



ECO_CARE Course

Relationality, Water Governance, and Indigenous Perspectives in Environmental Law

Course Coordinators

Prof.
Prof.
Prof. Mana Elise Hera Tugend

Margherita
Giulia

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Partner Institutions

- Universidade Federal do Amazonas (UFAM)
- UiT The Arctic University of Norway – Faculty of Law

Course Format

Hybrid discipline with **online** and **in-person** sessions, including lectures, student presentations, and an international workshop.

Course Period

June 2026

Course Description

This ECO_CARE discipline explores contemporary debates in **environmental law**, **water governance**, **rights of nature**, and **legal pluralism** through the lens of

relationality, with special attention to **Indigenous perspectives** and Global South experiences.

The course is designed as an international and interdisciplinary learning space within the framework of the **ECO_CARE project** and the **Erasmus+ Programme**. It combines theoretical reflection, methodological discussion, and student-led presentations, encouraging participants to critically engage with questions of law, ecology, care, and justice.

Particular attention will be given to relational approaches to environmental law, the role of Indigenous and local knowledge systems, and the challenges of rethinking legal frameworks in response to the climate crisis and socio-ecological transformations.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the main themes and objectives of the **ECO_CARE project**.
 2. Explain the concept of **relationality** and its relevance to environmental law.
 3. Reflect critically on **rights of nature, legal pluralism, and Indigenous legal perspectives**.
 4. Analyse environmental and water-related issues through interdisciplinary and comparative approaches.
 5. Present research in English in an academic and international setting.
 6. Engage in dialogue with students and scholars from different institutional and cultural contexts.
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Course Content

The discipline will address, among others, the following themes:

- ECO_CARE: empathy, compassion, and care in environmental and water governance
 - Relationality as theoretical and methodological framework
 - Rights of nature and legal subjectivity
 - Indigenous knowledge systems and legal pluralism
 - Water governance and environmental justice
 - International environmental law from comparative and Global South perspectives
 - Student research presentations and international academic exchange
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Teaching Methodology

The course will combine:

- **Lectures**
- **Seminars**
- **Student paper presentations**
- **International workshop activities**
- **Discussion-based learning**
- **Comparative and interdisciplinary reflection**

Students will be encouraged to participate actively, present their research, and engage critically with the course themes.

Programme and Schedule

3 June 2026 – 15:00 (online)

Lecture **by** **Mana** **Elise** **Hera** **Tugend**
Topic: *Relationality and contemporary approaches to environmental law*
Introduction to relationality as a conceptual and methodological framework, including its implications for environmental law, rights of nature, and more-than-human relations.

10 June 2026 – 15:00 (in person)

Lecture **by** **Prof.** **Giulia** **Parola**
Topic: *ECO_CARE: project framework, objectives, and key themes*
Introduction to the ECO_CARE project, its academic and methodological foundations, and its relevance for water governance, Indigenous perspectives, and environmental law.

17 June 2026

ECO_CARE **Exchange** **Students** **Presentations**
Topic: *Research experiences in Norway (January mobility)*
Presentation session by exchange students on the research developed during their academic experience in Norway, with reflections on methods, themes, and international exchange (**Mario Angeloni Collaguazo Chuquilla; Mario Douglas Teixeira Bentes; José Joaquim Zandamela; Paulo Said Haddad Neto; Silvano Chue Muquissai; Cecília Silva Campos**)

18 June 2026 – 8:00 (Manaus time, hibrid session)

ECO_CARE & Erasmus+ International Student Presentations Workshop

Moderators: Margherita Poto, Mana Elise Hera Tugend, and Giulia Parola
International session dedicated to student paper presentations in English, promoting dialogue between UFAM and UiT and contributing to the academic exchange within the ECO_CARE and Erasmus+ framework.

24 June 2026

Closing Lecture by Mana Elise Hera Tugend

Topic: *Concluding reflections on relationality, research, and future directions*

Final lecture synthesising the main themes of the course and reflecting on future research pathways in environmental law, relationality, and interdisciplinary legal studies.