RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON TRANSNATIONAL LABOUR LAW

Edited by Adelle Blackett, McGill University, Canada and Anne Trebilcock, University of Paris 10, Paris, France and Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany

‘The list of 41 authors of this Handbook reads like a roll-call of the rising generation of scholars of labour law as well as a number of distinguished old hands. This is not a conventional textbook on transnational labour law but a series of short and stimulating essays on important current issues. It provides an invaluable guide for all those who want to think and write about the transnational influences that shape the modern world of work.’

– Sir Bob Hepple QC FBA, University of Cambridge, UK

The editors’ substantive introduction and the specially commissioned chapters in this Handbook explore the emergence of transnational labour law and its contested contours by juxtaposing the expansion of traditional legal methods with the proliferation of contemporary alternatives such as indicators, framework agreements and consumer-led initiatives. Key international (ILO, IMF, OECD) and regional (EU, IACHR, SADC) institutions are studied for their coverage of such classic topics as freedom of association, equality, and sectoral labour standard-setting, as well as for the space they provide for dialogue. The volume underscores transnational labour law’s capacity to build hard and soft law bridges to migration, climate change and development. The volume roots transnational labour law in a counter-hegemonic struggle for social justice.

Bringing together the scholarship of 41 experts from around the globe, this book encompasses and goes beyond the role of international and regional organizations in relation to labour standards and their enforcement, providing new insights into debates around freedom of association, equality, and the elimination of forced labour and child labour. By including the influence of consumers in supply chains alongside the more traditional actors in this field such as trade unions, it combines a range of perspectives both theoretical and contextual. Several chapters interrogate whether transnational labour law can challenge domestic labour law’s traditional exclusions through expansive approaches to equality.

The volume moves beyond WTO linkage debates of the past to consider emerging developments toward social regionalism. Several chapters explore and challenge public and private international aspects of transnational labour law, revealing some fragmentation alongside dynamic experimentation and normative settling. The book argues that “social justice” is at least as important to the project of transnational labour law today as it was to the establishment of international labour law.

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