
**USE AND GOVERNANCE
OF PLASTICS**

ONLINE EVENT
WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

28-29 JUNE 2021



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INTRODUCTION

This multidisciplinary online event will bring together scholars as part of a programme to re-design the governance and management of plastics to achieve effective reduction in pollution of the environment and the impact on public health caused by plastic waste. The use and governance of plastics has gained significant prominence in the world today. The problems around plastics and the pollution generated by this material call for further analysis of their production and disposal specifically from a regulatory and governance perspective.

This workshop aims to explore issues around the use and governance of plastics, bringing together expertise from a multidisciplinary group of researchers, focusing on, but not limited to the following:

- The use, consumption, reduction and governance of plastics in a sustainable form, with particular attention to the developing world
- Voluntary initiatives, business models taken by individuals/groups to lessen the burden on the environment
- Legal mechanisms governing plastics and plastic products such as environmental taxation, extended producer responsibility, eco-design, product impact assessment, etc.

- Regulatory opportunities and challenges for fostering circular plastics economies (in which plastic waste is prevented and plastic reused, recycled or recovered with the aim of sustainable development).

This workshop is associated with three Special Issues of the following journals:

1. Social Sciences, titled "The Governance of Plastics"
2. Sustainability, titled "Retailing and Sustainable Marketing"
3. Business & Society, titled "Stakeholder engagement: opening up Participation, Inclusion and Democracy"

Selected papers from the workshop will be invited for submission to these Special Issues.

There will also be a special plenary session with the editor of Social Sciences.

Organising committee:

Prof Chanaka Jayawardhena, Surrey Business School, University of Surrey

Prof Rosalind Malcolm, School of Law, University of Surrey

Ms Elizabeth Wamae, School of Law, University of Surrey

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – MONDAY 28TH JUNE

(UK Time)

- 12.50 - 13.00 Opening Statements: Prof Chanaka Jayawardhena and Prof Rosalind Malcolm will make opening statements and welcome participants
- 13.00 – 13.25 **Presentation 1**
- Title:** The 2021 Basel Amendments' shortcomings on the regulation of the transboundary movements of plastic waste
Author: *Michael Hennessy Picard*, Lecturer in International Environmental Law, University of Edinburgh
- 13.30 – 13.55 **Presentation 2**
- Title:** Stakeholder engagement in controlling plastic usage: a case study of a UK university experience
Authors:
Michelle Stirk, Assistant Professor in Accounting
University of Nottingham Business School
Jane Frecknall-Hughes, Professor of Accounting and Taxation
University of Nottingham Business School
Angela Toothill, Assistant Professor in Accounting
University of Nottingham Business School
- 14.00 – 14.15 **Presentation 3**
- Title:** Building collective ownership of single-use plastics waste in youth communities: A Jamaican Case Study
Author: *Andrea Clayton*, Jamaica
- 14.15 – 14.55 Coffee break and Networking
- 14.55 – 15.15 Special presentation from Yvaine Sun, Managing Editor, Social Sciences. This presentation will be about the Journal and editorial process
- 15.15 – 15.25 Dr Itziar Castello Morina (University of Surrey) will chair a session which covers the special issue on Business and Society

DAY 1 – MONDAY 29TH JUNE

(UK Time)

- 15.25 – 15.50 **Presentation 4**
- Title:** Strategic action field perspective about single-use plastics governance in Brazil
Authors:
Isabella de Carvalho Vallin, PhD student in the Graduate Program in Environmental Science at the University of São Paulo
Isabela Ribeiro de Carvalho, PhD student in the Graduate Program in Environmental Science at the University of São Paulo
Beatriz Magalhaes Dias, BSc student at the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities of the University of São Paulo
Sylmara L. F. Gonçalves Dias, Professor at the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities and in the Graduate Program in Environmental Science at the University of São Paulo
- 15.55 – 16.20 **Presentation 5**
- Title:** Mapping of Public Policies diffusion: the case of single-use plastics in Brazil
Authors:
Isabela Ribeiro Borges de Carvalho, University of São Paulo
Isabella de Carvalho Vallin, University of São Paulo
Julia Valle Silva, University of São Paulo
Carolina Berti Corrêa, University of São Paulo
Sylmara Gonçalves-Dias, University of São Paulo
- End of Day 1

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 29TH JUNE

(UK Time)

09.20 – 09.30	Opening Statements: Prof Chanaka Jayawardhena and Prof Rosalind Malcolm will make opening statements and welcome participants	11.00 – 11.25	Presentation 4 Title: Legal and policy strategies for phasing out single use plastics in Malawi: A regime assessment Authors: <i>Thoko Kaime</i> , Professor and Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth <i>Isabelle Zundel</i> , Research Assistant, Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth <i>Tisungeni Kaime</i> , Lecturer, Catholic University Malawi Corresponding author: <i>Isabelle Zundel</i> , Research Assistant, Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth
09.30 – 09.55	Presentation 1 Title: Plastics in the Pacific Author: <i>Sue Farran</i> , Reader, School of Law, Newcastle University; Associate Centre for Pacific Studies, St Andrew's University		
10.00 – 10.25	Presentation 2 Title: Investigating the knowledge and attitudes towards plastic pollution among the youth in Nairobi, Kenya Authors: <i>Nicholas Oguge</i> , <i>Francis Oremo</i> * and <i>Salome Ondigo</i> *Corresponding author. Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy, University of Nairobi	11.30 – 14.45	Special presentation from Yvaine Sun, Managing Editor, Social Sciences. This presentation will be about the Journal and editorial process
10.30 – 10.55	Presentation 3 Title: The analysis of communication, policy, and legal instruments on governing plastics in Ethiopia Authors: <i>Yohannes Geleta</i> , PhD Candidate in Environment and Development at Center for Development Studies, Addis Ababa University <i>Abduljelil Ahmedin</i> , Economics lecturer at Arba Minch University, and currently a PhD Candidate in Environment and Development at Center for Development Studies, Addis Ababa University <i>Belay Simane</i> , Professor in Environment and Agricultural Development, Center for Development Studies, Addis Ababa University	11.45 – 12.00	Dr Itziar Castello Morina will chair a session which covers the special issue on Business and Society (repeated from Monday)
		12.00	Networking and conclusion statement by Chair

ABSTRACTS

MONDAY, 28TH JUNE

PRESENTATION 1

13:00-13:25 28th June 2021 (UK time)

The 2021 Basel Amendments' shortcomings on the regulation of the transboundary movements of plastic waste

Author: Michael Hennessy Picard, Lecturer in International Environmental Law, University of Edinburgh

The new C-14/12: Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention entered into force 1st January 2021. Their purported objective is to curb shipments of plastic waste from developed to developing countries, which are deemed to have inadequate recycling and treatment facilities. However, the Basel amendments suffer substantive and procedural lacunas, which will be addressed in the presentation. First, the amendments concern contaminated unsorted plastic waste deemed hazardous. Unless polluted with lead compounds or organo-halogen compounds, plastic waste will escape the scope of the amendments and continue to be traded as non-hazardous waste on the transnational waste management market. Second, the amendments as such do not ban the import, transit or export of hazardous plastic waste but rather clarify the control procedure for transboundary movements (Prior informed Consent or PIC procedure) and the provisions pertaining to the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of wastes.

Therefore, the presentation will scrutinize the core assumptions of the Basel Amendments and question whether their aim is the reduction of plastic release into the environment, or rather the management of the global multi-billion-dollar plastic waste trade. In short, there is still no ban on waste transfer, rather a regulatory platform for exchange of the "right to pollute". The presentation will finish with policy recommendations to overcome the shortcomings of the Basel Amendments.

PRESENTATION 2

13:30-13:55 28th June 2021 (UK time)

Stakeholder engagement in controlling plastic usage: a case study of a UK university experience

Authors:

Michelle Stirk, Assistant Professor in Accounting, University of Nottingham Business School

Jane Frecknall-Hughes, Professor of Accounting and Taxation, University of Nottingham Business School

Angela Toothill, Assistant Professor in Accounting, University of Nottingham Business School

Given the increasing importance of the sustainability agenda, organisations are under pressure to demonstrate their contribution to improving sustainability. However, organisations by themselves do not deliver outcomes; rather it is an organisation's employees working as a collective who ultimately meet organisational objectives and targets. The purpose of this research is to gain insights into how employees engage with sustainability in their daily activities and how they interact with control systems, either formal or informal, that are responsible for the delivery of sustainability in a Higher Education organisation – in this case, in reference to plastic use, waste, disposal and control.

PRESENTATION 3

14:00-14:15 28th June 2021 (UK time)

Building collective ownership of single-use plastics waste in youth communities: A Jamaican Case Study

Author:

Andrea Clayton, Jamaica

Plastic pollution is a global environmental challenge which extends boundaries and impacts terrestrial and marine ecosystems (Xanthos & Walker, 2017). Single-use plastics (SUPs). Plastics production in 2016 consumed about 6% of global oil production and this is projected to increase to 20% by 2050 (World Economic Forum, 2016). Approximately 80% of all the plastic ever produced is now waste; only a small fraction is recovered and recycled, so most plastic materials end up in landfill or illegal dump sites and over 8 million tons of used plastics end up in the world's oceans annually (World Economic Forum, 2016). Plastics are low cost for users, but have a very high cost in terms of social and environmental problems; plastic waste is the world's largest source of marine pollution and debris. So the plastics industry represents a one-way conversion of oil into one of the world's worst pollution problems, which also has a very high cost in terms of lost materials and economic development opportunities. Single-use plastic (SUP) is particularly problematic; its useful life may be a few minutes while it can then persist in the environment for decades.

PRESENTATION 4

15:25 -15:55 28th June 2021 (UK time)

Strategic action field perspective about single-use plastics governance in Brazil

Authors:

Isabella de Carvalho Vallin, PhD student in the Graduate Program in Environmental Science at the University of São Paulo

Isabela Ribeiro de Carvalho, PhD student in the Graduate Program in Environmental Science at the University of São Paulo

Paulo Beatriz Magalhaes Dias, BSc student at the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities of the University of São Paulo

Sylmara L. F. Gonçalves Dias, Professor at the School of Arts, Sciences and Humanities and in the Graduate Program in Environmental Science at the University of São Paulo

The destination of single-use plastics is one of the main problems concerning solid waste management. Although Brazil produces about 11 million tons of plastic per year, only 1% of this production is recycled. Furthermore, Brazil is the fourth biggest plastic producer globally (Heinrich Böll Foundation Brazil, 2020). Besides that, Brazil does not have federal regulation about single-use plastics. The Brazilian Solid Waste National Policy (Law 12.305/2010) defines the product life-cycle as a shared responsibility. This shared responsibility means that manufacturers, importers, distributors, shopkeepers, consumers, urban cleaning services and solid waste management are responsible for solid waste. Because of this scenario exists a dispute in the single-use plastic field.

The field can be defined as an arena of interaction between the stakeholders due to their position, game rules (institutions), and legitimations governing stakeholders (inside or outside the field) (Fligstein & Mcadam, 2012, p. 9). This study aims to understand the stakeholders involved in single-use plastics governance in Brazil and the strategies and tactics present in their discourses.

PRESENTATION 5

15:55 -16:20 28th June 2021 (UK time)

Mapping of Public Policies diffusion: the case of single-use plastics in Brazil

Authors:

Isabela Ribeiro Borges de Carvalho, University of São Paulo

Isabella de Carvalho Vallin, University of São Paulo

Julia Valle Silva, University of São Paulo

Carolina Berti Corrêa, University of São Paulo

Sylmara Gonçalves-Dias, University of São Paulo

Plastic has brought numerous advantages to modern life, however, its unbridled production and use has caused several problems (VASCONCELOS, 2019). In Brazil, 11 million tons of plastic are produced per year, only 1% is recycled, and the vast majority, ends up accumulated in landfills or the natural environment (GREYER et al., 2017, FUNDAÇÃO HEINRICH BÖLL BRASIL, 2020). The plastic pollution problem is a consensus among the society. Several actions have been taken to stem the flow of plastics to the environment, such as measures to reduce consumption through bans and taxes (ALMEIDA, 2019). According to Xanthos eWalker (2017), the ban on single-use plastics is a reality in 27 countries. In Brazil, the plastics public policies presents a clear European influence (SANTOS, 2012), demonstrating the "travels" that public policies make (OLIVEIRA, 2020). Thus, the article sought to answer: What are the legal mechanisms and public policy instruments that regulate single-use plastics in Brazil? To answer this, existing laws throughout the country that address single-use plastics were mapped and their instruments analysed.

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TUESDAY, 29TH JUNE

PRESENTATION 1

09:30-09:55 29th June 2021 (UK time)

Plastics in the Pacific

Author:

Sue Farran, Reader, School of Law, Newcastle University; Associate Centre for Pacific Studies, St Andrew's University

Plastic in the Pacific region raises three interrelated problems. First, Pacific islands have much more sea than land so that terrestrial pollution inevitably leads to marine pollution. Secondly, lack of resources and high costs lead to poor waste management and very little recycling. Thirdly, the drive to develop and a marked shift away from subsistence economies together with greater disposable income, increases demand for consumer goods many of which contain plastics. Pacific island governments and communities are increasingly aware of the problem of plastic pollution and are taking steps to address this, but there are considerable challenges which not only need a whole of government approach but also a greater assumption of responsibility by external players, especially trading partners.

PRESENTATION 2

10:00-10:25 29th June 2021 (UK time)

Investigating the knowledge and attitudes towards plastic pollution among the youth in Nairobi, Kenya

Authors:

*Nicholas Oguge, Francis Oremo * and Salome Ondigo*

**Corresponding author. Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy, University of Nairobi*

Kenya has made various attempts to regulate and control the production of single-use plastics through partial ban and imposition of hefty taxes on plastic carrier bags and flat bags. Recently, the government imposed a ban on single-use plastics in national parks, national reserves and conservation areas to protect wildlife resources from deadly plastic pollution. The momentous decision follows a nationwide ban in 2017 on the use, manufacture and importation of all plastic carrier bags and flat bags used for commercial and household packaging. However, plastic materials used for industrial primary packaging at the source of the product, as well as disposal bags for handling of biomedical and hazardous waste, garbage bin liners and plastic carrier bags used in duty free shops are exempted from the ban. Despite these measures, plastic pollution is largely evident in many urban areas where discarded plastic materials line roadsides and clog drainage systems. Whereas, public awareness on single-use plastic pollution has grown in recent years and the ban on plastic carrier bags and flat bags has been in place for close to 4 years, efforts to scale up innovative practices in plastic waste management, such as waste recovery, reuse and recycling have failed to deliver desired outcomes.

Although, the commitments from governments and industry are key to resolving plastic pollution, the general public especially the youth is an important part of the solution. Youths are habituated to using plastics without understanding fully their negative impacts. Driving behaviour change among the youth therefore, remains a challenging task that requires an understanding of their knowledge and attitudes towards single-use plastics. Previous studies have focused on determinants of individual's motivation to recycle plastic materials, behaviours relating to the reuse and recycling of plastics, awareness on environmental impacts of bioplastics, effectiveness of legal frameworks on behaviour change against use of single-use plastic bags, awareness and attitudes of secondary school students towards plastic pollution, and public beliefs and attitudes towards plastics. Understanding knowledge and attitudes of the youth towards single-use plastics, particularly in the light of disruptions, such as bans and imposition of hefty taxes on certain single-use plastic products, is of the utmost importance in the effort to turn the tide against plastic pollution. This study set out to investigate knowledge and attitudes towards single-use plastics among the youth in Nairobi, Kenya. Specifically, the study identified knowledge and information gaps in single-use plastics pollution among the youth; assessed attitudes towards innovative practices in plastic waste management; and assessed communications processes and sources important for sustainable management of single-use plastics.

PRESENTATION 3

10:30-10:55 29th June 2021 (UK time)

The analysis of communication, policy, and legal instruments on governing plastics in Ethiopia

Authors:

Yohannes Geleta, PhD Candidate in Environment and Development at Center for Development Studies, Addis Ababa University
Abduljelil Ahmedin, Economics lecturer at Arba Minch University, and currently a PhD Candidate in Environment and Development at Center for Development Studies, Addis Ababa University
Belay Simane, Professor in Environment and Agricultural Development, Center for Development Studies, Addis Ababa University

Once plastic was a sign of modernization and fashion but now it is becoming a headache for society, National and Local governments in Ethiopia. Everything is becoming plastic; packed milk, bottled water and beverages, grocery bags and routine shopping are tagged with plastics. Without proper disposal and management of plastic waste is an environmental concern for all stakeholders including society, government NGOs, and companies. The management of plastic waste at minimum requires targeted communication to change the behavior of all stakeholders and formulating effective legal instruments by the government. In this study, plastic governance in Ethiopia and the discourse surrounding it is examined.

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The study mainly adopted qualitative research method; Focus Group Discussion, Key informant interview, observation and literature review. Accordingly, eleven stakeholders were mapped involving from National and Local governments, non-governmental organizations, private companies engaged in plastic production and recycling, and individuals along the value chain.

PRESENTATION 4

11:00-11:25 29th June 2021 (UK time)

Legal and policy strategies for phasing out single use plastics in Malawi: A regime assessment

Authors:

Thoko Kaime, Professor and Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth

Isabelle Zundel, Research Assistant, Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth

Tisungeni Kaime, Lecturer, Catholic

University Malawi Corresponding author:

Isabelle Zundel, Research Assistant, Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth

Malawi imposed a ban on thin plastics in 2015. In so doing, it became one of the first African countries to take up such a measure as a key policy to tackle plastic waste. Such a move was indeed long overdue given the amount of thin plastic waste that was choking its myriad ecosystems largely due to poor waste management in both rural and urban localities. Malawi's many rivers, lakes as well as land mass are littered with thin plastics which cause damage to livestock and aquatic organisms. However, despite such an urgent need, the policy was met with hostility by many plastic manufacturers who took the government to court and won. This led to the suspension of the implementation of the Environment Management (Plastics) Regulations 2015.

Discussion and contribution

As the countries reconsiders its policy options in light of this setback and increasing commitment to global standards to reduce single-use plastic waste, this paper outlines the legal and policy framework available for pushing through this agenda. The paper utilises evidence from a series of surveys and focus group discussions undertaken amongst university going students to gauge citizen appetite for regulatory changes in favour of proscribing single use plastics. It further argues that piecemeal attacks against single-use plastics such as thin plastics will not yield the necessary results and that instead a comprehensive framework that removes single use plastics from circulation coupled with clean up obligations on manufacturers is the only effective way forward. The paper outlines the possibilities available in the current legal framework for achieving this result.

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