

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE

FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Zurich University
of Applied Sciences



**School of
Management and Law**



DEFUND MEAT CONFERENCE



**Max Planck Institute
for Comparative Public Law
and International Law,
Heidelberg**

16 – 17 January 2024

Contact

Anette Kreuzfeld

Alexander Goeden

E-Mail: apeters-office@mpil.de

Phone: +49 (0) 6221 482307



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DEFUND MEAT CONFERENCE

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Conveners

Dr. Saskia Stucki

Prof. Anne Peters

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CONFERENCE THEME

DEFUND MEAT

This conference revisits the ‘meat question’ in the contemporary social, political, and legal context. Meat is an embodied symbol of the mounting and interrelated environmental and public health crises that have become characteristic of our era (which may be best described as the Anthropocene and One Health era): climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, pandemics, food insecurity, unhealthy and unsustainable diets, and institutionalised animal suffering. While (not) eating meat has long been cast as a private choice, it is increasingly turning into a public and political issue, as the social, ecological, and ethical costs of industrialised meat production are becoming more visible and prominent. Overwhelming scientific evidence indicates the need for sustainable food transformations and, concomitantly, a dietary transition away from animal-based foods. In consequence, the idea of a new – a transformative – meat governance with the aim of reducing overall meat production and consumption is gaining traction.

Nevertheless, meat remains the elephant in the room – or the sacred cow – especially when it comes to climate change and global public health strategies. Moreover, meat-reduction policies have not yet been instituted as integral part of the sustainable food transformation. While buzzwords such as the ‘decarbonisation’ of the economy and ‘fossil fuel divestment’ have become mainstream, comparable calls for a ‘deanimalisation’ of agriculture or for ‘defunding meat’ remain marginal. Considering livestock’s ‘long shadow’, it is time to drop the taboo: we need to talk about meat.

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to move the meat question from the margins into the spotlight of the ongoing debates on One Health, sustainability, climate change, food security, and public health. The objective is to launch a multi-disciplinary and multi-perspective scholarly debate about meat in the Anthropocene that also contributes to the public debates in society. We seek to understand better the impacts of meat production and consumption on humans, animals, and the environment, to scrutinise traditional regulatory approaches, and to envision the future shape and instruments of a transformative meat governance.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 2025 — CONFERENCE DAY 1

Time	Format	Speaker(s)	Topic	Session Moderator
08:30-09:00	Registration			
09:00-09:15	Introduction	Dr. Saskia Stucki ZHAW	Defund Meat: A Research and Policy Agenda	Prof. Anne Peters MPIL
09:15-09:45 09:45-10:15	Keynote talk Discussion	Prof. André Nollkaemper University of Amsterdam	The Shape of Things to Come: International Legal Foundations of Transformative Global Meat Governance	
10:15-10:45	Coffee break			
10:45-11:05 11:05-11:25	Talk Discussion	Prof. Kristen Stilt Harvard Law School	Meat and Zoonotic Disease	Dr. Saskia Stucki ZHAW
11:25-11:45 11:45-12:05	Talk Discussion	Dr. Marco Springmann University of Oxford	The Environmental Impact of Meat and the Role of Dietary Change	
12:05-13:30	Lunch			
13:30-13:50 13:50-14:10	Talk Discussion	Prof. Odile Ammann University of Lausanne	How the Sausage Is Made: Lobbying by the Meat Industry	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Lucia Sommerer University of Halle-Wittenberg
14:10-14:30 14:30-14:50	Talk Discussion	Prof. Jennifer Jacquet University of Miami	Exxon Knew. Did Tyson, Too? Comparing the Climate Responsibilities of Industrial Oil and Gas Producers with Industrial Meat and Dairy Producers	
14:50-15:10 15:10-15:30	Talk Discussion	Cleo Verkuil Stockholm Environment Institute	Is Meat the New Oil? Lessons from Fossil Fuel Governance for Meat Governance	
15:30-16:00	Coffee break			
16:00-17:30	Panel discussion	Prof. Charles Godfray (Oxford Martin School) Dr. Stefan Mann (Agroscope) Prof. José Martínez (University of Göttingen) Dr. Friederike Schmitz (Philosopher)	Transformative Meat Governance for Human, Animal, and Planetary Health	Dr. Marie-Hélène Peter-Spiess University of Zurich
17:30 or later	Working dinner			

FRIDAY, 17 JANUARY 2025 — CONFERENCE DAY 2

Time	Format	Speaker(s)	Talk / Paper	Session Moderator
8:45-9:00	Arrival at MPIL			
09:00-09:20	Talk	Dr. Lukas Fesenfeld ETH Zurich University of Bern	The Political Economy of Meat System Transformation	Dr. Saskia Stucki ZHAW
09:20-09:40	Discussion			
09:40-10:00	Talk	Dr. Nicolas Treich Toulouse School of Economics	Meat, Money and Externalities: The Case for an Animal Welfare Levy	
10:00-10:20	Discussion			
10:20-10:45	Coffee break			
10:45-11:05	Talk	Dr. Laura Burgers University of Amsterdam	Transforming the Meat Industry Through Environmental Litigation	Dr. Felix Aiwanger MPI Hamburg
11:05-11:25	Discussion			
11:25-11:45	Talk	Dr. Rebecca Williams University of Glasgow	Transforming the Livestock Sector Through Climate Change Mitigation Law	
11:45-12:05	Discussion			
12:05-12:25	Talk	Prof. Einat Albin Hebrew University Jerusalem	Transforming the Meat Industry Through Labour Law and Rights	
12:25-12:45	Discussion			
12:45-14:15	Lunch break			
14:15-14:35	Talk	Prof. Kirsi-Maria Halonen University of Lapland, University of Turku	Leveraging Public Procurement Law to Promote Meat-Free Meals	Prof. Anne Peters MPIL
14:35-14:55	Discussion			
14:55-15:15	Talk	Prof. Cesare Romano Loyola Law School, Los Angeles	The Human Right to Science and Cultured Meat	
15:15-15:35	Discussion			
15:35-15:55	Talk	Dr. Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi University of Bern	Animal Production Related Subsidies and Tariffs in Trade Regulation: Current and "Reimagined"	
15:55-16:15	Discussion			
16:15-16:45	Coffee break			
16:45-17:45	Keynote talk	Prof. Cass Sunstein Harvard Law School	Meat-free Nudges	Dr. Saskia Stucki ZHAW
17:45-18:00	Closing remarks	Prof. Anne Peters MPIL		

Please note that photos will be taken during the event for our reporting and communication with the public.

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Prof. Einat Albin – Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Odile Ammann – University of Lausanne

Dr. Laura Burgers – University of Amsterdam

Dr. Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi – University of Bern

Dr. Lukas Fesenfeld – ETH Zurich, University of Bern

Prof. Charles Godfray – Oxford Martin School

Prof. Kirsi-Maria Halonen – University of Lapland, University of Turku

Prof. Jennifer Jacquet – University of Miami

Dr. Stefan Mann – Agroscope

Prof. José Martínez – University of Göttingen

Prof. André Nollkaemper – University of Amsterdam

Prof. Anne Peters – MPIL

Prof. Katharina Pistor – Columbia Law School

Prof. Cesare Romano – Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Dr. Friederike Schmitz – Philosopher

Dr. Marco Springmann – University of Oxford

Prof. Kristen Stilt – Harvard Law School

Dr. Saskia Stucki – ZHAW

Prof. Cass Sunstein – Harvard Law School

Dr. Nicolas Treich – Toulouse School of Economics

Cleo Verkuil – Stockholm Environment Institute

Dr. Rebecca Williams – University of Glasgow

MODERATORS

Dr. Felix Aiwanger – Max Planck Institute for Comparative and
International Private Law, Hamburg

Jun. Prof. Lucia Sommerer – University of Halle-Wittenberg

Dr. Marie-Hélène Peter-Spiess – University of Zurich

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

PROF. EINAT ALBIN

Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Einat Albin is an associate professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem that specializes in the field of labour law. Her research focuses specifically on labour law in service economies, labour law and technology, dis-

ability and health. Einat also serves as the Academic Director of the Minerva Center for Human Rights at the Hebrew University.

DR. LAURA BURGERS

University of Amsterdam



Laura Burgers works as an assistant professor at the Amsterdam Centre for Transformative private law (ACT) of the University of Amsterdam. Her research interests include climate litigation,

and the rights of nature and animals. In the Netherlands, she closely collaborates with the artistic collective 'The Embassy of the North Sea'.

PROF. ODILE AMMANN

University of Lausanne



Odile Ammann is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice, and Public Administration of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. She holds a PhD in law from the University of Fribourg, Swit-

zerland, and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School. Her main areas of research are public international law, EU law, public law, comparative law, and legal theory. Her latest monograph and habilitation thesis compares and critically evaluates the constitutional framework that applies to lobbying in Europe and the United States. She is currently a visiting researcher at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC.

DR. ELISABETH BÜRGI BONANOMI

University of Bern



Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi, Dr. iur. and Attorney at Law, is based at the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern. She is member of the executive committee and head of the research area

'Sustainability Governance'. Her legal and interdisciplinary research focuses on the principle of sustainability; sustainable trade regimes; transnational value chains, commodity trading and illicit financial flows; food sustainability, trade and related economic policies; human rights due diligence; and sustainable finance. She is also lecturing Law and Sustainability at both the CDE and the Law Faculty of the University of Bern.

DR. LUKAS FESENFELD

ETH Zurich/University of Bern



Lukas Fesefeld is senior researcher at ETH Zurich and the University of Bern with a focus on environmental governance, political economy and the psychology of food and climate policy. He focuses on the role of

positive tipping points in transformation processes, especially in the context of food systems. Dr. Fesefeld regularly advises decision-makers from politics, administration, business, and civil society and is co-author of several policy reports, e.g. the Global Tipping Points Report, the SDSN report “Pathways to Switzerland’s Future of Food” or a recent report by the Food Systems Economics Commission. In 2014, Dr. Fesefeld founded NAH-haft, a think & do tank for the transformation of food systems.

Photo: © University of Bern / Image: Vera Knöpfel

PROF. CHARLES GODFRAY

Oxford Martin School



Charles Godfray is a population biologist with broad interests in science and the interplay of science and policy. He has spent his career at Oxford University and Imperial College and is currently Director of the

Oxford Martin School and Professor of Population Biology at Oxford. His research has involved experimental and theoretical studies in population and community ecology, epidemiology and evolutionary biology. He is particularly interested in food

security and chaired the UK Government Office of Science’s Foresight project on the Future of Food and Farming and recently stepped down as chair of the UK’s agricultural and environment (Defra) ministry’s Science Advisory Council.

PROF. KIRSI-MARIA HALONEN

University of Lapland, Finland



Kirsi-Maria Halonen is a Professor of Public Economic Law at the University of Lapland, Finland. She is a member of the Swedish Competition Authority’s research council, co-lead of the

European Procurement Law Group and a former member at the European Commission Stakeholder Expert Group on Public Procurement. Halonen leads research projects funded by the Academy of Finland and Finnish Ministries relating to effective public expenditure, public procurement and security of supply. Professor Halonen has authored many articles and edited research books on public procurement and acts as an editor of European Procurement Law Series (Elgar Publishing) and associate editor of the Journal of Public Procurement

PROF. JENNIFER JACQUET

University of Miami, FL USA



Jennifer Jacquet is an interdisciplinary researcher interested in patterns across transboundary environmental problems and the attempts to address them. She is Professor of

Environmental Science and Policy at the Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science at the University of Miami, and affiliated faculty with the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy. From 2012–2022, she worked in the Department of Environmental Studies at New York University. She is also author of *Is Shame Necessary* (2015; also published in German) and *The Playbook* (2022).

DR. STEFAN MANN

Agroscope



Stefan Mann studied agriculture and pursued a PhD in agriculture (Hohenheim University) and another one in Economics (Greifswald University). Since 2002 he works at Agroscope where he is heading the Socioeconomics research group. In 2019 he attended a full-time course in Peace and Conflict Management. Since that time, he focuses on the future of animal husbandry and transformation pathways to a postlethal agricultural system.

PROF. JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ

University of Göttingen



José Martínez is Professor at the Faculty of Law and Director of the Institute of Agricultural Law at the University of Göttingen. He is also the Editor of the “Review on Rural and Environmental Law” (Agrar- und Umweltrecht)

and Vice-President of the European Council of Rural Law (C.E.D.R.). Additionally, Professor Martínez holds advisory roles at the German

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the German Association for Rural Law (DGAR), and the National Committee ‘Animal Protection Act’ at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR).

PROF. ANDRÉ NOLLKAEMPER

University of Amsterdam



André Nollkaemper is University professor International Law and Sustainability at the University of Amsterdam. Before this appointment he was dean of the Amsterdam Law School (2016-2023) and, since

1998, professor of Public International Law. He is member of the Institut de Droit International Law, the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences of the Netherlands, former External Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and former President of the European Society of International Law. His academic work has addressed general international law, the law of international responsibility, international environmental law, and the international legal protection of animals.

DR. MARIE-HÉLÈNE PETER-SPIESS

University of Zurich



Marie-Hélène Peter-Spiess is a postdoctoral researcher at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich, an affiliated researcher at the Global Health Centre of the Geneva Graduate

Institute, and a Swiss-qualified lawyer. She has been a visiting researcher at the Faculty of Law of the University of Cambridge and at the Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University. She has also served as an adjunct lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, Reims campus. Her research interests include food and health law, and her doctoral thesis focused on food regulation and public health.

PROF. ANNE PETERS

MPIL



Director at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, a professor at Heidelberg, FU Berlin, and Basel, and a L Bates Lea Global Law Professor at the University of Michigan, member of the PCA and associate member of the IDI.

PROF. KATHARINA PISTOR

Columbia Law School



Katharina Pistor is the Edwin B. Parker Professor of Comparative Law at Columbia Law School and co-director of Columbia University's Center for Political Economy. Her research and teaching spans corporate law, corporate governance, money and finance, property rights, comparative law, and law and development. She is the co-recipient of the Max Planck Research Award (2012), and a

member of the Berlin-Brandenburg and the European Academies of Science. Her latest book is "The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality" (Princeton, 2019).

PROF. CESARE ROMANO

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, CA USA



Cesare Romano is Professor of Law at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. He is the co-author of Romano / Boggio, *The Human Right to Science: History, Development and Normative Content*, OUP, 2024. Between 1996 and 2006,

he created, developed, and managed the Project on International Courts and Tribunals. In 2011, he founded the International Human Rights Center at Loyola Law School and has since litigated dozens of cases, including the first to claim violation of the right to science (CESCR, S.C. and G.P. v. Italy, 22/2017). In 2018, he co-established Science for Democracy, serving as the organization's Secretary General since 2023.

DR. FRIEDERIKE SCHMITZ



Friederike Schmitz completed her PhD in philosophy at the University of Heidelberg in 2013. She has published three books and several articles on animal ethics. In recent years, her work has focussed on the question of how food systems can be transformed

to become just and sustainable, including a book published in 2022. She is the co-founder of the organisation Faba Konzepte which disseminates research on and promotes the reduction of animal agriculture and a shift towards plant-based diets.

DR. MARCO SPRINGMANN

University College, London



Marco Springmann is a Professor in Climate Change, Food Systems and Health at University College London, and a Senior Researcher on Environment and Health at the University of Oxford. He conducts

multi-disciplinary research that connects food systems, climate change, and public health. His research has been published in leading journals, including Nature, Science, The Lancet, the BMJ, and others. In addition, he has contributed to high-level reports, including those of the EAT-Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems, the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, the Global Nutrition Report, and the UN Environment Programme's Emissions Gap Report.

DR. SASKIA STUCKI

ZHAW/MPIL



Saskia Stucki is Senior Lecturer at the Zürich University of Applied Sciences, Researcher at the University of Zürich, and Habilitation candidate at the University of Basel. Her books include One Rights: Human and

Animal Rights in the Anthropocene (2023) and Grundrechte für Tiere (2016).

PROF. KRISTEN STILT

Harvard Law School

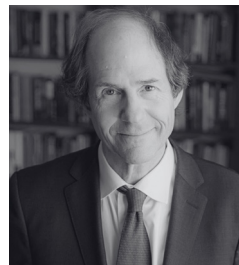


Kristen Stilt is a Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Faculty Director of the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard. Her research focuses on animal law,

law and society, and comparative constitutional law. She is currently working on a book project about the global animal agriculture industry to be published by Oxford University Press; the Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law with co-editors Anne Peters and Saskia Stucki; an Animal Law and Policy casebook with Justin Marceau; and, with Macarena Montes, "Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature," forthcoming in the Stanford Environmental Law Journal.

PROF. CASS R. SUNSTEIN

Harvard Law School



Cass R. Sunstein is currently the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard. He is the founder and director of the Program on Behavioral Economics and Public Policy at Harvard Law

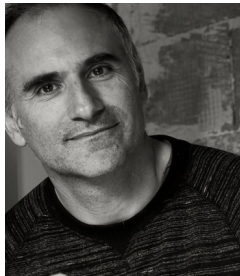
School. In 2020, the World Health Organization appointed him as Chair of its technical advisory group on Behavioural Insights and Sciences for Health. From 2009 to 2012, he was Administrator of the White House Office of Information and

Regulatory Affairs, and after that, he served on the President's Review Board on Intelligence and Communications Technologies and on the Pentagon's Defense Innovation Board. Mr. Sunstein has testified before congressional committees on many subjects, and he has advised officials at the United Nations, the European Commission, the World Bank, and many nations on issues of law and public policy.

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DR. NICOLAS TREICH

Toulouse



Nicolas Treich is a research associate at Toulouse School of Economics and INRAE in Toulouse, France. His publications span diverse areas such as decision theory, environmental economics and behavioural economics.

His recent research focuses on an emerging field: the economics of animal welfare.

CLEO VERKUIJL

Stockholm Environment Institute



Cleo Verkuijl is a Scientist at the Stockholm Environment Institute, US, where she leads research and policy engagement on international climate, food, and animal welfare governance.

She served as coordinating lead author of three major UN Environment Programme reports focused on fossil fuel policy and on alternative proteins. Cleo was a policy officer with Climate Action Network International during the Paris climate

negotiations and taught climate and environmental policy as Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University. She is a 2023-24 visiting fellow at the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School.

DR. REBECCA WILLIAMS

University of Glasgow



Rebecca Williams is a lecturer in Environmental Law at the University of Glasgow. She previously worked at Edinburgh Napier University and the University of Strathclyde, where she was the Interim Director of the

Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law. Her research focuses on the intersection of agricultural and environmental law, particularly with respect to livestock and climate change, forests, nitrates management, trade, public health, food security and climate justice

ABSTRACTS OF SPEAKERS

EINAT ALBIN

Transforming the Meat Industry Through Labour Law and Rights

Labour law protections intersect with principles of welfare recently explored in veterinary studies, including rest periods, maternity and parental rights, access to private spaces, and health and safety measures. These principles hold the potential to transform the meat industry. However, their integration presents significant challenges. This paper identifies four key tensions within labour law that must be addressed to enable such advancements: 1. Human Superiority, as labour law is inherently human-centric, framing non-humans as subservient commodities; 2. Forced Labour Protections, where the regulation of coerced labour in contexts like prisons or sheltered workshops raises dilemmas analogous to the non-autonomous roles of animals; 3. Lack of Representation, since animals, as voiceless beings, cannot advocate for their own rights or secure representation; and 4. Hierarchies Between Productive and Reproductive Labour, which manifest in the differentiated protections for labouring animals across sectors, from combat and care roles to those in the meat industry. The paper argues that addressing these tensions is essential for developing a labour law framework that includes animals in the meat industry.

ODILE AMMANN

How the Sausage Is Made: Lobbying by the Meat Industry

‘Laws are like sausages. It is best not to see them being made.’ This quote, which is usually attributed to Bismarck, unites the two themes of this contribution: lobbying and the meat industry. Lobbying is the attempt by individuals or entities with no legal authority in the law-making process

to influence those who hold such authority. It encompasses a broad range of practices, from direct contacts between lobbyists and lawmakers (‘inside lobbying’) to attempts to influence them indirectly via public opinion (‘outside lobbying’), e.g., via the media or advertising. Based on relevant legal materials, policy documents, and the scientific literature, this contribution takes stock of the meat industry’s lobbying practices. It evaluates them from the perspective of the OECD’s three pillars of lobbying regulation (transparency, equality of access, integrity), highlights the common features of these strategies, and shows how laws can enable or, to the contrary, constrain these lobbying practices.

LAURA BURGERS

Transforming the Meat Industry Through Environmental Litigation: Choosing Wisely in Times of Nationalist Populism

The nationalist populist government in the Netherlands prefers to weaken environmental standards over tackling environmental problems. With legislative change unlikely, resorting to courts becomes a logical strategy for those who care about the monstrous impacts of meat and dairy production on the climate, biodiversity, animal welfare and (indigenous) communities abroad. Yet populists deliberately violate law to be sued and convicted, only to vilify the judiciary, undermine its power, and ultimately destroy the rule of law and reign in an absolutist manner. Environmental activists should thus be cautious with litigation strategies, even when winning. Generally, strategic litigation is not only after favorable judgments, but also after influencing public opinion. Building on a persuasion science analytical framework, this paper explores how litigation against the meat and dairy industry can most strategically drive meaningful change, studying particularly: *whom* to sue, *whose interests*

should be highlighted and *what legal norms* can best be invoked.

ELISABETH BÜRGI BONANOMI

Animal Production Related Subsidies and Tariffs in Trade Regulation: Current and “Reimagined”

Animal production, particularly in OECD countries, continues to benefit substantially from subsidies and high tariffs. The design of these market instruments significantly influences how animal production is carried out. Using Switzerland as a case study, this talk will explore the extent of these support mechanisms and the production practices they sustain. These practices will be critically examined against the normative objectives outlined in the Swiss Constitution, which aim to balance environmental limits, animal welfare, food security, farmers’ livelihoods, and economic gains. The talk will also consider the compatibility of these practices with WTO regulations. Looking to the future, it will propose innovative approaches to reform domestic and international trade rules, aiming to govern subsidies and tariffs in ways that support the transition to more sustainable food systems. Insights will be drawn from two ongoing research projects that are currently ‘reimagining’ these trade frameworks.

LUKAS FESENFELD

The Political Economy of Meat System Transformation

In his presentation, Dr. Lukas Fesenfeld explores the political economy of transforming livestock systems, drawing on collective action and policy feedback theories. He identifies key barriers to transformation and highlights enablers for overcoming them. Dr. Fesenfeld explains how increasing market concentration and consolidation in supply chains have created feedback loops that reinforce

the economic and political power of vested interest groups, such as meat producers. He argues that ambitious policy reforms – such as stricter animal welfare regulations, subsidy changes, and emission pricing – typically involve concentrated costs and require new governance strategies to overcome resistance. Strategic policy sequencing offers a promising pathway, combining first supply-side “push” policies (e.g., innovation funds) that create concentrated benefits with less intrusive demand-side “pull” policies (e.g., public procurement changes and choice architecture). Feedback from these policies can then foster new support coalitions, shift public opinion, and enable more ambitious policy reforms. Dr. Fesenfeld illustrates this approach with empirical evidence and discusses future research directions.

KIRSI-MARIA HALONEN

Leveraging Public Procurement Law to Promote Meat-Free Meals

Public sector purchases account for a significant part of GDP within the EU, and the push for more effective sustainability measures through public procurement is advocated by both researchers and policymakers. Procurement directives and sector-specific regulations play a crucial role in defining the requirements under which public expenditure is allocated through procurement contracts to private economic operators. In late 2024, the new European Commission launched a reform of procurement directives aimed at enhancing sustainability, competition, and resilience through public spending. The presentation seeks to address how public procurement law can support the objective of defunding meat. What tools does it offer policymakers and contracting authorities to achieve this goal? The focus is on the possibilities and limitations of procurement rules in controlling food procurements while also considering other parallel public funding instruments, such as State Aid regulations. The presentation calls for a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework that considers public expenditure from a broader perspective

to create effective solutions for reducing meat consumption.

JENNIFER JACQUET

Exxon Knew. Did Tyson, Too? Comparing the Climate Responsibilities of Industrial Oil and Gas Producers with Industrial Meat and Dairy Producers

Jamieson (2015) has argued that “We should be pluralists about responsibility and shape whatever conceptions can help to explain, guide, and motivate our responses to climate change.” We should indeed be pluralists, and at the same time we should not be relativists. Different conceptions of attribution have different utilities, but some forms of attribution and responsibility have greater utility than others. I focus on four aspects of climate change attribution and responsibility: 1) emissions (including questions of responsibility that emerge given differences in potency and duration of greenhouse gases, as well as land-use change); 2) temporal (arguments that emissions since 1988 or since 2015 may be given greater weight); 3) epistemic (what firms knew, how they knew it, and when); and 4) policy obstruction. I will then use these four aspects to make comparisons about the climate responsibilities of oil and gas producers compared to meat and dairy producers.

ANDRÉ NOLLKAEMPER

The Shape of Things to Come: International Legal Foundations of Transformative Global Meat Governance

This paper examines the international legal foundations of a new, transformative global meat governance. The current global process of meat production, perpetuated by international legal practices, leads to severe adverse effects on animal welfare, the environment, and global health. Although international law sustains this exploitative practice, it also provides foundations for a transformative

governance structure capable of addressing these systemic challenges. The paper articulates these foundations and proposes a governance model that aligns food security with animal welfare, public health, and environmental protection. The paper identifies international legal support for key measures that a global governance framework should support (including reducing subsidies that sustain harmful practices, price mechanisms to internalize the true costs of meat production, and minimum standards for health, welfare, and environmental protection) and an institutional framework that can build on the Quadripartite, ensuring coordination across sectors. Although such transformative global meat governance is far removed from the prevailing situation, existing and developing international legal foundations indicate that it need not start from scratch, and provide direction for a global governance system for more sustainable practices.

CESARE ROMANO

The Human Right to Science and Cultured Meat

Cultured meat, also known as “cultivated meat” among other names, is a form of cellular agriculture where meat is produced by culturing animal cells in vitro. The planet’s current meat production system is resource-intensive (land and water), has negative environmental impacts (including on climate), causes animal suffering, and is linked to several public health issues, including animal-transmitted pandemics and antibiotic resistance. At the same time, global demand for meat is forecast to increase rapidly as the world population grows. Cultured meat has the potential to address many of the ethical, environmental, and public health issues associated with conventional meat production. So far, discussions about cultured meat have not adequately probed the issue of how States’ international legal obligations might shape national and transnational regulatory frameworks. While opposers of cultured meat often invoke the precautionary principle and the duty of States to

protect public health, the environment, and social values at large, those who favor it point to the obligations States have to combat climate change, ensure food supplies and to respect the right of everyone to benefit from progress in science and technology (known more succinctly as “the right to science”).

MARCO SPRINGMANN

The Environmental Impact of Meat and the Role of Dietary Change

The food system and in particular animal source foods are major drivers of environmental resource use and pollution. In this talk, Marco Springmann summarises model assessments on the environmental impacts of meat and dairy, and the role dietary changes could have for reducing those impacts. The results draw, among others, on his modelling work for the EAT-Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems, the Global Nutrition Report, and the UN Emissions Gap Report.

KRISTEN STILT

Meat and Zoonotic Disease

Livestock carry many pathogens that are transmissible to humans. Research suggests that eight of the 10 mammalian species who share the highest number of viruses with humans are domestic species typically used in food production, including pigs, cattle, sheep, and goats. Intensive animal production poses large-scale threats to public health. Access to these facilities is tightly controlled; sealing them off and keeping animals entirely indoors can reduce the frequency but increase the magnitude of disease outbreaks. Whether in extensive or intensive operations, raising, killing, and consuming animals and animal products carry significant risk of zoonotic disease. Many of the negative effects of animal agriculture are becoming well known, but the zoonotic disease risks are not yet

fully explored. This talk will make the case for adding zoonotic disease risk to the list of reasons, as this conference calls for, to defund meat.

NICOLAS TREICH

Meat, Money and Externalities: The Case for an Animal Welfare Levy

This talk provides a non-anthropocentric rationale for implementing a levy on meat consumption due to animal-welfare considerations. This levy operates as a Pigouvian tax and addresses externalities on farmed animals. In the benchmark model, the levy is a subsidy when an animal’s life is worth living, and a tax when it is not. Even under conservative assumptions, calibrated tax levels are substantial and would make most-intensive animal farms unprofitable. Taxes are significantly higher for chickens and pigs than for cows, in contrast to the taxation of other meat externalities.

CLEO VERKUIJL

Is Meat the New Oil? Lessons from Fossil Fuel Governance for Meat Governance

This talk delves into the parallels—and differences—between the fossil fuel and meat industries, considering how strategies from fossil fuel governance might inform approaches to tackle the adverse impacts of the meat industrial complex. It examines both sectors’ socio-economic contributions and highlights how strategies for fossil fuel phase-down, emphasising a just transition and investment in energy innovation, could provide critical insights for aligning the meat industry with global sustainability, health, and equity goals. Challenges unique to the meat sector are also considered, including the social, cultural, and personal significance of meat consumption, and the significant risk of introducing new public health and animal welfare challenges if the meat transition is not carefully managed.

REBECCA WILLIAMS

Transforming the Livestock Sector Through Climate Change Mitigation Law

This paper identifies the role of climate change mitigation law in helping facilitate a transformation of the food system towards a more sustainable global dietary model. Firstly, the role of law in the current landscape for the livestock sector is outlined, before addressing how current detrimental agricultural production models have been ‘locked in’ through agricultural governance historically. Then, core climate law provisions and its coverage of the agricultural sector will be delineated to establish the lacking coverage of agri-climate mitigation measures for the livestock sector presently. Opportunities to better align climate change mitigation goals for the livestock sector through law (particularly beyond the climate regime) are then provided, highlighting the importance of developed nations leading agri-climate action and the need for context specific legal solutions both within and outwith the climate regime.

LIST OF ENGAGED LISTENERS

Dr. Felix Aiwanger – Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg

Mag. Jur. Natalie Baltzer – Regional Court, Essen

Jean-Luc Blakey – ARIA

Ammar Bustami – Rechtsanwälte Günther, Hamburg

Yong Beom Choi – Seoul University

Sara Dusel M.Sc. – University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart

Ass. Prof. Giulia Formici – University of Parma

Dr. Peter Haversath – Judge

Ass. iur. Verena Kahl – University of Hamburg

Victoria Kühborth – University of Freiburg

Anna Leibinger – LMU Munich

Pierfrancesco Mattiolo – University of Antwerp

Anja Popp – Rechtsanwälte Günther, Hamburg

Jun. Prof. Lucia Sommerer – University of Halle

Roberto Talenti – Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa

Laura Tribess – University of Freiburg

GENERAL INFORMATION

Brochure

This brochure is only available as a pdf file.

Coffee Breaks

Coffee, tea, water and vegan snacks are available during the coffee breaks. A water dispenser is located in front of the conference room. You are kindly invited to bring and fill your own bottle.

Please note that it is not allowed to take open glasses or cups with drinks into the conference room.

Conference Dinner, 16 January

On Thursday evening after the conference, drinks and a vegan dinner buffet will be served to all participants.

Conference Room

As we tried to accommodate the maximum of participants in the room, there is no space for bigger bags, luggage or coats. Please use the wardrobe or the lockers located near the reception instead. Due to safety reasons please don't charge your electronic devices in the conference room.

Hotel

During the conference, speakers will be accommodated at [Premier Inn Hotel Heidelberg City Center](#). Kurfürsten-Anlage 23, 69115 Heidelberg (see map next page).

Internet Access

During the conference, you may access the internet via eduroam using the account of your home institution. Additionally, Wifi vouchers for guests are available at the registration desk.

List of Participants

A list of registered participants will be distributed to the participants shortly before the conference.

Lunch, 16 and 17 January 2025

On Thursday and Friday, a vegan lunch buffet will be available for all participants in the Institute's "Rotunde" (Foyer).

Online Participation

The conference will be live streamed (but not recorded). For online participation please register [here](#).

Parking

The MPIL has an own car park and a limited number of parking spaces is available for participants. Please ring the bell at the barrier.

Photographs / Filming

Taking photos or filming in the conference room is not allowed. Only members of the organizing team will be allowed to take photos.

Public Launch Event at DAI

On Wednesday, 15 January, at 8 p.m., Katharina Pistor will give a talk at the DAI Heidelberg followed by a discussion. Tickets for participants and further information are available on the DAI [website](#). The DAI is at 10 minutes walking distance from the conference hotel.

Public Transport

If you don't want to walk to the institute (2.6 km, 37 minutes from the conference hotel) you can take the tram (20 minutes from the hotel). The stop nearest to the MPIL is "Technologiepark". Stops near to the Premier Inn are "Römerkreis Süd" or "Römerstrasse". Information on public transport is available on [RNV Online](#).

Social Media

As of January 2025, the MPIL is no longer active on X. We use Bluesky instead and invite all participants to follow us there.

Taxi Companies

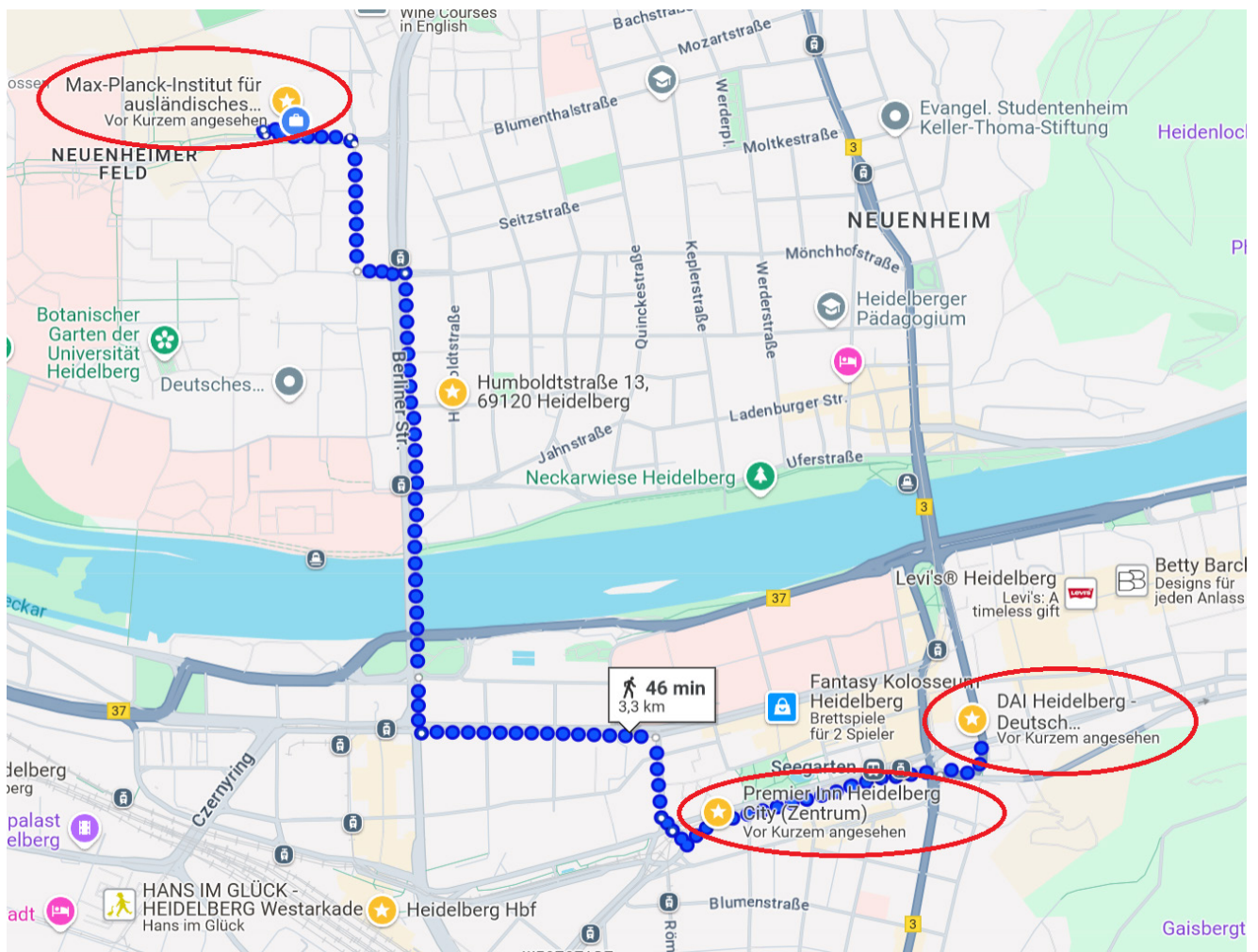
Taxizentrale Heidelberg, phone number: +49 6221/302030

Taxi HDirekt, phone number: +49 6221/739090

Taxi costs are not reimbursable.

For any further questions you can turn to the organization team at any time.

MAP



We especially thank Verena Schaller-Soltau and Angelika Schmidt for laying out this brochure, as well as Dietmar Bußmann for the technical support during the conference.



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE

FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Im Neuenheimer Feld 535

69120 Heidelberg

Germany

E-Mail: apeters-office@mpil.de

Phone: +49 (0) 6221 482307

www.mpil.de

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