



# NAVIGATING CLIMATE-RELATED LEGAL RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In a world grappling with disruptive climate change and an unprecedented transition of our societies towards net zero, climate-related legal action has emerged as a critical force shaping the future of business, government, and society. For senior leaders and their advisors, understanding the intersection of law and climate change has become paramount. The University of Oxford is proud to introduce its first executive education course specifically designed around these challenges.

# WHY CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LAW MATTERS

Legal action in the context of climate change – including climate litigation, new regulations, and emerging policy trends – holds the potential to change the landscape of risks and opportunities for a wide range of sectors, industries and government authorities. Those unprepared for these changes expose themselves to significant financial, legal, and reputational risks, while informed and forward-looking experts may find opportunities for transformative, positive change that benefits their organisations and stakeholders. Motivating these changes is the question whether we are collectively doing enough to mitigate the risks from climate change, whether we have fairly distributed the burdens climate change imposes, and whether the right balance is struck between enabling legal evolution and providing legal certainty.

Image: Oxford University

## THE COURSE

This new five-day course – delivered on-site at the University of Oxford – offers a deep dive into the state of the art and future directions of the law in the context of climate change, studied through the lens of climate-related legal risks and opportunities.

Delivered by world-leading Oxford faculty and practitioners, we will examine and discuss key legal and regulatory developments in the context of climate change against the backdrop of relevant scientific, political, and economic developments.

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

CURRENT TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN NET ZERO POLICY, REGULATION, AND CLIMATE LITIGATION

UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

LATEST ADVANCES IN SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

A REVIEW OF CLIMATE LITIGATION TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

STATE OF THE ART IN THE SCIENCE, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS OF NET ZERO

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF LEGAL RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES RESULTING FROM CLIMATE-RELATED LEGAL ACTIONS

Whether your work and interests lie in government, law, professional services, business, non-profit advocacy, or elsewhere, this immersive and interactive course will equip you with the knowledge, insight and connections to understand and navigate the rapidly evolving legal landscape. You will be equipped to anticipate future directions in climate-related legal action, and thrive in a world where climate, economics, policy and law are increasingly salient and intertwined.

# PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Throughout the programme participants will:

Obtain a birds-eye-view of the key trends and future directions of climate-related legal actions and their impacts on society and businesses

Gain proficiency in analysing and interpreting complex legal issues related to climate change, enabling you to identify and evaluate potential solutions and strategies and their impacts on businesses, government and non-profit activities

Dive deep into critical topics at the intersection of climate change, including the latest developments in net zero regulation and policy, climate litigation and climate science

Appreciate how climate-related legal actions affect the nature, magnitude, and distribution of financial climate risk exposures – gaining a deep insight into the economic and financial implications of climate-related legal actions that builds on the latest available science

Build a strong international network of professionals from diverse backgrounds and industries, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing

Immerse in a unique academic and cultural environment including traditional Oxford customs such as candlelit college dinners, Oxford Union-style debates, punting on the River Cherwell and a historical city walking tour



# SPEAKERS

## SELECTION OF CONTRIBUTING SPEAKERS

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### **BENJAMIN FRANTA**

Senior Research Fellow,  
Climate Litigation,  
Oxford Sustainable Law  
Programme



### **THOMAS HALE**

Professor, Public Policy  
(Global Public Policy),  
Blavatnik School of  
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### **LAVANYA RAJAMANI**

Professor of International  
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### **RUPERT STUART- SMITH**

Senior Research  
Associate, Climate  
Science and the Law,  
Oxford Sustainable Law  
Programme



### **THOM WETZER**

Associate Professor  
of Law and Finance,  
University of Oxford  
| Founding Director,  
Oxford Sustainable Law  
Programme

# PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

DAY	Time	Session	
<b>Sunday</b>	14:00 onwards	Arrival to accommodation at <a href="#">St Peter's College</a>	
<b>Day 1 - Monday</b>	09:00—09:30	Arrival and coffee	
	09:30—10:00	Welcome, introductions, and goals and plan for the week	
	<b>Law and Climate Change: The Challenge</b>		
	10:00—10:45	The legally disruptive nature of climate change	
	10:45—11:00	Break	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction: the legally disruptive nature of climate change</li> </ul>	11:00—12:00	The climate challenge from a scientific perspective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific perspectives on decarbonisation and net zero</li> </ul>	12:00—13:30	Lunch
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International climate change law: evaluating the UNFCCC process</li> </ul>	13:30—15:30	International law and climate change: evaluating the UNFCCC process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overcoming incumbency: how vested interests slow down climate action</li> </ul>	15:30—15:50	Break
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion: how can we characterise the challenges facing effective legal resolution of the problems associated with climate change?</li> </ul>	16:00—16:45	Overcoming incumbency: how vested interests slow down climate action
	16:45—17:00	Group exercise: identifying shared goals and interest areas for the week	
	Evening activity	Walking tour of Oxford followed by an informal barbeque at <a href="#">HB Allen Centre</a> , Keble College	

DAY	Time	Session
<b>Day 2 - Tuesday</b>	09:00—09:30	Arrival and coffee
<b>Pathways Towards Decarbonisation</b>	09:30—11:00	The science of decarbonisation: emission reduction and CDR
	11:00—11:15	Break
• Decarbonisation strategies: the science of emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals	11:15—12:15	Voluntary efforts to decarbonise and their limits
• Discussion: the efficacy of reliance on carbon dioxide removals and offsets	12:15—13:45	Lunch
• The political economy of climate policy: from groundswell to ground rules	13:45—15:45	The political economy of decarbonisation: from groundswell to ground rules
• Litigation as a lever to force decarbonisation	15:45—16:00	Break
	16:00—17:00	Requiring decarbonisation through climate litigation
	Evening activity	Walk on Port Meadow followed by dinner at <a href="#">The Perch</a>
<b>Day 3 - Wednesday</b>	09:00—09:30	Arrival and coffee
<b>Accountability for Climate Impacts</b>	09:30—11:00	From emissions to impact: climate attribution science
• Attributing climate impacts to human activity	11:00—11:15	Break
• The economics of climate change impacts	11:15—12:15	The economics of climate impacts
• Climate litigation strategies to address climate change impacts	12:15—13:45	Lunch
	13:45—14:45	Damages litigation
• Debate on climate accountability at the Divinity School	Afternoon activity	Debate at <a href="#">Divinity School</a> followed by a drinks and canapes reception
	Evening activity	Punting from the <a href="#">Cherwell Boathouse</a>

DAY	Time	Session
<b>Day 4 - Thursday</b>	09:00—09:30	Arrival and coffee
<b>Strategies for Climate Governance and Accountability</b>	09:30—11:00	Climate-related legal risk
	11:00—11:15	Break
	11:15—12:30	Case studies on climate-related legal risk and discussion
• The state of the art in climate damages litigation	12:30—14:00	Lunch
• Climate-related legal risk: law, finance, and science	14:00—16:45	The political economy of Interactive sessions: private sector, government, and NGO perspectives
• Interactive sessions: perspectives from the private sector, government, and NGOs	16:45—17:00	Reflection: what works, what does not?
	Evening activity	We will celebrate the evening with an Oxford tradition: a 'formal hall' dinner at <a href="#">Keble College</a>
<b>Day 5 - Friday</b>		Check out of accommodation by 10:00
<b>Synthesis</b>		
• Evaluating climate-related legal risks and opportunities in groups	09:00—09:30	Arrival and coffee
	09:30—10:30	Recap of key ideas
• Synthesise lessons learnt and reflection on participants' next steps	10:30—12:00	Interactive, practice-oriented session to synthesise key ideas from the week
	12:00—12:30	Reflections: what will you do next?
• Wrap-up	12:30—14:00	Lunch and end of programme

## THE OXFORD SUSTAINABLE LAW PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The University of Oxford is a world-leading University that has pioneered research and education in the context of climate change. This course is offered by the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme, a collaboration between Oxford's

Faculty of Law and its Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment that brings in perspectives from across the university and beyond to provide academic leadership at the intersection of law and sustainability globally.



Image: Oxford University

10 Programme structure



Image: Oxford UNiversity

## ENROL TODAY

Secure your place at the forefront of law and sustainability leadership. Join us at Oxford

University for an enriching journey towards a more sustainable future.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Applications received before 16 May 2024 qualify for a 5% early bird discount: [Apply here](#)

For more information, please email [executive.education@smithschool.ox.ac.uk](mailto:executive.education@smithschool.ox.ac.uk)

