
SustainEUorPlanet – Jean Monnet Chair Project

presents

SustainEUorPlanet Seminar

Monday, May 4 2026, from 15.00 to 17.00 (CEST)

AULA L Belmeloro, via Beniamino Andreatta, 8, Bologna

***Local, Regional and Global
Responses to Modern Slavery***

Jolyon Ford

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Introductory remarks and Discussant

Prof. Ludovica Chiussi Curzi

University of Bologna

Member of the SustainEUorPlanet Research Team

Abstract: Modern slavery endures as a deeply embedded feature of the global economy, manifesting across sectors and jurisdictions despite longstanding legal prohibitions. This lecture explores how responses to modern slavery are increasingly articulated across multiple levels of governance, local, regional, and global, and how their interaction shapes both the possibilities and limits of effective regulation.

Jolyon Ford: Jolyon Ford is Associate Professor at the Australian National University. Previously, he has been Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute for International Affairs, London (Chatham House) and a Research Associate of the Global Economic Governance programme at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government. He has worked in the federal public service, an intergovernmental organisation, academia, civil society, the private sector and freelance consulting. He holds degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), Cambridge University, and the ANU. He is admitted as a Legal Practitioner in New South Wales and in 2021 was appointed a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Ford is a member of the global committee on 'Human Rights in Times of Emergency' of the International Law Association. He was a 2021-2022 Fulbright Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. He served on the ANU College of Law executive from 2017 to 2022. Over 2022-2026 he helps lead an ARC (Australian Research Council) funded project 'Reconceiving Engagement with International Law in a Populist Era'. His most recent book is *Populism and Human Rights* (Routledge 2024).

Prof. Ludovica Chiussi Curzi: (PhD, University of Oslo; University of Bologna) is Associate Professor of International Law at the University of Bologna, Department of Legal Studies. She has been Lead Trainer of the Course on Human Rights and the Environment at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (2020-2025). She has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge (UK), the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, Columbia University (New York), and Sciences Po Law School (Paris). She serves as Expert to the Office of the State Attorney of the Republic of Italy in proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights and in investor-State arbitration, and regularly acts as counsel before international courts and tribunals. Ludovica is a member of the International Law Association Committee on Business and Human Rights and has published across several fields of international law, including international human rights law, international environmental law, international investment law, and business and human rights.

SustainEUorPlanet The Project, coordinated by the Jean Monnet Chair Prof. Elisa Baroncini, proposes an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the EU's international policies and legal frameworks directed to economic and social fairness, respect for the environment, access to clean energy and essential goods, while looking for security to overcome geopolitical tensions and asymmetries. SustainEUorPlanet has a twofold purpose. On one side, it offers a set of activities envisaging the promotion of a ruling and academic class of excellence, involving EU, national and international civil servants, politicians, NGOs, local businesses and public administration. On the other side, SustainEUorPlanet shows the leading role of the EU as a global actor in constantly promoting a sustainable agenda for trade, environment, energy and climate policies, highlighting the importance of economic operators' accountability and the relevance that EU citizens can have in shaping and enforcing EU's external tools through participation and transparency. Likewise, the Project focuses on political security policies in world economy. More information available on the Project's [website](#) and on [LinkedIn](#).