

Haniehalsadat Aboutorabifard

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Research Interests

- International investment law
- Investor-State Dispute Settlement Tribunals
- International environmental law
- Participatory role of non-state actors in the transnational investment law
- Incorporating environmental values into investor-state dispute settlement tribunals
- Transnational environmental initiatives and non-binding instrument

Summary of Qualifications

- Graduate research experience related to environmental policies and undergraduate degree in law; completion of International Law Summer Institute Certificate, Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)
- Atlas Agora intensive research workshop on public international law to gain a mastery of writing and critical thinking skills, University College Dublin
- Certified teaching experiences in engaging student, providing valuable comments, and selecting adequate teaching style, completion of TA Certificate in Teaching, York University
- Proven experience in analyzing a range of voluntary environmental standards within the financial market, from a climate-change perspective
- Strong writing and communication background resulting in publications, presentations, and Teaching Certificate, University of Waterloo
- Highly motivated leadership style with a disciplined approach to creating new methodologies; completion of Leadership Certificate, University of Waterloo
- Exceptional technical communication, interpersonal and presentation skills demonstrated in both academic and professional environments

Education

Candidate for PhD in Law, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, Ontario, September 2016-present, A

Thesis: Integrating environmental values into investor-state dispute tribunals

Thesis Supervisor: Professor Craig Scott

Master in Sustainability Management, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, September 2013- March 2016, GPA A

Thesis: Climate Change Mitigation and Equator Principles

Thesis Supervisor: Professor Neil Craik **Co-Advisor:** Professor Olaf Weber

Bachelor of Law, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran, September 2008-January 2012, GPA 88.15

Research Experience

PhD Thesis, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, September 2016-present.

- Examining environmental challenges raised in international investment tribunals
- Reviewing international investment agreements to identify provisions dealing with environmental challenges
- Reviewing international investment tribunal decisions on investor-state environmental disputes
- Examining the potential role of transnational environmental initiatives in incorporating environmental issues into international investment law

Master Thesis, Department of Environment, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, January 2014-present.

- Examined the contribution of the environmental initiatives developed by private commercial banks to climate change management
- Conducted primary and secondary context analysis on existing climate change policies and commercial banks-related guidelines to reveal the major implementation challenges of the EIA process recommended in Equator Principle towards climate change mitigation
- Researched ways to reduce the ambiguity and increase the transparency of environmental initiatives in addressing climate change issues
- Identified methods to strengthen the likely effectiveness of the Equator Principles to be more capable of climate change mitigation
- Wrote critical review and recommendations to improve the likely effectiveness of the policies in climate change mitigation
- Collaborated with two supervisors with distinctively different areas of expertise (Environmental Law and Economic Sustainability) to explore effects of climate change

Conference Presentations

“Holding Foreign Investors Environmentally Responsible,” Osgoode Graduate Law Student Association (GLSA) Conference: “Reimagining Law”, Toronto, August 2022

“Integrating Sustainable Development in International Investment Law,” The Association of Transnational Law Schools Workshop (ATLAS Agora), Toronto, May 2022

“Participatory Role of Individuals in Customary International Environmental Law,” Center for International Governance Innovation Graduate Student Workshop: “Disputers and Disruption,” Waterloo, August 2019

“Applicable Law in Investor-State Dispute Settlement tribunals,” The Association of Transnational Law Schools Workshop (ATLAS Agora), Dublin, Jun 2019

“Incorporating Environmental Values into International Investment Law: Examining the role of investment tribunal in environmental considerations,” Law and Society Association (LSA) Conference: “Law at the Crossroads: Le Droit à la Croisée des Chemins,” Toronto, June 2018.

“Challenges Facing Environmental Considerations within the Investment Sector,” University of British Columbia Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Graduate Conference: “Law and Contemporary Problems,” Vancouver, May 2018.

“Fragmentation Theory and Environmental Protection in the Field of International Investment Law,” Osgoode Graduate Law Student Association (GLSA) Conference: “Legal Pluralism: Intersections, Interactions and Embeddedness in Law,” Toronto, February 2018.

“Theory and Practice in the Field of EIA,” University of Calgary Graduate Student Law Conference: “Energy and Environment in the 21st Century,” Calgary, October 2017.

“Equator Principles and Climate Change Management,” International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference: “Impact Assessment’s Contribution to the Global Efforts in Addressing Climate Change,” Montreal, April 2017.

“Underlying Theories for Climate Change Integration into EIA,” Osgoode Graduate Law Student Association (GLSA) Conference: “Rights Right Now: Classic, Contemporary and Alternative Approaches,” Toronto, February 2017.

Poster Presentations

“How Can Financial Institutions Assess Project-Associated GHG Emissions?,” Upwind-Downwind Conference: “Air Quality, Climate Change and the Anthropocene,” Hamilton, February 2016.

“Climate Change Mitigation within the Project Finance Sector”, Third Annual Ontario Climate Consortium, Guelph, May 2015

Publication

H.Aboutorabifard, *Governance beyond the State: Delegating Law- Creating Power to Private Actors and Rethinking Authorities in International Law-Making*, Journal of World Sociopolitical Studies, 4. 2 (2020): 319-345 pp

Book Review: *Integrating Sustainable Development in International Investment Law*, by Manjiao Chi, Osgoode Hall Law Journal 57.2 (2021): 519-527

Book Review: *International Investment Law and Policy in Africa: Exploring a Human Rights Based Approach to Investment Regulation and Dispute Settlement*, by Fola Adeleke, Journal for Worldwide Holistic Sustainable Development (JWHSD), 5.1(2019), 45-57

Research Assistant Experience

Research Assistant, “Transnational Corporate Accountability Case Law”, York University, Summer 2023-present.

- Digesting cases in all national jurisdictions involving tort suits against multinationals, largely in their home-state courts, for harms abroad that could be characterized as violations of international human rights law or, possibly in some instances, international environmental law as well
- Saving cases as documents

IAIA Research Assistant Work Experience Program,

International Association for Impact Assessment, December 2017.

- Provided annotated links to relevant impact assessment mandates and regulations, (2) guidance documents (including internal agency protocols), (3) legal rulings, and (4) literature to assist practitioners with fulfilling legal, professional, and ethical obligations.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to Socio-legal Studies”, York Universities, Summer 2021-present.

- Held weekly online tutorials to discuss the core concepts of the course
- Hold in-person office hours to further address students’ issues and questions
- Marked and commented on students’ exams

Teaching Assistant, “Firm, Organizations & Management”, York University, Fall 2018- Winter 2019.

- Ran weekly tutorials to analyze the course contents in depth
- commented on students’ essay to enhance their understanding of the key concepts
- Held weekly office hours to assess student development and address their question in person

Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to Business and Society”, York University, Fall 2016- Winter 2018.

- Ran weekly tutorials to discuss course contents in depth
- Provided comments on students’ essay and exams to enhance their comprehensive understanding of reading materials
- Held weekly office hours to address students question in more details and individual discussion

Teaching Assistant, “Ecological Economy”, University of Waterloo, Winter 2014.

- Guided students to clearly understand ecological concepts and addressed their questions
- Followed provided rubric to grade midterm and final exam essay on selected sustainability topics; provided constructive feedback for 50 students
- Held weekly office hours to provide more details on complex concepts

Honours and Awards

- Nathanson Centre Fellowship, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2020-2021 academic year,
- International Law Research Program Doctoral Scholarship, Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2019-2020 academic year
- Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence, York University, 2018-2019 academic year,
- International Law Research Program Doctoral Scholarship, Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2018-2019 academic year
- Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence, York University, 2017-2018 academic year
- The Hon. William G.C. Howland Award of Excellence Entrance Scholarships, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2016- 2020 academic years
- Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence, York University, 2016-2017 academic year
- Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence, University of Waterloo, May 2015
- Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence, University of Waterloo, May 2014
- Environmental Studies Graduate Experience Award, University of Waterloo, January 2014,
- International Student Award, University of Waterloo, September 2013

Professional Memberships

- Member of Blue Dot Movement, David Suzuki Foundation, Waterloo, Canada, Fall 2014-Present

Professional Training and Certificates

Certificate in Personal Wellness & Learning Skills,

Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University, Winter 2021.

- Completing the requirements of a 12-hour training program in personal wellness and learning strategies

TA Certificate in Teaching (TACT),

York University, Fall 2017.

- Offers Teaching Assistants to learn more about teaching in post-secondary education. It comprises 5 three-hour face to face sessions plus an additional online component

IAIA Work Experience Program Certificate,

International Association for Impact Assessment, Fall 2017.

- Developed a Work Experience Program project that provides annotated links of relevant impact assessment (1) mandates and regulations, (2) guidance (3) legal rulings, and (4) literature to assist practitioners with fulfilling legal, professional, and ethical obligations

CIGI International Law Summer Institute Certificate,

Balsillie School of International Affairs and Centre for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, Canada, Summer 2015.

- One-week workshop on the sources of International Law, international organizations, compliance with environmental agreements, legitimacy and effectiveness of International Law, relation between International Law and global governance, interactional theory of International Law, and International Law research methods

Student Leadership Certificate,

Student Success Office, University of Waterloo, Winter 2015.

- 12 related workshops on principles and authenticity of leadership, conflict management, building credibility, succession planning, global intelligence, and planning effective team meetings

Teaching Fundamentals Certificate,

Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo, Winter 2015.

- 7 workshops on teaching with confidence, giving feedback, motivating student, and reducing participation anxiety
- 3 Microteaching Sessions to practice different teaching methods

Time Management Workshop,

Mitacs, University of Waterloo, Fall 2015.

CIGI What Is Climate Change? Workshop,

Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Canada, Fall 2013.

Professional Presentation Workshop,

Mitacs, University of Waterloo, Winter 2015.

Teaching Methods Workshop

Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo, Spring 2014.

Assessing and Improving Your Teaching Workshop,

Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo, Spring 2014.

Social Innovation within the Market Workshop,

Department of Environment, University of Waterloo, May 2014.

Volunteer Experience

York University Graduate Students Decanal Search Committee Member, 2022-2023
academic year.

- Developing criteria for the Osgoode Hall Law School's dean position
- Evaluating applicants based on the developed criteria
- Interviewing with applicants

- Ranking top three applicants for the Osgoode Hall Law School's dean position

York University Graduate Students Digital Innovation Committee Member, 2018-2019 academic year.

- Made recommendations to Faculty Council or to other committees of Faculty Council on issues within its or their jurisdiction relating to digital innovation
- Commented on decisions of the Administration relating to digital innovation and information technology

York University Graduate Students Association Representative, 2017-2018 academic year.

- Attended the monthly meetings of the YUGSA Council
- Applied for YUGSA's Operating Grant Fund
- Reported to the GLSA on issues raised at the meeting

Blue Dot Movement, "David Suzuki Foundation", Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, Fall 2014-Winter 2015.

- Participated in classes on how to educate on environmental rights
- Collected signatures for the right to healthy environment
- Attended regular group meetings
- Motivated the Region of Waterloo community on right to healthy environment

Coordinator of Iranian Students Community, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, Fall 2013-Winter 2016.

- Ran weekly gatherings for 100 students
- Organized 12 special and cultural events for 200 students per year