The international community is grappling with the increasing frequency and severity of a broad range of ‘man-made’ and ‘natural’ disasters. The current global landscape governing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is therefore in a significant period of evolution. It is likely that the reach of DRR will extend into many different legal regimes, both in the development of ‘soft’ (non-binding policy) and ‘hard’ (formally binding) law, governing a broad range of disasters.

**SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW**

Please join us at the University of Reading between 29 June and 1 July 2017 for the Disaster Risk Reduction and International Law Symposium organised by the Reading School of Law and the multidisciplinary Walker Institute, co-sponsored by the American Society of International Law (Disaster Law Interest Group). Framed around the principles and objectives underpinning the Sendai Framework on DRR 2015-30, and cognisant of the relevance of other global initiatives including the Sustainable Development Goals 2015 and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, this will be a unique opportunity to discuss, debate, inform and progress the development of law, policy and practice governing DRR and disasters at the national, regional and international levels.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

The symposium is expected to bring together a multinational spectrum of participants drawn from across governmental, intergovernmental, private, NGO/civil society, academic, and media sectors. Participants will comprise a mixture of those contributing papers and non-contributors informing wider discussions and debate. Whilst the discussions and papers will be framed primarily around international law and policy across a broad range of legal regimes, other disciplinary perspectives which inform law and policy understanding/development are welcome also.

**PROGRAMME**

The programme will comprise a mixture of keynote speakers, panel discussions, leading research presentations, interactive activities, and networking opportunities including planned social events. For more details see walker.ac.uk/news-events/disaster-risk-reduction-and-international-law-symposium-2017

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Papers are invited which examine one or more of the following research questions, and should be framed around key principles and objectives of the Sendai Framework on DRR:

1. What ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ law DRR related norms currently exist within international law, whether more generally or within specific legal regimes?
2. How will/should DRR related law and policy develop within specific fields of law?
3. What are the current and potential law, policy and/or practice implications of findings in (1) and/or (2), especially in relation to improving the coherence of DRR law at national/regional/global levels, and associated implementation and enforcement mechanisms?

Adopted approaches should include: (a) regional or country-specific case studies; (b) theoretical/conceptual frameworks; and/or (c) examples of state/non-state actor practice.

**Paper deadline:** Anyone wishing to present a paper should submit a **500 word abstract** outlining their proposed topic(s) together with a **personal biography** of no more than 200 words to drrsymposium@reading.ac.uk **by Friday 17 February 2017**. Decisions regarding whether or not proposed papers have been accepted will be communicated by mid/late March 2017.

A significant edited handbook is planned aimed at law and policy makers, to be published by Cambridge University Press (subject to contract following satisfactory peer review).

**HOW TO BOOK AND FURTHER DETAILS**

Further symposium and booking details are available at walker.ac.uk/news-events/disaster-risk-reduction-and-international-law-symposium-2017

Please email drrsymposium@reading.ac.uk if you wish to be notified when full booking details are available or for any other enquiries.