

# ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ENERGY LAW NEWSLETTER

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Based at the University of Aberdeen, the AUCEL fosters research excellence in the fields of energy and environmental law, natural resources, investments and sustainable development. AUCEL serves as a forum to create a community of collaborative work, research dissemination, research-led teaching, and public policy engagement and knowledge transfer.

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN

## TAKING STOCK AFTER COP26

The international climate summit in Glasgow was a highlight of last term, permeating all our activities between September and Christmas.

AUCEL's Abbe Brown and Daria Shapovalova participated in the COP26 as observers on behalf of the University – you can read Abbe's reflection on the conference in one of the blog posts of our **COP26 blog series**. We reported live from Glasgow during the four-part **Conversations on COP26** event as part of the Festival of Social Science. Thomas Muinzer spoke at event on **Climate Change Legislation, Litigation & the Rule of Law** during the COP as well.



DR **DARIA**  
SHAPOVALOVA

**CO-DIRECTOR**  
OF THE ABERDEEN  
UNIVERSITY CENTRE  
FOR ENERGY LAW

We integrated the latest developments in Glasgow into our teaching on energy and environmental law and received excellent feedback from students on this engagement. Aberdeen students are actively involved in climate politics, with some of them co-leading **efforts to request and advisory opinion** on climate change and human rights from the International Court of Justice.

In December, we have welcomed the chair of the World Commission on Environmental Law, Christina Voigt, who has delivered an insightful webinar on the fate of the Paris Agreement after COP26 highlighting the most contentious issues such as negotiations of article 6 implementation. The work is by no means complete but having COP26 so close to us has definitely provided inspiration for our future activities at AUCEL.



**PHD PROFILE**  
**SUCHANUN**  
**HUNSA-UDOM**

Prior to pursuing my PhD, I have held an LLB and an LLM from Thammasat University, Thailand. I also have an LLM in Energy and Environmental Law from the University of Aberdeen.

As a graduate student in energy and environmental law, I developed a strong interest in offshore renewable energy. The University of Aberdeen has a great reputation in energy law and is a good environment to conduct research in this area. On this basis, I decided to study for my PhD here.

My research focuses on the environmental impact assessment legal framework for offshore wind turbines. While completing my PhD, I have been hugely supported by the AUCEL. This Centre contributes to the research networking that is advantageous to my career path. I also have opportunities to attend seminars that enlighten me with greater passion about my research and academic area.

## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: STRENGTHENING ENERGY RESEARCH LINKS BETWEEN ABERDEEN AND BERGEN

In November 2021, Eddy Wifa visited the University of Bergen for a research visit funded by the Strategic Project for International Research Collaboration.

The objective of the visit was to conduct joint research in the regulation of offshore wind electricity as part of the GOV-WIND research project led by Ass. Prof. Ignacio Herrera Anchustegui. Furthermore, the visit of Dr Wifa also supported his role in the DeWindSea “Designing a Refined Legal Framework for Offshore Wind in the North Sea Basin” project, coordinated by Prof. Sigrid Schütz.

Dr Wifa’s expertise in the safety of offshore wind energy development saw him speaking to regulators, workers, and academics on the regulatory design of offshore wind safety from the UK perspective. Furthermore, the visit provided an opportunity for an elaborate research paper on the “Health and Safety Risk Governance of Offshore Wind Energy Development”.

This piece of work will adopt a comparative approach between Norway and the UK to assess the risk governance regime existing or proposed in these jurisdictions as well as compare it to more established ones such as the existence in offshore wind oil and gas activity.

This comparison and assessment are both timely and critical for the adequate and indeed safe development of this nascent industry.

For Norway such a study is especially important as it would allow for the creation of a regime or the adjustment of the existing one on oil and gas activity which is considered to be the leading standard worldwide.



DR EDDY WIFA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**8 FEBRUARY 2022, 5.30-7 PM**

**AUCEL AND NOVA GREEN LAB:  
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY TRANSITION**

SPEAKERS:

**PROFESSOR JULIA SEIXAS**

NOVA FCT, CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

**DR EDDY WIFA** UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN, LAW

**PROFESSOR BETH SCOTT** UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,  
SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**16 MARCH 2022, 1-2 PM**

**COLONISATION OF THE POLAR REGIONS:  
THE SHIFTING SANDS OF OCCUPATION  
IN THEORY AND PRACTICE**

**PROFESSOR RACHAEL LORNA JOHNSTONE**

UNIVERSITY OF AKUREYRI AND AT ILISIMATUSARFIK  
- THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENLAND

**23 MARCH 2022, 9-5 PM**

**OIL AND GAS IN TRANSITION: DELIVERING JUST  
TRANSITION TO NET ZERO IN THE NORTH-EAST**

These are online events. More information and access links are available [here](#).

## SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS (AUCEL)

Thomas L Muinzer et. al., ‘Towards the International Standardization of Carbon Dioxide Capture, Transportation, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Technologies: Current Challenges and Future Directions’, 12 (2) Journal of Sustainability Development Law and Policy (202) 157–189.

Abbe Brown, ‘Rights to Do, Rights to Prevent, and an Intersected Approach? Lessons from Intellectual Property, Information Control and Oil and Gas’ in Gervais, D. J. (ed.). The Future of Intellectual Property (Edward Elgar, 2021)

Abbe Brown and Marcel Jaspers, ‘Combining Intellectual Property, Trade Secrets, Science and an Ecosystem-Focused Approach’ in Nordquist, M., Long, R. (eds.). Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (Brill 2021)

Eddy Wifa and Tina Soliman Hunter, ‘Mitigating Occupational Health and Safety Risks in the Proposed Australian Offshore Wind Energy Industry: Lessons from the Safety Case Regime’, Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law (2021)