

Interstitial Law-Making in Public International Law – The Evolution and Characteristics of International Environmental Law

Little attention has been paid to the dynamics between procedural and substantial prescriptions in international environmental law, whereas this branch of law has been marked by the continuous development of procedural prescriptions. What are they, and what are the reasons and the signification of this evolution? In particular, preliminary environmental impact assessments have become a quasi-universal requirement. How were these procedural prescriptions conceived, how are they understood and implemented? Is this the best manner in which to achieve environmental protection and sustainable development? Some major judicial decisions have revealed some detrimental ambiguity in this regard. How can individuals and civic groups participate in the public decision-making processes that affect their lives? On the theoretical plane, the role of procedure in secreting substantive law has been fundamental with respect to the idiosyncratic legal system of public international law, in a world of heterogenous political regimes. This talk will explore these diverse crucial issues in our contemporary international legal system.

Viviane Meunier-Rubel, LL.M., J.S.D. (Yale Law School), *D.E.A. Droit privé général* (Paris II Panthéon-Assas), is an international legal scholar. As a practicing attorney in France, she worked exclusively on civil law cases before the Cour de cassation, the highest court of civil and criminal appeals. She was a Tutor-in-Law at Yale Law School, where she later taught international environmental law upon Professor W. Michael Reisman's invitation last semester. She clerked for Judge Ronny Abraham and Vice-President Raymond Ranjeva at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. In May, Brill/Nijhoff will publish her book, *Interstitial Law-Making in Public International Law: A Study of Environmental Impact Assessments*, based on her award winning doctoral dissertation which received the Yale Law School's Ambrose Gherini Prize for best paper in the field of international law (2018).