



Polar Law Symposium 2020 at KOBE

20200327

2020 Polar Law Symposium at Kobe [2020 PLS Kobe] Call for Abstracts: Open 5 December 2019

Panel Themes for abstracts:

The Planning Committee encourages a focused discussion in each panel on a common theme with a distinctively **bi-polar perspective**. The Committee will also accept broad topics and methodologies under such common themes. For the first time in its 13-year history, the 2020 Polar Law Symposium is held in a non-Arctic or non-Antarctic gateway country. Therefore, the **“mid-latitude” perspective** in all discussions is very much welcomed. When submitting an abstract, please choose a panel the objective of which best fits the theme of your abstract. You can find the description of each panel themes below.

Proposals for **new panels** are encouraged. In this case, the proposal should clearly indicate the title of the proposed panel, at least four (4) presentations within the panel with the titles and concise abstracts for each of them, as well as the names of the presenters (all in 700 words limit). The Planning Committee reserves its right to request further information and/or abstracts before making its decision.

The format, length, and number of abstracts:

Please use the **model abstract format** available at the 2020 PLS Kobe Website, and send it in PDF format using the dedicated [abstract submission portal](#).

The maximum word limit for each abstract is **700 words** (including notes and references, no minimum requirement). For selection purposes, early-career scholars and indigenous participants seeking for travel assistance from Kobe PCRC are encouraged to submit a longer version nearing the maximum limit so that you can provide the main argument of your proposed presentation.

For the details of the Kobe PCRC travel assistance policy, see [2020 PLS Kobe website](#).

The Planning Committee has set the maximum number of abstracts **at two (2)** per person as the first author. This limitation does not affect the same person being identified as the second or later author in other abstracts.

Poster presentations:

While we do not accept abstracts submitted for poster presentations as such, due to the small number of available slots for oral presentations at 2020 PLS Kobe, the Planning Committee may accept some abstracts as poster presentations. This decision will be communicated as early as possible.

Deadline for submitting abstracts: ~~31 March 2020~~ **20 April 2020**

All abstracts with requests for travel assistance must be received by this date. Results of the evaluation will be informed by the end of May 2020. The registration is planned to commence from 1 June 2020.



Panel Theme 1: International rule of law in polar regions

This is the overarching theme of 2020 PLS, with a plenary session planned for the first day of the conference (Monday 23rd November). Your abstract may be considered for this plenary session, along with invited keynote speakers.

International polar law is, and should be, depicted as an integral part of the international legal system the main purpose of which is to bring the rule of law in the international community. The objective of this panel is to re-examine the foundational principles of international law applicable in both polar regions which are essential for their maintenance of peace and security, for providing stability and foreseeability, for promoting international cooperation in science and environmental protection, and for proactively regulating emerging issues such as tourism and resource developments. This panel welcomes fundamental legal discussion on the concept of “the Rule of Law” or “the Rule-based Order” as applied in the polar regions, and the role of international law in changing geopolitical situations today and tomorrow (increasing nationalism and unilateralism, big power rivalries, emerging Asian, Latin American and African powers) and their implications for the polar regions.

Panel Theme 2: Policy-law-science nexus in polar regions

This is the theme for the second plenary session planned for the second day of the conference (Tuesday 24th November). Your abstracts may be considered for this plenary session, along with invited keynote speakers. There will also be a special plenary keynote speech on “Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM-3) Outcome: Its legal and policy implications (TBC). ASM-3 will be held in Tokyo on 21-22 November, just before the 2020 PLS Kobe.

The polar regions have legal regimes that often centre around international scientific cooperation and science-based decision-making; that seek peace through science-based diplomacy; and that are challenged by new technological advances that influence member activities. This panel will analyse the nexus between policy, law and science (including technologies and logistics), and how shifts in this nexus can build stronger and more resilient polar regimes and institutions. The panel welcomes examination of the role of scientists and scientific organizations, such as International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), as observers and experts in the policy- and law-making discussions in the Arctic Council (AC) and Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCMs). The panel encourages collaborative presentations between social scientists and natural scientists, engineers and operational managers on relevant topics of mutual interest.

Panel Theme 3: Protecting marine and terrestrial polar environments

The polar regions require unique legal regimes which seek to protect and/or conserve their fragile, changing and diversity-rich marine and terrestrial environments. These regimes face many challenges, both environmental and anthropogenic. This panel seeks to discuss relevant normative approaches (ecosystem, precautionary, etc), legal principles (jurisdiction, prevention, due diligence, responsibility and liability, etc), legal procedures and mechanisms (environmental impact assessment (EIA), marine protected areas (MPA), area protection and management schemes, etc) applicable in both polar regions and to examine how these regimes, with their diverse actors, develop, maintain and adapt to these challenges unique to the polar regions.

Panel Theme 4: Humans and human security in polar regions

Polar regions, because of their harsh natural environment, pose unique challenges for humans in their endeavours



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to access the areas, to pursue professional activities, and to make a viable living. The Arctic is the home to 4 million inhabitants, including the indigenous peoples. In Antarctica, during the long winter, there are around 1,000 personnel maintaining their stations and doing scientific observations, but in the short austral summer, these personnel increases up to 5,000 and more than 50,000 tourists by boats and planes visit small ice-free areas of the vast continent. Acknowledging the very different contexts in which the human aspects are addressed in their applicable laws and policies, this panel welcomes examinations of basic principles relevant to humans in the polar regions, such as strengthening human safety and security, promoting sustainability of human activities, and reducing the physical as well as carbon footprints of humans, including tourists and scientific personnel. The indigenous aspects of the polar law and policy may be more relevant to the Arctic, and the panel welcomes addressing these issues. The panel welcomes a constructive and a mutually-learning dialogue between the Arctic and non-Arctic indigenous peoples.

Panel Theme 5: Resources and industries in polar regions

As polar regions and their resources become more accessible, various forms of commercial activities are on the rise. In the Arctic, its rich resources attract increased interest from the resource extraction industries. In Antarctica, there are some allegations that the ban on mineral resource activities is circumvented through “disguised” scientific geological surveys. Tourism has dramatically grown in both the Arctic and the Antarctic. Other new types of activities, such as bioprospecting for genetic resources, may also increase in the future. However, there are significant challenges in ensuring that these resource activities where legally allowed are conducted in a sustainable manner, in relation to the fragile environment and the inhabitants of the region. This panel seeks to identify the challenges in ensuring sustainable development of resources and in regulating their industrial activities in the polar regions. It aims to consider to what extent the existing rules, frameworks and practices have been effective in ensuring sustainable development, and to discuss how gaps and shortcomings could be addressed. The fisheries in the polar regions (CCAMLR and the new fisheries agreement for the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO)) can be addressed either in this panel (focusing on the resources) or in the next panel (focusing on the law of the sea and their legal aspects).

Panel Theme 6: The law of the sea and the polar regions

The law of the sea is one of the key components of the legal framework of the polar regions. Reflecting the balance between the interests of States, the law of the sea defines the maritime entitlements of coastal States to their maritime zones and provides the rights and obligations for States concerning the different uses of the sea. As such, it has provided a common ground on which all activities could take place. Nevertheless, there remain various issues concerning the law of the sea, in areas such as maritime delimitation, delineation of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, navigation, marine scientific research, and the regulation of high seas fisheries. This panel will address these various issues concerning the law of the sea in the polar regions. As many of the issues involve the question of how the interests of coastal States in the polar regions could be reconciled with the interests of other States, some emphasis will be placed on considering this cross-cutting theme. The panel welcomes examinations on normative and institutional interactions between and amongst the relevant treaties and organizations, such as Antarctic Treaty System, Central Arctic Ocean (CAO) fisheries agreement, Arctic Science Cooperation Agreement, IMO’s Polar Code, UNCLOS, the negotiation on a legally binding instrument on BBNJ, etc.

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