

## **L4E LAW & GOVERNANCE (L&G) RESEARCH INITIATIVE 2020 WORK PLAN**

Implementation of the 2019 work plan for the Economics for the Anthropocene (E4E)/Leadership for the Ecozoic (L4E) L&G Research Initiative has provided a solid foundation on which to build the 2020 work plan. The Steering Committee AIMS to adopt the 2020 Work Plan in Fall 2019. As of Fall 2019, the Steering Committee will include student from McGill Law Faculty and Vermont Law School, whose membership is expected to increase the visibility of and student and faculty involvement in the initiative. Key activities anticipated for 2020 include:

- Ongoing involvement of L4E as an ELGA partner organization, through the McGill Faculty of Law and Vermont Law School (VLS), and through Geoff Garver's role as coordinator of the L4E L&G research initiative and member of the ELGA Steering Committee;
- Continuation of the Zoom-based webinars on ecological law and governance (EL&G) topics, launched in 2019, in coordination with ELGA, the Australian Earth Laws Alliance [AELA], the Center for Environmental Ethics and Law [CEEL] and others;
- Completion by February 29, 2020, of an edited book on EL&G, for which a contract with Routledge was finalized in August 2019;
- One or more EL&G Case Studies on selected real-world situations or activities (e.g. extraction, trade), as decided by the Steering Committee and initiative participants (**new initiative**);
- Coordinating EL&G panel at conferences and other events, as selected by the Steering Committee and initiative participants;
- Ongoing collaboration with ELGA, AELA, CEEL and other relevant organizations on joint areas of interest;
- Ongoing outreach to include additional organizations and researchers in the initiative and to raise the visibility and potential for media interest of the project;
- Increased focus on engagement of McGill and VLS law students, including student-led activities.

### **E4A/L4E as an ELGA partner**

The L4E L&G initiative is now effectively serving as an ELGA partner organization, with a view to 1) advancing research on the broad themes of the joint E4A-ELGA October 2017 workshop (the shortcomings of environmental law, how EL&G supports a mutually enhancing human-Earth relationship in ways environmental law does not, and transitional issues), and 2) enhancing theory and practice of EL&G in the North American context. In 2020, the L4E L&G initiative will continue to work with ELGA to strengthen this partnership and the interaction of the L4E L&G initiative with other ELGA partners (e.g., in Europe, Australia and Brazil). For example, in November 2019, Geoff Garver will participate in a conference at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Florianopolis, Brazil, with ELGA Steering Committee member Dr. Cristiane Derani, and will use that opportunity to explore ways to build ties between the E4A L&G initiative and like-minded efforts in Brazil and Latin America, as well as to continue outreach efforts to include additional organizations and researchers (e.g. Herman Greene and others developing a casebook on Earth law) in the L4E initiative.

## **Webinars**

In 2019, the L4E L&G initiative worked with ELGA, AELA, CEEL, the World Commission on Environmental Law, and the Earth Law Center to establish and co-sponsor a Zoom-based webinar series on EL&G topics, with regular monthly webinars along with special events. L4E took the lead for seven of the 2019 webinars and is coordinating participation in the full series by faculty and students involved with L4E, Vermont Law School and the McGill Faculty of Law for the others. This webinar series will be continued in 2020, with topics and webinar leads to be selected in the Fall of 2019. An effort will be made to increase participation by getting the webinars approved for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits in Canada, the United States and elsewhere. Through the efforts of the L4E L&G initiative, the Club of Rome is interested in possibly leading or participating in one or more of the 2020 webinars.

## **Publications**

In August 2019, Geoff Garver, Kirsten Anker, Peter Burdon, Michelle Maloney and Carla Sbert signed a contract with Routledge to co-edit a book entitled *From Environmental to Ecological Law*. The book will have seventeen or eighteen chapters from at least 4 continents and 7 countries, mostly by participants in the L4E/E4A L&G initiative, and a foreword by Klaus Bosselmann. The deadline for the final draft of the book is February 29, 2020. Following publication, the L4E L&G initiative will promote the book using conventional and social media and e-mail publicity; by bringing it to the attention of academics who might use it in courses; at conferences and other events; etc.

## **EL&G Case Studies (new activity in 2020)**

The L4E L&G initiative will initiate EL&G Case Studies of real-world situations or activities (e.g. extraction projects, international trade in controversial products such as palm oil, selected policies) will be assessed according to principles of EL&G. A central goal is to give more concreteness to how ecological law is not just about transforming environmental law, but all law - a clear implication of putting ecological bounds on all of law, as ecological economics does with economics. Selected projects, policies, sectors, etc., will be deconstructed to reveal all of the legal and policy realms that are involved, and then reconstructed using principles of ecological law. For example, a mining project would be deconstructed to reveal key local, state/provincial, national and international laws, regulations and policies that apply to every aspect of the project, such as those related to ownership regimes and organizational structures for all of the entities involved, labor laws for workers, health care for the community, other provisioning for the community, etc. These Case Studies may involve setting up a study team, identifying real-world situations or activities for assessment, identifying sub-issues to address and/or identifying ways to generate broader interest, replication in other ELGA regions (e.g. Brazil, Oceania, Europe, Africa) and public/media attention.

## **Workshop/conference panels**

Building on the L4E/E4A L&G initiative's special session on EL&G at the CANSEE bi-annual conference in 2019, the L4E L&G initiative will identify workshop and conference opportunities in which L4E L&G researchers could participate in 2020. Already in view are the Global Ecological Integrity Group annual conference in Montreal in June and the ISEE/International Degrowth conference in September 2020. The Steering Committee and initiative participants will be surveyed regarding any other opportunities. Consideration will be given to including any such sessions in the 2020 webinar series with remote participation using Zoom.

### **Coordination with ELGA and other organizations and researchers involved in EL&G**

Coordination with ELGA and other organizations on joint areas of interest regarding EL&G will be ongoing in 2020. Some of this will take place through Geoff Garver's role as both coordinator of the L4E L&G initiative, member of the ELGA steering committee and active participant in the degrowth movement globally and in North America. New organizations with whom work of this kind got started in 2019 is the Club of Rome and the EL&G research center at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil.

### **Increased engagement of McGill and VLS law students**

Inclusion of law students from McGill and VLS is anticipated to increase student engagement in all of E4A/L4E's L&G-related work, and to create space for interested students to proposed and lead activities. It is hoped that this will include joint activities that will build on the longstanding relationship between McGill and VLS on law and governance topics relevant to the work of E4A/L4E.

### **Proposed 2020 Timeline of Key Activities**

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|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Winter<br/>(Jan-Apr)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initiate planning of EL&amp;G Case Studies</li><li>• Survey project participants about conference or workshop options</li><li>• 1-2 L4E-led webinars</li><li>• Finalize edited book project, <i>From Environmental to Ecological Law</i></li></ul>  |
| <b>Summer<br/>(May-Aug)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination with other organizations and researchers</li><li>• 1-2 additional L4E-led webinars</li><li>• Follow-up on EL&amp;G Case Studies</li><li>• Continue work on monograph</li><li>• Coordination with other organizations and researchers</li><li>• L4E L&amp;G session at a conference or workshop</li></ul> |
| <b>Fall<br/>(Sep-Dec)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1-2 L4E-led webinars</li><li>• Follow-up on EL&amp;G Case Studies</li><li>• Coordination with other organizations and researchers</li><li>• Prepare 2021 work plan</li></ul>  |

**Budget - TBD**