CALL FOR ARTICLES

The PACE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW is looking to compile a Special Issue, titled Climate, Energy, and Our Underlying Environmental Ethic, to be published in May 2016.

According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “environmental ethics” encompasses the moral relationship between humans and the environment, including the value and moral status of the non-human constituents of the environment. Paradigms of environmental ethics range from anthropocentrism to deep ecology to eco-feminism to animism to social ecology, and so on. A strong argument can be made that the vast majority of the environmental laws and regulations in the United States are centered in anthropocentrism. Can other ethical paradigms be found within existing laws? Perhaps. But the more interesting question is: Should other ethical paradigms be present in our environmental laws and regulations?

If so, how would the inclusion of, or the complete re-shift in focus to, other ethical paradigms change our existing environmental laws and policies? Would it change the effectiveness, comprehensiveness, or strength of our environmental regulation? Would it change how we, as humans, view and interact with the rest of the environment? Would it change how we think about and act on environmental preservation, in ensuring the endurance of wild spaces and other species for future generations? What kinds of new laws, policies, or regulations would be available to us, if any, if we shift to another ethical paradigm?

Climate change provides a unique area of focus for these questions, because, arguably, the emerging challenges related to a changing global climate are challenging or will challenge us directly at our environmental ethical core. How can we adequately protect other species and ecosystems if our regulatory and legal frameworks are anthropocentric? Energy law and policy, as a major component of the climate problem and also at the forefront of sustainability and resiliency issues, also provides a unique area of focus. For instance, if we had or if we adopt a different environmental ethical paradigm, would we still have a Clean Power Plan or Climate Action Plan? What will those policies look like if emerging climate and energy issues lead us to change our underlying environmental ethic? Would it be easier or harder for us to achieve a “smarter” grid, distributed energy, or widespread microgrids?

In continuing its tradition of publishing innovative and cutting-edge articles on environmental law and policy, PELR is seeking submissions relating to the above questions and ideas. Authors are invited to submit articles to pelracq@law.pace.edu by January 23, 2016, with some notice either in the subject line or in the email body that the article is for consideration for the Special Issue. Thank you.