

MARIA ANGELA HEFTI

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CURRENT POSITION

Florida International University (FIU) College of Law, Miami FL

Assistant Professor of Law

August 2025 – Present

Teaching:

- Torts Section A – Fall 2025
- Torts Section B – Fall 2025

Committee:

- Curriculum Committee (August 2025 – Present)

EDUCATION

University of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland, February 2020

PhD in Law *summa cum laude*

Dissertation: *Conceptualizing Femicide as a Human Rights Violation: Beyond the Reach of International Law?* supervised by Prof. Martina Caroni, LL.M. (Yale)

Award: Professor Walther Hug Prize, awarded for best doctoral dissertations in law

Yale Law School, New Haven, United States, May 2018

LL.M. Fulbright Fellow

Activities: *Yale Journal of International Law*, Editor
Yale Journal of Law and Feminism, Editor
Reading Group on *Women, Law, and Cinema*, Co-Leader
Title IX Committee, Member
Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, Member
World Human Rights Moot Court, Coach
Research Assistant to Prof. Alice Miller

University of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland, May 2013

MLaw Transnational Legal Studies, *summa cum laude*

Activities: World Human Rights Moot Court, First Place (Memorials)

University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland, June 2011

BLaw, Swiss and International Law in French and German with specializations in European and Religious Law

Study Abroad: *University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria*, Gran Canaria, Spain (studied Spanish Law for a full year - Erasmus Exchange, August 2009 – June 2010)

PUBLICATIONS

Law Reviews:

- Comparative Judicial Enforcement (forthcoming WASH. L. REV. 2026, with Rosa Hayes)
- Contributions of the African Human Rights System to International Climate Law

(forthcoming YALE J. INT'L L. 2026, with Abadir M. Ibrahim)

- An Ecofeminist Approach to Climate Risks, 46(3) MICH. J. INT'L L. 363 (2025)
- Intersectional Victims as Agents of Change in International Human Rights-Based Climate Litigation, TRANSNAT'L ENVTL. L. 1 (2024) (peer-reviewed)
- A Health-Centric Intersectional Approach to Climate Litigation at the European Court of Human Rights, 37 HARV. HUM. RTS. J. 351 (2024) (with Hannah van Kolfschooten and Aminta Ossom)
- From Hate Speech to Incitement to Genocide: The Role of the Media in the Rwandan Genocide 38(1) B.U. INT'L L.J. 1 (2020) (with Laura Ausserladscheider)
- Bringing the Right to Water into the Spotlight: A Civil Right before the European Court of Human Rights? REV. EUR. COMP. & INT'L ENVTL. L. 50 (2022) (with Helen Keller, peer-reviewed)

Books:

- CONCEPTUALIZING FEMICIDE AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION: STATE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW (2022) (peer-reviewed)
- WHAT THE LAW DOES TO OUR BODIES, Conference Proceedings Gender Law Conference (2024) (co-edited book, with Joelle Vuille et al.,)

Book chapters:

- *Herstoric Climate Litigation: Verein KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland*, in FEMINIST APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (Rowena Maguire & Katherine Keene eds., forthcoming 2026)

Blog Posts:

- The European Court of Human Rights recognizes Femi(ni)cide as a Human Rights Violation: N.D. v. Switzerland, STRASBOURG OBSERVERS (July 16, 2025)
- Intersectionality and Standing in Climate-Related Human Rights Cases - Harvard Law School (HARV. HUM. RTS. REFLECTIONS, April 22, 2024)
- The European Court of Human Rights' Gendered Climate Docket: KlimaSeniorinnen and Duarte Agostinho (OXFORD HUM. RTS. BLOG, April 1, 2024)
- Women's Health Rights can Guide International Climate Litigation: KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland before the European Court of Human Rights (HARV. HEALTH AND HUM. RTS. J. BLOG, May 15, 2023, with Hannah van Kolfschooten)
- What's next in Climate Litigation before the European Court of Human Rights? Duarte Agostinho and Others v Portugal and 32 other States (OXFORD HUM. RTS. BLOG, May 2, 2023)
- López Soto v Venezuela: The Inter-American Court of Human Rights' Answer to Violence Against Women (OXFORD HUM. RTS. BLOG, June 19, 2019)

Publications in French and German:

- Temporary Protection Status S in Switzerland of People Fleeing the War in Ukraine, 4 REVUE DE L'AVOCAT 155 (2022) (in French, with Léa Hemmi)
- The International Labor Organization and the European Convention on Human Rights: The European Court of Human Rights' Reception of International Labor Law, AKTUELLE JURISTISCHE PRAXIS 593 (2020) (in German, with Helen Keller)
- Cross-Border Commuters, in MIGRATION LAW, Martina Caroni et al., (eds), 2024 (in German)
- Cross-Border Services, in MIGRATION LAW, Martina Caroni et al., (eds), 2024 (in German)

- Gender Equality before the European Court of Human Rights, CODE COMMENTÉ, Diane Bernard, Chloé Harmel (eds), Bruxelles, Larcier 2020 (in French, with Elena Brodeala) (peer-reviewed)
- Article 18 Swiss Constitution (Freedom to use any Language), COMMENTARY TO THE SWISS CONSTITUTION, Bernhard Waldmann et al. (eds), 393-407, 2015 (in German, with Martina Caroni)
- Internship at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, RECHT, 141-143(2014) (in German)

PRESENTATIONS

Paper presentations:

A U.S. – International Judicial Dialogue on Climate Change

- Northeastern Junior Scholars Conference, Mar. 2025
- VSVR Colloquium, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, Jan. 2025

Contributions of the African Human Rights System to International Climate Law (with Abadir M. Ibrahim)

- Harvard Law School, Comparative Law Class taught by Idriss Fofana and William P. Alford, Cambridge, MA, Nov. 2024

An Ecofeminist Approach to Climate Risks:

- Future Environmental Law Professors Workshop, Pace Law School, White Plains, NY, Sept. 2024
- Law & Society Conference, Denver, CO, June 2024
- VSRE Spring Colloquium, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, Feb. 2024

Intersectional Victims as Agents of Change in International Climate Litigation:

- Oxford University, All Souls College, International Law Workshop in Honor of Professor Catherine Redgwell, June 2023
- Environmental Law Conference, UCL College of Law/Kings' College, London, UK, May 2023
- VSRE Spring Colloquium, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, Feb. 2023

Chilling Climate Protests:

- European Human Rights Law Conference, Cambridge University, UK, Sept. 2023 (online)

Conceptualizing Femicide as a Human Rights Violation:

- Junior Scholars Conference, Michigan Law School (online), April 2021
- Legal Gender Studies Series, University of Zurich, Switzerland, Oct. 2021
- Yale Doctoral Workshop, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, May 2019

Bringing the Right to Water into the Spotlight:

- Human Rights and the Climate Change Crisis, University of Geneva, Switzerland, Nov. 2020

Invited Panelist and other Conference Activity:

- Respondent to Mitiku Dejen, "An Examination of Disability Inclusion in the African Union's Climate Change Policy and Regulatory Frameworks" Doctoral Colloquium, University of the Western Cape, South Africa (online), October 2024
- Respondent to Samrawit Damtew, "Critical Analysis of International Accountability Mechanisms for Climate Change induced Child Rights Violations in Africa," Doctoral Colloquium, University of the Western Cape, South Africa (online), May 2024
- Panelist, "Case Update: Climate Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights," Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, April 2024

- Moderator of the Panel, “Climate Change and Human Rights,” Conference on African Contributions to International Climate Law, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, March 2024
- Contribution on Climate Change and Human Rights, Future of Human Rights and Governance (FORGE), New York University, NY, Nov. 2023
- Panelist, “Clerkship Panel: Clerkship at the European Court of Human Rights,” Stanford Law School, Stanford CA (online), April 2023

RESEARCH IMPACT AND SERVICE

- Third party intervention in the climate case *Müllner v. Austria* before the European Court of Human Rights with the Human Rights Entrepreneurs Clinic at Harvard Law School (Dec. 2024)
- Contributed to Grant Proposal for the African Conference on Global Climate Law (Jan. 2024).
- Third party intervention to the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights in relation to the *Zero Daft in relation to the Study on the Impact of the Climate Change on Human and Peoples’ Rights in Africa*, with Abadir M. Ibrahim (Nov. 2023)
- Peer Reviewer for Springer Publishing, Transnational Environmental Law, Leiden Journal of International Law and European Human Rights Law Review
- Co-Organizer *Gender Law Conference*, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland (9-10 Feb. 2023)

CLERKSHIPS

Federal Administrative Court, St. Gallen, Switzerland

April 2021 – December 2022

Clerk for Judge Nina Spälti Giannakitsas (Asylum Appeals Division)

Clerked at the highest federal court dealing with asylum appeals. Prepared draft judgments on the merits (asylum law and human rights).

European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France

September 2019 – August 2020

Yale Postgraduate Robina Fellow / Clerk for Judge Helen Keller

Analyzed case materials and conducted research; assisted Judge Keller in the preparation of separate opinions and supported Judge Keller in a range of academic work, resulting in two publications.

Drafted a comparative law report for a case pending before the Grand Chamber. Drafted country contributions for various comparative law reports and updated research documents.

ACADEMIC AND PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Cambridge, MA, February 2023 – August 2025

Visiting Fellow/Researcher

Conducted research at the intersection of human rights and climate law. Supported the Human Rights Program in its activities, including by helping secure a grant for a climate conference. Contributed to the Human Rights Entrepreneurs Clinic’s work on climate change and contributed to the design and development of a seminar on Climate Change and Human Rights taught by Prof. Tyler Giannini. Supported third-party interventions in climate-related human rights cases before the European Court of Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France

October 2020 – December 2020

Lawyer

Processed applications against Switzerland and handled requests for measures to prevent expulsion to a country where the claimant faces a threat to life or risk of torture.

EttlerSutter Law, Zurich, Switzerland

September 2020

Expert on Human Rights and Climate Change

Conducted research on environmental law standards and prepared a revised draft application for the *Verein KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland* case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Yale Law School, Orville H. JR. Schell Center for International Human Rights, New Haven, CT

May 2018 – July 2019

Research Fellow

Participated in weekly doctoral workshops as well as research and legal writing workshops.

Activities: YLS European Law Association, Co-Founder & Co-President
Feminist Theory Reading Group, Member

Lucerne Academy for Human Rights Implementation, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

October 2015 – July 2017

Associate Director

Managed and executed the Academy program, including curriculum development. Acted as liaison person between the Academy and partners. Coordinated and coached the moot court.

University of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland

January 2014 – October 2015

Researcher for Prof. Martina Caroni, LL.M. (Yale)

Conducted research on constitutional law, international law, human rights, and migration law, as well as taught several human rights-related and migration law classes.

Inter-American Court of Human Rights, San José, Costa Rica

September 2013 – November 2013

Visiting Professional

Conducted research on state immunity and political rights. Drafted parts of judgments in English and Spanish.

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (Appeals Chamber), The Hague, Netherlands

May 2013 – July 2013

Intern

Conducted research on international criminal law, particularly on fair trial questions.

Center for International Communications and Art Law, University of Lucerne, Switzerland

October 2011 – November 2012

Junior Researcher for Prof. Christoph Graber

Edited, proofread, and completed research for a series of working papers, resulting in an edited volume entitled *International Trade in Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Legal and Policy Issues*.

Spanish Refugee Commission, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

January 2011 – June 2011

Volunteer

Assisted staff and lawyers with research and conducted basic English classes.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of International Law, Law and Society Association, The Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment, ATLAS Women