Preface

The idea to edit a *Research Handbook on the Law of Treaties* came as a reaction to the resurgence of interest in the subject in the late 2000s and early 2010s, which found expression in the publication of new treaty law handbooks and commentaries on the Vienna Convention(s) on the Law of Treaties (‘VCLT’). Yet we did not want to add another such book to the already growing literature on the subject. Rather, we set out to edit a collection of reflective pieces, not necessarily on less-studied aspects of the law of treaties, but on aspects that we wished to see pursued from different angles, less attached to the VCLT. This we explain in more detail in our Introduction.

In our endeavour, we found warm support and a hospitable forum in Edward Elgar Publishing – in particular our editor Ben Booth – and the Research Handbook series. The process was long and arduous but staff at Edward Elgar did their best to make it as painless as possible; for this, and for the quality of production of the volume at hand, we owe them heartfelt thanks.

If the *Research Handbook* would not exist without Edward Elgar, it would certainly not exist without the authors who agreed to contribute to this volume, and who were so accommodating of our sometimes demanding editorial instructions and requests. We thank them warmly for their patience and for their excellent contributions: whatever merit there may be to this book is due to the careful and considered work of the contributing authors.

We must not neglect to thank our Assistant Editor, Athene Richford: her careful and tireless work, including the editing of the chapters and the communication with authors, and her happy demeanour, made the process of editing the *Research Handbook* considerably shorter and more enjoyable than it would otherwise have been.

Finally, thanks are due to our home institutions, the Universities of Glasgow, Oxford, and Potsdam, for providing us with a research environment in which projects like this can be pursued.

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