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**THE EMERGING BIOECONOMY IN INTERNATIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL  
LAW**

**Alexander I. Stingl  
Institute for Advanced Study and Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies,  
University of Warwick, Coventry, UK**

We are witness to two central, intersecting developments within 21st century world politics:

- a) A socio-political-drive towards supplanting almost all traditional, fossil-based resource-dependent industries with new biotechnology industries and markets called “the Bioeconomy” - a vague, ambiguous, and often obscure term, behind which hides a complex discourse, almost exclusively conducted by a transnational epistemic community of experts but with far reaching consequences for society at large. Take a simple thing, a plastic water-bottle, as example. Once made with petrochemicals it became ecologically harmful trash. Today, these same bottles are produced by biochemical means as biodegradable. In the future, they will be made by bacteria, that are genetically edited to work like factories, and these would later also remake the bottles into animal feedstock. How, thus, to describe this Bioeconomy in general terms, aka its aim, claim, and task?
  - (a) The aim of the Bioeconomy is to transform global economy and industry from traditional, fossil-based industry to one entirely based on biotechnology and exploitation of ecosystem services.
  - (b) The claim is that Bioeconomy is sustainable while it spurs on global economic productivity.
  - (c) Its task is to increase the efficiency of the use of all biomass. These general clichés are misconceived.
- b) The Bioeconomy today exists in there realm of Transnational Law: A global legal doctrine, *lex extractiva*, is emerging in place of the *lex mercatoria*, remedying a global power shift of “corporate capture of normative spaces” by extractive industries.

In short, the Bioeconomy is at the same time a lawyer's game, a biologist's game, and a governance game: The rules of these games share and coproduce properties of the Bioeconomy across its different ecological niches.

The questions are "How is this transition and can it even be regulated via inter- and transnational law?" and "Can ways of thinking with alternative environmental legal orders and alternative living systems be a creative and provocative contribution to transnational governance?".