Natural resources grabbing: erosion or legitimate exercise of State sovereignty?

4th and 5th October 2013

Aula Magna della Facoltà di Giurisprudenza – Via Nicolodi 102

Friday 4th October

12 - 12.20: Welcome and preliminary remarks

12.20 - 13.45 Introductory Session: Natural Resources Grabbing: Mapping the Field

Chair: Tullio Treves (University of Milano)

Federica Violi, “The Practice of Land Grabbing and Its Compatibility with the Exercise of Territorial Sovereignty” (University of Milano)

Jochen Von Bernstorff, “Landgrabbing”, Sovereignty and Human Rights” (University of Tubingen)


Lars Schönwald, The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and Its Impact on the Development of Sub-Saharan Africa (Passau, Germany)

Aleš Weingerl, “The International Legal Nature of Oil Concessions” (University of Oxford)

13.45 - 15.00: Lunch

15.00 - 17.00 Session I: Natural Resources Grabbing and Human Rights

Chair: Sheldon Leader (University of Essex)

Nadja Bernaz and Jérémie Gilbert, “Resources Grabbing and Human Rights: Building a Triangular Relationship Between States, Indigenous Peoples and Corporations” (University of Middlesex, UK)

Anil Ylmaz and Tara Van Ho, “Integrating Human Rights into the Extractive Industries: How Treaties, Laws and Contracts Can Achieve Protection” (University of Essex, UK)
Louis Furmanski, “Indigenous Rights and the Keystone XL Pipeline: The National and International Law Nexus” (University of Central Oklahoma, USA)

Amrita Mukherjee, “Human rights Monitoring of Abuses Associated with Land Concessions in Asia.” (University of Leeds, UK)


Daniel Augenstein, “Natural Resources Grabbing, Economic Globalisation and the Politics of Human Rights Law”, (University of Tilburg, the Netherlands)

17.00 - 17.30: Coffee Break

17.30 - 19.00  Session II: Natural Resources Grabbing and Environmental Law

Chair: Ellen Hey (Erasmus University, Rotterdam)

Marco Citelli, “The Designation of Protected Areas Pursuant to Biodiversity-Related MEAs as a Way to Reconcile State Sovereignty With Natural Resources Grabbing” (“Bocconi” University, Milano)

Annalisa Savaresi, “Natural Resource Grabbing: The Case of Tropical Forests and REDD+” (University of Edinburgh)

Wil de Jong, “Carbon Grabbing and the Undermining of Indigenous Natural Resources Rights” (Kyoto University)

Komlan Sangbana, “Les investissements fonciers internationaux ou la mise aux enchères de l’environnement ?: Le cas du bassin du Niger” (University of Geneva)

Roberto Virzo, “La confiscation en tant que mesure contre le trafic international illicite de ressources naturelles” (University of Sannio, Italy)

20.30: Gala Dinner

Saturday 5th October

9.00-11.00  Session III: Natural Resources Grabbing and International Investments

Chair: Tarcisio Gazzini (VU University Amsterdam)

Hayes Sarah, “Acquisitions ou locations de terres arables à grande échelle: actualisation du contrat d’Etat au service de la protection des intérêts de la communauté internationale” (University of Strasbourg)

Marieclaire Colaiacomo, Ron Hartman, “Protecting Natural Resources: Do IFIs matter? IFAD a Climate Sensitive IFI in Indonesia” (IFAD)

Ross Olanya, “The World Bank and Supranational Institutions: Land Grabbing and the Complexities in Development Agenda in Sub Saharan Africa” (Gulu University – Uganda)

Inesa Stolper, “Exploration and Extraction of Natural Resources: MIGA’s role in Promotion Of Foreign Investments Into Developing Countries” (College of Europe, Belgium/Lithuania)

11 - 11.30: Coffee Break

11.30 - 13.30  Session IV: Natural Resources Grabbing, WTO and EU Law

Chair: Nerina Boschiero (University of Milan)

Julinda Beqiraj, “Water Resources’ Exploitation and Trade Flows: The Impact Of International Trade Law” (University of Trento)

Ilaria Espa, “Emerging Issues Affecting Trade in Energy Resources: The Case Of Export Restrictions and the Role of WTO to Provide a Balance Between Natural Resources Nationalism and Sustainable Development” (University “Luiss” Rome)


Marco Borraccetti, “Droit a l’eau et accès aux ressources hydriques dans les politiques de développement de l’UE” (University of Bologna)


13.30 - 15: Lunch

15 - 16.30  Session V: Natural Resources Grabbing and Conflicts

Chair: Phoebe Okowa (Queen Mary University, London)

Janan Al-Asady, “Iraq's Sovereignty over Hydrocarbon Resources”( University of London SOAS)

Marco Pertile, “On the Financing of Civil Wars Through Natural Resources: Is there a Duty of Vigilance for Third States on the Activities of Trans-national Corporations?” (University of Trento)

Garima Tiwari, “Breaking the Resource Curse: Prosecuting Pillage of Natural Resources” (University of Camerino)

16.30 - 17.30  Final Roundtable: Remarks by the Chairs