Pluralising International Legal Scholarship

The Promise and Perils of Non-Doctrinal Research Methods

Edited by Rossana Deplano, Lecturer in Law, University of Leicester, UK

This unique book examines the role non-doctrinal research methods play in international legal research: what do they add to the traditional doctrinal analysis of law and what do they neglect? Focusing on empirical and socio-legal methods, it provides a critical evaluation of the breadth, scope and limits of the representation of international law created by these often-neglected methodologies.

“This volume acts as an important and provocative invitation to international legal scholars to take non-doctrinal methods seriously. The various contributions, as diverse as they are, come together in a call for methodological self-reflexiveness, scientific rigour in empirical data collection and analysis, and to consider the real world impacts of international laws and institutions, as well as the social and cultural context in which such laws and institutions develop and evolve.”
—Richard Collins, University College Dublin, Ireland

“The stakes are high: different methods make different worlds. Still, Deplano and her contributors avoid the snares of a disciplinary turf war and practice a plurality of methods instead. That is the way to proceed.”
—Ingo Venzke, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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