

CFRED's 15th Commercial Law Seminar:

**COMPANY LAW AND SUSTAINABILITY:
LEGAL BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

by

Prof. Beate Sjøfjell

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Chaired by: **Prof. Robin Huang**, *Faculty of Law, CUHK*

27 April 2016, Wednesday, 12:00 – 1:30p.m.
Faculty of Law Boardroom, 6/F Lee Shau Kee Building, CUHK, Shatin N.T.

The international research project Sustainable Companies (2010-2014) investigated the barriers to and opportunities for promoting environmental sustainability in company law through an in-depth comparative analysis of company law regimes across the world. A main result is that the social norm of shareholder primacy is the greatest barrier preventing progress, and it also helps explain why voluntary action by companies and investors is insufficient. By deconstructing the myth that shareholder primacy has a legal basis and challenging the economic postulates on which mainstream corporate governance debate is based, this research reveals a surprisingly large unexplored potential within current company law regimes for companies to reorient themselves towards sustainability. It also suggests possible methods of reforming the existing legal infrastructure for companies and contributes to the broader debate on how to achieve sustainability.

Professor Sjøfjell will present the work and the main results of the Sustainable Companies Project, and the new project that will develop this work further: Sustainable Market Actors for Responsible Trade (SMART). The SMART Project (2016-2020) is funded by the European Union's framework programme Horizon 2020, and has 25 international partners. The research team is interested in collaborating extensively with other scholars also, to contribute to resolving some of the most pressing issues of our time.

All are welcome!
Admission is free of charge!

Please join us by registering your interest [here](#) by 26 April 2016.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



Prof. Beate Sjøfjell

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Beate Sjøfjell is Professor Dr. Juris at the University of Oslo, Faculty of Law, Department of Private Law. Her fields of interest include company and financial market law, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility, EU law, environmental law and law and economics.

Beate is head of the Faculty's Research Group *Companies, Markets, Society and the Environment* (jus.uio.no/companies), the Faculty's European Law Network and the international network *Sustainable Market Actors* (jus.uio.no/companies under Networks). Beate is involved in several research projects, and she is coordinator of the international research projects *Sustainable Companies* project (2010-2014) and *Sustainable Market Actors for Responsible Trade* (SMART, commencing in 2016) (jus.uio.no/companies under Projects).

In addition to her monograph, *Towards a Sustainable European Company Law* (Kluwer Law International, 2009) and the edited volumes *The Greening of European Business Under EU Law: Taking Article 11 TFEU Seriously* (Routledge, 2015, co-editor Anja Wiesbrock), *Company Law and Sustainability: Legal Barriers and Opportunities* (Cambridge University Press, 2015, co-editor: Benjamin Richardson) and *Sustainable Public Procurement under EU Law: New Perspectives on the State as Stakeholder* (Cambridge University Press, 2016, forthcoming end of 2015, co-editor Anja Wiesbrock), Beate has published a number of papers on EU company law and the integration of sustainable development. Many of her papers are available at ssrn.com/author=375947.