



# Nautilus and the Three Robotic Undersea Monsters: Political Ecology of the Commons in International Law

SPEAKER:

**Usha Natarajan**

Genest Global Faculty Visitor

**March 1 2018 | 12:30 - 2:00pm | Ignat Kaneff Building, Room 2027**

The Canadian company, Nautilus, will be the first company to mine the deep seabed. Next year, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, Nautilus will use giant remote-controlled robots to mine the floor of the Bismarck Sea for copper and gold. The International Seabed Authority has issued twenty-seven mining licenses and, while Nautilus is the first to enter this new frontier, it is evident that mining of the global commons in the deep seabed as well as in outer space is growing in technological and economic feasibility. Concurrently, we also have increasing scientific knowledge of the environmental risks involved. Is the international law concept of the global commons useful for negotiating such risks? Can principles such as the common heritage of mankind help to overcome international law's history of strong mercantilist values and assist in an evolutionary turn towards greater ecological consciousness?

All are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided.

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Usha Natarajan is Associate Professor of International Law and Associate Director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo. She received the IUCN Award for Environmental Law and is a member of the Third World Approaches to International Law movement.