**Looking Back from 2045: Law, Critical Junctures and Alternative Economies**

**Bronwen Morgan**

**Professor of Law and Australian Research Council Future Fellowship holder at the UNSW School of Law**

Abstract

This panel will creatively explore the role that law might play in constituting, supporting and protecting alternative economies that are less damaging to shared natural resources and more supportive of diverse ways of human flourishing than our current primary model. The panel will be constructed as a dialogue pitched into the future, using the philosopher Tim Rayner's thought-provoking blog post '2045 United Federation Report on the Great Transition'

(<http://philosophyforchange.wordpress.com/2013/04/30/2045-united-federation-report-on-the-great-transition-the-culture-of-transition/>) as a probe.

Bronwen Morgan will start by painting a broad picture of practices that she sees as critical to the possibility of such a transition: practices that build from roots in activism towards new forms of enterprise. She will allude to three important ways in which law is highly salient here - in constructing an entity, as a response to harm and as delineating the line between gift and contract. She will then draw out these three threads by briefly interviewing Robert Pekin (FoodConnect Brisbane) and (TBC) Reverse Garbage Brisbane, pitching them into a future where the type of  organisation they have created are now a dominant mode of production, and asking them to reflect on some of the critical choices they made in the early stages of building these initiatives.

Speaker Biography

Bronwen Morgan is a Professor of Law and Australian Research Council Future Fellowship holder at the UNSW School of Law.  She joined UNSW Law School in October 2012, having taught at the University of Bristol, UK for seven years as Professor of Socio-legal Studies. Prior to Bristol, she taught at the University of Oxford in association with both St Hilda’s College and Wadham College, and a very long time ago, she taught at the University of Sydney Law School. Her research has long focused on transformations of the regulatory state in both national-comparative and transnational contexts but more recently, she has become particularly interested in the interaction between regulation and rights, especially in the context of social activism and claims for social and economic human rights. These lines of interest can be seen in her two most recent completed projects: one on the rise of the regulatory state in the developing world, and another on access to urban water services in comparative perspective. Currently she has begun working on two new research projects: one on legal support structures for social activists and social enterprises responding to climate change in Australia and the UK, and a second project (with Navroz Dubash, funded by the International Development Research Centre of Canada) on sub-national and local dimensions of climate change policy in developing countries, particularly India and South Africa.

Robert Pekin was born and bred on a dairy farm in Western Victoria, later to return to continue the family farm after a 10 year stint as an aircraft maintenance engineer, marine service proprietor, contract musterer, builders labourer, truck driver, mechanic and hydraulics technician. Since returning to farming his life has been committed to putting agriculture on a pathway out of the malaise of industrial agriculture to something that dignifies life and respects the landscape. His work in setting up Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and variations of over the past 16 years has been fruitful in that quest. He is focused on scaling up this distributed and highly networked food system (called the New Creative Food Economies) by collaborating with many thousands of farmers and social entrepreneurs.

Participant from Reverse Garbage to be confirmed and bio to be provided.