

Macquarie Law School HDR 'Future Shaping Research' Annual Conference - 2023



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Macquarie Law HDR 'Future Shaping Research' Annual Conference

1st September 2023

OVERVIEW

The Macquarie Law School HDR 'Future Shaping Research' Annual Conference was held on September 1, 2023. This conference provided a platform for young and emerging scholars pursuing Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) at the Macquarie Law School to showcase their research excellence to an audience of experts and peers. The event, conducted in a hybrid format featured four sessions on three main themes: (1) Prosperous Economies and Innovative Technologies, (2) Resilient Societies, and (3) Secure Planet.

Twelve HDR students, carrying out their research in both Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Research (MRes) levels, presented their cutting-edge research during the conference on a diverse array of research topics including the legal rights of rivers, green hydrogen, Ecovoltaics, intellectual property litigation, the rights of women in Afghanistan, fisheries law and AI in medical devices.

The conference also involved the active participation of 12 commentators, possessing a wealth of academic and industrial experience. These experts played a crucial role by providing invaluable insights and feedback, further enriching the depth and quality of the research presented.

The recipients of the Best Presenter and Best Commentator awards were selected based on the votes provided by participants throughout the duration of the conference. The accolade for the Best Presenter was generously sponsored by Clayton Utz, a leading law firm in Australia.

The event was organized by the HDR students; Nischala McDonnell, Tatiana de Campos Aranovich, Miaomiao Yin and Asanka Edirisinghe led by Dr Madeline Taylor, Director of Research Training, Macquarie University.

WELCOME ADDRESS

The welcome Address was delivered by Professor Simon Handley, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Research of Macquarie University.

His speech emphasized that the true legacy of distinctive and impactful research extends beyond past achievements. It is about the enduring impact that will continue to unfold in the future, as a result of the solid foundations that have been established. He firmly asserted that the most significant and powerful legacy resides in the profound influence that these strong foundations will exert on the succeeding generations of researchers, research students, and professionals, all of whom have had the privilege of developing their research skills, knowledge and capabilities within a supportive and active research environment.

Professor Handley also underscored the significance of Macquarie University's culture of challenging norms and promoting inclusivity in academia making a compelling parallel between this culture and the groundbreaking artist Marcel Duchamp, known for defying conventions and reshaping the very essence of art.

He highlighted that just as the value of an artwork transcends mere artistic effort and technical proficiency, being defined instead by the interplay of thought, imagination, and creativity between the artist and the audience, graduate researchers must also encompass a diverse array of capabilities extending beyond mere effort and technical skills. He pointed out that the pursuit of research excellence and groundbreaking discoveries necessitates the ability to experiment, combine old ideas in novel ways, foster creative disruption, innovation, and the capacity to challenge existing thinking through productive disagreement and critical analysis.



Image 01 – Professor Handley delivering the welcome address

Professor Handley concluded by asserting that the Macquarie Law School HDR ‘Future Shaping Research’ Conference is an opportunity to achieve this ultimate objective, ‘to present creative new ideas, challenge the status quo and engage in productive disagreement and debate’.

SESSION ONE – PROSPEROUS ECONOMIES AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Session one conducted under the theme ‘Prosperous Economies and Innovative Technologies’ featured three presenters: Vanessa Ho, Jordie Pettit and Tatiana de Campos Aranovich. The session was chaired by Nischala McDonnell.

The first presenter, Vanessa Ho’s presentation delved into ‘Creating a Legal Framework for Forum Selection in Transnational Intellectual Property Litigation’. She addressed the complexities of transnational intellectual property (IP) litigation, particularly in cases involving infringement of IP rights across multiple countries. The core of her presentation revolved around the selection of a forum for resolving such disputes and its impact on litigation outcomes. She underscored the critical nature of this aspect, noting that ‘the forum choice can significantly affect the litigation’s outcome, making it a challenging and pivotal decision’. Vanessa proposed adopting an international treaty inspired by the International Law Association’s Kyoto Guidelines to establish a unified global approach to private international law, facilitating more effective forum choices in transnational IP litigation.

Dr. Rita Matulionyte, Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University, commended Vanessa’s research in Private International Law, recognizing its relevance in today’s complex world. Rita directed the audience’s attention to the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on intellectual property (IP) rights holders and stressed that ‘[IP rights holders] are not asked for permission, they receive no compensation, and they struggle to enforce their rights because they don’t even know which works are being used’. She underscored that one of the primary

obstacles in protecting their rights is jurisdictional, as Vanessa discussed in her presentation. Moving onto her second point, Rita expressed her appreciation of Vanessa's endorsement of the Kyoto Guidelines which were drafted by the International Law Association Committee on Intellectual Property and Private International Law. However, she also highlighted the broader challenge of developing guidelines in a swiftly evolving technological landscape. In conclusion, Rita emphasized the ongoing relevance of this field and called for further research in these areas.

Jordie Pettit, the second presenter, discussed the implications of 'Net-Zero Emissions by 2050' for the hydrocarbon industry, with a focus on hydrogen in mature petroleum jurisdictions. His presentation was based on an article co-authored by him with his supervisors, Tina Soliman Hunter and Madeline Taylor published in the *Journal of World Energy Law and Business*.



Image 02 – Jordie presenting his research

Jordie focused on the intersection of climate change, the shift away from hydrocarbon-based energy, and the hydrocarbon industry's role in fostering the hydrogen sector. He pointed out that Hydrogen, due to its versatility and emissions-reducing potential, emerged as a climate-friendly solution. He explained that their study aimed to explore the contribution of hydrogen to this transition, using Australia and Canada as case studies. Jordie emphasized that achieving 'Net-Zero Emissions by 2050' is a global necessity, with hydrogen playing a crucial role. He stressed the importance of collaboration, innovation, and supportive policies in realizing hydrogen's potential.

Dr. Cameron Kelly, from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, praised Jordie's presentation as a 'fascinating and highly relevant topic', especially in the current context of transitioning to sustainable energy sources. He particularly praised the research methodology and the clear definitions of various types of hydrogen presented. Dr. Kelly highlighted the complexity of this field, stating, 'this is a notoriously jargon-ridden area of the law. It is still evolving and there are lots and lots of different views on the different colours of hydrogen, some well-informed and others less so'. He also found Jordie's central question intriguing. Dr. Kelly pointed out that while there is a place for experienced players in the oil and gas sector, defining their role in the transition to net-zero emissions remains a challenge. He concluded by suggesting that the authors explore parallels with the global offshore wind industry for further insights.

The third speaker of the session, Tatiana de Campos Aranovich presented her work titled 'Ensuring AI Explainability in Healthcare: Problems and Possible Policy Solutions.' Her presentation, based on an article co-authored with Dr. Rita Matulionyte published in *Information and Communications Technology Law*, highlighted the challenges of AI medical devices and the importance of AI explainability. Tatiana stressed the

need to ensure the reliability of AI systems in healthcare, which can have life-altering consequences. She explained that AI explainability which means clarifying how AI decisions are made, is essential for building trust, accountability, and informed decision-making. In conclusion, Tatiana emphasized the need for robust regulations and a clear understanding of AI's role in complementing human clinicians to ensure safety and reliability in healthcare.



Image 03 – Some presenters and commentators from Session One

Commenting on her presentation, Tracey Duffy, First Assistant Secretary of Medical Devices and Product Quality at the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), acknowledged the significance of Tatiana's work, referring to how the discussions on the quality, cost, shortages, and risks of AI in healthcare are robust not only in Australia but globally.



Image 04 – Tracey commenting on Tatiana's Research

She highlighted that the field of AI development in healthcare is rapidly growing, with clinicians and developers often deploying devices without realizing the need for regulation. Expressing her approval of Tatiana's argument, Tracy emphasized the importance of explainability and transparency during the regulatory approval process, particularly for high-risk AI systems. She concluded by stating that TGA is 'focusing on how to include instructions for use that go to patients and clinicians to understand how the AI or the software works', as correctly mentioned by Tatiana.

SESSION TWO – RESILIENT SOCIETIES

Session two took place under the theme of 'Resilient Societies' and involved four presenters: Amrithnath Sreedevi Babu, Thomas Gibbons, Pushkar Anand, and Sebghatullah Qazi Zada. The session was chaired by Tatiana de Campos Aranovich.



Image 05 – Tatiana chairing the session

The first speaker of the session, Amrithnath Sreedevi Babu's presentation, titled 'Rights of Farmers in India under the Plant Variety Protection Laws,' explored the complexities of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act (PPVFR) in India. His presentation was based on a chapter that he co-authored with his principal supervisor, Professor Christoph Antons in the book titled 'Research Handbook on Empirical Studies in Intellectual Property Law' published by Edward Elgar. He pointed out that while the plant variety protection laws protect plant varieties and breeders as innovators, they can have unintended consequences for farmers, particularly in their traditional practices. He explained that Indian law in this regard is unique because it not only provides for the protection of plant varieties but also the rights of farmers. However, he pointed out that the effective implementation of these provisions faces significant challenges, many of which are orchestrated by the Central Government and regulatory bodies. As a result, Amrith concluded that farmers' rights in India have not been fully realized.

Professor Cathy Sherry from Macquarie University commended Amrith's pioneering work in a globally relevant field. She underlined the modern urban population's disconnection from food production and its reliance on fragile global supply chains, leading to environmental and geopolitical challenges, as evidenced during the pandemic. Cathy stressed the imperative for countries like Australia to rethink their food production methods, particularly in the face of corporate dominance in agriculture. She praised Amrith's research in India, where he combines plant breeders' rights with farmers' rights, recognizing the importance of investing in food research while preserving traditional farming wisdom. She concluded by stating, 'We are going to have to learn from farmers in places like India, still growing diverse crops, are still farming in traditional ways, because that is the knowledge that we are going to desperately need in the future'.



Image 06 – Professor Cathy Sherry commenting on Amrith’s Presentation

The second presenter of the session, Thomas Gibbons delved into the topic of ‘Hybrid Property Forms - Concepts and Context’, emphasizing how these property forms, resulting from the fusion of different ownership types or tenures, are regulated by the ‘*numerus clausus*’ principle, which restricts their number. He explored the reasons behind this principle and the challenges it presents. In his presentation, Thomas focused on New Zealand’s primary hybrid property form, the cross-lease, which has faced criticism due to technical, practical, and policy-related issues. He highlighted how cross-leases can hinder urban development due to the need for multiple owners to agree simultaneously. Thomas also touched on the concept of structural pluralism, advocating for a diverse range of property types within liberal property law. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of delving deeper into the motivations behind hybrid property forms, their practical implications, and the role of lawyers in shaping them.

Commenting on his presentation, Dr. Henry Kha of Macquarie University explained that starting with the Norman Conquest, where land rights were exchanged for service to the Crown, we have witnessed shifts in property management and challenges to the concept of ‘*numerus clausus*’ – the idea of fixed proprietary interests. He emphasized that in the modern context, emerging property interests are impacting our physical environments, blurring the lines between abstract concepts and tangible realities. An intriguing aspect, as highlighted by Thomas, is the precarious position of property law in relation to leases, which straddles the line between personal and real property. He concluded stating that Thomas’s research promises to shed more light on these evolving property rights and their implications and thanking him for his enlightening presentation.

Pushkar Anand, presenting third in the session, discussed the topic ‘Role of International Investment Law in Ensuring a Just Transition from a Right to Development Perspective’. His presentation focused on the concept of a ‘just transition’ in the context of climate change mitigation efforts, particularly in relation to international investment law. He explained that a just transition involves addressing the unequal and unwanted socio-economic consequences for vulnerable groups in society. He highlighted the challenges posed by international investment law, including the potential for large compensation payouts to investors. He concluded by suggesting that the principles of the right to development should guide reforms in international investment law to ensure a fair and inclusive transition towards a green economy.



Image 07 – Pushkar presenting his research

The commentator for Pushkar’s presentation, Dr. Catherine Gascoigne of Macquarie University, concurred with Pushkar’s argument that international law has predominantly developed independently in separate domains. Consequently, she agreed with Pushkar in recognizing that investment law has largely overlooked other branches of law, such as international environmental law and international human rights. She emphasized the necessity for international lawmakers to address conflicts between these various areas of international law. Dr. Gascoigne stressed the significance of devising strategies that foster collaboration among these legal domains rather than promoting opposition, as such conflicts can yield adverse consequences. She praised Pushkar’s presentation for being an illustrative case of this challenge and advocating for the reconciliation of issues within international investment law, climate change, and international human rights to harmonize their respective objectives.

The final speaker of the session, Sebghatullah Qazi Zada, spoke on ‘The Taliban and Women’s Human Rights in Afghanistan’. His presentation addressed the question of Afghan women and girls’ human rights under the Taliban’s rule, exploring the origins and reasons behind their emergence in the 1990s and their resurgence in 2021. He noted that there were periods of positive change for Afghan women, but the Taliban regime from 1996 to 2001 drastically reversed these gains, despite Afghanistan’s commitment to various international human rights agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In the contemporary context, he emphasized that the Taliban’s return has led to severe restrictions on women and girls’ rights, including education, employment, political participation, and freedom of movement. He concluded by offering practical recommendations to improve the situation for Afghan women and girls.

The commentator of Seb’s presentation, Associate Professor Amy Barrow of Macquarie University expressed her admiration of Seb for ‘pulling out a really important critical political juncture from August 2021 when the Taliban took over again following the withdrawal of the US coalition forces’. She pointed out that Seb’s research underscores the historical context of women’s civil and political rights in Afghanistan, even before the adoption of CEDAW, with compelling examples from the early 20th century during Afghanistan’s modernization efforts. She also highlighted that Seb’s research emphasizes the complexity of governance regimes and their implications for women’s rights. Transition periods, such as the one Afghanistan is currently experiencing,

often lead to contested rights, especially women’s rights, in post-conflict societies which may not receive enough international attention due to the complex role of the UN and the international community in the region. She concluded by encouraging future research on women’s rights during transitions, contextualization as a feminist method, women, peace and security, and Islamic feminism’s potential in promoting Afghan women’s rights amid Taliban resistance.



Image 08 – Dr. Barrow commenting on Sab’s Presentation



Image 09 – Some presenters and commentators from Session Two

SESSION THREE – SECURE PLANET

Session three focused on the theme ‘Secure Planet’ and was chaired by Miaomiao Yin. Three presenters presented their research in the session: Ethan Beringen, Nischala McDonnell and Asanka Edirisinghe.



Image 10 – Participants listening to the presentations

Ethan Beringen’s presentation was on the title ‘Uncertain, Unstable and Unequal: The Challenges for Achieving Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Seas Fisheries in the Anthropocene’. In his presentation, he considered addressing the overarching research question of ‘what impact does the Anthropocene Context have on achieving “conservation and sustainable use” in international fisheries law?’. He pointed out that in an era of uncertain, unstable, and unequal ocean conditions due to various factors like climate change, overfishing, shipping, and pollution, the international legal response needs to adapt. He stressed that Interaction between legal regimes, including international fisheries law, international biodiversity law, and international climate change law, is crucial for addressing these challenges effectively. Such interaction can lead to more effective ecosystem-based monitoring, precautionary decision-making, and stakeholder involvement. In Conclusion, Ethan held that by pooling scientific resources, avoiding problem shifting, and fostering collaboration across regimes, inter-regime learning can enhance the response to Anthropocene challenges in the world’s oceans.

Commenting on Ethan’s presentation, Dr Constantinos Yiallourides of Macquarie University, appreciated Ethan’s analytical approach grounded on the fundamental, important, and future-looking research question of how the law should respond to changing circumstances, specifically how to ensure conservation and sustainable use of marine natural resources. He agreed with Ethan’s argument that some of the biggest treaties that regulate these issues were concluded many years ago under different environmental conditions and therefore, may not effectively address the complex challenges of the Anthropocene, such as ocean warming, acidification, disrupted fish migration, and coral reef destruction. He agreed with Ethan’s call for a harmonized approach involving fisheries law, biodiversity law, and climate change law given the interconnectedness of marine ecosystems. He also supported the idea of involving stakeholders, taking precautionary measures, and implementing ecosystem-based monitoring in international law to tackle the complex challenges of conserving and sustainably using high-seas fisheries.

Nischala McDonnell, the second speaker of the session, addressed the topic of 'Implementing Ecovoltaics: Combining Ecological Regeneration with Large-Scale Solar Energy in New South Wales'.

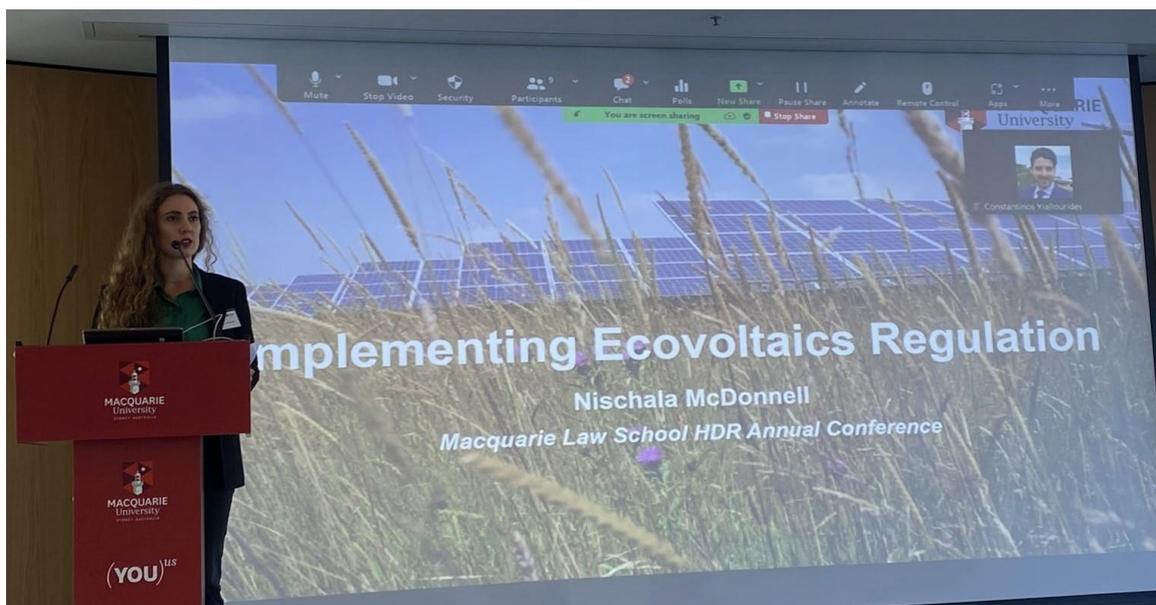


Image 11 – Nischala presenting her research

Her presentations sought to demonstrate how ecovoltaics could be embedded in the NSW environmental impact assessment process. She highlighted the global expansion of renewable energy, stating that it plays a crucial role in addressing climate change and achieving the net-zero emissions target set by the Paris Agreement for 2050. Furthermore, she pointed out concerns regarding potential conflicts between large-scale solar projects and vital conservation areas, stressing the importance of implementing regulatory measures that strike a balance between renewable energy development and the preservation of biodiversity. In her analysis, she identified New South Wales (NSW) as a potential leader in renewable energy due to its ambitious emissions reduction goals and the establishment of renewable energy zones. She drew inspiration from recent regulatory reforms in the UK, emphasizing the significance of ecological enhancement and offering valuable insights applicable to the NSW context.

The commentator for Nischala's presentation, Claire Dawson, who serves as the Head of Legal and Community at Spark Renewables, praised Nischala's research as crucial, emphasizing the urgency of developing new renewable energy assets to achieve net-zero goals. She highlighted that 'there is a conflict in land use between the need to move and decarbonize, but at the same time, not to lose important biodiversity' and appreciated the idea of incorporating ecological considerations into the planning system. Claire emphasized the significance of exploring policies that give weight to solar proposals incorporating ecovoltaics and highlighted the value of overseas precedents in land use planning. Moreover, she pointed out the importance of linking renewable energy projects with reserves and the potential for such projects to reduce conflicts in land use. In conclusion, Claire expressed hope for the future and thanked Nischala for her contributions to the discussion.

The final presenter in the session, Asanka Edirisinghe, presented her research regarding the legal personhood of rivers in Sri Lanka. She conducted an analysis of the Legalist and Realist approaches to legal personhood, ultimately demonstrating that rivers could be considered legal persons under both frameworks. Furthermore, she emphasized that arriving at such a conclusion necessitates a broader perspective, one that transcends the confines of Western law, which often faces criticism for its anthropocentric tendencies. Instead, she advocated for the adoption of more pluralistic worldviews and legal systems akin to those prevalent in Sri Lanka. Asanka also argued that this broader interpretation of legal personhood is crucial, particularly in the context of river protection emphasizing that such recognition facilitates safeguarding the intrinsic and relational values of rivers rather than merely their instrumental worth.

In response to Asanka's presentation, Dr. Emma Carmody from Restore Blue expressed her appreciation for the concept presented by Asanka and her suggestion to broaden recognition for more pluralistic legal systems in the context of river protection. Nevertheless, she emphasized the importance of examining the practical implementation of the idea of granting legal personhood to rivers, specifically how it could be integrated into the existing legal systems and frameworks in Sri Lanka. Dr. Carmody also underscored a critical point: regardless of the quality of the law, its effectiveness could be seriously questionable if there is a lack of political will to enforce it.



Image 12 – Some presenters and commentators from Session Three

SESSION FOUR – SECURE PLANET

The last session followed the same theme of ‘Secure Planet’ and featured two presenters: Miaomiao Yin and Jiliang Cheng. The session was chaired by Asanka Edirisinghe.

The first presenter of the session, Miaomiao Yin addressed climate change mitigation within the context of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). Her presentation revolved around two primary inquiries: first, the role of the ATS in implementing the ‘net-zero’ emission objective in Antarctica, and second, identifying governance gaps and proposing potential ATS modifications to enhance the possibility of achieving this ultimate objective. Miaomiao pointed out that the current state of decarbonization governance in Antarctica lacks clear emission limits or standards and is hampered by the dispersion of regulatory authority. She identified self-interest, political power, norms, custom, and knowledge as the variables that could influence a regime change within the ATS. She underscored the need for alterations in rules and procedures, the demand for establishing norms and principles, and the call for radical changes as essential steps to achieve zero emissions in Antarctica.

The commentator of Miaomiao's presentation, Professor Shirley Scott from UNSW raised questions about the impact of changing global politics on the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and suggested considering this dimension in Miaomiao's research. She inquired about the interrelationship between the ATS and global regimes, as well as state parties' responsibilities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regime. The commentator also discussed states' obligations under existing ATS provisions and the possibility of incremental change. She also noted the significance of China as a key actor in this context and their stance on not assuming additional legal obligations in the Antarctic context, suggesting it could be a factor to consider in the development of Miaomiao's research.



Image 13 – Professor Shirley commenting on Miaomiao's presentation

The second and final presenter of the session, Jiliang Chen carried out his presentation on the topic 'Implications of Unilateral Conservation Acts on Consensus Building for Marine Protected Areas in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions'. In his presentation, Jiliang mentioned the challenges and complexities of achieving consensus in multilateral negotiations, particularly regarding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). He explained the concept of unilateral conservation acts by states and their potential impact on building consensus for Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (ABNJ) conservation. He touched on examples of such acts by countries like the USA, Australia, and China, noting their implications for international law. He introduced the legal effect of unilateral acts and suggested that if many states engage in such actions, they could potentially contribute to customary international law. He also acknowledged the mismatch between the non-linear nature of environmental change and the gradual nature of international decision-making.

Dr. Linda Goldberg from the University of Tasmania emphasized the importance of the research area selected by Jiliang, especially in today's geopolitically complex environment. She acknowledged the challenges in achieving consensus for MPAs and noted that collaborative consensus-forming should be the preferred approach, as alternative voting systems may not generate the desired collective ownership of outcomes. She also discussed the potential role of unilateral conservation-oriented state actions in generating space for conservation efforts. While such actions can be effective for specific issues, she raised questions about their application to MPAs, particularly when they impact other states' interests. Dr. Goldberg suggested further exploration of the legal implications and opportunities for states to work together within existing rules and understandings to achieve area protection goals without formal MPAs. She appreciated Julian's presentation and looked forward to seeing how these ideas progress and evolve.



Image 14 – Jiliang presenting his research

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr Madeline Taylor, Director of Research Training, Macquarie University delivered the concluding remarks marking the conclusion of the Macquarie Law School HDR ‘Future Shaping Research’ Annual Conference 2023, one of the landmark events in the Macquarie Law School.

In her address, Madeline underscored the vitality of the HDR community within the Law School, comprising 39 active HDR/MRes candidates representing a range of socio-legal research disciplines. She stressed that the Macquarie Law School Annual Conference stands as a testament to the outstanding HDR community within the school. She remarked, ‘it is important to highlight that this conference was arranged by students, for students, and it showcases the extent of our vibrant HDR community’. She continued to state that ‘what makes our story within the Law School community so special is the way our researchers approach and view the law from both a socio-legal and functional perspective. The diversity within this cohort is extraordinary, ranging from experienced judges and legal practitioners to graduate researchers who have just embarked on their journey straight after excelling as law students. This diversity and richness are reflected in our wonderful pillars of research strength within Macquarie Law School, which you can see demonstrated throughout our program today’.

She highlighted the research strengths of Macquarie Law School; environmental law and sustainability, access and law reform, corporate citizenship and integrity, law and society in Asia and the Pacific, technology in the public interest, and sustainability in the energy transformation. She also pointed out the diverse array of activities and platforms that the Macquarie Law School Graduate Research Community actively participates in, such as the Law HDR website, Law HDR Skills Seminar Series, Law Research Seminar Series, and the concept of distributed leadership which provides visibility, skills, knowledge, experience, leadership and empowerment.

Madeline expressed her deep sense of privilege in her role as the Director of Research Training. She remarked that she finds the Graduate Research community incredibly inspiring, not only in their innovative, cutting-edge and inspiring research but also in their conduct.

She also highlighted the key takeaways from the HDR Annual Conference. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and sponsorship in the extra portfolio, reflecting the conference’s success in engaging external

commentators and stakeholders. Madeline also pointed out the value of synergies identified during the event, bridging academia, industry, government, and regulatory bodies. She praised the collaborative spirit among HDR candidates, supervisors, and scholars, emphasizing its role in achieving research excellence and long-term impact.



Image 15 – Madeline listening to the presentations

Madeline addressed the HDR community and noted that true expertise lies in the ability to take complex and deep knowledge in a specific subject area and distill it in a way that is understandable to the broader community. She commended the HDR candidates for successfully achieving this during the conference and expressed her pride in their accomplishments.

She concluded expressing her gratitude to all the participants, both on-site and online, and extended her thanks to the members of the conference organizing committee: Tatiana, Nischala, Miaomiao, and Asanka.

AWARDS

The next significant event of the conference involved the selection of the best presenter and the best commentator through a participant vote. Asanka Edirisinghe received the Best Presenter award which was generously sponsored by Clayton Utz for her presentation on the legal personhood of rivers. Dr. Emma Carmody was honoured with the Best Commentator award for her well-thought-out and inspiring commentary on Asanka's presentation.



Image 16 – Asanka received the Best Presenter award from Madeline

CONCLUSION

The 2023 Macquarie Law School HDR ‘Future Shaping Research’ Annual Conference was a significant milestone in the history of the Macquarie Law School HDR community. It offered HDR students a valuable platform to present their cutting-edge research to an expert audience, highlighting their research excellence and fostering collaborations with industry and academic experts. The conference is scheduled to return next year, hosted in the new Michael Kirby Law School building.



Macquarie University is a vibrant hub of intellectual thinkers, all working towards a brighter future for our communities and our planet.

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Macquarie is uniquely located in the heart of Australia's largest high-tech precinct, a thriving locale which is predicted to double in size in the next 20 years to become the fourth largest CBD in Australia.

Our campus spans 126 hectares, with open green space that gives our community the freedom to think and grow. We are home to fantastic facilities with excellent transport links to the city and suburbs, supported by an on-campus train station.

RENOWNED FOR EXCELLENCE

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A PROUD TRADITION OF DISCOVERY

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BUILDING SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES

Our pioneering approach to teaching and learning is built around a connected learning community: our students are considered partners and co-creators in their learning experience.

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