

13<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium

Panel on Emerging Legal Issues in Protecting the Arctic Environment

*presents online open lecture*

# 'Plastic Arctic' - How does law deal with the emerging threat of Arctic plastic pollution?

26 November 2020 (Thu) 18:00-20:00 JST/ 9:00-11:00 GMT  
Zoom Webinar (pre-registration required)

## Speaker/Commentator

**Seita Romppanen** (Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law, University of Eastern Finland)

**Junko Toyoshima** (Ocean Policy Research Institute, The Sasagawa Peace Foundation)

Co-sponsored by ArCS II Research Programs on International Law and Ocean



## Dr. Seita Romppanen



Dr. Seita Romppanen is a Senior Lecturer in EU and International Environmental Law at the UEF Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law (CCEEL). She specializes in EU environmental and climate law, but her research interests cover also aspects of international environmental law, especially Arctic climate change and pollution.

Seita participates as an expert in the EU-funded Action on Black Carbon in the Arctic and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme within the Arctic Council. She is also a frequent speaker at international conferences, seminars and training events.

## Dr. Junko Toyoshima

As a research fellow at Ocean Policy Research Institute, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Dr. Toyoshima works in the areas of coastal ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, blue economy, marine plastic debris, and Arctic research. She received her master's degree from University of Hawai'i, and her doctorate degree from Tokyo Institute of Technology, for her research on the impacts of marine tourism on coral reef ecosystems.

## Open lecture on the Arctic plastic problem: A dialogue between a lawyer and a scientist

Summary of the lecture/comment

- Introductory aspects to the emerging threat of plastic pollution
- Overview of the international legal and regulatory approaches to Arctic plastic pollution
- Framing of the key gaps and weaknesses of the existing regulatory framework
- Suggestions as to the way forward
- Gaps and uncertainties in the present knowledge about the state of marine plastic in the Arctic
- Fishing nets and ropes seem to be most abundant, posing biggest impacts on the Arctic wildlife
- Discussion with a lawyer and a scientist

(ZOOM Webinar with unlimited number of participants)