CALL FOR PAPERS

The Rights of Nature: Dialogues between Law and the Arts

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MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION
January 11th – April 30th, 2022

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
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**Description and objectives**
Over the past two decades, the relationship between nature, humans, and law has become a relevant object of study across much of the globe. The constitutionalization of the rights of nature in Bolivia and Ecuador and the recognition of legal rights for rivers in New Zealand and India, for example, have attracted the attention of law and social science scholars in both the Global North and South. The description, analysis, and evaluation of the intertwining of nature, people, and legal systems have resulted in discourses that complement, contradict, and interact with each other. These discourses examine different aspects of the problem from diverse political, theoretical, and disciplinary perspectives. Thus, for example, (i) researchers in environmental law, anthropology, and sociology have analyzed how law intersects with biocentric and anthropocentric perspectives of nature to protect or undermine ecosystems; (ii) scholars of constitutional law, political science, and international relations have focused on the constitutionalization of plant, mineral, and animal rights in countries such as Ecuador and Bolivia, on their regulation by international law, and on the advantages and disadvantages produced by the juridification of nature; (iii) legal theorists and political philosophers have focused on how this discourse connects modern law with usually marginalized moral, political, and legal traditions such as those of indigenous groups; and (iv) civil law researchers, property sociologists, and moral philosophers have analyzed how traditional ways of conceptualizing and regulating property are challenged by the idea that nature has rights. The diversity and richness of these political and epistemological processes, however, are not only of value because of the different ways in which they
contribute to understanding and critiquing the relationships between nature, human beings, and law. They are also so because they constitute a privileged ground based on which to understand and question the core aspects of contemporary globalization and juridical-political pluralism.

However, the relationship between human beings, law, and nature has also been a primary concern for pre-modern, modern, and contemporary art. The relationship between soundscape and the environment, trees as traces and iconography, nature as a form of knowledge—as defined in ancestral knowledge systems, and human intervention in nature, among others, are indicative of the issues and tensions at play in the debates on the rights of nature. Likewise, these questions are present in various works of Inca art and Andean colonial baroque, among other pre-modern and modern artistic expressions. This thematic issue, thus, invites to explore perspectives of the long visual tradition that embodies this theme, but which has not been considered—necessarily—under the legal concept of the rights of nature.

Mainly, the issue’s objective is to critically examine contemporary debates around “the rights of nature” from a legal perspective and from the viewpoint of the arts. We aim to select a set of texts written by scholars from various disciplines which critically analyze the rights of nature and discuss works by pre-modern, modern, and contemporary artists in dialogue with this understanding of the relationship between human beings and nature. Accordingly, the articles will address the conceptualization and theorization of the rights of nature from an interdisciplinary and historical perspective. As far as possible, these articles will also use artistic works as primary sources for analysis. In this sense, in addition to relying on the existing works in the legal field, the issue bets on an innovative view in which the visual arts are integrated as sources of knowledge that can provide a new outlook for the legal conceptualization of the rights of nature.

**Thematic coverage**

1. History and theoretical foundations of the rights of nature

2. Cross-fertilization between different legal systems recognizing the rights of nature: Which legal systems have been influential for the adoption of the rights of nature by other legal systems? How have they been influential? What patterns of diffusion can be made explicit, analyzed and criticized?

3. Rights of nature, international law, and national legal systems: interactions, complementarity, and tensions

4. Geopolitics of knowledge and the rights of nature: epistemology, law, and power

5. Contemporary art and the rights of nature

6. Modern art and the rights of nature
7. Colonial art and the rights of nature

8. Pre-Hispanic art and the rights of nature

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