

## **2018 Elisabeth Mann Borgese Lecture Series**

21st September 2018

### **Peaceful Oceans? The Role of International Dispute Settlement in Ocean Governance**

**Nele Matz-Lück**

#### **ABSTRACT**

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea reserves the ocean for peaceful uses. The exercise of the freedoms of the high seas like shipping and fishing and activities on the deep-sebed as well as the conduct of marine scientific research shall only be undertaken for peaceful purposes. Indeed concerns voiced by Ambassador Arvid Pardo in his famous speech at the UN General Assembly with regard to international conflicts over ocean use and ocean resources marked the beginning of a development that eventually resulted in the Convention on the Law of the Sea, the „constitution of the oceans“. If we look at the world's current state, we may have doubts about the peacefulness of the oceans and their use by humans. We see conflicts over ocean space including marine resources in various parts of the world, the South China Sea being a complex example, the use for military weapon testing, espionage, piracy and counter-piracy operations, the trafficking of migrants with a high rate of fatalities, the transport of weapons of mass destruction and the smuggling of drugs. Likewise, the effects that anthropogenic climate change has upon the ocean can lead to further threats of international peace and security, when people are displaced from islands or coasts due to rising sea levels and loss of ocean prosperity. Can international dispute settlement offer a solution to these threats to peaceful oceans? The talk will address questions of diplomatic and legal means to enhance ocean governance that puts peace and peaceful uses of the ocean in the centre.