Preface and acknowledgments

It is now twelve years since the first postgraduate course on ‘Globalisation and Law’ was taught on the LLM Programme at the Bristol Law School (UWE) and much has changed during this time. The design of the course emerged from ideas derived from international economic law, human rights, trade and the environment, natural resources, public international law and law and development courses studied and taught over the years. For the first couple of years the readings for the seminars were collected from a variety of disciplines, legal and non-legal, and the focus was on legal and institutional reform.

Now, the developments in human rights law, the attention devoted to multinational corporations, the economic upheavals that have challenged beliefs on unlimited economic growth through trade and investment liberalisation and the emergence of a consensus on the pressing urgency to solve global environmental problems and the finiteness of the earth’s resources present a very diffident landscape for intellectual study and enquiry.

During our teaching of globalisation, international environmental law and natural resources law courses, we have had the opportunity to discuss at length the global nature of environmental issues and regulation and, crucially, the essential role that natural resources play in the process of economic globalisation. Time and again access, exploitation, management and control over natural resources appeared at the axis of the globalisation process. Globalisation, trade and natural resources law became so intertwined in our numerous conversations, our courses on globalisation, international trade and natural resources law respectively and our research that we decided to write a book on Globalisation and Natural Resources Law that would bring together the disperse and multiple theories, ideas and materials used for our courses.

While the rationale, underlying thesis and propositions are outlined in the introduction, we would like to use this short preface and acknowledgments page to thank a few people who have made this project possible and pleasurable.

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