



Public Lecture

## **Eco-constitutionalism: Recognising Environmental Rights and Values in a Constitution**

Public Lecture presented by  
**Catherine J Iorns Magallanes**  
BA, LLB(Hons)Well, LLM Yale

Constitutions around the world are increasingly including statements of environmental protection, both rights to healthy environments and obligations to protect them. This talk will address the various ways that a constitution can uphold environmental protections, including environmental human rights, responsibilities to protect the environment, and rights of the environment itself. It will discuss overseas examples of these various mechanisms and what might be used in the New Zealand context. It is intended to enable participants to make relevant submissions to the Constitutional Advisory Panel on appropriate constitutional protections for the environment in Aotearoa New Zealand.

### About the speaker:

Catherine Iorns is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Victoria University of Wellington. She teaches, researches and writes on environmental law topics, including environmental rights. Her recent work in this area includes a chapter on the exclusion and inclusion of indigenous environmental values in Western legal systems ("Native American Values and Laws of Exclusion," in *Environmental Law and Contrasting Ideas of Nature: A Constructivist Approach*, K Hirokawa (ed), forthcoming, Cambridge U.P., 2013). She is a member of the National Executive Committee of ECO (Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand), and an International Adviser to Nepal's Green Forum, as well as a national Governance Team member of Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand and a National Committee member of UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Wednesday, 12 June 2013, 5.30pm – 6.30pm**  
Lecture Theatre 1, Old Government Buildings,  
55 Lambton Quay, Wellington

New Zealand Centre for Public Law, Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington  
(RSVPs not required)