

Leipziger Meteorologisches Kolloquium

Donnerstag, 02.11.2023, 16.00 Uhr, Stephanstraße 3a, Bjerknes Lecture Hall und

online <https://uni-leipzig.zoom.us/j/64868268384?pwd=SExrV0FqSVIUMkhBYU1FVnV4dzJmZz09>
(Meeting ID: 648 6826 8384, Passcode: 190017)

Dr. Rupert Stuart-Smith
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“Legal liability for climate change impacts: the role of attribution science”

The courts have become an increasingly important venue for efforts to combat the impacts of climate change. Claims have brought on a range of legal grounds, but many climate lawsuits are based on the existence of a causal relationship between emissions of greenhouse gases and impacts that occur as a result. Such claims may be made to establish emitters' liability for climate change impacts, or to demonstrate that contributions to climate change cause harm, and therefore that greenhouse gas emissions should be curbed. Establishing causation in climate litigation requires synthesis of climate science and legal arguments. In this talk, it is evaluated how legal arguments can align with developments in climate change attribution science, a subfield of climate science that can assess the contribution of anthropogenic influence to climate-related impacts. It is also discussed how attribution-science evidence has been used in past lawsuits, and helped to respond to emerging scientific questions regarding the effects of climate change that have arisen in the courts.