



Venice International University
International PhD Academy
Current issues in Environmental Peacebuilding

Venice International University
22-26 February 2027

Faculty

- Erika Weinthal, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University – coordinator
- Lauren Honig, Department of Political Science, Boston College -- co-coordinator
- Sara De Vido, Ca' Foscari University of Venice -- delegate of the rector for gender equality – co-coordinator
- Patricio Barbirotto, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- Luisa Bialasiewicz, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- Eoghan Darbyshire, Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS)
- Pietro Omodeo, UNESCO Chair on Water Heritage and Sustainable Development, Ca' Foscari University (TBC)
- Ilda Mannino and Alessandra Fornetti, Venice International University

Agenda

Monday 22. February 2027
Day 1

9:00-9.15	<i>Registration</i>
9.15-10.00	Opening and Introduction -round of presentation
10.00-12.30	a) Theories of environment/natural resources and conflict b) Theories of environmental peacebuilding c) General 'vulnerabilities' of war Weinthal, Honig, De Vido
13.45-15.10	Conflict Case study – oil and gas/diamonds/resource curse -- possible cases, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Botswana, Sahel (Honig)
15.15-16.45	Peacebuilding Case study – water – possible cases, Jordan River, Sava River Basin (Weinthal)
17.00-18.30	Introduction to the final own research presentation (integrating what learnt) – transversal skill: research communication (Ilda Mannino & Alessandra Fornetti)

Tuesday 27. January 2026

Day 2



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9.15-12.30 <i>Coffee Break from 10.45 to 11.15</i>	Tracking the environmental and human security impacts of war via remote sensing, crowdsourcing, etc (Eoghan Darbyshire) • On ecosystems • On infrastructure • Understanding reverberating effects Weinthal – moderate
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13.45-16.45 <i>Break from 15.15 to 15.30</i>	Potential field excursion (tbc) Or climate security (tbc)
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Wednesday 28. January 2026

Day 3

9.15-12.45 <i>Coffee Break from 10.45 to 11.15</i>	Rebuilding: • Feminist institutional responses • Humanitarian challenges – delivery of assistance/food and water • Refugee camp security • Climate change impacts and climate sensitive approaches • Refugees and IDPs – challenges of coming home • Cases – Syria, Afghanistan, Colombia Professors : Weinthal, De Vido, Luiza Bialasiewicz
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13.45-17.00 <i>Break from 15.15 to 15.30</i>	Working in group: preparation of the final presentation
17.00-18.30	Transversal skill: donor simulation – how to prioritize needs in a shrinking humanitarian setting, localization (Weinthal)
Evening	<i>Social Dinner (tbc)</i>

Thursday 29. January 2026

Day 4



9.15-12.30 <i>Coffee Break from 10.45 to 11.15</i>	Role of Law during and after Armed Conflict 1) International Humanitarian Law 2) Environmental Law 3) ILC work on the protection of the environment in related to armed conflicts 4) EWIPA – Declaration on explosive weapons in populated areas 5) Ecocide Professors: Patricio Barbirotto, others
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13.45-15.00 <i>Break from 15.15 to 15.30</i>	Transparency and Governance Mechanisms for managing conflict resources (including critical minerals) – Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, FPIC/public consultation mechanisms Professors: Erika Weinthal, others
15.00-17.30	Working on the final presentations / transversal skills --- e.g., writing a social science paper/study/research design (e.g., research design for qualitative and quantitative fieldwork in vulnerable or low-income settings) Professors: Lauren Honig, others

Friday 30. January

Day 5

9.15-12.30 <i>Break from 10.45 to 11.15</i>	Poster/Own research final presentation: what learnt
13.45-16.15	Rethinking environmental peacebuilding in the 21 st century – different approaches Presentation of Weinthal's book as basis for the discussion, Sharing of experience among the participants as final discussion, and wrap up (ALL)

Faculty's short bio



Erika Weinthal is the John O. Blackburn Distinguished Professor of Environmental Policy at Duke University. Weinthal specializes in global environmental politics, water cooperation and conflict, environmental security, and critical minerals governance. She is Chair of the Environmental Social Systems Division in the Nicholas School of the Environment and a member of the Bass Society of Fellows. She was a prior Chair of Duke's Academic Council. Weinthal is the President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and an associate editor of its journal, *Environment and Security*. In 2017 she was a recipient of the Women Peacebuilders for

Water Award under the auspices of "Fondazione Milano per Expo 2015." Recent coedited books include *The Oxford Handbook on Water Politics and Policy* (Oxford University Press 2017) and *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Environmental Politics* (2023).



Lauren Honig is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Boston College. Her research and teaching focus on the political economy of development and comparative politics in African countries. She is particularly interested in the politics of property rights, the roles of informal and customary institutions, natural resource governance, and state-citizen linkages. Several of her research projects examine land rights and political authority. This includes her book, *Land Politics: How Customary Institutions Shape State Building in Zambia and Senegal* (2022, Cambridge University Press). Her research has been published in *African Affairs*, *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Politics*,

Democratization, *the Journal of Politics*, *the Journal of Modern African Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *World Development*, and *World Politics*, among others.



Sara De Vido is Full Professor of International Law, Department of Economics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and is a delegate of the Rector for Gender Equality. She is senior expert on violence against women, by appointment of the European Commission, at the European Network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination, based at Utrecht University. She is legal expert for the European Commission of the EU network on preventing gender-based violence and domestic violence (2024-25) and drafted the report *EU law in light of the Istanbul Convention. Legal Implications After the Accession*.

She is affiliated with the Manchester International Law Centre (UK), where she co-founded the Women in International Law Network (Wilnet). She is PI of the PRIN project *Gendering international legal responses to chronic emergencies* (2023-2025) and unit contact person of the PRIN PNRR project *Ecce Human*. She is also a member of the doctoral college 'Law, Market and Person' at Ca' Foscari University, Venice. She is a lecturer at Venice International University (she has taught *Global Governance*, *Peace, Security, Cooperation and Development*, *Gender Studies* and *Globalisation, Ethics, Welfare and Human Rights*).



Patricio Barbirotto is a post-doctoral visiting fellow at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana and CALR fellow at the Tashkent State University of Law. His research experience spans international peace and security, international business law, cyber operations, artificial intelligence, and blockchain systems, as well as international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including matters arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He is also a partner at IntLaw LLP, where his practice focuses on public international law, advisory and consulting activities for sovereign States and State entities, international organizations and private entities, and international contractual and treaty-based arbitration.



Luisa Bialasiewicz is a Full Professor of political and economic geography at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Her research examines the evolution of EU geopolitical imaginaries and the emergence of a European "geopolitical subject" over the past two decades. She is currently investigating the ways in which geopolitical agendas "touch down" in European domestic politics, with a focus on far-right movements and parties. She is one of the editors of the international journal *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*.