SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROMISE OF INTEGRATION

Assistant Professor Jaye Ellis
Faculty of Law and School of Environment, McGill University

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Moot Court
Level 3
ANU College of Law
Fellows Road, The Australian National University
E: rsvp@law.anu.edu.au (by cob 7 August)
Enquiries T: (02) 6125 0454

Sustainable development, described in the ground-breaking Brundtland Report as meeting the needs of present generations without compromising future generations to meet their own needs, has at its heart a promise of integrating and reconciling environment, economy and society. Yet the challenge presented by this promise is immense. In this lecture, I will discuss the obstacles and potential pathways to integration, taking as my standpoint international environmental law. I will discuss the difficulties presented by bringing together a range of very different specialised discourses, notably law, politics, economics, science and morality. I will also discuss the additional difficulties of building bridges between these specialised discourses and the broader society.

THE LECTURER
Jaye Ellis is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law and School of Environment at McGill University. She teaches and conducts research in the fields of international environmental law, public international law and global environmental politics. Current research projects focus on environmental governance in spaces beyond state jurisdiction; the role and function of sustainable development as a legal concept; intersections among science, law and policy; discourse ethics; and rhetorical theory. Recent publications include ‘Fisheries Conservation in an Anarchical System: A Comparison of Rational Choice and Constructivist Perspectives’ (2007) 3(2) Journal of International Law and International Relations; ‘Redistributing the Burden of Scientific Uncertainty: Implications of the Precautionary Principle for State and Non-state Actors’ (2005) Global Environmental Politics (co-author: S. Maguire) and ‘Globalisation and International Environmental Law’ in B.J. Richardson and S. Wood eds, Environmental Law for Sustainability: A Reader (Portland: Hart, 2006) (co-author: S. Wood).

The views expressed in this seminar are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.