Robin Craig  
University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law  
“Rethinking Sustainability to Deal with the Climate Change Trickster: Resilience Theory, the Anthropocene, and the Example of Marine Fisheries”
ABSTRACT

Climate change and the Anthropocene call into question the efficacy of sustainability goals embedded in environmental and natural resources law and policy. This talk, based on Professor Craig’s and Professor Melinda Harm Benson’s forthcoming book, THE END OF SUSTAINABILITY, offers a new framework for natural resources law and policy in the 21st century through the lens of marine fisheries management. Specifically, this talk will look at the discipline of resilience theory, which could helpfully update the mechanistic view of nature embedded in U.S. environmental law, and the cultural narrative of the trickster, which could more helpfully inform U.S. responses to a world of unpredictable and continuous natural change.

BIO

ROBIN KUNDIS CRAIG is the William H. Leary Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, where she is also affiliated with the College of Law’s Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources, and the Environment and the University’s Global Change and Sustainability Center. Professor Craig specializes in all things water, including the relationships between climate change and water; water and energy; the Clean Water Act; the intersection of water issues and land issues; marine biodiversity and marine protected areas; water law; and the relationships between environmental law and public health. She is the author, co-author, or editor of ten books, and has also written over 70 law review articles and book chapters. She has been appointed to three successive National Research Council committees on the Clean Water Act and the Mississippi River and two successive National Research Council committees on the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan; has consulted on water quality issues with the government of Victoria, Australia, and the Council on Environmental Cooperation in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; and was one of 12 marine educators chosen to participate in a 2010 program in the Papahanamokuakea Marine National Monument, spending a week on Midway Atoll. Professor Craig is the Chair of the ABA Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources’ 2015 33rd Annual Water Law Conference; she has also served as Chair of SEER’s Water Resources Committee and Marine Resources Committee, on SEER’s Executive Council, as Chair of the AALS Natural Resources Section and Maritime Law Section, and as a consultant to the Environmental Defense Fund and the River Network’s Nutrient Task Force.

Professor Craig earned her J.D. summa cum laude in 1996 from the Lewis & Clark School of Law, with a Certificate in Environmental Law; her Ph.D. in English/Literature and Science in 1993 from the University of California, Santa Barbara; her M.A. in Writing About Science in 1986 from the Johns Hopkins University; and her B.A. cum laude in English/Writing in 1985 from Pomona College.