Research Handbook on International Law and Social Rights

Research Handbooks in International Law series

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This comprehensive Research Handbook offers a comparative overview of the history, nature and current status of social rights at the universal and regional level. Tracing their evolution from rather modest beginnings, to becoming the category of rights responding most accurately to the 21st century’s policy objectives of poverty eradication and equitable resource allocation, this Research Handbook assesses the mechanisms used to enhance the implementation and enforcement of social rights.

‘Economic and social rights have for a long time been the wallflowers in international human rights. Fortunately, this seems to be changing. We witness increasing acceptance of social rights as genuine human rights, albeit demanding an open mind, and overcoming many obstacles, in making them effective. Legal and social science literature driving this has grown remarkably in recent years. The Research Handbook now succeeds in integrating these new streams of thinking in a comprehensive, complete and compact way. It is the most efficient and up-to-date tool to acquaint us with the state of the field. As a veteran of the UN efforts to have international social rights taken seriously, I applaud its editors and authors on an achievement that is both academically respectable and useful in practice.’

– Bruno Simma, University of Michigan, US and Former Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

‘This Research Handbook, written by recognized experts, presents a timely and much-needed appraisal of the theory and recent practice of social rights in international law. It examines carefully the general aspects of international law and social rights, followed by in-depth studies of universal and regional analyses of the protection of social rights. The Handbook concludes with a series of lucidly written chapters showing the inter-linkages with other international regimes.’

– Eibe Riedel, University of Mannheim, Germany