

2nd conference of the Swiss Network for Law and Society

University of Bern, 10-12.02.2025

Call for Abstracts: deadline 30.9.2024

We invite paper/abstract submissions to the panels of the second conference of the Swiss Network for Law and Society (SNLS) "Law and/in the Anthropocene", that will take place in Bern from 10th to 12th February 2025. Below you find the panel descriptions. Please send your abstracts of up to 250 words directly to the panel convenors at the email address provided below each panel by September 30th 2024.

The conference will host 16 panels across 4 themes:

1. Dilemmas of juridification and democratic politics in the Anthropocene
2. Rules-based governance in the Anthropocene
3. Critical Perspectives on (New) Rights-Bearing Subjects in the Anthropocene
4. The Normative and the Empirical in Socio-legal Research

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Conference host and organizing team: Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Laura Affolter, Lucie Benoit, Jevgeniy Bluwstein, Matthieu Bolay, Julia Eckert, Paule Pastré, Kiri Santer

If you have any questions, please contact conference2025@lawandsociety.ch.

Panel 8: The Law and Politics of Environmental and Climate Lobbying

Convenor: Odile Ammann (University of Lausanne)

Abstract: In recent years, considerable attention has been devoted to the topic of environmental and especially climate litigation, which has become a booming field of legal scholarship. In comparison, legal scholarship on environmental and climate lobbying affecting the legislative and executive branches has remained scarce, which is also a reflection of the more general neglect of lobbying in legal scholarship, and of the tendency of legal scholars to focus on the judiciary (Korkea-aho 2023; Ammann and Boussat 2023). As important legal breakthroughs are happening within the courts, increasing attention needs to be devoted to related developments in the political arena. Indeed, the legislative and executive branches have a key role to play when it comes to implementing international, supranational, and domestic judgments in environmental and climate matters and, of course, when it comes to drafting and adopting environmental and climate laws and policies in the first place. These two branches are hence likely to be targeted by various interest groups that have a stake in these laws and policies. Lobbying can also be expected to be directed at international and supranational lawmaking processes in environmental and climate matters, which affect an even larger number of individuals and interest groups.

This panel aims to shed light on the national (including Swiss), international, and supranational lobbying landscapes in the field of environmental/climate lawmaking. From a legal perspective, and building on relevant work in political science (Milbrath 1963), lobbying can be defined as the attempt by natural or legal persons who lack legal authority in the lawmaking process, except for citizens acting on their own behalf, to influence the lawmaking activity of those holding such authority. Besides traditional inside lobbying, i.e., lobbying that targets lawmakers directly and that involves direct communications between lobbyists and lawmakers, this panel is also interested in outside lobbying, i.e., lobbying that seeks to influence public opinion (e.g., via the media or through public protests). The panel starts from the assumption that lobbying is an ambivalent, but not necessarily democratically illegitimate practice: indeed, the contributions of lobbyists may weaken, but also strengthen, democratic lawmaking processes. Lobbying forms an integral, inevitable, and even indispensable part of lawmaking, and is by no means the monopoly of corporations: lobbying is also practiced by NGOs, trade unions, professional associations, and many others. This panel's primary focus lies on private actors' attempts to contribute to national, international, and/or supranational lawmaking processes in environmental/climate matters, but contributions on lobbying by public actors (e.g., inter-branch lobbying, or lobbying between different levels of governance) are also welcome. The main goal of this panel is to examine the legal opportunity structure that conditions lobbying as well as other legal issues raised by environmental and climate lobbying, while also taking relevant scholarship in related disciplines into account.

Panelists will be asked to submit a substantial draft paper before the conference to ensure meaningful discussion. Selected contributions to this panel may be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed law journal, as part of a special issue on environmental and climate lobbying.

Abstracts in French, German or English can be sent to odile.ammann@unil.ch.