

Ken Conca is a professor in the Department of Environment, Development and Health within the School of International Service at American University. His research, teaching and service focus on global environmental politics, with a particular emphasis on water, the politics of resilience, global institutions, and the connections among environment, conflict, and peacebuilding:

- Since publishing the foundational book *Environmental Peacemaking* (Johns Hopkins/Woodrow Wilson Center Press) with Geoffrey D. Dabelko in 2002, Conca has been an intellectual leader in the emergent field of **environmental peacebuilding**. In 2017 he and Dabelko were awarded the Al-Moumin Environmental Peacebuilding Lecture, which recognizes thought leaders on the links between environmental change, conflict, and peace. He was a founding member of UN Environment’s Expert Advisory Group on Conflict and Peacebuilding, and served on the Scientific Steering Committee on Global Environmental Change and Human Security for the International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change. Conca was a keynote panelist on climate security at the annual Planetary Security Conference, and he has addressed UN ambassadors on the topic at UN headquarters. He has twice offered remarks for the record in proceedings conducted by special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission, on the question of protecting the environment in the context of armed conflict.
- Conca is also a leading authority on **water politics and policy**. His book *Governing Water* (MIT Press, 2006) won the Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for best book on global environmental affairs and the Chadwick Alger Prize for best book on international law and organization—the first time a single book had received both distinctions. He is the editor, with Erika Weintal, of the *Oxford Handbook on Water Politics and Policy* (Oxford, 2018) and the author of *Advanced Introduction to Water Politics* (Edward Elgar, 2021). His latest book, *After the Floods: The Search for Resilience in Ellicott City* (Oxford, 2024) focuses on the politics of flood resilience in a small town that was battered by two “thousand year” rainfall events in a period of twenty-two months.
- Conca has also published and spoken extensively on **global environmental governance**, with particular attention to the role of the United Nations. His book *An Unfinished Foundation: The United Nations and Global Environmental Governance* (Oxford, 2015) received the 2021 Grawemeyer Prize for Ideas that Improve World Order. The book traces the history of the UN’s efforts to address global environmental challenges and suggested a series of reforms to better align that work with the organization’s full mandate and uneven capabilities. He is on the editorial board of journal *Global Environmental Politics* and served for many years as associate editor for the journal.

Conca earned his PhD from the Energy & Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been a visiting scholar/fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), the Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), Uppsala University, MIT, and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Prior to joining the faculty at American University, he taught at the University of Maryland, and has been a visiting instructor at Mount Holyoke College (USA), Nankai University (China), the UN-mandated University for Peace (Costa Rica), and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Netherlands).