

# Attribution Science and Climate Law

January 9-10, 2025 • Columbia Law School

## Conference Agenda

**Thursday, January 9**

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**9:00 - 9:30 am**    **Registration**

**9:30 - 9:45 am**    **Opening Remarks**

**9:45 - 10:45 am**    **Introduction to Climate Change Attribution Science**

Moderator: **Dr. Radley Horton**, Professor of Climate, Columbia Climate School

Panelists: **Dr. Benjamin Santer**, Distinguished Scholar in Residence, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute – *“A Brief History of Climate Science”*

**Dr. Gavin Schmidt**, Adjunct Senior Research Scientist, Columbia Climate School – *“Attribution of Climate Changes with Earth System Models”*

**10:45 - 12:00 pm**    **Extreme Event Attribution**

Moderator: **Dr. Friederike Otto**, Senior Lecturer in Climate Science, Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment, Imperial College London; Co-lead, World Weather Attribution

Panelists: **Dr. Joyce Kimutai**, Associate Researcher, Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment, Imperial College London; Co-Chair, Loss and Damage Working Group on Climate Litigation: Climate Research Forum, Oxford Sustainable Law Programme – *“Probabilistic Attribution: Relevance for Climate Litigation”*

**Dr. Kevin Reed**, Associate Provost for Climate and Sustainability Programming and Professor, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University – *“Quantifying Climate Impacts on Recent Events Through Storylines”*

**Dr. Elisabeth A. Lloyd**, Distinguished Professor Emerita, History and Philosophy of Science, Indiana University, Bloomington – *“Deduction, Induction, and Attribution: How to Be More Effective in Climate Legal Contexts”*

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**    **Lunch**

**1:00 - 2:15 pm      Impact Attribution I: Food Security, Labor, and Disaster Impacts**

Moderator: **Dr. Kristie Ebi**, Professor of Global Health and Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington Center for Health and the Global Environment

Panelists: **Dr. Emmanuel Raju**, Director, Copenhagen Center for Disaster Research; Associate Professor of Disaster Risk Management, University of Copenhagen – *“Disentangling Drivers of Disasters”*

**Dr. Jonas Jägermeyr**, Associate Research Scientist, Columbia Climate School and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies; Leader of the Agricultural Sector in ISIMIP, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Germany – *“The Fingerprint of Climate Change in Crop Losses During Recent Heatwaves and Droughts”*

**Dr. Shouro Dasgupta**, Researcher, Fondazione Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici; Visiting Senior Fellow, Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics – *“Attribution of Historical Changes in Labour Outcomes to Climate Change”*

**2:15 - 3:30 pm      Impact Attribution II: Natural Resources, Ecosystems, and Vector-Borne Diseases**

Moderator: **Dr. Peter Frumhoff**, Lecturer on Environmental Science and Public Policy, Harvard University; Senior Science Policy Advisor, Woodwell Climate Research Center

Panelists: **Dr. Rachel Warren**, Professor of Global Change and Environmental Biology, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia – *“Climate Change Impact Attribution for Ecosystems and Biodiversity”*

**Dr. Jason Smerdon**, Professor of Climate, Co-Senior Director for Education, and Co-Director of the MA in Climate, Columbia Climate School – *“Drought: Definitions, Detection, and Difficulties”*

**Dr. Nick Ogden**, Senior Research Scientist and Director of Public Health Risk Sciences Division, Public Health Agency of Canada – *“Evidence for Impacts of Climate Change on Lyme Disease Emergence in Canada”*

**3:30 - 3:45 pm      Break**

**3:45 - 5:15 pm      Legal and Policy Applications I: Fundamental Rights and Government Obligations**

Moderator: **Dr. Maria Antonia Tigre**, Director, Global Climate Litigation, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School

Panelists: **Pooven Moodley**, Former Executive Director, Natural Justice – *“Communities, Climate Litigation and Attribution in a Rapidly Changing World”*

**Andrea Rodgers**, Deputy Director, Our Children’s Trust – *“Attributing Constitutional Climate Change Injuries to Government Conduct”*

**Dennis van Berkel**, Legal Counsel, Urgenda Foundation; Strategic Advisor, Climate Litigation Network – *“Fundamental Rights Obligations to Reduce Emissions; The Case of Europe and South Korea”*

**Rafaela Santos Martins de Rosa**, Federal Judge, Brazil; Visiting Scholar, University of California Berkeley School of Law – *“The Dialogue Between Science and Judges in Advancing Climate Litigation”*

**5:15 - 5:30 pm      Closing Remarks**

**5:30 pm              Adjourn**

## Friday, January 10

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### 9:00 - 10:15 am Legal Applications II: Corporate Liability for Climate Damages

Moderator: **Michael Burger**, Executive Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law; Senior Research Scholar, Columbia Law School

Panelists: **Aisha Saad**, Associate Professor, Georgetown University Law Center  
**Dr. Omondi Owino**, Partner, Acorn Law Advocates LLP; Senior Law Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology – *“Attribution Science and Climate Law: The Kenyan Experience”*

**Nauê Bernardo Pinheiro de Azevedo**, Lawyer and Political Scientist, University of Brasília – *“Challenges in the Use of Scientific Data in Climate-Related Lawsuits in Brazil”*

### 10:15 - 11:30 am Attributing Impacts to Specific Emitters and Emissions

Moderator: **Dr. Justin Mankin**, Associate Professor, Dartmouth College; Adjunct Associate Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Panelists: **Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel**, Director of Scientific Excellence, Union of Concerned Scientists – *“Source Attribution: Opportunities and Challenges”*

**Dr. Christopher Callahan**, Postdoctoral Scholar, Earth System Science, Stanford University – *“Carbon Majors and the Scientific Case for Climate Liability”*

**Dr. Marshall Burke**, Associate Professor, Doerr School of Sustainability; Deputy Director, Center on Food Security and the Environment, Stanford University – *“Attributing Specific Climate Damages to Specific Emitters”*

### 11:30 - 11:45 am Break

### 11:45 - 1:00 pm Reflections and Concluding Remarks

Moderator: **Jessica Wentz**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School

Panelists: **Douglas Kysar**, Joseph M. Field '55 Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Law, Environment and Animals Program, Yale Law School

**Sheila Foster**, Professor of Climate, Columbia Climate School; Affiliated Faculty Member, Columbia Law School

**Dr. Adam Sobel**, Professor of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics and of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Columbia University

### 1:00 pm Adjourn