

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

3rd Annual Multidisciplinary
Postgraduate Student
Conference

hosted by the
**SU Chair in Urban Law and
Sustainability Governance**

Fostering Radical Hope in South Africa within the Context of Global Environmental Crises: The Role of Law and Governance



Date
24-25 July 2026

Venue
Stellenbosch University
Faculty of Law

Radical hope is a unique form of hope that persists in the face of profound adversity. It helps prevent apathy, despair, and accepting the status quo. Radical hope has an overall goal of encouraging positivity and proactivity. In the context of intensifying global environmental crises, radical hope suggests actively working towards positive change, even when the future is uncertain, and outcomes are not guaranteed. Considering this, the Urban Law and Sustainability Governance Chair at the Stellenbosch University Faculty of Law invites final year undergraduate students, Master's candidates, and Doctoral candidates to take part in its 3rd Annual Multidisciplinary Postgraduate Student Conference.

Students in law, public administration, governance, geography, climate and/or environmental studies, and related fields are invited to submit abstracts for participation in this in-person event.

Applicants are encouraged to present aspects of their ongoing research which complement the focus of the conference theme.

Depending on available funds, partial support for accommodation may be provided.

Indicative themes include (but are not limited to):

- The potential of multilevel law in global environmental crises created over time and across world regions;
- Re-envisioned environmental stewardship, including innovative responses to climate change, biodiversity loss, threatened coastal and marine environments, environmental pollution, and/or waste in South Africa;
- Existing and emerging actors separately and together responsible and accountable for lasting environmental and/or urban transformations;
- Extending environmental constitutionalism in relation to the rights of future generations, animals, and/or nature;
- A just transition that is truly "just" for all in the South African context;
- Progressive law, policy and governance approaches to disaster risk reduction and other climate adaptation response measures;
- Protection of the integrity of infrastructure in cities and rural areas;
- Proactive approaches to ensuring food and water security; and
- Optimising new and existing environmental governance tools and technologies for durable solutions.

Submission guidelines

- Abstracts of 250-300 words
- Submissions should clearly indicate the relevance of the proposed presentation with reference to the conference theme
- Abstract submission deadline: **19 June 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **26 June 2026**
- Submit your abstract via the QR code below

For any queries, please contact any of the conference co-organisers:

Michaela O'Donoghue (michaelao@sun.ac.za); Robyn Bayer (rbayer@sun.ac.za);
Carmen Walters (cewalters@sun.ac.za)



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to submit your
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