



## Rights of Nature in Transatlantic Perspective

**Date** 20 July 2016

**Venue** The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU

**Participants** María José Barragán (Universidad La Laguna), María Valeria Berros (Universidad Nacional del Litoral), Thomas Fatheuer (Heinrich-Böll-Foundation), Jannine-Madeleine Fischer (LMU), Sophia Kalantzakos (New York University) Jens Kersten (LMU), Christian Lahnstein (formerly Munich Re), Christof Mauch (RCC), Atus Russell (Birkbeck University), Anna Leah Tabios (RCC)

**Abstract** In recent years efforts to grant nature certain legal rights have gained ground, most notably in some Latin American countries, where the Rights of Nature are codified in national laws. The Rights of Nature principle regards nature as a valuable entity in and of itself, and not simply an object of human ownership. Where previous conservation laws sought to manage harm to the environment, Rights of Nature aims to prevent it through legal recognition—that is, giving nature inalienable rights ensuring its protection in law. An innovative legal tool, these rights have significant potential but also present a series of challenges, including how best to improve the current processes through interdisciplinary discussion. Equally important is an analysis of the effectiveness of this legal recognition, its influence in other countries, and its impact on the field of law internationally. The main objectives of the workshop are to present the current development in Rights of Nature law and environmental law, and to share international and interdisciplinary perspectives on this issue—particularly in the humanities and social sciences.

## Wednesday, 20 July 2016

- 9.30–10.00 am**      **Welcome and Introduction**  
Christof Mauch and Valeria Berros
- 10.00–11.00 am**      **Rights of Nature: So What?**  
*Moderator: Christof Mauch*
- Jens Kersten (LMU)  
"Who Needs Rights of Nature?"
- Anna Leah Tabios (RCC)  
"The Privilege of Being Human in the Rights of Nature Discourse"
- 11.00–11.30 am**      **Coffee Break**
- 11.30–1.00 pm**      **Recent Developments and Outlooks**  
*Moderator: Jens Kersten*
- Rita Brara (University of Delhi) - via video  
"Courting Nature: Advances in Indian Jurisprudence"
- María Valeria Berros (UNL)  
"Rights of Nature: Recent Developments of Regulations and Jurisprudence"
- Atus Russell (Birkbeck University)  
"Recent Developments in Rights of Nature and the Precautionary Principle"
- 1.00–2.00 pm**      **Lunch**
- 2.00–3.00 pm**      **Buen Vivir - Practices and Theories**  
*Moderator: Anna Leah Tabios*
- Thomas Fatheuer (Heinrich-Böll-Foundation)  
"The Constitutions of Bolivia and Ecuador: Buen Vivir and Rights of Nature"
- María José Barragán (Universidad La Laguna)  
"Fish-as-Food: The Ethics Behind Fishing and Fisheries Under the Buen Vivir Paradigm"
- 3.00–3.30 pm**      **Coffee Break**
- 3.30–5.00 pm**      **Rights and Regulations in International Perspective**  
*Moderator: Valeria Berros*
- Christian Lahnstein (formerly Munich Re)  
"Legal Rights of Nature – Helpful in Environmental Liability Litigation?"
- Jeannine-Madeleine Fischer (LMU)  
"Tree Rules and Urban Ideals in Auckland"
- Sophia Kalantzakos (New York University)  
"River Rights and the Rights of Rivers: The Case of Acheloos"
- 5.00– 5:30 pm**      **Concluding Discussion**
- 6.00 pm**      **Conference Dinner** at restaurant "Brusko" (Leopoldstr. 9, 80802 München)