

## Brief biography 2015

### Oran R. Young

Oran Young is a research professor at the Marine Science Institute and professor emeritus and co-director of the Program on Governance for Sustainable Development at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California (Santa Barbara). His research focuses on theories of environmental governance with applications to issues relating to climate change, marine systems, and the polar regions. He also does comparative research on environmental governance in China and the United States. Dr. Young served for six years as founding chair of the Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change of the US National Academy of Sciences. He chaired the Scientific Steering Committee of the international project on the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC). He was a founding co-chair of the Global Carbon Project and from 2005 to 2010 chaired the Scientific Committee of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change. An expert on Arctic issues, Dr. Young chaired the Steering Committee of the Arctic Governance Project and is the science advisor to the North Pacific Arctic Conferences. Past service in this realm includes co-chair of the Working Group on Arctic International Relations, member of the US Polar Research Board, founding board member of the Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, vice-president of the International Arctic Science Committee, chair of the Board of Governors of the University of the Arctic, consultant to the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, and co-chair of the 2004 Arctic Human Development Report. He is the author of more than 20 books. His recent books include *Institutional Dynamics: Emergent Patterns in International Environmental Governance* (2010) and *On Environmental Governance: Sustainability, Efficiency, and Equity* (2013). He is currently working on a book tentatively entitled *Sustainability in the Anthropocene: Governing Complex Systems*.

### Abstract:

#### **The Evolving Public Order of the Oceans: The Interplay of Interests, Ideas, and Influence**

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The oceans, which cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface, have become a focus of rising interest on the part of those interested in exploiting the economic potential of marine systems as well as those desiring to address growing threats to ocean health. While the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) continues to provide a foundation for ocean governance, new initiatives are coming into focus that may produce major adjustments in the public order of the oceans during the coming years. Three of these initiatives stand out: (i) the move to formulate legally-binding rules designed to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJs), (ii) the development of spatially and functionally explicit arrangements in such forms as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), regional seas agreements, and extended marine protected areas (MPAs), and (iii) expansive claims to jurisdiction over the seabed on the part of coastal states based on the provisions of Article 76 of UNCLOS. Who is behind each of these initiatives, and how do they frame both the problems they seek to address and their preferred solutions? Are these initiatives compatible with one another or are they likely to generate more or less severe conflicts among their backers? How will the resultant political processes play out with regard to the public order of the oceans during the near to medium term future? This presentation applies general perspectives derived from recent work on governance to address these questions.