

Editorial

What we learn with pleasure we never forget

ALFRED MERCIER

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Continuity requires a certain openness to change; a wisdom that certainly applies to Tilburg Law Review. A journal like ours is run by students that come and go. An ongoing influx of new student-editors provides boost-after-boost to the development of the journal. In the past year, Tilburg Law Review has faced a tremendous board transition. Brand-new student-editors gradually replaced the former Editorial Board members. The transition went smooth, which is evidenced by this comprehensive issue.

This issue is divided in two parts. The first part concerns a collection of articles on horizontal transformations in administrative norms and procedures. More specifically, the contributing authors discuss the impact that the use of general administrative governance principles and processes by hybrid and transnational private regulatory bodies has on 'transnational administrative law doctrine'. This collection of articles was compiled in sound cooperation with Anne Meuwese and Phillip Paiement. The Editorial Board accepted their proposal for a special issue with great pleasure – a word that perfectly captures the nature of our collaboration. As guest-editors, Meuwese and Paiement are in a better position to elaborate on the particular theme of this special issue. Therefore, their introductory article comprises a clarifying description on the use of general administrative governance principles and processes by hybrid and transnational private regulatory bodies as well as a detailed outline of the other contributions this special issue encompasses.

The second part of this issue comprises the Montesquieu Lecture and an accompanying response. Since 2003, Tilburg Law School accommodates the annual Montesquieu Lectures to commemorate its foundation forty years earlier. Leading academics from all over the world are invited to deliver a lecture that, drawing on their respective areas of expertise, approaches contemporary societal issues in a way that is accessible to the academic community, including but not limited to legal scholars and students. As of this year, Tilburg Law

Review hosts these lectures together with a response by a Tilburg Law School academic. The lectures and responses will appear in the second issue of each volume. Both the lecture and the response are freely accessible through Open Access. Our gratitude goes out to, the organizer of the Montesquieu Lecture, Hans Lindahl, who reached out to Tilburg Law Review to serve as a venue for the Montesquieu Lectures and responses.

The Montesquieu Lecture of Spring 2016 was delivered by Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im and was titled 'The Spirits of the Laws is not Universal'. Not afraid to provoke academic debate, An-Na'im questioned the extent to which enlightened ideas of great scholars as Montesquieu can actually be called universal. More particularly he focused on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is said to provide 'equal and inalienable rights [to] all members of the human family'. Realizing that the greater share of the human family located in the southern hemisphere did not partake in the discussions on the content of the Declaration, An-Na'im challenges the common notion of human rights as being universal.

Our very own Nicola Jägers writes in response to An-Na'im's lecture on the inadequacy of the current treaty-based state-centric enforcement paradigm. Jägers stresses the need to look into alternatives and proposes that corporations should be included as duty bearers under international human rights law. Together, these two articles offer truly fascinating and thought-provoking insights into the topics of international human rights, universalism and cultural relativism.

This issue is a key example of the beautiful things one can achieve through cooperation. Further worth mentioning in this respect is the cooperation within the Editorial Board. In March 2016, José Luis Castro Montero became the Executive Managing Editor. To our great pleasure, he has proven to be perfectly capable of managing the editing procedure. Moreover, in order to ensure a smooth transition, the current Editor-in-Chief was assisted by the prospective editor in chief, who was at the same time prepared for his new function. As much as we have enjoyed this partnership, the time has come for Tilburg Law Review to be run by a new editor in chief. The journal will benefit from fresh input and innovative ideas, already one of which is in the making: Tilburg Law Review's next issue will be dedicated to the theme 'Translating Law'. Please consult our website for the call for papers. For now, we wish you a pleasant read.

Eva van Vugt

Editor-in-Chief

March 2015–September 2016

Edwin Alblas

Editor-in-Chief

September 2016 onwards