

LEEHI YONA

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SUMMARY

My scholarly focus lies in environmental regulation and climate law. I apply legal analysis and interdisciplinary approaches to greenhouse gas accounting, environmental justice, and climate governance, demonstrating the implications of environmental problems for law and policy. My research, which spans topics from improving carbon accounting to exploring youth participation in climate negotiations, has been published in scholarly journals including *Nature*, *Nature Sustainability*, and the *Journal of Environmental Science and Policy*. My legal scholarship, in addition to receiving media coverage and awards from both Stanford Law School and the California Lawyers Association, has been selected to participate in colloquia at Columbia Law School, the University of Utah S. J. Quinney College of Law, and Stanford Law School (co-hosted by Northwestern and Penn Law Schools).

EDUCATION

Stanford School of Sustainability Stanford, CA

Ph.D., Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (E-IPER), expected June 2024

Thesis: “Who (and What) Counts? The Science, Law, and Policy of Greenhouse Gas Inventories”

Stanford Law School Stanford, CA

J.D., completed June 2023, to be conferred June 2024

Honors: California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Student Writing Competition First Place Winner; Stanford Law School Olaus and Adolph Murie Award for Environmental Law; Knight-Hennessy Scholarship (graduate leadership program and full-tuition scholarship); Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholarship (regarded as Canada’s most prestigious social sciences doctoral scholarship); School of Sustainability Certificate of Achievement in Mentoring; Public Interest Fellow, John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law

Activities: Stanford Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Lab (Fellow, Human and Planetary Health); First-Generation/Low-Income Professionals (1L Representative and Academic Co-Chair); Women of Color Collective (Academic Chair); Environmental Law Society; Stanford Law School Bright Award for Environmental Sustainability (Nomination Committee)

Yale University New Haven, CT

Master of Environmental Science, May 2018

Honors: Merit Research Scholarship (awarded to “top candidates who show promise for significant contributions to research”); Carpenter-Sperry Award for Research

Activities: Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy; New Directions in Environmental Law Conference at Yale Law School (Co-Chair); Tropical Field Ecology Program in Ecuador

Thesis: “Translating Science to Policy: Soil Carbon and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”

Dartmouth College Hanover, NH

A.B., High Honors, Environmental Studies and Biological Sciences, Minor in Public Policy, June 2016

Honors: Senior Fellow (one of two students selected to pursue yearlong independent research in place of classes. Designed and completed project on systems thinking applied to international climate change negotiations. Received highest honors for writing two books for young climate activists); Donella Meadows Prize for Promoting Sustainability; Dartmouth Legacy Award (awarded to 19 seniors who most contributed to student life); Penelope W. and E. Roe Stamps IV Leadership Scholar Award (inaugural recipient; pursued an Arctic policy fellowship); James O. Freedman Presidential Scholar (independent research award to students in top 40% of their class. Topic: “Toward a 2015 Arctic Council Agenda: U.S.-Canada Relations in Advance of U.S. Chairmanship”); John R. 1968, James 1970, and Richard K. 1970 Lazarus Scholarship

Activities: Tropical Ecology Foreign Study Program (Costa Rica and Little Cayman Island, Winter 2015); Raynolds Expedition Grant (to study climate change in Israel)

TEACHING INTERESTS

Environmental Law; Property; Climate Law; Environmental Justice; International Environmental Law; Torts; Science, Technology, and the Law; Energy Law; Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Corporate Social Responsibility; Business Associations; Qualitative and Interdisciplinary Legal Research; Natural Resources Law; Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Climate Law (Seminar)

WORKING PAPER

[1] **Yona, L.** *Emissions Omissions: The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Gap* (Job Talk Paper)

To act on climate change, many governments and private actors have pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Those reductions turn on GHG accounting; progress toward emissions targets can only be truthfully determined if those emitters correctly inventory their GHGs in the first place. Current GHG accounting practices create a problem that undermines climate mitigation: unaccounted-for, “invisible” emissions that are measurable and caused by human activity but are excluded from institutional ledgers. These emissions omissions have profound consequences: the wider the gap between accounted-for and actual GHG emissions, the less effective climate laws and policies will be. Inadequate GHG accounting practices thus present a pressing threat to the effectiveness of climate law, yet GHG accounting has received little attention in legal scholarship. Drawing on research interviews and legal and policy documents, this article calls attention to and describes the role of GHG accounting in law. It applies concepts from information disclosure and financial accounting to propose a set of theoretical principles that represent an effective GHG accounting system. The article illustrates the implications of unaccounted-for GHG emissions for climate law. Finally, it suggests several recommendations to address this accounting gap and align GHG accounting practices with the proposed first principles.

- Winner, Olaus and Adolph Murie Award for Environmental Law at Stanford Law School
- Selected for the following workshops: Sabin Colloquium on Innovative Environmental Law Scholarship, Columbia Law School; Junior Faculty Forum on Law and STEM, co-hosted by Northwestern, Penn, and Stanford Law Schools; Natural Resources Law Teachers Workshop, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law; International Workshop for Environmental Law PhD Students, co-hosted by European Environmental Law Forum, European Law Institute, Faculties of Law of Opole University and Groningen University, German Competence Network for Environmental Law and Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
- News coverage: Ari Plachta, *California’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rose Last Year*, SACRAMENTO BEE, Oct. 28, 2023, at A4.

DRAFTS IN PROGRESS

[1] **Yona, L.**,* Rocchi, C., and Mach, K. *Factors Influencing Biofuels Emissions Accounting in California* (target: peer-reviewed law journals)

[2] **Yona, L.** *Poor Greenhouse Gas Accounting Exacerbates Environmental Injustices* (target: law reviews)

[3] **Yona, L.**,* and Reynolds, A. *Making Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Count Under the Clean Air Act* (target: law reviews)

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Note: Interdisciplinary work carries with it different co-authorship norms. For clarification purposes, an * denotes a research effort with multiple coauthors that I spearheaded, an ** denotes a research effort with multiple coauthors that I co-led, and an *** denotes efforts where all coauthors contributed equally.

[10] **Yona, L.** (2023). *Confronting Unaccounted-for Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Stockton, California*. Environmental Law News.

(Winner, California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Student Competition)

[9] Luers, A., **Yona, L.**,** Field, C.B., Jackson, R.B., Mach, K.J., Cashore, B.W., Elliott, C., Gifford, L. Honigsberg, C., Klaassen, L., Mathews, D., Peng, A., Stoll, C., Van Pelt, M., Virginia, R.A., Joppa, L. (2022). *How To Make Greenhouse Gas Accounting Reliable – Interoperable Emission Ledgers*. Nature.

[8] **Yona, L.**,* Cashore, B. W., and Bradford, M. A. (2022). *Factors Influencing the Development and Implementation of National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Methodologies*. Policy Design & Practice.

- [7] Ramaswami, A., Tong, K.K., Canadell, J.G., Jackson, R.B., Stokes, E., Dhakal, S., Finch, M., Jittrapirom, P., Singh, N., Yamagata, Y., Yewdall, E., **Yona, L.**, and Seto, K. (2021). *Carbon Analytics for Net-Zero Emission Sustainable Cities*. Nature Sustainability.
- [6] **Yona, L.**,* Dixon, M.D., Kapuscinski, A.R., Virginia, R.A. (2020). *Applying a Leverage Points Framework to the United Nations Climate Negotiations: The (Dis)Empowerment of Youth Participants*. Elementa Science of the Anthropocene.
- [5] **Yona, L.**,* Cashore, B.W., Jackson, R.B., Ometto, J., and Bradford, M.A. (2020). *Refining National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. *Ambio*.
(Cover story, *Ambio* October 2020 issue)
- [4] **Yona, L.**,* Cashore, B. W., Schmitz, O.J. (2019). *Integrating Policy and Ecology Systems to Achieve Path Dependent Climate Solutions*. *Journal of Environmental Science and Policy*.
- [3] Sarson, L., Muzik, V., Ray, B., Gambrell, G., **Yona, L.**, and Comeau, R. (2019). *The Model Arctic Council: Simulated Negotiations as Pedagogy and Embodied Diplomacy*. *American Review of Canadian Studies*.
- [2] Stephens, J. C., Frumhoff, P., and **Yona, L.***** (2018). *The Role of College and University Faculty in the Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement*. *Elementa Science of the Anthropocene*.
- [1] **Yona, L.**,* and Lenferna, A. (2016). The Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement Within Universities. In *Environment, Climate Change, and International Relations: Tendencies, Assessments, and Perspectives*. Ed. Atkins, E. E-International Relations, London, United Kingdom.

SELECTED ESSAYS, POLICY REPORTS, AND OTHER WRITING

- [9] **Yona, L.** (2023). (In)Visibly Eroding Bones, Bodies, and Landscapes. In *Uncharted: How Scientists Navigate Their Own Health, Research, and Experiences of Bias*. Ed. Bayer, S., and Serrato-Marks, G. Columbia University Press, New York, New York.
- [8] Thew, H., Marquardt, J., Karsgaard, C., and **Yona, L.** (2021). *Youth Participation in UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conferences: Challenges and Opportunities*. Report for United Kingdom policymakers ahead of COP26 United Nations climate change conference taking place in Glasgow.
- [7] **Yona, L.** (2019). *A Scientist and an Advocate*. *Science*.
- [6] **Yona, L.** (2017). *Climate Change Is the Issue of My Generation*. *The Nation*.
(National Winner, The Nation Student Writing Contest)
- [5] **Yona, L.** (2016). *Young Hope in a Dark World II: Anchoring Voices in Climate Science, Policy, and Advocacy*. Blurb Books.
- [4] **Yona, L.** (2016). *Young Hope in a Dark World I: Leverage Points for Climate Change Action*. Blurb Books.
- [3] Saylor, P., **Yona, L.**, Einhorn, J., and Hernandez, D. (2016). *Modernizing New Hampshire's Electricity Grid*. Policy Brief presented to New Hampshire House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee. Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop, Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth College.
- [2] Abbasi, H., Einhorn, J., Fiertz, M., Sheridan, M., and **Yona, L.** (2015). *Natural Gas in New Hampshire*. Policy Brief presented to New Hampshire House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee. Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop, Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth College.
- [1] Bond, P., Dorsey, M.K., Foran, J., Sabido, P., Shultz, J., Thanki, N., Tokar, B., Widick, R., Williams, E., and **Yona, L.** (2014). *What Now for Climate Justice? Social Movement Strategies for the Final Year of Struggle Over the Next Universal Climate Treaty*. International Institute of Climate Action Theory.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND COLLOQUIA

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, and Stanford Law School, Junior Scholars Law and STEM Conference, Presenter (2023)

Tel Aviv University Buchmann Faculty of Law, Visiting Scholar (2023)

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Natural Resources Law Teachers Workshop, Presenter (2023)

Columbia Law School, Sabin Colloquium for Innovative Environmental Law Scholarship, Presenter (2023)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Workshop: Development of a Framework for Evaluating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Information for Decision Making, Presenter (2022)

European Environmental Law Forum, European Law Institute, Faculty of Law of Opole University, Faculty of Law of Groningen University, German Competence Network for Environmental Law, and Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, International Workshop for Environmental Law PhD Students, Presenter (2022)

McGill University, Ethics in Management Course, Guest Lecturer (2021)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on Strengthening Sustainability Programs and Curricula at the Undergraduate and Graduate Levels, Presenter (2020)

Stony Brook University, Environmental Justice Course, Guest Lecturer (2020)

Stanford University, Hard Earth Seminar Series, Guest Lecturer (2019)

Climate Action Network International (Umbrella group representing over 1,000 environmental NGOs at the United Nations), Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Accounting and United Nations Policy, Presenter (2019)

University of Maine, School of Biology Seminar Series, Presenter (2018)

United States Society for Ecological Economics, Biennial Conference, Plenary Speaker (2017)

Dartmouth College, Sustainability Solutions Café, Invited Speaker (2013)

Marianopolis College, Third World and Environmental Studies Certificate, Guest Lecturer (2013)

EXPERIENCE

Stanford University	Stanford, CA
Center for Teaching and Learning	
<i>Peer Academic Coach</i>	December 2019 – August 2023
Individually coached undergraduate and graduate students to address challenges related to academic success.	
<i>Lead Learning Consultant</i>	March 2019 – August 2023
Led graduate and undergraduate students working as Peer Learning Consultants.	
<i>Graduate Learning Consultant</i>	December 2018 – March 2019
Led academic skills workshops. Created the Grad Study Halls program, which reached over 1,000 graduate students in one year. Nominated by colleagues to be Lead Learning Consultant and subsequently promoted.	
Haas Center for Public Service	
<i>Graduate Fellow</i>	June – August 2021
Conducted legal and scientific research on greenhouse gas accounting loopholes with environmental justice implications for the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), supervised by CEJA’s Climate and Air Counsel, supported through the Haas Center’s <i>Partnerships for Climate Justice in the Bay Area</i> initiative.	
School of Medicine	
<i>Teaching Fellow</i>	January – September 2022; March – June 2020
Co-taught <i>Exploring Israel’s Innovation Ecosystem for Human and Planetary Health</i> (MED 131) course for undergraduates along with Professors Sara Singer (School of Medicine) and Gordon Bloom (School of Business).	
Co-taught Bing Overseas Seminar Program in Israel in Summer 2022.	
The Academy for Systems Change	Norwich, VT
<i>Member, Board of Directors</i>	October 2019 – August 2022
Elected as the youngest member of the Board of Directors of organization aiming to advance “awareness-based systemic change in order to accelerate ecological, social, and economic well-being.”	
Green Coalition Verte Montréal	Montréal, Québec
<i>Member, Board of Directors</i>	May 2010 – May 2020
Elected as the youngest member of the Board of Directors of organization dedicated to urban conservation and restoration in the greater Montreal area.	

Mark A. Bradford Lab, Yale University

Research Assistant

Assisted research on soil respiration during wood decomposition.

New Haven, CT
August 2016 – May 2018

United Nations

Youth Delegate

Worldwide
June 2012 – December 2017

Participated in over a dozen United Nations climate change negotiations as a youth observer. Served as an official Canadian Youth Delegate to the COP23 summit in Bonn, Germany, in 2017. Co-led the media team for a youth delegation to COP21 in Paris, France, in 2015. Youth Representative to the UN General Assembly Opening Plenary, ushering in the Sustainable Development Goals with Malala Yousafzai and 195 other youth, in New York, NY in 2015. Part of an international youth communications team covering the UN SB42 negotiations in Bonn in 2015. Led delegation of youth to the UN Commission on Social Development in New York, NY in 2014. Youth Representative on Arctic Council Ministers panel at COP18 summit in Doha, Qatar, in 2012. Québec Youth Delegate to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012.

Union of Concerned Scientists

Climate and Energy Intern

Washington, DC
June – August 2015

Worked on Arctic Council and climate issues within UCS’s goal of bringing science to bear on policy.

SustainUS: U.S. Youth for Justice and Sustainability

Agents of Change Program Co-Coordinator

Washington, DC
September 2014 – October 2015

Coordinated delegations of over 100 United States-based youth to United Nations climate change negotiations.

Ross A. Virginia Lab, Dartmouth College

Research Assistant

Hanover, NH
July 2013 – June 2015

Conducted research relating to soil carbon storage in the Arctic; field season in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland.

SELECTED ADDITIONAL AWARDS

- Best Presentation/Paper Award, Sino-American Youth Dialogue
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Scholarship [offered]
- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship [offered]
- Stephen Bronfman Scholarship in Environmental Studies
- National Winner, The Nation Student Writing Contest
- “Young Climate Campaigner to Watch Before COP21”, The Guardian
- Canada’s Top Environmentalist Under 25
- Lieutenant Governor of Québec Youth Medal

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: French (proficient); Hebrew (proficient)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Referee Service: (1) Climatic Change; (2) Global Environmental Politics; (3) Journal of Environmental Management; (4) Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene; (5) Carbon Balance and Management

Public Engagement: Over 100 [opinion pieces](#) in publications including *Science*, *The Nation*, and the *Montreal Gazette* (Quebec’s largest English newspaper; over 20 pieces published). [Appeared in news and radio](#) outlets including *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Time*, *CBC News: The National*, *Globe and Mail* (Canada’s largest newspaper; regarded as the country’s “newspaper of record”).