Advanced Introduction to Law and Globalisation

Elgar Advanced Introductions series

Jaakko Husa, Professor in Law and Globalisation, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki, Finland

This Advanced Introduction offers a fresh critical analysis of various dimensions of law and globalisation, drawing on historical, normative, theoretical, and linguistic methodologies. Its comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach spans the fields of global legal pluralism, comparative legal studies, and international law.

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'The field of law and globalisation is increasingly important, but also increasingly difficult to navigate, because it encompasses an expanding range of concepts, perspectives, and phenomena — global law, global governance, transnational law, comparative law, legal pluralism, universalism, and so on — that scholars rarely take the time to distinguish or define. Professor Husa has done students and scholars alike a great service by writing a fair-minded and broad-ranging introduction to the subject that cuts through this thicket in clear and concise fashion.'
– David S. Law, Washington University in St. Louis, US and The University of Hong Kong

'This timely book provides a perfect introduction to the multifaceted and ambivalent discussion about law and globalisation. Written by an authority in the field, this book is not only a concise and highly readable introduction for newcomers to the field, but also provides a well-informed and innovative critique of the foundations and consequences of globalisation of law. Highly recommended.'
– Jan Smits, Maastricht University, the Netherlands

'Professor Husa’s advanced introduction to globalisation and law is a timely and much needed work that examines the topic, not in some textbook defined way, but in terms of the tensions and debates that this complex and controversial subject generates. The author begins by challenging the simplistic dualism between the liberal idea of legal universalism and the more complex idea of legal pluralism. He then goes on to discuss the implications of the phenomenon of globalisation for this dualism. In doing so, Husa demonstrates a deep understanding of the subject and a rare ability to do justice to its complexities. His book is a must-read for anyone interested in global and comparative law, and legal theory.'
– David S. Law, Washington University in St. Louis, US and The University of Hong Kong

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showing that historically law has always had a global dimension (ius gentium, ius commune, ius
naturale, colonization, human rights etc) and he goes on to consider the difficulties that
globalisation presents to comparative lawyers. Professor Husa guides the reader effortlessly
through these difficulties and advances his own important argument that comparative law will
have to move away from its traditional nation state bound view of law. He pursues this
argument in examining the more precise aspects of the global debate – neoliberalism,
constitutialism, human rights, lex mercatoria and judicial internationalisation – before posing
this question. What kind of theoretical and methodological base is required when thinking
about law in a global context? Traditional theory and methods are tested within the
globalisation paradigm and the author concludes by stressing the importance of legal pluralism
within a culturally diverse world. How should all of this impact on legal education and in turn on
legal language? What Professor Husa provides is a very informative and clear analysis –
introductory but equally profoundly wide-ranging in its research base – of these two issues.
Legal globalisation? Here in this book are all the arguments, debates, tensions and of course
some answers.
– Geoffrey Samuel, Kent Law School, UK

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