

**Environmental Law and the Challenges of the Decades
Ahead: Promoting Transformative and Recovery
Responses to the Planetary Emergency**

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PANEL 1. The context and status of Environmental Law in raising the planetary emergency

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN THE ETHICS OF EXHAUSTION

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It is urgent to investigate whether international environmental law aims at the production and reproduction of life. This investigation starts from identifying what we understand by the “law” and what we understand by “the environment” - epistemic aspects of environmental law: the lives that will be produced and reproduced, and the lives that will struggle to survive. The ethical system we live in, the modern-colonial world-system is related to the viability and prevalence of the colonial ideology of power whose aims do not extend to the production and reproduction of every life in the planet. Unveiling the intentions of the epistemology of international environmental law enables a critical look at the limitations of system that hierarchizes lives. In this keynote, I will raise critical epistemological questions and observations to answer whether environmental law is part of the environmental problem or the solution.