



**Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences**

<b>Proposed Title:</b> A New Constitution for the Environment: Improving Environmental Law through application of Animal Law Concepts and Multi-Species Governance
<b>Ref Number:</b> 10
<b>School:</b> School of Law
<b>Proposed Supervisory Team:</b> Dr Iyan Offor (director of studies) Dr Sarah Cooper (second supervisor)
<b>Abstract:</b> Environmental law is not fit for purpose. Despite decades of legislating, environmental crises are worsening. We have now entered a new geological epoch called the Anthropocene where human activity is the dominant, detrimental impact on climate and the environment. This research project will develop principles for a new global constitution for the environment. This constitutional framework will be ecocentric, inspiring more ambitious and impactful environmental law. This project compliments existing research on environmental constitutionalism, Earth System Law, Earth Jurisprudence and Wild Law. The goal is to impact further development of the Global Pact for the Environment and similar constitutional documents. The original contribution of this research project will be an investigation into the potential of global animal law scholarship and multispecies governance norms to impact and improve the ecocentricity of environmental constitutionalism. The animal law insights that will be explored and applied include its critique of legal subjectivity and the application of law's protective role to other animals. The project would investigate a multi-species governance decentring of the human subject in law. This project will produce a deep academic investigation into environmental science and global animal law. This project's research methodology is anchored in critical, posthumanist inquiry informed by critical animal studies as well as animal and environmental sciences. This inquiry is to be conducted doctrinally, with an emphasis on sociolegal and impact-oriented investigation. This will result in a set of recommendations to develop the Global Pact, a model set of provisions for constitutional instruments in environmental law, and a theoretical analysis of multispecies governance within environmental constitutionalism.
<b>Research Environment:</b> This proposal is supported by the Centre of Law, Science and Policy. The student will be enrolled on the PGCert in Research Practice and will receive tailored training in legal research methods. A dedicated PGR hub is available for quiet study and access to the online and physical resources of the libraries at BCU will be ensured.
<b>Applicant Requirements:</b> Essential criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A good first degree in law or another relevant subject such as environmental science, animal science, or a related discipline.</li></ul> Desirable criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A good postgraduate degree in law, environmental policy, environmental science, animal science or a related discipline.</li><li>- Strong, evidenced interest in animal law, environmental law, international and/or global law, and the application of critical perspectives to law and legal theory.</li></ul>
<b>Contact: Name, e-mail and telephone number:</b> Dr Iyan Offor - <a href="mailto:iyan.offor@bcu.ac.uk">iyan.offor@bcu.ac.uk</a> Dr Sarah Cooper – <a href="mailto:sarah.cooper@bcu.ac.uk">sarah.cooper@bcu.ac.uk</a>