

Aiwanger | Götze | Güneş | Hoppmann | Maltzahn | Sommerfeld [eds.]

Sustainability Law: Comparative, Interdisciplinary, and Intradisciplinary Perspectives



Nomos

Junges Nachhaltigkeitsrecht

Felix Aiwanger | Maximilian Richard Götze
Biset Sena Güneş | Vincent Hoppmann
Hans Flemming Maltzahn | Antonia Sommerfeld [eds.]

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Editors' Preface

The present volume constitutes a collection of papers from the 4th Young Sustainability Law Conference – Junges Nachhaltigkeitsrecht (JNR) 2025, which was held from 19 to 21 June 2025 in Hamburg, Germany. This interdisciplinary conference united international early-career researchers, established scholars, and practitioners to engage in dynamic and forward-looking discussions on the legal dimensions of sustainability.

The JNR 2025 Conference was organized by an interdisciplinary team of scholars from three academic institutions in Hamburg: the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, the Bucerius Law School, and the University of Hamburg (Institute of Law and Economics). Building on the success of previous JNR conferences in Munich, Halle, and Vienna, we set out to provide a platform for exploring sustainability within legal discourse, through an integrated approach that combines comparative, interdisciplinary, and intradisciplinary perspectives.

The call for abstracts for this conference received an overwhelming response, with 421 submissions from across the globe. The level of scholarly rigour, creativity, and intellectual commitment reflected in these proposals was exceptional. Following a thorough and careful review process, we are proud to present this volume, which brings together the outstanding and thought-provoking contributions delivered at the conference. Each paper exemplifies cutting-edge research and a deep commitment to advancing sustainability through law. We hope that the ideas assembled here will stimulate further debate, encourage innovative research, and promote reflection beyond established boundaries within legal scholarship.

The Conference Programme

The JNR 2025 Conference featured a diverse and intellectually stimulating programme structured around seven thematic sessions, bringing together over 30 speakers from 15 different jurisdictions. The contributions covered a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from global supply chains and private and company law, to law and economics approaches, sustainable governance and public (international) law, as well as natural disaster insurance law, investment law, and environmental criminal law.

A particular highlight of the conference was the panel discussion on the role of private actors in sustainable development. The panel brought together distinguished discussants from academia and practice: Prof. Dr. Frank Adloff (University of Hamburg); Larisa Alwin (Appellate Judge at the Amsterdam Court of Appeal); Prof. Dr. Hajer Gueldich (Legal Counsel of the African Union/Carthage University); Prof. Dr. Remo Klinger (Partner at Geulen & Klinger/Eberswalde University); and Benjamin Köhler (Head of Sustainability Management at OTTO GmbH & Co. KG). The discussion, moderated by Dr. Antonia Sommerfeld and Dr. Felix Aiwanger (both MPI Hamburg), offered a robust and multifaceted exploration of how private actors – including courts, legal practitioners, corporations, and international organisations – shape the evolving legal framework and contemporary developments in sustainability.

The programme was framed by three keynote lectures, which provided in-depth academic reflections on the complexity and current challenges of sustainability law. Dr. Marta Santos Silva (University of Minho) opened with a keynote on intradisciplinary perspectives, followed by Prof. Dr. Damilola S. Olawuyi (Afe Babalola University/Hamad Bin Khalifa University), who offered insights on comparative perspectives. The conference concluded with a keynote on interdisciplinary perspectives by Prof. Dr. André Nollkaemper (University of Amsterdam), which synthesized many of the conference's central themes and provided an overarching conceptual framework. We are therefore particularly honoured to include this final keynote as the opening contribution and intellectual basis of this volume.

Acknowledgements

The success of JNR 2025 was the result of a collective effort. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the conference: the speakers, whose expertise and dedication provided invaluable insights; the participants, whose engagement enriched the discussions; and the extended organising team, whose commitment and professionalism ensured a seamless and rewarding experience for all. We are especially grateful to Anja Hell-Mynarik and Ava Héloïse Hoffmann as well as the participating student assistants – Carolin Rüsseler, Yasemine Uyan, and Johannes Lenz – for their exceptional commitment and support before, during, and after the conference. This volume reflects the collabora-

tive efforts of everyone who came together to explore, debate, and shape the future of sustainability law.

We would also like to express our special thanks to the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Max Planck Law, Bucerius Law School, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Mohr Siebeck, and Duncker & Humblot for their generous support.

We hope that this volume will continue to encourage discussion and cooperation across boundaries, thereby furthering the development of sustainability law and helping to create legal frameworks that support a more sustainable future.

Hamburg, February 2026

Antonia Sommerfeld, Biset Sena Güneş, Felix Aiwanger, Hans Flemming Maltzahn, Maximilian Götze, Vincent Hoppmann

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