

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
BIODIVERSITY LAW SPECIALIST GROUP, IUCN WCEL

LEGALITY, LIFE, AND THE NORMATIVITY OF NATURE

Law and Nature Dialogue
Webinar Series

Prof. Margaret Davies | 16 June 2022, 1 pm (AEST/Sydney time)
Session Chair : Paul Govind

Prof. Davies' recently-published book *EcoLaw*, extends legal theory into the domain of the socio-ecological. Conceptualising law as part of the expansive materiality that all humans and nonhuman beings emerge from, the book endeavours to step outside the many discursive and mythological boundaries that have been placed around human organisms and human societies, especially in western thought. Hence, law as an ecological phenomenon can be imagined as emerging from and in continuity with trillions of micro-actions of living and nonliving systems in specific places and times. This constant activity forms patterns and stabilities that over time materialize as 'law'. The book therefore argues that there is a plurality of norms, a plurality of potential normative worlds, and a plurality of normative fields across biological, geological, and social (human and nonhuman) planes. The socio-ecological point of departure for the work brings together the ecological and the human/social by viewing these multiple planes of normativity as connected and mutually constitutive, even though – for analytical purposes – they are frequently studied and analysed as separate.



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Prof. Margaret Davies

Margaret Davies is Research Professor and Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor of Law in the College of Business, Government, and Law at Flinders University.

She is the author of six books on legal theory, the most recent being *Law Unlimited* (2017) and *EcoLaw* (2022).

Margaret is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and the Australian Academy of Law.

