

JusTNOW – *Just Transitions to a Net Zero World*

International Launching Conference

An Interdisciplinary Research Agenda for Safer and Fairer Futures

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th of October 2024

Durham University



JusTNOW – *Just Transitions to a Net Zero World*

The world is failing to find the just transition pathways to avoid the worst impacts of climate change (IPCC AR6 SYR 2023, UN NDC SYR 2023). Even the Paris Agreement's more ambitious 1.5°C temperature limitation is insufficient to avoid catastrophic sea level rise and increasingly severe extreme weather events. At Durham, we already have world-leading expertise in researching the causes and impacts of climate change. With investment in the Just Transitions to a Net Zero World (JusTNOW) project, we aim to develop a world-leading interdisciplinary work programme, to research sustainable and just solutions for accelerated decarbonisation of economies, and to achieve lasting societal well-being for the present and future generations.

The JusTNOW initiative also aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reaffirms Durham's commitment to global research excellence on sustainability. Durham ranks 19th in the QS Sustainability ranking 2024 and 36th in THE Impact ranking 2025 globally, 9th for SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

The Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP) has already brought together research across disciplines and integrated it into global governance frameworks. Expanding on that, the JusTNOW initiative identifies a work programme that uses interdisciplinary research to develop sustainable and just solutions to enhance our collaborative efforts for this cause. By collaborating across disciplines and harnessing our collective expertise, we are confident that JusTNOW will yield groundbreaking solutions to address the climate crisis. The JusTNOW team expresses its gratitude to the University and all those involved in making this essential funding a reality.

JusTNOW - Durham University

An Interdisciplinary Research Agenda for Safer and Fairer Futures

Concept Note

The conference has three main objectives:

First, to launch and co-create an interdisciplinary research agenda that supports sustainable solutions at the intersection of law, science, economics and computer science, through informing legal and policy frameworks. **Second**, and in line with JusTNOW's overarching goals, we want to enhance collaboration and co-creation of sustainability research with partners at a global scale, across academic disciplines, and beyond academia. Our **third** objective is to analyse the most recent case law from leading domestic courts, international courts, and international tribunals to support governments, legal personnel, and academic colleagues in developing legal arguments for the upcoming hearing before the International Court of Justice, for future cases, and for developing national and international legal frameworks that support sustainable solutions.

The conference consists of three panels and a workshop:

In the **first panel**, we will address the 'Conditions of Climate Justice in Just Transitions.' Climate justice and just transitions are often not discussed together, however, we perceive climate justice as a goal of just transitions. The **second panel** 'Equitable, Sustainable Solutions I: AI, Digital Twins, and Environmental Strategies', builds on the first panel and addresses how AI within a setting of interdisciplinary research can be used to design environmental strategies, using a digital twin and an AI-enabled database. These environmental strategies must aim at equitable and sustainable solutions that materialise conditions of climate justice within just transitions. The **third panel** on 'Equitable, Sustainable Solutions II: Multiagent Models and Instrument Analysis' covers current and potential future instruments that provide economically feasible solutions. It builds on the first panel and uses AI as a tool for modelling, bringing, in addition, economic factors as well as environmental considerations. From our conversation with colleagues working in the world of finance, we understand that the siloed climate consensus must be shared with those who make investment decisions. This requires us to think about solutions that are economically feasible and implement just and fair solutions.

The **fourth segment** of the conference is a workshop, 'Interdisciplinarity for Climate Justice in A Post-Advisory Opinion World', that will delve deeper into the legal standards as they emerge from adjudication and international law, to inform the International Court of Justice advisory opinion. This analysis of the legal obligations of States in the context of climate change is not only relevant for litigation but also for legislation, and therefore, the outcome of the final workshop is informed by the preceding panels, and new legal yardsticks will equally inform the discourse and the research on climate justice and on just transitions to a net zero world.



Opening and Panel 1 – **Day 1**, Thursday, 3 October 2024 – PCL 048

08:30 – 09:00 Registration and Coffee - outside PCL 048

09:00 – 09:15 **Professor Mike Shipman**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Durham University.

09:15 – 09:35 **H.E. Mr Francois Jackman**

Ambassador of Barbados and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Conditions of Climate Justice in Just Transitions

Moderator: **Dr John Bothwell** – Associate Professor (Reader in Bioenergy), Co-Director of the CSDLP, Principal Investigator of the JusTNOW initiative, Durham University

09:35 – 09:55 **Hon. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah** (online)

Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

09:55 – 10:15 **Professor Rowena Maguire** (online)

Director of the Queensland University of Technology Centre for Justice.

10:15 – 10:35 **Dr Sven Renner**

EGPS Program Manager, World Bank.

10:35 – 11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:20 Tea, coffee, and refreshments break – outside PCL 048

11:20 – 11:40 **Professor José Enrique Alvarez** (online)

Professor of International Law at New York University.

11:40 – 12:00 **Dr Sikander Ahmad Shah**

Associate Professor, Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law, LUMS, Pakistan.

12:00 – 12:20 **Professor David Ong Khai Long**

Professor of International & Environmental Law, Liverpool John Moores University.

12:20 – 12:55 Discussion

12:55 – 13:00 Group Photoshoot

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch (Common Room, Durham Law School)**

Equitable, Sustainable Solutions I: AI, Digital Twins, and Environmental Strategies

Moderator: **Dr Nelly Bencomo** – Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science, Principal Investigator of the JustNOW initiative, Durham University.

14:00 – 14:20 **Dr Øystein Lund**

Counsellor for Research and Education,
Royal Norwegian Embassy.

14:20 – 14:40 **Professor Gordon Blair**

Head of Environmental Digital Strategy, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), Co-director of the Centre of Excellence in Environmental Data Science (CEEDS).

14:40 – 15:00 **Dr Kelly Widdicks**

Software Systems Architect, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH).

15:00 – 15:15 Discussion

15:15 – 15:30 Tea, coffee, and refreshments break – outside PCL 048

15:30 – 15:50 **Professor Achintha C Vithanage**

Professor of Law for Designated Service in Environmental Law, Associate Director of Environmental Law Programs, Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University, USA.

15:50 – 16:10 **Professor Ibibia Lucky Worika**

Director, Centre for Advanced Law Research, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

16:10 – 16:30 **Norma Álvarez G**

Senior Associate Energy and ESG, Santamarina Steta, Mexico.

16:30 – 16:45 Discussion

16:45 – 17:00 **Closing remarks day 1**

Speakers Dinner

Durham Cathedral Prior's Hall

Reception at 18:00 | Dinner to start at 18:30

Fireside Chat after the first course | Brief address by the JusTNOW Pls after the main course

The dinner will be chaired by **Professor Karen O'Brien**, Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University.

Fireside chat on:

“Economic and Legal Empowerment for Sustainability”

H.E. Mr Francois Jackman – Moderator

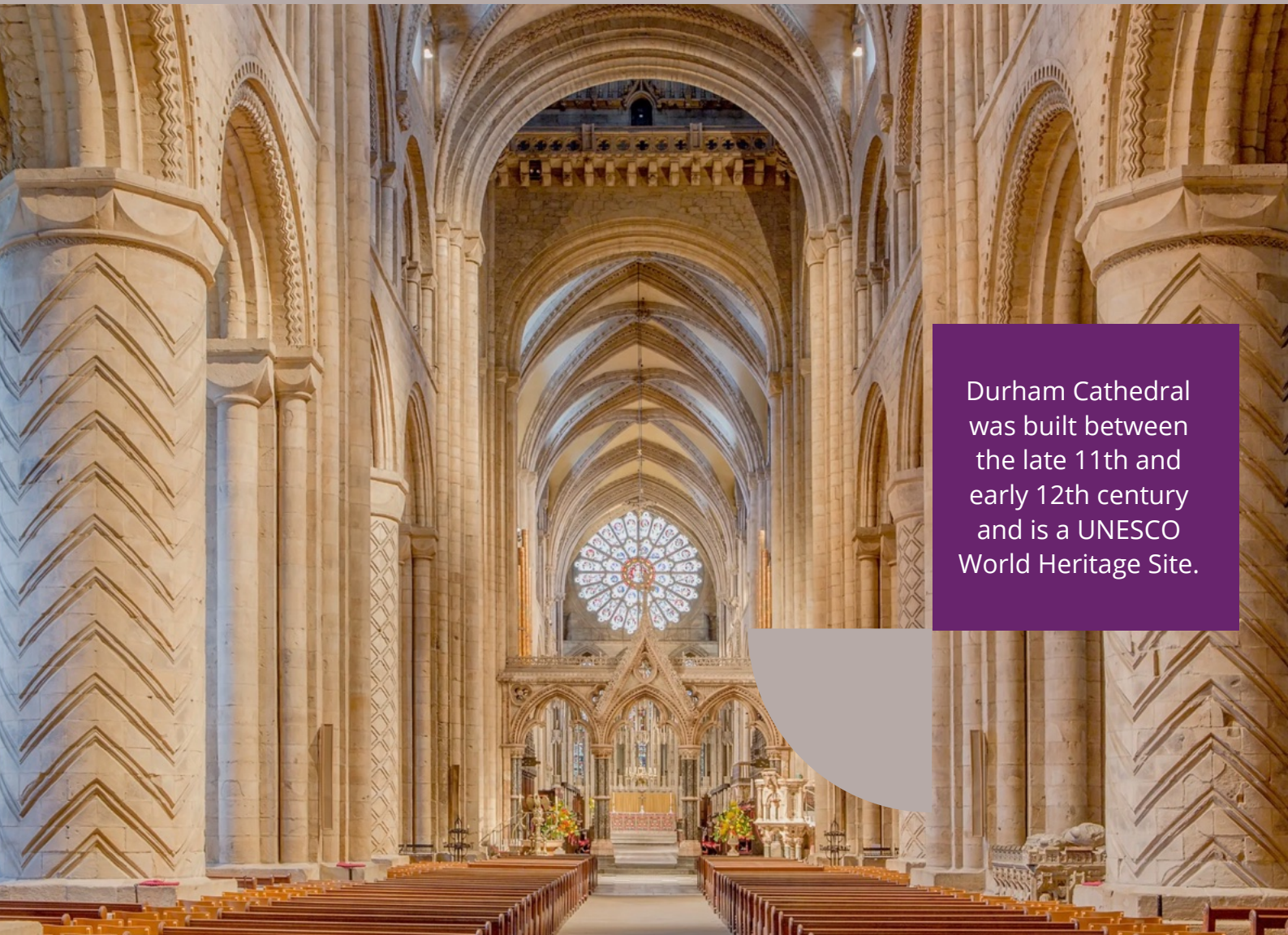
Ambassador of Barbados and Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Yasmin Batliwala MBE

Chief Executive, Advocates for International Development

Hon Justice Jawad Hassan

Justice of the High Court Lahore, Pakistan



Durham Cathedral was built between the late 11th and early 12th century and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Conference programme

Panel 3 – Day 2, Friday, 4 October 2024 – PCL 048

- 08:00 – 08:30** Tea, coffee, and refreshments – outside PCL 048
- 08:30 – 09:00** Early bird session with **Professor Rüdiger Wolfrum** (online)
Former Director of the Max Plank Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Former President of the Max Plank Society, Former President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
- 09:00 – 09:15** **Professor Volker Roeben**, Dean of Durham Law School.
Professor Michael Naef, Head of Economics, DUBS.
Professor Matthew Johnson, Head of Computer Science.
Professor Martin Cann (TBC), Head of Biosciences.

Equitable, Sustainable Solutions II: Multiagent Models and Instrument Analysis.

Moderator: **Professor Laura Marsiliani** – Professor of Economics, Principal Investigator of the JusTNOW initiative, Durham University.

- 09:15 – 09:35** **Professor Simone Borghesi** (online)
Professor of Environmental Economics at University of Siena and European University Institute.
- 09:35 – 09:55** **Professor Marie Stenseke** (online)
Professor in human geography at the school of business, economics and law, University of Gothenburg.
- 09:55 – 10:15** **Professor Joeri Rogelj** (online)
Professor of Climate Science & Policy at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London.
- 10:15 – 10:40** Discussion
- 10:40 – 11:05** Tea, coffee, and refreshments break – outside PCL 048
- 11:05 – 11:25** **Professor Scott Barrett**
Professor of Natural Resource Economics at Lenfest-Earth Institute, Columbia University.
- 11:25 – 11:45** **Dr Sandra Batten**
Senior Economist, Bank of England.
- 11:45 – 12:05** **Dr Dato' Mohammad Faiz Azmi**
Executive Chairman, Securities Commission Malaysia.
- 12:05 – 12:30** Discussion
- 12:30 – 13:00** Tour of the Palatine Centre and the Strategic Research Office (PCL 133)
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch (Common Room, Durham Law School)**

Interdisciplinarity for Climate Justice in A Post-Advisory Opinion World

14:00 – 14:10 **Professor Colin Bain**

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Durham University.

14:10 – 14:20 **Ms Danielle Yeow** (online)

Lead, Climate Change Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, and Adjunct Associate Professor MSc in Environmental Management, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore.

Panel 1: Old Principles New Standards: Due Diligence, Precautionary Principle, and CBDR

Moderator: **Dr Joseph Kobusheshe** – Director of Environment, Health, and Safety the Petroleum Authority of Uganda.

14:10 – 14:30 **Professor Jutta Brunnée** (online)

Dean, University Professor, and James Marshall Tory Dean's Chair, University of Toronto.

14:30 – 14:50 **Mr Kishan Khoday** (online)

UNDP Resident Representative, The Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Turks & Caicos.

14:50 – 15:10 **Mr Zachary A.R. Phillips** (online)

Crown Counsel with the Attorney General's Chambers of Antigua and Barbuda.

15:10 – 15:30 **Professor Christian Tietje**

Professor of European Union and International Economic Law at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

15:30 – 15:45 Tea, coffee, and refreshments break – outside PCL 048

Durham University Rankings.

6th in the UK

Guardian University Guide 2025

7th in the UK

The Complete University Guide
2025

7th in the UK

Times Good University Guide 2024

19th in the World

in the Category of Sustainability

65th in the World

In Employer Reputation

Joint 89th

QS World Ranking 2025

Panel 2: Attribution Science and Health Policy for Second Generational NDC

Moderator: **Professor Petra Minnerop** – Professor of International law, Director of the CSDLP, Lead Principal Investigator of the JusTNOW initiative, Durham University.

15:45 – 16:05 **H.E. Mr Jukka Siukosaari**

Ambassador of Finland to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

16:05 – 16:25 **Professor Andy Haines**

Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

16:25 – 16:45 **Dr Friederike Otto**

Senior Lecturer in Climate Science at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London.

16:45 – 17:05 **Dr Rupert Stuart Smith**

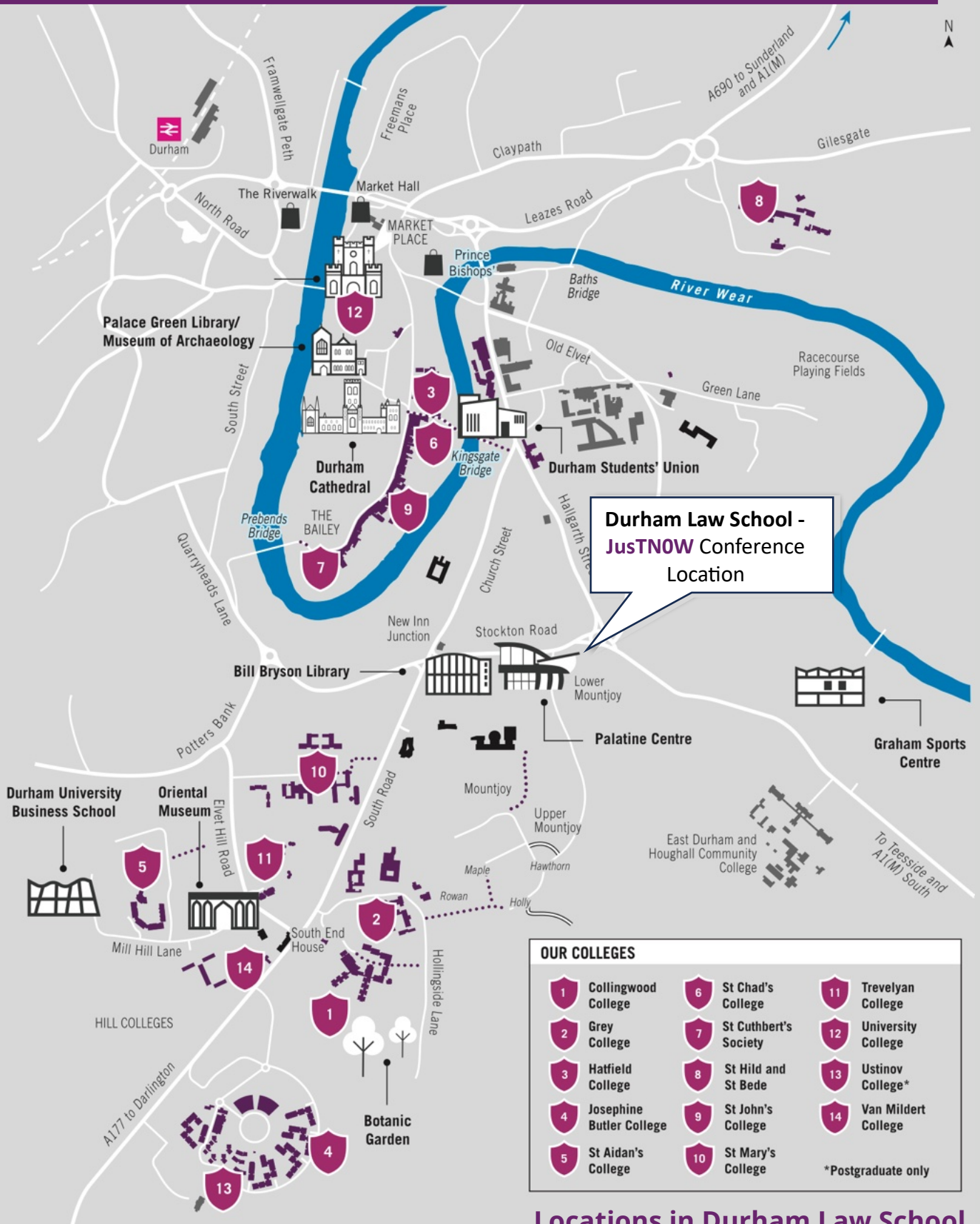
Senior Research Associate in Climate Science and the Law at the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme.

17:05 – 17:20 **MoU Signing with the FJA, Pakistan.**

17:20 – 17:30 **Closing remarks and next steps.**



Durham Locations Map



Locations in Durham Law School during the Conference

1. Panel 1 and 2 on Day 1 – PCL 048.
2. Panel 3 on Day 2 – PCL 048.
3. Workshop both panels on Day 2 – PCL 054.
4. Coatroom/Checkroom – PCL 051, PCL 053.
5. Silent/Prayer Room – PCL 133.

JusTNOW Partners



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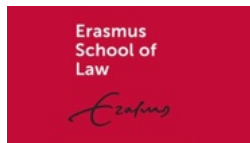
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1994
BANGLADESH



Durham
University
Business School
Centre for Environmental
and Energy Economics

Centre for Sustainable
Development Law and Policy

JusTNOW – *Just Transitions to a Net Zero World*

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