

CALL FOR PAPERS:

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ECOCIDE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Ecocide has been gaining growing significance in contemporary global politics. Since 2017, it has been the subject of a vibrant global campaign calling for ecocide to be added to the existing list of international crimes, currently confined to aggression, crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. Spearheaded by [Stop Ecocide International](#), who are working closely with global networks of diplomats, lawyers, parliamentarians, and civil society organisations, this campaign sees ecocide's criminalization under international law as a necessary precondition for securing meaningful climate justice in an era of a global ecological crisis.

Ecocide has also proliferated beyond global civil society, featuring in President Volodymyr Zelensky's 10-Point Peace Plan where it is the subject of ongoing legal debates on holding Russia accountable for the environmental destruction caused by its invasion of Ukraine. Ecocide has also been the subject of ongoing domestic/regional legislative efforts: national bills or proposals on ecocide are currently being discussed in over 10 national parliaments and in November 2023, the European Union became the first international body to criminalise wide-scale environmental damage by including acts comparable to ecocide within the bloc's revised crime directive.

However, calls for justice and accountability for ecocide are not new in global politics but date back to the 1970s, when the term was first coined by the scientist Arthur Galston in opposition to herbicidal warfare during the Vietnam War before being appropriated by a wide range of environmental and anti-colonial movements across the 20th century. These historical and present-day developments have been the subject of critical inquiry by scholars working in diverse areas such as international law, green criminology, geography and genocide studies, where there is now a well-established literature on ecocide. By contrast, there has been little engagement with ecocide within the discipline of International Relations (IR).

This workshop therefore constitutes one of the first attempts to critically explore the significance of ecocide for contemporary international relations. It seeks to bring together an emerging group of IR scholars interested in ecocide with more established networks of ecocide scholars across the social sciences, to foster greater interdisciplinary dialogue and scholarship on ecocide. To that end, we invite paper contributions from a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives, and on potential topics such as (but not restricted to):

- How does the term 'ecocide' travel across global politics? How is it imagined and mobilized by different actors – and to what end?
- In what ways has global international relations shaped the many, often distinct, trajectories of ecocide?
- To what extent are demands for justice for ecocide implicated within broader processes of racial dispossession, slavery and genocide in global politics?
- How does the ongoing construction of ecocide as an international crime differ from historical instances of international criminalization in the past?
- In what ways do calls for reparations for ecocide contribute to the monetization of the global environment?
- To what extent will a new international crime of ecocide reflect Western-centric ideas of ecological justice, and replicate the injustices of contemporary international criminal justice?
- To what extent does social movement theory explain the strategies and tactics adopted by Stop Ecocide International to establish an international crime of ecocide?