</sup> In today’s hyperconnected world, ecosystems, societies, and economies are linked like never before. The present, and the future, is characterised by the unprecedented movement of people, goods and products and the transfer of capital and information. Small states are therefore not necessarily only at the receiving end of international law and policy making process. In contrast, small states have been actively shaping contemporary international law and governance. The latest example is Vanuatu’s initiative to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on climate change. What happens in the Arctic do not stay in the Arctic. Vice versa, lessons from other parts of the world, such as Singapore, the founder and the Chair of the Forum of Small States (FOSS), may also be valuable to help achieve sustainability in the Arctic Region. Small states within and beyond the Arctic should and are able to play significant roles in building a peaceful and sustainable future for the Arctic through law and governance at national, regional and international level.

We invite papers that address the key question of the Workshop: **How do small States engage with international law and governance to address sustainability challenges in the Arctic?** Papers could be related (but not restricted to) the following sub-themes: geopolitics, technology, and climate change - three major challenges for sustainability in the Arctic.

This hybrid workshop is organised by Centre for Commercial Law in Asia, Singapore Management University.

**Call for abstracts**

Abstracts of no more than **250 words** should be emailed to [lawandsustainability@smu.edu.sg](mailto:lawandsustainability@smu.edu.sg) by **15 July 2024**. Selected speakers will be notified by **31 July 2024**. Speakers are required to submit a working paper before the Workshop by **15 November 2024**. It is anticipated that at least one special issue from the Workshop will be published by a prominent journal.

**Practicalities**

The Workshop will be held at SMU’s state of the art Kwa Geok Choo Law Library as a hybrid event (in person + zoom). It is free of charge, though selected speakers and participants will cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/SINGAPORES-FOREIGN-POLICY/International-Issues/Small-States>

**Keynote Panellists (confirmed, in person)**

Professor Timo Koivurova, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland



Timo Koivurova is Research Professor at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland. He has also worked as the Director of the Northern Institute of Environmental and Minority Law at the Arctic Centre since 2004 and the Arctic Centre (till 2020). Koivurova is a member at the Social Economic and Cultural Expert Group of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council. Koivurova has specialised in various aspects of international law applicable in the Arctic and Antarctic region. His research work addresses the interplay between different levels of environmental law, legal status of indigenous peoples, law of the sea in the Arctic waters, integrated maritime policy in the EU, the role of law in mitigating/adapting to climate change, the function and role of the Arctic Council in view of its future challenges and the possibilities for an Arctic treaty.

Professor Rachael Lorna Johnstone, Faculty of Law, University of Akureyri, Iceland



Rachael Lorna Johnstone is Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Akureyri, Iceland and professor of law at Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland. She specialises in Polar law: the governance of the Arctic and the Antarctic under international and domestic law. She has published widely on decolonisation under international law, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, international human rights law, governance of extractive industries in the Arctic, international environmental law, state responsibility and due diligence, and Arctic strategies. Recent books include *Routledge Handbook of Polar Law* (Routledge 2023), *Regulation of Extractive Industries: Community Engagement in the Arctic* (Routledge 2020) and *Arctic Governance in a Changing World* (Littlefield 2019).

Professor Vito De Lucia, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, Arctic University of Norway/UiT



Vito De Lucia is Director of Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea (NCLOS) at the Faculty of Law, The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø. His most immediate research interests are located at the intersection of critical theory, international law and ecology. His current research agenda focuses on the concept of commons in international law, on the BBNJ negotiations and on Arctic governance. He is author of *The Ecosystem Approach in International Environmental law, Genealogy and Biopolitics* (Routledge, 2019)

Professor Nilüfer Oral, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore



Nilüfer Oral is Director of Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. She is a member of the United Nations International Law Commission and co-chair of the Study Group on Sea-level rise in relation to international law. She served as a legal advisor to the Turkish Foreign Ministry for law of the sea and as a climate change negotiator. She is a Distinguished Fellow of the Law of the Sea Institute at Berkeley Law; has lectured at the Centre for International Law (NUS); the UN Regional Law Courses for International Law, and at the Rhodes Academy for the Law of the Sea. Dr. Oral served on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Council (2012-2016); was Co-chair of the IUCN Specialist Group on Oceans, Coasts and Coral Reefs (2006-2018); and Chair of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (2014-2017).

### Special Guest

Professor Baldur Þórhallsson, Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland (TBC)

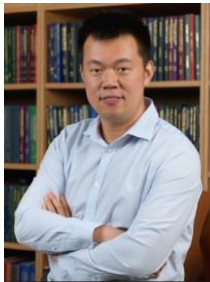


Baldur Þórhallsson is a Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Chair in European Studies at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Iceland. Baldur's research areas are primarily small state studies, European integration, Icelandic politics and Iceland's foreign policy. He is most prominent for his research on small states and Iceland's European integration. He edited and contributed several chapters to the first Icelandic textbook on European integration. He has authored or edited three books. In 2002, he established the Center for Small States Studies at the University of Iceland and served as the Director ever since.

**Baldur is currently a Candidate for the 2024 Icelandic Presidential Election.**

### Conference Chair

Associate Professor LIU Nengye, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University



Dr LIU Nengye (LLB & LLM, Wuhan, PhD, Ghent) conducts teaching and research on law and sustainability at SMU Law. Assoc Prof LIU has taken the lead to edit three books: “The European Union and the Arctic” (Brill, 2017), “Governing Marine Living Resources in the Polar Regions” (Edward Elgar, 2019); “The Law of the Sea and the Planetary Crisis” (Routledge, 2024); published 50+ refereed journal articles and book chapters in the fields of the law of the sea and international environmental law; and delivered 100+ presentations about his research findings across five continents. He sits on the editorial board of *Marine Policy* (Elsevier), *Ocean Development and International Law* (Taylor & Francis) and *Polar Record* (Cambridge University Press). Dr Liu also served as Co-Chair of American Society of International Law’s International Environmental Law Interest Group (2021 – 2024); Member of the Governing Board, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (2021 – 2024); and Director of Centre for Environmental Law, Macquarie University in Sydney (2020 – 2022).