



# 14th Polar Law Symposium 2021

November 21-23 Kobe, Japan

## 14<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium 2021

### *The Blue Earth, from the Poles, through the Law*

瑠璃色の地球、極域からの法的メッセージ

### **Call for Abstracts**

**Open 1 June until 2 August 2021**

#### **1. There is no fee for submitting an abstract.**

#### **2. Date and expected format of the conference: 21-23 November 2021, Hybrid format**

A hybrid conference will consist of a limited number of in-person live events in Kobe, Japan, and several online opportunities such as online PowerPoint presentations, online live seminars broadcast through internet, and/or online panel discussions recorded for later on-demand viewing on a dedicated website, etc. The symposium's format and program will be finalised in late September taking into consideration the number of abstracts received and accepted as well as the participants' preferred manner of presentations.

When submitting your abstracts, please provide preferred, most likely manner of presentation. Please note, this information is only for the preparation and organisation purposes and may be changed at a later stage.

#### **Preferred manner of presentation:**

**Type A:** In-person live oral presentation at the venue (COVID-19 travel restrictions permitting);

**Type B:** Online live oral presentation (irrespective of the COVID-19 situation);

**Type C:** Online uploading of PowerPoint presentation, with on-demand viewing and commenting; or

**Type D:** Online uploading of video presentation, with on-demand viewing and commenting.

#### **3. The main theme and proposed sessions of the 14<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium:**

Under a poetic main theme of “*The Blue Earth, from the Poles, through the Law*”, the symposium will have several focused sessions to promote discussion oriented academic conference (see below). Please read the description for each session when submitting your abstracts and choose the one most relevant for your abstract.

*Polar governance under the Anthropocene*

*Policy-law-science nexus in the polar regions*

*The role of laws for the people in polar regions*

*Environmental protection and sustainable development in the polar regions*

*Challenges in ocean governance for the changing poles*

The Planning Committee encourages a focused discussion in seminars and panels under a session addressing both Arctic and Antarctic perspectives together, but submissions covering broader topics and dealing with methodologies are also welcomed under each session. Please kindly note, the Planning Committee reserves its right to request further information and/or abstracts before making its decision.



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#### 4. The format, length, and number of abstracts:

Please use the **model abstract format** available from the 14 PLS Kobe Website, and send it in PDF format using the dedicated [abstract submission portal](#).

Both proposals for individual presentations and proposals for seminars/panels on a specific topic or theme are welcomed. Proposals should be written in English and consist of no more than **500 words**. In addition, please include a brief biographical statement (no more than 150 words) for each presenter. You are welcome to submit multiple abstracts, up to two per person as the first author.

#### 5. Deadline for submitting abstracts: 2 August 2021.

Successful applicants will be notified by mid-September. Registration is planned to open from the end of September 2021.

#### 6. 14 PLS Kobe Fellowships

Kobe PCRC is offering a few and competitive fellowships to support (1) issue-specific research and presentations, some of which are reflected in the Session descriptions below; and (2) early-career and indigenous scholars to assist the Planning Committee both substantively and logistically in preparing, executing, and reporting on the events undertaken under the Symposium. The fellowship covers full travel and accommodation expenses to physically attend the symposium (most economical tickets and accommodation reserved and purchased by a travel agency designated by the organiser) and/or research grants amounting up to JPY 200,000 per person for related research and/or drafting of reports and papers (under contract with the Convenor and in accordance with Kobe University's financial rules). In order to be eligible for the fellowship, the candidate must submit at least one abstract being the main presenter/first author. There is a section for this purpose on the abstract submission portal. Details of the fellowship will be provided after pre-selection of candidates in August.

#### 7. Session description

##### *Polar governance under the Anthropocene*

This is an overarching session of 14 PLS, examining all aspects and topics relating to Arctic and Antarctic international law and policy challenges under the Anthropocene, with changing Earth physical as well as social systems. Examination on the polar governance challenges with/after COVID-19 era is welcome. This session also welcomes fundamental legal discussion on the concept of “the Rule of Law” or “the Rule-based Order” as applied in the polar regions, and the role of international law in changing geopolitical situations today and tomorrow (increasing nationalism and unilateralism, big power rivalries, emerging Asian, Latin American and African powers) and their implications for the polar governance.

##### **Fellowship offers:**

- ① Risks under the Anthropocene and Stability provided by law
- ② Preparing for 2025 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting hosted by Japan

##### *Policy-law-science nexus in the polar regions*



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The polar regions have legal regimes that often centre around international scientific cooperation and science-based decision-making; that seek peace through science-based diplomacy; and that are challenged by new technological advances that influence member activities. This session will analyse the nexus between policy, law and science (including technologies and operational matters as well as issues relating to access), and how shifts in this nexus can build stronger and more resilient polar regimes and institutions. The session welcomes examination of the role of scientists and scientific organizations, such as International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), in the policy- and law-making discussions in the Arctic Council (AC) and Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCMs). This session also welcomes a comparative analysis of several polar governance regimes, including Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM-3), from the perspective of policy-law-science nexus. An examination on the Joint Statement of Ministers on the occasion of the Third Arctic Science Ministerial (9 May 2021, Tokyo, Japan) is welcome.

**Fellowship offer:**

- ③ Policy-law-science nexus in the implementation of the Arctic Science Cooperation Agreement
- ④ Tackling plastic pollution problems in the polar regions: collaboration between science and law/policy

### ***The role of laws for the people in the polar regions***

This panel seeks to examine the role of laws for the people in polar regions. The laws were used as a tool to facilitate the expansion of States and deprive Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic of their sovereignty, cultures, and languages. However, the relationship between laws and the Indigenous Peoples has been changing. For example, indigenous peoples participated in the drafting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and began to invoke it to claim their rights in their counties. In the context of Arctic governance, it is therefore timely to examine the changing roles of law and policies to promote human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the challenges in their implementation. Although the Indigenous aspects of the polar laws may be more relevant to the Arctic, this panel also welcomes topics such as how the law has steered people to or away from the Antarctic; or conversely, how human presence has led to regulation of human activities in the Antarctic. An examination of safety and human security issues in both polar regions is also welcome.

**Fellowship offer:**

- ⑤ A comparative analysis of Indigenous Peoples' rights in domestic laws

### ***Environment protection and sustainable development in the polar regions***

Currently, global climate change, on one hand, expands economic opportunities in the polar regions, activating human activities such as tourism, shipping, fisheries, and oil & gas development. On the other hand, climate change and increasing human activities in the regions threaten their rare and fragile ecosystems, enhancing the need of environmental protection. Recalling Principle 4 of Rio Declaration (1992) stating that “[i]n order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process,” the polar regions now face the very challenge of ensuring sustainable development (SD). Against this background, this session seeks to examine the role, effectiveness, and sufficiency of the law and policy in achieving SD in the regions and in responding to the emerging environmental challenges such as, *inter alia*, marine plastics and bioprospecting.

The specific topics to be encouraged in this session include the application of environmental principles or approaches such as the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, as well as sustainable development in the polar regions; implementation of SDGs in the regions; the impact of global environmental agreements on the regions such as the Paris Agreement under UNFCCC, CBD and the prospective BBNJ agreement; the issues concerning implementation of regional agreements such as Polar Bear agreement, CAMLR convention, and Madrid Protocol; and



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the role and challenges of intergovernmental bodies such as the ATCM and CEP, CCAMLR and the Arctic Council in achieving SD.

**Fellowship offer:**

- ⑥ Implementing the ecosystem approach in the polar regions
- ⑦ Sustainable resource development, including sustainable tourism in the polar regions

***Challenges in ocean governance for the changing poles***

The oceans of polar regions are in an era of rapid transformation due to climate change and the increase of anthropogenic activities. A wide range of challenges for ocean governance affecting the Arctic and Antarctic have emerged in the past decades, many of which were unforeseen at the time the foundations of the current law of the sea were laid out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Although the existing legal framework continues to demonstrate its resilience in responding to emerging challenges, the identification of gaps in the present legal regime has also led to the formation of new instruments and frameworks. A key question for polar ocean governance in this era is whether the existing law of the sea and frameworks for ocean governance are sufficient and effective in responding to the changing circumstances.

The session seeks to explore how different challenges have been addressed, to evaluate governance responses to the changing circumstances, and to analyze the needs and/or gaps for further development in law. Authors are invited to submit a paper on any relevant issue relating to the law of the sea or ocean governance.

Suggested topics under this theme include (but are not limited to): jurisdictional issues in the Arctic and Antarctic oceans, regulation of activities such as shipping, tourism, and resource extraction in the polar regions, the role of international law in responding to threats to the polar marine environment such as ocean acidification and marine plastics, conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, sustainable development of ocean resources in the polar regions, the role of scientific research and indigenous knowledge in ocean governance.

**Fellowship offer:**

- ⑧ Exploring interlinkages between law and ocean science

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### **Title of the presentation or seminar/panel**

Presenter(s) name(s) [underline the main presenter]

**Name of the main presenter**, with a brief biography (not more than 150 words).

**Name of the second presenter** (if any), with a brief biography (not more than 150 words).

### **Abstract**

[MAXIMUM 500 words]

Please do not change the format, including the size and type of the font, between-the-line spaces, paragraph structure, etc.

Second and third paragraphs will follow. You may add footnotes<sup>1</sup>. A list of references at the end is optional.

Please save your abstract in one PDF document and submit it through the 14<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium abstract submission portal:

<<https://officepolaris.co.jp/entry/view.php?id=101062> >

Thank you for your interest in 14th Polar Law Symposium.

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<sup>1</sup> Antarctic Treaty, adopted 1 December 1959, entered into force 23 June 1961, UNTS XXXX.