

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT LAW AND LEGAL THEORY

Expropriation is a hotly debated issue in international investment law. This is the first study to provide a detailed analysis of its norm-theoretical dimension, setting out the theoretical foundations underlying its understanding in contemporary legal scholarship and practice. Jörg Kammerhofer combines a doctrinal discussion with a theoretical analysis of the structure of the law in this area, undertaking a novel approach that critically re-evaluates existing case-law and writings. His approach critiques the arguments for a single expropriation norm based on custom, interpretation and arbitral precedents within international investment law, drawing also on generalist international legal thought, to show that both cosmopolitan and sovereigntist arguments are largely political, not legal. This innovative work will help scholars to understand the application of theory to investment law and help specialists in the field to improve their arguments.

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INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT LAW AND LEGAL THEORY

Expropriation and the Fragmentation of Sources

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PREFACE

It is common to lament that academic writing is a lonely business and it is slightly odd when those who are masters at networking tell us in their prefaces that their existence has been a solitary one during the writing process, usually just before they name a large number of people who have helped them with their enterprise. When I came to draft the preface to my first monograph, Uncertainty in International Law, I found that this was not true in my case - I had the benefit of many debates, of written and oral feedback and, generally, of many friends who supported me and my work. With regard to this book, I am grateful for the support and feedback that I have received, as well as for the friendships which have made this new book possible. However, for a variety of reasons, the years working on the manuscript to this book have indeed seen me treading a more solitary path. There were personal reasons and reasons related to the genus loci, which are not relevant here. There were, however, also substantive reasons, for I seem to excel at finding the space between stools.

My recent scholarship aims to combine two realms of knowledge: legal theory and international legal scholarship. This is not unprecedented – there is a vibrant community of international legal theorists – but the specific form and approach I have chosen seem to be. And as well suited as the Pure Theory of Law, on the theoretical side, and international investment law, on the doctrinal side, are to demonstrate what I have set out to do, they seem to be like oil and water. Rather, those with whom I talk about one tend to have limited patience for the other, which has contributed to the solitary nature of my endeavour. Another factor is that I have searched less for conventional sources of reaffirmation. While academic self-sufficiency may partly be what a second book is about, I must confess to a certain amount of smugness, which is a particularly serious offence for scholars. Mea culpa, particularly in failing to engage more deeply with the community of international investment lawyers. The feeble excuse is that this hermit-like existence has perhaps allowed a



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more coherent and bold argument to emerge than if I had, through constant feedback, micro-managed my text in order not to offend conventional sensibilities. A lonely book allows breathing-space for big new ideas.

As I have gained more experience as a scholar, I have found that my writings serve as a space in which to tighten the weave in the net of my larger theoretical argument. Ralf Dreier's encouragement to Alexander Somek that 'it is possible for a systematic theoretical programme to be conducted by way of a series of discrete [smaller] projects' as well as Kelsen's late rethink of the problem of legal logic have helped to open my mind to the fact that no single project will be the last word, but every project is a chance to take at least one step further. Monographs are better suited to accomplishing this than any other genre of scholarly writings – the very Germanic process of the *Habilitation* supremely so. I have found the freedom to develop big ideas, which, in this format, is extraordinarily daunting but also extraordinarily liberating; being forced into and counselled towards this course of action has thus had the upside of allowing me to grow as a scholar.

Scholarship is not merely an exercise in making innovative arguments; in many aspects it is surprisingly close to a trade (*Handwerk*). Just as one learns to turn a piece of shafting on a lathe or to build a brick wall by watching those more senior and then trying oneself, so it is with some aspects of scholarship. There is an element of talent and creativity which one either has or has not, but there are many aspects where experience counts. This is where colleagues and teachers – both formal and informal – play a vital role. And this is how I would like the list of names which follows to be read: as thanking those from whom I have learnt one aspect or many, rather than as proof that I have associated with important people.

Erich Vranes has been my indispensable guide to the vagaries of this big project throughout as friend, colleague and *Habilitationsvater* – ever ready with in-depth comments, advice and practical suggestions, ever ready to fight in my corner when progress was threatened and ever ready to gently propel me forward when I was my own worst enemy. Once more, Matthias Jestaedt has held the dual role of *Meister* in the trade aspect and senior colleague in the academic aspect of our profession. In the former role, he exhibited a mastery in tradecraft which allowed me to learn despite my nonconformist inclinations; in the latter, we traded

¹ 'Ralf Dreier, der mir klar machte, daß sich ein systematisch angelegtes Theorieprogramm durchaus in der Form von Einzelprojekten durchführen läßt'; Alexander Somek, *Der Gegenstand der Rechtserkenntnis: Epitaph eines juristischen Problems* (Baden-Baden: Nomos 1996) 5. Unless otherwise noted, all translations in this book are mine.



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many ideas and arguments which helped me, despite our partially divergent areas of interest, to sharpen and rally my arguments. In recent years Georg Lienbacher has remained a friend but has also become a pillar or brace for me, in many conversations which sometimes took on aspects of a confessional, and his guidance behind the scenes shall remain there.

As I have become ever more involved in the Hans Kelsen Institute in Vienna, my collaboration with its staff has increased and so have collegiality and friendship; Clemens Jabloner, Thomas Olechowski and Klaus Zeleny can be relied on to defend Kelsen – and Merkl – and to propagate their ideas and I am comforted that in advancing the cause of the Pure Theory, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder to face the onslaught. A number of people have been sounding-boards throughout, particularly Camilla Schiefler, David Freudenberg, Jean d'Aspremont, Stanley Paulson, Gleider Hernandez and Ewald Wiederin.

Two particularly memorable two-month periods helped to shape the basic argument of this book. Thanks to Armin von Bogdandy and Jochen von Bernstorff for conversations in November–December 2008 during my time at the Max Planck Institute for International Law in Heidelberg. I would like to thank Marc Weller, Marie-Claire Cordonnier Segger and Markus W Gehring as well as the permanent and visiting fellows at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law in Cambridge and the fellows of Queens' College for hosting me during my Brandon Fellowship at the Centre and Distinguished Academic Visitorship at my college during Easter Term 2011.

I have had the opportunity to present chapters and sections of this book in varying stages of completion at a number of venues and would like to thank participants for their feedback and the following people for inviting me and/or for more in-depth conversations on these occasions, often over a leisurely meal: Curt Bradley, Michael Wood and Omri Sender for a Duke and Geneva Universities conference on customary international law in Geneva in July 2013, in particular for a memorable and challenging group dinner; Patrick Capps and Richard Collins for a conference on methodology in Bristol in January 2014; Julian Davis Mortenson for a short but very productive visit in Ann Arbor in June 2014; Marco Pertile, Lorenzo Gradoni, Emmanuel Voyiakis and Peter Hilpold for a conference on custom in Trento and Andrea Gattini for a guest lecture in Padua in November 2014; Stephan Schill, Rainer Hoffmann and Christian Tams for a workshop on investment law at the University of Frankfurt in March 2015; Oliver Digglemann and Tilmann Altwicker for a guest lecture at the University of Zurich in



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September 2015; Andreas Kulick for a guest lecture in January 2016 at the University of Tubingen and for a wonderful and truly 'civilian' dinner with him and Johannes W Flume; Panos Merkouris for hosting and coorganising with me a conference on customary law in Groningen in May 2019 and for many discussions before, during and after; and Pauline Westermann, Kostiantyn Gorobets and Andreas Hadjigeorgiou for a workshop at the IVR World Congress in July 2019.



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