



UNIVERSITY of STRATHCLYDE
CENTRE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
AND GOVERNANCE

Sharing Responsibility in International Environmental Law: Fundamental Contradictions

Wednesday 26 April 2017

3 – 6PM

Collins Suite, Collins Building,
University of Strathclyde ([map](#))

Professor Andre Nollkaemper

Dean and Professor of Public International
Law, Amsterdam Law School, University
of Amsterdam

At the end of the Guest Lecture the following experts will
discuss Prof Nollkaemper's talk from their own perspective
of environmental law and governance:

Prof Ellen Hey, Professor of Public International Law,
Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Prof Elisa Morgera, Professor of Global Environmental Law
at the University of Strathclyde Law School

Dr Francesco Sindico, Reader in International
Environmental Law at the University of Strathclyde Law School

The event is free but places are limited. The guest lecture will be
followed by a drinks reception. To register please click [HERE](#)

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ABSTRACT

Professor Andre Nollkaemper

Dean and Professor of Public International Law,
Amsterdam Law School, University of Amsterdam

It has become commonplace to say that the responsibility to protect the environment is shared between multiple actors, rather than resting on one actor alone. Much of modern international environmental law indeed is based on this premise. However, the idea that responsibility should be shared hides fundamental complexities and contradictions. The lecture will explore one of such contradictions. On the one hand, shared responsibility stands for the idea that all those who contribute to environmental degradation, exhaustion of natural resources, and so on, should be part of the solution. This proposition may express a sense of fairness and effectiveness. On the other hand, shared responsibility tends to lead to arrangements in which responsibility is divided over so many actors, that the responsibility of each individual actor is diluted. Sharing responsibility then may lead to 'blame games and buck-passing'. The lecture explores how the contradiction has manifested itself in international environmental law and what ways have been found to resolve it.

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