

Call for papers

Sea and Climate Change Programme (MCC) Fundamental rights and cultural law issues

The MCC Programme is built around the scientific consensus on the harmful effects of climate change on the oceans. In addition to rising sea levels, the acidification of water is leading to coral bleaching and threatening all associated ecosystems; organisms that use limestone to build their shells or carapaces are seeing this process made more complex and could be forced to disappear, and many species will be forced to migrate to marine regions with suitable temperatures, which requires adaptable rules and could increase the risk of being confronted with invasive species. Given the urgency of the situation, it is essential to identify the legal obligations of States under international law. However, the law of the sea and climate law have developed in parallel, without providing a specific regime to govern the issue of climate change at sea.

This lack of specific standards applicable to the consequences of climate change on the oceans, and to the preservation of the oceans' role in combating climate change, constitutes a major scientific obstacle that must now be overcome. The question of the link between these two branches of international law is also at the heart of current events, with requests for advisory opinions filed with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on December 12, 2022, and with the International Court of Justice on March 29, 2023. The ITLOS delivered its opinion on May 21, 2024, thus initiating some answers on the articulation between the two branches of international law concerned.

The inaugural conference of the MCC Project, to be held at the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 on **October 18, 2024**, will focus on human and cultural rights issues at the interface between the law of the sea and the law of climate. At the heart of these debates are fishing and the right to food, indigenous peoples, population displacement, the protection of cultural and natural heritage, and national and international litigation based on human rights. The various referrals to regional courts for the protection of human rights are good illustrations of this (the first cases to be heard by the European Court in 2024, and the request for an opinion filed by Colombia and Chile before the Inter-American Court in 2023). Proposals for papers should therefore propose a reading based on fundamental or cultural rights of climate issues for oceans and coastal communities. The conference proceedings will be published. The deadline for submission of final texts is **November 15, 2024**.

Proposals for papers of no more than one page in French or English (Times New Roman, single-spaced, font 12), together with a CV, should be sent by **Wednesday 26 June 2024** to kiara.neri@univ-lyon3.fr and pascale.ricard@univ-amu.fr. There will be no simultaneous translation at the conference.