

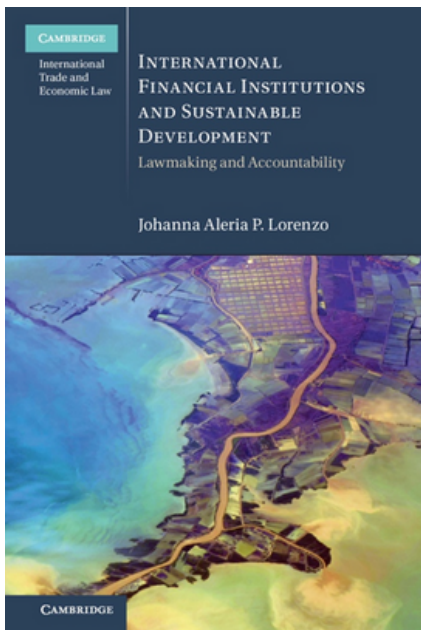
International Financial Institutions and Sustainable Development: Lawmaking and Accountability

By Johanna Aleria P. Lorenzo, University of Amsterdam

23 January 2026 (Friday) | 12.30pm to 2.00pm

Seminar Room 4-2 Block B Level 4, NUS (Bukit Timah Campus)

Abstract



When the World Bank funds development projects in the Global South, it not only provides financial support but also shapes international law. This book bridges theory and practice by introducing researchers, teachers, and students of international sustainable development law to the environmental and social safeguard policies of international financial institutions (IFIs). It examines the case law of independent accountability mechanisms that interpret these safeguards and provide remedies for individuals and communities negatively affected by development projects.

By analyzing both the procedural and substantive aspects of IFIs' safeguard systems, the book clarifies how these institutions and other non-state actors elaborate and contextually operationalize sustainable development. Viewing international economic law and sustainable development through the interconnected economic, environmental and social dimensions of projects in the Global South, the book offers a valuable counterbalance to existing literature. It highlights how IFIs' legal and policy frameworks influence global development norms and underscores the need for greater justice and responsibility in international financial governance. It therefore ends with a plea that, given the IFIs' critical roles as creatures, creators, and catalysts of international law—especially regarding sustainable development—international legal scholars should begin taking them seriously and further scrutinizing their 'internal' rules and operations.

About the Author



Johanna Aleria P. Lorenzo is Assistant Professor at the Amsterdam Center for International Law in the University of Amsterdam. Her research concentrates on the interactions of international economic law with socio-ecological and global governance concerns. Besides chapter contributions to edited volumes on international law and sustainable development, some of her works have appeared in the *Journal of International Economic Law* and the *International & Comparative Law Quarterly*. Johanna's recently published book, *International Financial Institutions and Sustainable Development: Lawmaking and Accountability* (CUP 2025), is based on her doctoral dissertation, which Yale Law School awarded the Ambrose Gherini Prize for best paper in international law. Dr. Lorenzo teaches Master's courses and supervises theses on general international law, international trade law, and the law of international financial institutions. She holds J.S.D. and LL.M. degrees from Yale Law School, as well as J.D. (Juris Doctor) and B.Sc. (Economics) from the University of the Philippines.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/apcelbt260123reg>



Registration closed on 5 January 2026

Lunch is provided for registered attendees.