

Susana Goytia Casermeiro

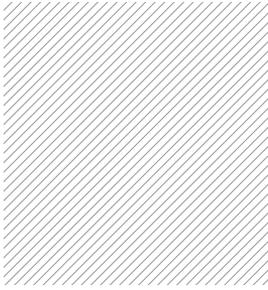
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My name is Susana Goytia Casermeiro and I am a LL.D. (Doctor of Laws) student at Luleå University of Technology, which is located in northern Sweden, in the Barents Region. I commenced my doctoral studies in 2012, two and a half years after moving to Scandinavia from my hometown of Salta, Argentina.

I currently work within EU FP7 project STAR-FLOOD (<http://www.starflood.eu/>) whose overall aim is to develop policies to better deal with flood risks in urban areas of Europe. The project builds on the assumption that flood vulnerable areas will be more resilient if, instead of relying solely on structural defences, they implement multiple flood risk management strategies -e.g. spatial planning, warning systems and insurance- in a simultaneous and aligned manner. However, the successful implementation



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of a resilient set of strategies in a certain area is dependent on it being properly institutionally embedded. My main role in the project is to analyse and evaluate the legal framework for flood risk management in Sweden, including the implementation of the EU Floods Directive. The project includes three case studies per participating country. For Sweden, these are Karlstad, Gothenburg and Kristianstad, three of our most flood vulnerable municipalities. These studies would be highly relevant for flood vulnerable areas in the Barents Region, such as Haparanda and Rovaniemi.

Today, I focus my research on water as a hazard. But water is also a source of life and susceptible to multiple uses including drinking, agriculture, fishing, energy production, navigation and recreation. Water often crosses borders, lacing together the people and communities in its path. Because of its features, water resources require different legal approaches and solutions than those applicable to other natural resources. Water Law is therefore a challenging discipline, which moreover is undergoing a period of reform, following an international recognition of the increasing pressure on water resources. Sweden in particular is debating substantial modifications to its long-standing regime of water operations in favour of fundamental environmental principles. Water resources need to be wisely and equitably managed if they are to sustain. This is obviously easier said than done. It is towards issues such as these where I hope my future research will take me.

In addition to research, my position as doctoral student requires me to teach at undergraduate level. Most of my teaching is on Constitutional Law and Administrative Law, but this fall I will get an opportunity to dive into Public International Law – a personal favourite. While I am writing my thesis in English, all teaching in the Jurisprudence programme at LTU is done in Swedish. In this matter, I find that each year that passes leaves behind a more confident teacher.