Fifth Geneva Convention  
*Nature, conflict and international law in the anthropocene*

January 25 – 26, 2013

Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths  
London School of Economics and Political Science

http://www.forensic-architecture.org/explorations/5th-geneva-convention/

“Every battle or war ends up fighting against things or, rather, doing them violence.  
... we must, therefore, once again, under the threat of collective death, invent a law for  
objective violence. We must make a new pact, a new preliminary agreement with the objective  
enemy of the human world: the world as such.” --- Michel Serres, *The Natural Contract*,

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Nature occupies a central place in the history of human conflict. Wars --- colonial and  
modern --- have been and will continue to be fought over control and appropriation of  
natural resources, while the purposeful transformation of environmental conditions,  
either by destruction or construction, has always been deployed as means through  
which conflicts are conducted in space. What has substantially changed, and with  
increasing intensity since the invention of atmospheric warfare in early twenty  
century, is the technological capacity in mobilizing the environment as medium of
violence, the scale and duration of environmental destruction generated by modern war, and the exponential exhaustion of natural resources that feed the industrial basis that sustain the military complex. In turn, anthropogenic-induced modifications over environmental conditions led to radical transformations of the natural terrain itself, which, in feedback loop, is now transforming the political nature of human conflicts.

The Fifth Geneva Convention sets out to debate the relations between the environment and conflict, nature and politics, as they intersect into contemporary legal, scientific, spatial practices. Through a series of roundtables, the 5GC projects a long-term forum to enquire into the geological history of environmental violence in relation to the means by which such violence is deployed and legally moderated, and to ask how post-climate change/post-anthropocene scenarios will transform the relations between human conflict and the environment, the law that regulates their interactions, and ultimately, the very understanding of the nature itself.
DAY 01, 25 JAN
London School of Economics and Political Science, LSE
Moot Court Room, 7th floor, New Academic Building, Lincoln's Inn Fields
Map: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/mapsAndDirections/campusMap.pdf

10hs – 13hs
Opening/Welcome
Paulo Tavares / Adrian Lahoud, Fifth Geneva Convention
Responses: Alain Pottage (LSE) and Annelise Riles (Cornell University)

Open Debate

13hs – 14hs: Lunch

14hs – 17hs
Presentation: D. Graham Burnett (Princeton)
Responses: Territorial Agency and Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos (Westminster)

Open Debate

17hs: Coffee break

17:15 - 18hs
Ashkan Sepahvand (HKW), The Anthropocene Project

Open Debate

19hs: Dinner
DAY 02, JAN 26
Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths
Room 312, Richard Hoggart Building – Goldsmiths, New Cross
MAP: http://www.gold.ac.uk/find-us/

10:30 - 13:30hs

Presentations by Forensic Architecture Project

Opening/Introduction: Eyal Weizman

Adrian Lahoud: The Third Degree
Nabil Ahmed: Submerging state
L. Pezzani & C.Heller: Forensic Oceanography
Godofredo Pereira: The militarization of nature
Territorial Agency: North
Paulo Tavares: Genocide, Ethnocide, Ecocide

Responses: D. Graham Burnett (Princeton), Jennifer Marlow (3 Degrees Project) and Alain Pottage (LSE)

Open Debate

13:30 - 14:30hs: Lunch

14:30 - 17:00

Presentations by:
Louise Kulbicki: Ecocide, The Missing Fifth Crime Against Peace
Jennifer Marlow, Three Degrees Project

Open Debate

Closing of the 5GC, Adrian Lahoud and Paulo Tavares
Convened by Paulo Tavares and Adrian Lahoud

for attendance please contact
Paulo Tavares - paulorct at gmail.com
Adrian Lahoud - adrian.lahoud at gmail.com

**readings:**

Dipeshi Chakrabarty, *The climate of History*

Paulo Tavares and Adrian Lahoud, *Notes on the Fifth Geneva Convention Project*

**additional reading:**
Michel Serres, *The Natural Contract*

**Participants:**

D. Graham Burnett (Princeton)
is a historian of science, and recently held the Christian Gauss Fund University Preceptorship. The recipient of a 2009 Mellon New Directions Fellowship, he is currently working on connections between the sciences and the visual arts. Before joining the Princeton faculty in 2001 he taught at Yale and was a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities at Columbia University (1997–1999) and an inaugural fellow in the Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library (1999–2000). He is the author of *Descartes and the Hyperbolic Quest* (2005) and *A Trial By Jury* (2001) and his book *Trying Leviathan: The Nineteenth-Century New York Court Case That Put the Whale on Trial and Challenged the Order of Nature* (2007) won the 2007 Hermalyn Prize in Urban History and the New York City Book Award in 2008.
[http://www.princeton.edu/history/people/display_person.xml?netid=dburnett](http://www.princeton.edu/history/people/display_person.xml?netid=dburnett)

Alain Pottage (LSE)
is Reader in Property Law at the London School of Economics. He holds degrees from the University of Edinburgh and the London School of Economics. Before joining the Law Department of the LSE, he was a researcher at the Law Commission and a lecturer in the School of Law at King’s College London. He has been a visiting professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, the University of Sydney, and Cornell Law School. His research interest lie in intellectual property (with particular reference to the field of biotechnology), theories of property, law and anthropology, and social theory.
[http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/law/staff/alain-pottage.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/law/staff/alain-pottage.htm)
Annelise Riles (Cornell University)
is the Jack G. Clarke Professor of Law in Far East Legal Studies and Professor of Anthropology at Cornell, and she serves as Director of the Clarke Program in East Asian Law and Culture. Her work focuses on the transnational dimensions of laws, markets and culture across the fields of comparative law, conflict of laws, the anthropology of law, public international law and international financial regulation. Her most recent book, Collateral Knowledge: Legal Reasoning in the Global Financial Markets (Chicago Press 2011), is based on ten years of fieldwork among regulators and lawyers in the global derivatives markets. Her first book, The Network Inside Out, won the American Society of International Law's Certificate of Merit for 2000-2002. Professor Riles has conducted legal and anthropological research in China, Japan and the Pacific has served as a visiting Professor at Yale, University of Tokyo, the London School of Economics, University of Melbourne and as visiting researcher at the Bank of Japan.
http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/faculty/bio.cfm?id=62

Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos (Westminster International Law & Theory Centre)
LLB, LLM, PhD, has read Law in Thessaloniki, Greece, as well as in other European cities. He completed his LLM at King's College, London, and his PhD at Birkbeck College, London. He is Professor of Law & Theory and Director of the Westminster International Law & Theory Centre at the University of Westminster, London, an international research centre in the heart of London with a vibrant series of events, publications, internships and research clusters. Andreas's research interests include critical legal theory, autopoiesis, philosophy, psychoanalysis, architecture, geography, art, phenomenology, and their critical instances of confluence. He researches in the areas of environmental law, EU law, human rights and critical jurisprudence. Andreas has been awarded the Oxford University Press National Law Teacher of the Year Award 2011.
http://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/directory/philippopoulos-mihalopoulos-dr-andreas

Jennifer Marlow (The Three Degrees Project)
co-founded Three Degrees, a multidisciplinary climate justice project, and is an Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle. Jen graduated from Middlebury College in 2002 with a degree in environmental studies and literature, and earned her J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in 2010. Prior to law school, Jen worked as an editor at Orion magazine and as a writer and editor at Ecotrust. Jen is a member of the Washington State Bar:
www.threedegreeswarmer.org

Territorial Agency
founded by architects and urbanists John Palmesino and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog in 2007, is an independent organization that innovatively promotes and works for sustainable and integrated territorial transformations. Their practice combines architecture, analysis, advocacy and action, and often brings together multiple stakeholders from international organizations, to local, national governments and private actors. Amongst their projects is NORTH, a multidisciplinary research into the shifting geopolitical conditions of the Arctic and Subarctic regions, which focuses on the relation between political, spatial and territorial dimensions of the changing environments in the High North. Territorial Agency has further designed, for example, the first integrated vision of the Markermeer addressing the changing dynamics of the Netherlands' fifth largest polder and its surroundings.
www.territorialagency.com
Louise Kulbicki (The Ecocide Project, School of Advanced Study, University of London) is an advocate and lawyer for Eradicating Ecocide. Louise graduated with a first class honours in Law and went on to study a Masters in Environmental Law and Policy at UCL. Since joining Polly Higgins’s team in January 2012, Louise has spoken on many platforms. In October 2012 Louise was invited by the United Nations Environmental Programme and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to speak on an expert roundtable on the future of environmental crime about the Law of Ecocide. The outcome of which was that UNEP and UNICRI will launch a study into defining environmental crime and developing it further looking into the history of Ecocide within the UN. http://www.sas.ac.uk/hrc/projects/ecocide-project

Ashkan Sepahvand (Haus der Kulturen der Welt) (b. 1984, Tehran, Iran) is a translator and editor and currently a Research Associate at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin) for the Anthropocene Project (2013-2014). Publications include seeing studies (2011-2012), with Natascha Sadr Haghighian for the institute for incongruous translation, co-produced by dOCUMENTA (13) and Casco (with workshops in Kassel / Kabul / Poughkeepsie / Utrecht), then we went to search somewhere to stay the night (2011), with Azin Feizabadi and Sohrab Mohebi, produced by the Sharjah Art Foundation, and Other than someone, there was no one (2010), produced by Ashkal Alwan. His writings have appeared in Manifesta Journal, Sarai Reader, Muhtelif, and Bidoun. He has taught seminars and workshops at the International Art Academy Palestine, Umea Art Academy, and Vassar College. His work has been exhibited at Qalandiya International 2012, dOCUMENTA (13), Sharjah Biennial X, Jerusalem Show V, Home Works 5, Kunsthaus Bregenz, and MACBA.

Eyal Weizman is an architect, professor of visual cultures, and director of the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London. Since 2011 he has also been directing the European Research Council project Forensic Architecture, on the place of architecture in international humanitarian law. He is a founding member of the architectural collective DAAR in Beit Sahour, Palestine.

Nabil Ahmed is a contemporary visual artist, writer and musician. His work and various collaborative projects have been presented internationally including at The Centre for Possible Studies Serpentine Gallery, Barbican, Resonance FM, CCA Glasgow, Tate Modern, Nottingham Contemporary, no.w.here, South Asian Visual Arts Centre (SAVAC) in Toronto and the Royal Geographic Society. He is co-founder of Call & Response, a sound art collective and curatorial project based in London. He is a member of Chicago Boys While We Were Dreaming They Were Singing, a 1970s music revival band and neo-liberalism study group. He is currently a PhD candidate in Research Architecture at Goldsmiths. He lives and works in London.

Charles Heller originally from Geneva, completed a Masters in International Studies at Goldsmiths University, London, and graduated in Fine Arts from the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Geneva. Over the last few years his work has mainly focused on the politics of migration and the politics of art and media. In 2005, he released the 40’ video "NEM – NEE" on the social consequences of the new developments in asylum laws in Switzerland, screened at the U.N. in Geneva and human rights festivals. In 2006 he released “Crossroads at the Edge of Worlds”, a 37’ video on Sub-Saharan transit migrants in Morocco produced within the Maghreb Connection project. He is currently producing video and spatial evidence of non-
assistance to migrants at sea during NATO’s intervention in Libya. He is working towards a
PhD in Research Architecture at Goldsmiths.

Lorenzo Pezzani
is a researcher and a PhD candidate at the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths. His
work focuses on spatial politics, human rights and media. In 2007 and 2008, he was an
Assistant curator for Manifesta 7, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art in Rovereto, Italy. Since September 2012, he has been tutoring the course “History and Theory, MArch
Urban Design” at Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL, London)

Adrian Lahoud
Adrian Lahoud is Director of the M.Arch Urban Design and Reader at Bartlett School of
Architecture University College London. Before moving to the Centre for Research
Architecture, Goldsmiths to take up a role as Director of the MA, he lead the Urban Design
Masters at University of Technology Sydney, Adrian has also taught at the Architectural
Association London and Angewandte Vienna. Currently, his research focuses on ideas of scale within spatial practice and pedagogy. His thesis The Problem of Scale: the City, the Territory, the Planetary develops a theory of scalar genesis in architectural urbanism, territorial governance and planetary disputes over climate change.

Paulo Tavares
architect and urbanist graduated in Brazil, teaches at Goldsmiths, where he is also completing a PhD. His work is chiefly concerned with spatial politics, ecology and media. Recent projects deal with the relations between environmental violence and law in the case of the internal armed conflict in Guatemala and the colonization of the Amazon during the military dictatorship in Brazil. Currently he also works as lecturer at the Architecture School of the Catholic University of Ecuador.

Godofredo Pereira
is an architect, editor and teacher, based in Porto and London. He holds a MArch from the Bartlett School of Architecture, and is currently a PhD candidate at the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths. He is co-editor of ‘Detritos’ a portuguese journal of art and critical theory (www.revistadetritos.com) and curator of the project Objectology, for Guimarães – European Capital of Culture, 2012.

Stephen Humphreys (LSE)
is a Lecturer in International Law. He was formerly Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva, and, before that, Senior Officer at the Open Society Institute’s Justice Initiative in New York and Budapest. He has conducted policy work on climate change and in human rights in a variety of fora. His research interests include international legal and critical theory; rule of law; law and development; climate change; the laws of war; and transnational legal processes. He holds a PhD from Cambridge and a Master’s degree in law from SOAS. His publications include Theatre of the Rule of Law (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and the edited volume, Human Rights and Climate Change (Cambridge University Press, 2009).
http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/law/staff/stephen-humphreys.htm

Veerle Heyvaert (LSE)
is a Senior Lecturer in Law. She teaches environmental law and European law. She has an LL.M. from Harvard Law School and a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence (It). In 1998-1999, she was the inaugural Sir Peter North Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Keble College, Oxford. She has published extensively on issues of transnational environmental law and risk regulation, including recent articles on the emergence of hybrid
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