

Professor Dr. Raphael J. Heffron

Justice as an Agent of Change in International Energy Law



**Professor Dr.
Raphael J Heffron**

BA, MA, MLitt, MPhil, MSc Barrister-at-Law, PhD



**Prof in Corporate & Commercial Law
Dean & Professor, Abu Dhabi University
EU Jean Monnet Professor (2016 & 2019)
Circa €8m in research grants**



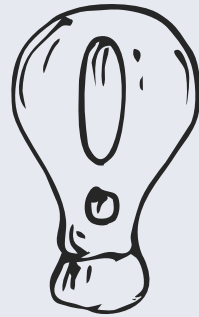
<https://TopResearchersList.com/>

**2025 List just out – Sep 19th
– Energy Justice researchers**

The Presentation



**Energy Justice
Today**



**The History:
'Agents of Change in IEL'**



**Justice
on the Rise**

Part 1



Energy Justice Today

International Energy Law

International



National



Local



What is the Objective of IEL?

To make the World a better place
– *as a legal community that has to involve justice (normative goal)*

Key Objectives



Govern Energy Stakeholders –
- *How: Balance Risk, Reward and Responsibility (the 3Rs)*

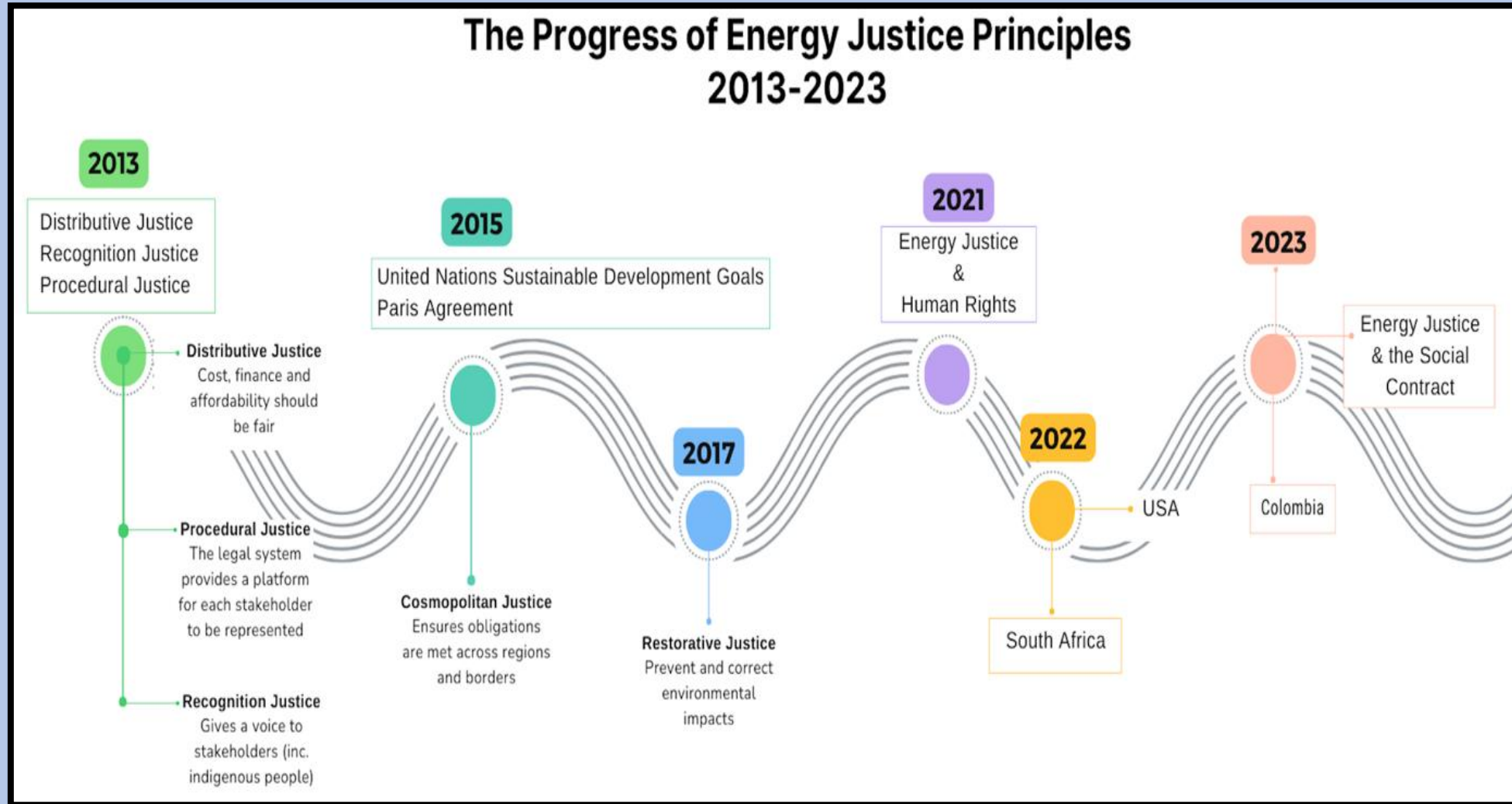


Guide development of Energy Infrastructure
- *How: adoption of energy justice principles across energy project life-cycle*

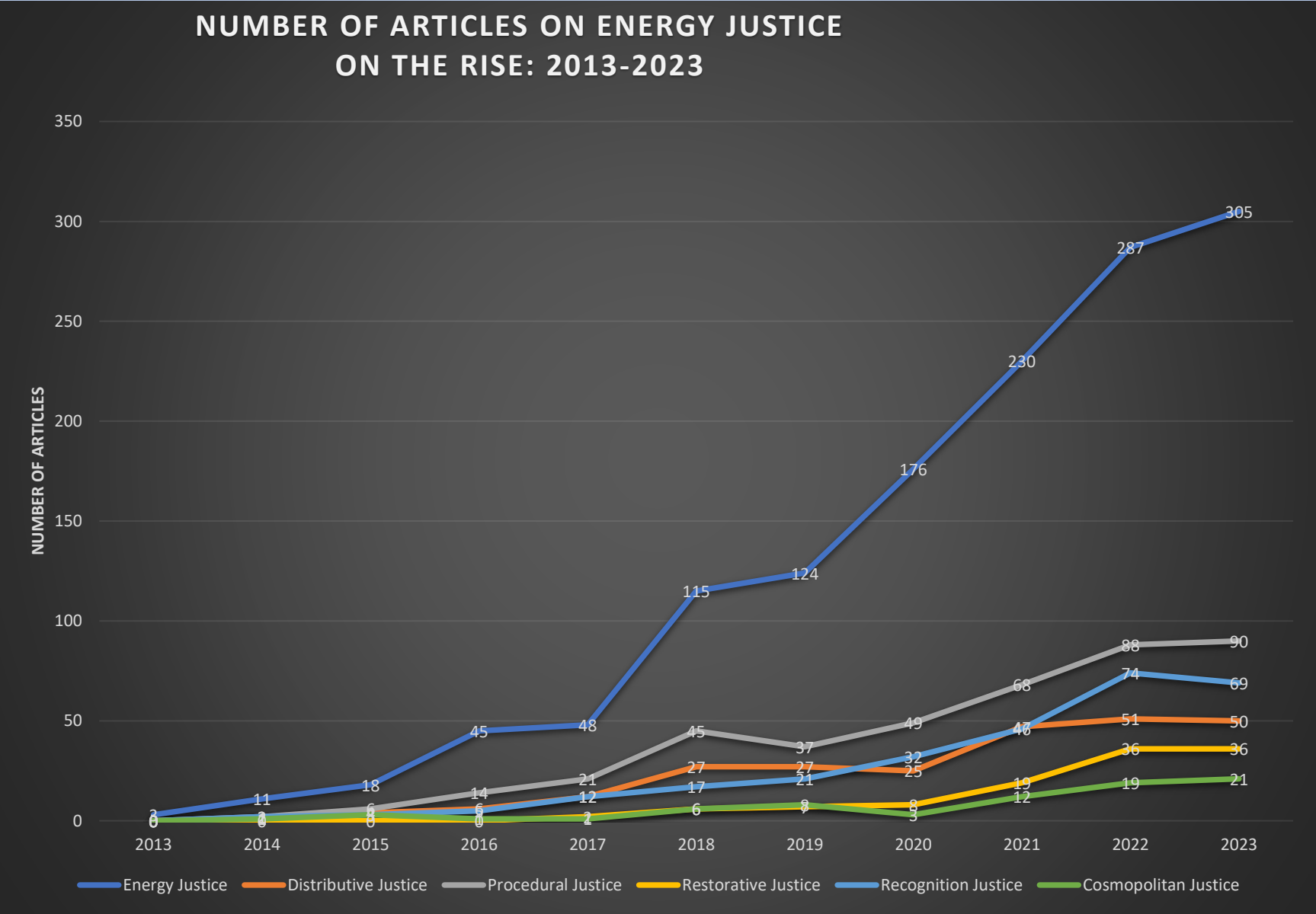


Ensure 'just outcomes' from all energy decision-making
- *How: adoption of energy justice principles and 'future-proofing' decision-making*

Rise of Energy Justice Principles



Energy Justice - articles



Brief Explanation

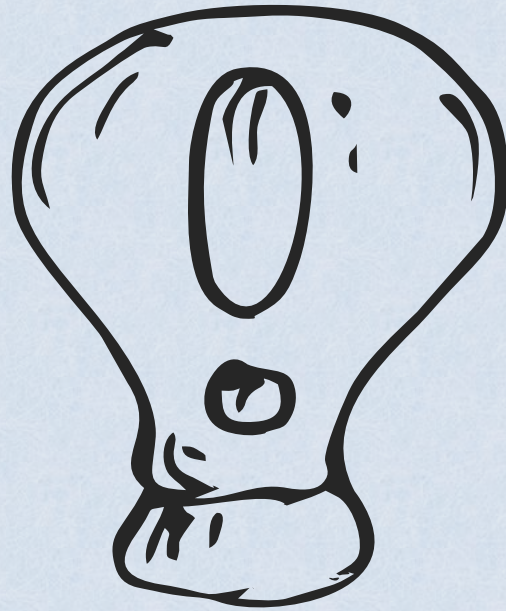
Energy Justice Principle	Key Focus	Simple Definition
Distributive	The finance system	The energy system should have a fairer distribution of finance, i.e., profits should be shared more fairly across all stakeholders.
Procedural	The legal system	The architecture of the legal system needs to produce and provide opportunity for just outcomes.
Restorative	Correct and prevent injustices in the system	Impacts from energy activities need to be prevented and corrected to increase justice
Recognition	The 'Who' nationally and locally	All stakeholders need to be accounted for and in particular for example, vulnerable groups and indigenous communities.
Cosmopolitan	The 'Who' internationally	All countries and private institutions need to recognise their responsibilities internationally and how these affect stakeholders nationally and locally.

Energy Justice Principles in Action

Internationally & Nationally

Energy Justice Principle	United States	Colombia	South Africa
Distributive (OECD)	X	X	X
Procedural (IAEA, OECD)	X	X	X
Restorative (UN, IPPC)	X	X	X
Recognition (UN, IMO)	X	X	-
Cosmopolitan (IMO, ICJ)	-	-	-

Part 2



The History: 'Agents of Change in IEL'

◎ **An International Energy Law academic – the Past**



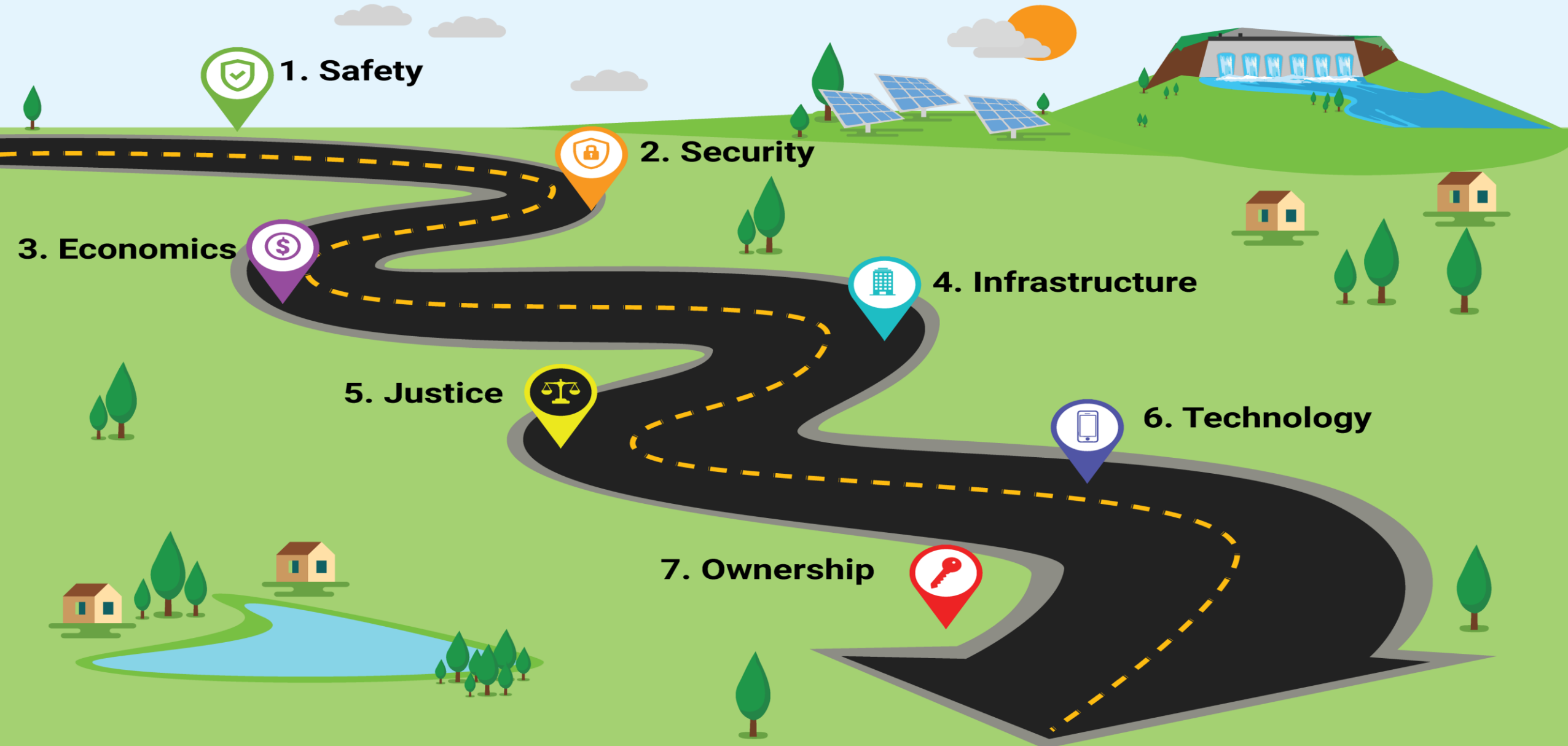
◎ An International Energy Law academic – Today (!)



Finally ‘justice’



'Agents of Change' in International Energy Law



Part 3



Justice on the Rise



1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

[See all](#)

IEL is now Data Driven

- 'Data' driven society
 - IPCC reports
 - IEL is science driven
 - Insurance Data
 - business driven
 - Economic Data
 - business driven
 - Socio-economic data
 - job creation
 - Health Data & Environmental Data

More demanding time than ever to be IEL Scholar



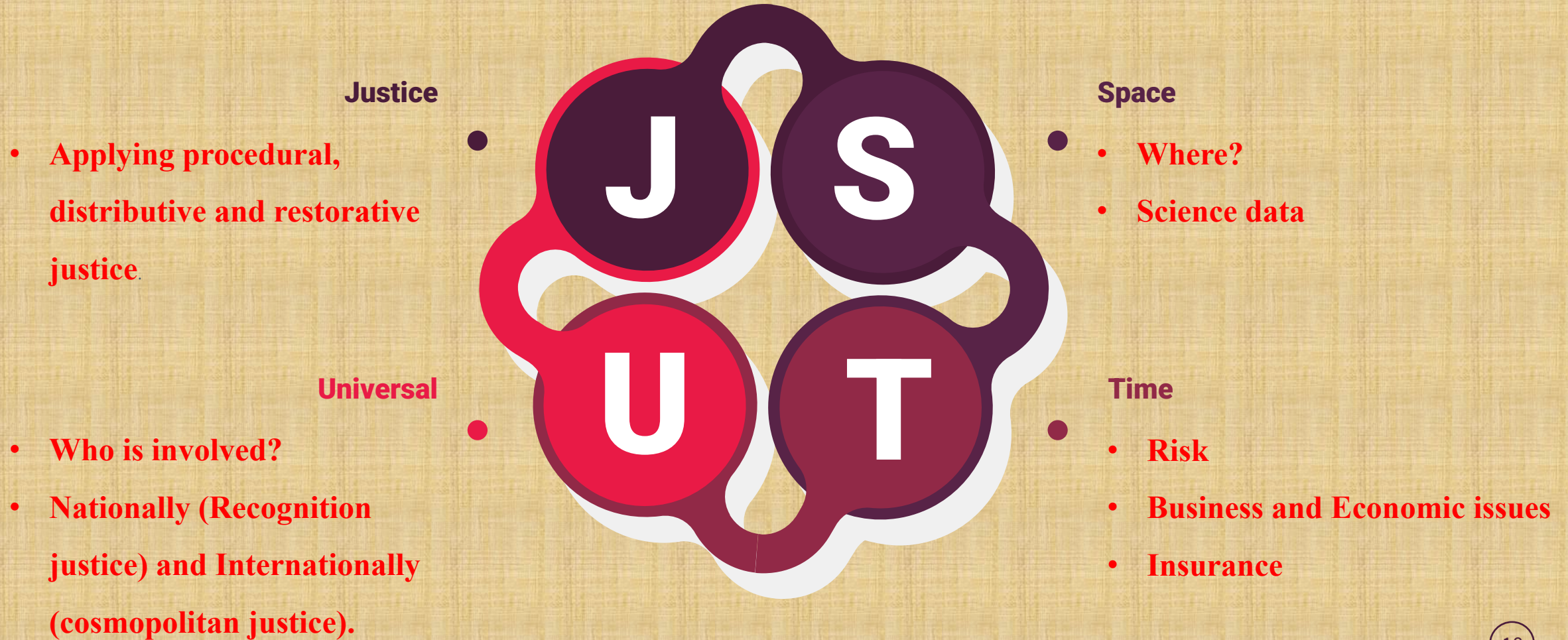


'JUST' Framework



What do you incorporate in your IEL research?

Is your research replicable?



Success

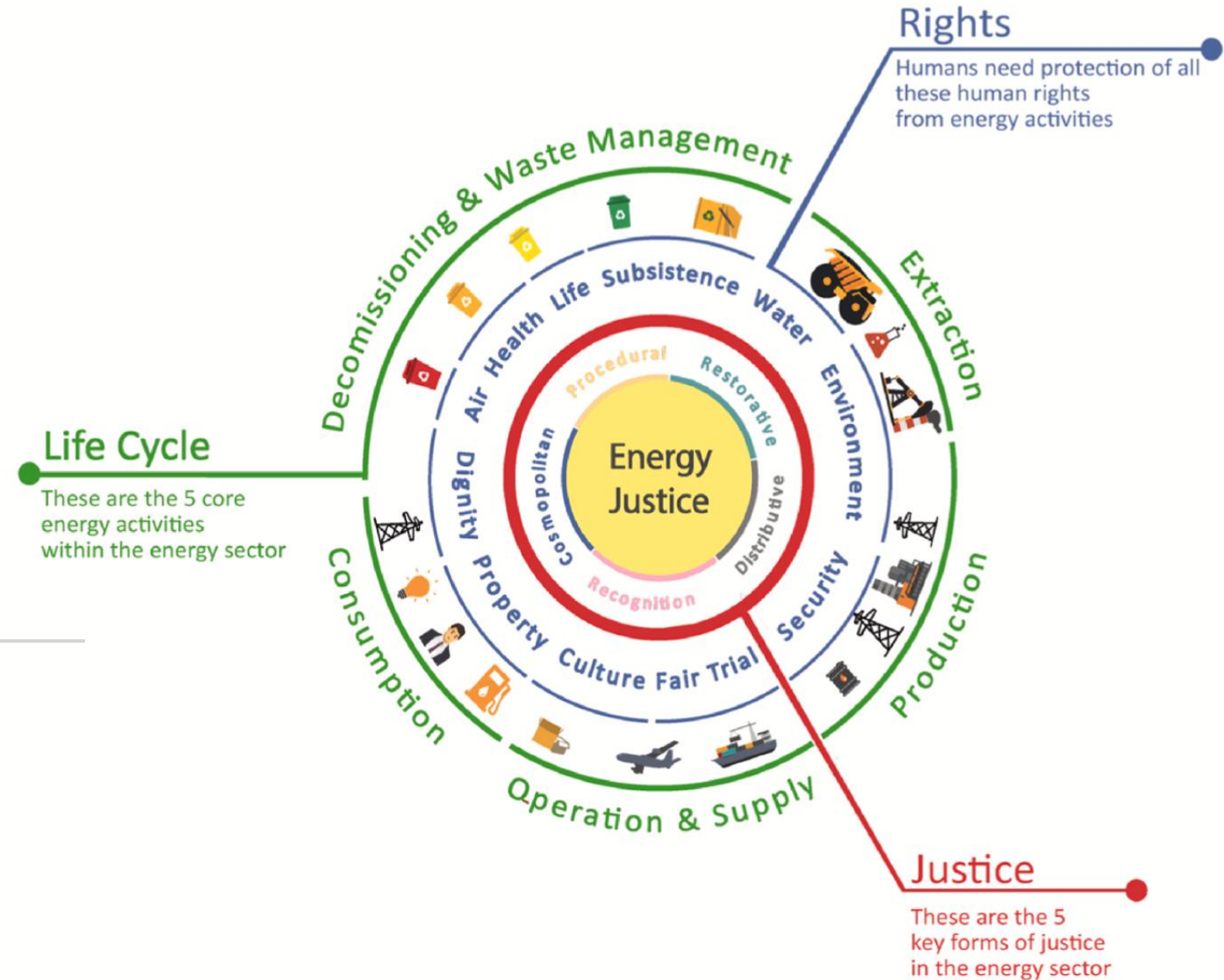
What does success look like for legal scholars?

Our research being used by energy stakeholders to increase just outcomes globally



Energy justice
– at its core
is protection of human
rights across the
energy life-cycle

The Energy Justice Circle



Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews
Volume 156, March 2022, 111936



Applying energy justice into the energy transition

Raphael J. Heffron

Wave of Justice

UN policy on the 'just transition'



No one left behind

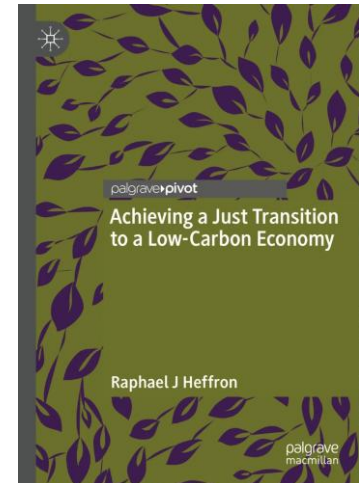
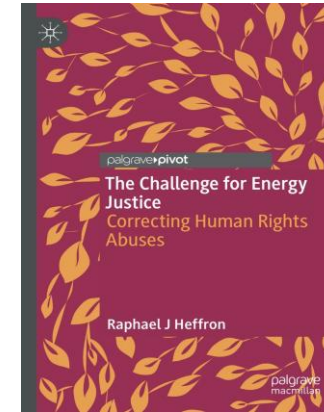
Gaining momentum

Agenda for International Law

What will it look like? IEL & Interdisciplinarity



raphael.heffron@gmail.com



Justice as an Agent of Change in IEL

Abstract

For many years, international energy law has had multiple influences however, over the last decade ‘justice’ as emerged as an ‘agent of change’. Finally, the global energy sector has started to develop a broader societal goal. This does not diminish other goals of international energy law such as safety, security or economics but points towards a new global mission of evolution in this area. This can be charted with a legal history and comparative lens. There is an adoption of justice principles which demonstrate a longer-term trajectory. There are also a number of key challenges facing International Energy Law on the horizon however, and these will be difficult to resolve in order to retain the value of international energy law . This presentation highlights some of these next steps that are needed in rebuilding international energy law and, for example, how multiple legal cases in international law are showing signs that energy justice and its conceptual and theoretical foundations are now international ‘agents of change’ in the global energy sector.