
Preface

This book brings together the thoughts of 41 contributors in 38 chapters, each exploring different facets of transnational labour law. In the first part, we explore ‘transnational,’ ‘labour’ and ‘law,’ and set the scene for the sections that follow in relation to each of these elements. The second part begins with a sampling of transnational labour law’s methods, along with some of its development dimensions, taking into account north-south perspectives. Part 3 looks at the field as labour law, shedding light on freedom of association and equality in particular while exploring the emerging role of institutions such as the International Labour Organization. The focus then shifts in Part 4 to some striking features of this body of norms, ranging from the thickening of soft law to social regionalism and the transnational challenge to the regulation of labour as a factor of production.

Various chapters remind us that this field lies on the cusp of human rights, labour rights and broader international law. Transnational labour law remains in some respects a contested field, and with that in mind, the collection includes some views that we do not share.¹ We hope that this book will spur greater investigation of the relationship between transnational labour law and other public international law developments.

This book would not have appeared without the support of many people. In particular, we wish to express our gratitude to:

- Each of the contributors to this volume
- The Interuniversity Research Centre on Globalization and Work/Centre de recherche universitaire sur la mondialisation et le travail (CRIMT) and the Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory (LLDRL) for co-sponsoring research and travel
- Professor Julia López López of the University of Pompeu Fabra and her assistant Georgina Folguera for the warm welcome, opportunity to test out some ideas from the book with colleagues and students, and space to work on the handbook
- Lina Mullings, Administrative Coordinator, McGill University, for her able assistance in preparing the manuscript for submission
- Mark Phillips, BCL and LLB candidate at McGill University, for insightful preparation of the chapter abstracts for the electronic version of the book
- Châu Nguyen for translating one contribution from French to English (Anne Trebilcock also translated others from French and Spanish)
- Tara Gorvine of Edward Elgar for proposing the idea and providing encouragement
- The members of our families for their support and patience throughout the life of this project.

¹ We think, for example, that the prohibition of forced labour does fall into the category of jus cogens, a view increasingly supported in human rights law.

Finally, a revelatory anecdote: when we met for our first meeting on drafting the introductory chapter, we both appeared carrying the same new book.² This demonstrated tacit recognition of the debt we owe to the many academics and practitioners who have written on topics relevant to transnational labour law. This is a dynamic field that is important to people's lives. In the interest of social justice, it deserves its own further development as well as strengthening of its ties to related fields of international law.

² GRÁINNE DE BÚRCA, CLAIRE KILPATRICK & JOANN SCOTT, eds, *Critical Legal Perspectives on Global Governance: Liber Amicorum for David M. Trubek* (2014). TERENCE C. HALLIDAY & GREGORY SHAFFER, eds., *TRANSNATIONAL LEGAL ORDERS* (2015) was published after our volume was completed, but will constitute an important part of our ongoing reflections on transnational labour law.