Contributors

Volkmar Gessner is Emeritus Professor of Law and Sociology of Law in the Faculty of Law, the University of Bremen. After serving as a judge and empirical socio-legal researcher in Mexico, his academic career started as head of the socio-legal department at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg (1969–81) and continued (1982–92) as one of the directors of the Centre for European Legal Policy at the University of Bremen. He was Visiting Professor at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Oñati, Spain, the University of California, Santa Barbara, Law & Society, and other universities. For a two-year period (2003–05) he was Scientific Director of the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law. His research interests are both empirical (administration of justice, international commercial dispute resolution) and theoretical (sociology of global law and of comparative law).

Ryo Hamano studied Law at the Faculty of Law, Tokyo University and holds a master’s degree from the Graduate School of Law and Politics, Tokyo University. He is currently professor at the Faculty of Law and Politics, Rikkyo University. His research interests include sociology of the legal profession, access to justice, alternative dispute resolution and citizens’ participation in the criminal justice system. He was a visiting scholar at Queen Mary University of London.

Erik Herber is lecturer at the School of Asian Studies, Leiden University Institute of Area Studies, as well as at the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Development, Leiden University. He holds a Ph.D. from Tsukuba University and an M.A. from Leiden University. His research interests include, but are not limited to: (criminal) justice in Japan, with a focus on sentencing practices and lay participation; crime prevention policies and practices as well as trends in policies and responses to crime in a comparative – and ultimately global – perspective. At Leiden University Erik Herber teaches courses within the field of socio-legal studies, Japanese law as well as Japanese language.

Ayako Hirata is a Ph.D. candidate in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at Berkeley Law, University of California. She studies regulatory enforcement, street-level bureaucracy and the function of law in organizational behaviour.
The changing role of law in Japan and other developed/developing countries. She utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods. She earned her master’s degree in Law from the University of Tokyo and currently works as a research associate in the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo.

Souichiro Kozuka holds a Ph.D. in Law from Tokyo University. After teaching at several universities in Japan, he is now Professor of Law at Gakushuin University, Tokyo. While his specialization is commercial law and corporate law, he has been active in comparative law studies, being a correspondent of UNIDROIT and Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL). In particular, he has contributed to establishing contacts with Japanese law specialists outside of Japan on many occasions. He is a program convenor in eastern Japan of the Australian Network for Japanese Law (ANJeL) and serves on the editorial board of Zeitschrift für japanisches Recht.

Jeroen Maesschalck studied Public Administration and Philosophy at Ghent University and the London School of Economics and Political Science. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from the University of Leuven. He is currently Professor at the Leuven Institute of Criminology of the University of Leuven, where he is Vice-Dean for Research in the Faculty of Law. His teaching and research interests lie in the fields of public administration ethics and of management and policy making in the criminal justice system. He also teaches qualitative research methods.

Tsukasa Mihira holds a doctorate from Kyoto University and is currently an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Integrated Human Studies and the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies at Kyoto University. His research interests are constitutional law, judicial politics and sociology of law, with emphasis on comparative constitutional politics. His publications include Ikenshinsa-sei o Meguru Poritikusu [Politics of Judicial Review] (Tokyo: Seibundoh, 2012), which won the Association’s Incentive Award (Book Division) from the Japanese Association of Sociology of Law in 2013.

Masayuki Murayama studied law and sociology at the University of Tokyo and at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a Professor at the School of Law, Meiji University, and has taught the sociology of law at many universities. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, CNRS Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, Paris, and Institut fuer Rechtssoziologie und Rechtstatsachen Forschung, Freie Universitaet, Berlin, and is currently a Visiting Scholar at Columbia Law School. He is a member of the Japanese Association of Sociology of Law (2002–05: Secretary, 2008–10:...
President), International Sociological Association Research Committee on Sociology of Law and Law and Society Association. He has conducted empirical research on the police, criminal defence practice, family conciliation, legal problems and disputing behaviour, and nuclear compensation.

David Nelken is Distinguished Professor of Legal Institutions and Social Change at the University of Macerata and Professor of Comparative and Transnational Law at King’s College London. He is also the Visiting Professor of Criminology at Oxford University’s Centre of Criminology and has taught courses and given master classes in a large number of universities in Europe, the United States, Latin America, Australia and elsewhere. Widely published, David Nelken is also on the editorial boards of a variety of law and social science journals and professional associations. In 1985 he received a Distinguished Scholar award from the American Sociological Association. In 2009 he was given the ‘Sellin-Glueck’ international career award by the American Society of Criminology, and was made an Academician of the UK Academy of the Social Sciences. In 2011 he gained the bi-annual senior ‘Podgorecki’ career prize from the International Sociological Association (Research Committee on the Sociology of Law – RCSL). In 2013 the (USA) Law and Society Association gave him its International Scholar Award, and Cambridge University awarded him an LL.D. degree as an authority in his subject.

Ichiro Ozaki has been Professor of Sociology and Law at Hokkaido University since 1994. He was trained and worked as an assistant professor at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo (1989–94). His research interests are in sociological theory of law, legal culture, and law and urban community.

Stephan Parmentier studied law and sociology at the University of Leuven and sociology and conflict resolution at the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He currently teaches sociology of crime, law and human rights at the Faculty of Law of the University of Leuven, and has served as the head of its Department of Criminal Law and Criminology (2005–09). In July 2010 he was appointed Secretary-General of the International Society for Criminology and he also serves on the Advisory Board of the Oxford Centre of Criminology and on the Executive Board of the International Institute for Sociology of Law (Oñati). He has been a visiting professor at several universities in Europe and Australia and is the co-general editor of the international book series, Series on Transitional Justice (Intersentia Publishers, Cambridge/Antwerp). His research interests include political crimes, transitional justice and human rights, the rule of law and the administration of criminal justice.
Takao Suami studied law at the University of Tokyo (LL.B.), Cornell Law School (LL.M.) and the University of Leuven (LL.M.). He is currently Professor of Law at Waseda University Law School and serves as the President of the Japanese Association of EU Studies. His teaching and research interests lie in European Union law, international economic law, competition law, environmental law and judicial policy making in Japan. He was a visiting professor at Duke Law School (USA) and is responsible for the Tokyo Module in the master’s program of the University of St Gallen.

Hiroshi Takahashi studied the sociology of law and received a master’s degree in laws from the University of Tokyo. He lectured at Kwansei Gakuin University (1999–2003) and is now professor at Kobe University, Graduate School of Law. His research and teaching interests include the sociological analysis of alternative dispute resolution, the legal profession and judicial statistics in the UK and Japan.

Simon Vande Walle studied law at the University of Leuven (Master of Laws), Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M.) and Kyushu University (LL.M.). He subsequently joined the Brussels and New York bars and started practising at the Brussels office of Linklaters. In 2011, he obtained a doctor of laws degree from Kyushu University with a thesis comparing private enforcement of competition law in Japan and the European Union. From 2011 to 2013, he was a research fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science at the University of Tokyo. He is author of *Private Antitrust Litigation in the European Union and Japan – A Comparative Perspective* (Maklu, 2013).

Dimitri Vanoverbeke holds a Ph.D. from the University of Leuven and lectures in Japanese Studies at the Department of Area Studies at the University of Leuven, where he is head of the department. He was also trained at the graduate school of Tokyo University’s law faculty (socio-legal studies) and was Associate Professor at Kyushu University (1995–98). His research deals with judicial policy making, the function of legal institutions and the relationship between law, politics and society in modern and contemporary Japan. He was a visiting professor at several universities in Europe and Japan and serves on the editorial board of the Zeitschrift für japanisches Recht/Journal of Japanese Law (Hamburg: Carl Heymanns Verlag).

Esther van Zimmeren (LL.M., Ph.D.) is Research Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Antwerp with a chair on Multi-level Governance, Globalization and Federalism. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Leuven and was an Assistant Professor in IP Law at the
University of Liège and a research fellow at the Centre of Intellectual Property Rights of the University of Leuven (2004–2013). Before joining academia in 2004, she was a legal assistant for Judge A.W.H. Meij at the General Court of the EU in Luxembourg (2002–04). She has been a visiting scholar at Gakushuin University (June–August 2013) and at Duke University (February–April 2013), a visiting professor at Hanken Business School (August–October 2012), a research fellow at the Brocher Foundation (September–November 2011) and a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley (April–June 2008) and the Institute of Intellectual Property (IIP) Tokyo (October–December 2008). Her research focuses on intellectual property (IP) law, in particular patent and trademark law, competition law, international trade law and governance issues. Most of her work includes an important comparative (US, Europe and Japan) and interdisciplinary component.