

# Preface

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On 10–11 August 2012, an international and interdisciplinary conference on ‘The Rise of the BRICS: Changing Paradigms for the Global Political Economy?’ was held on the Gold Coast, Australia. This conference was hosted by the Tim Fischer Centre for Global Trade and Finance and co-sponsored by the Commercial Law Centre, both of which are housed in the Faculty of Law of Bond University. Participants from various parts of the world conducted thought-provoking discussions over a wide range of issues, including economics, finance, trade, investment, international relations, foreign policy, development, sustainability, inclusion and exclusion. This book continues and expands the discussions by inviting the conference presenters, and two other academics and one lawyer who have an interest in the BRICS to make contributions. Accordingly this book contains rich contents, analysing and assessing the rise of the BRICS from diverse perspectives. Account has been taken of post-conference developments to 30 April 2013.

Preparing for the conference and editing the proceedings has been a joint effort. The planning committee consisted of Associate Professor Vai Io Lo as Chair, Professors John Farrar, Laurence Boulle and Mary Hiscock, and Dr Umair Ghori. The committee was strongly supported by the Faculty of Law and the Faculty Events Officer, Mairead Courtney. Vai and Mary have edited the proceedings with the editorial assistance of Tonya Roberts and Courtney Olden.

This book would not have come into existence without the collaborative efforts of the contributors. Hence we would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone in this professional team. Last, but not least, we would like to thank our publisher, Edward Elgar, for turning the manuscript into this book. It is hoped that the book will generate further research interest into the implications of the rise of the BRICS on the global political economy.

*Vai Io Lo and Mary Hiscock  
Gold Coast, Australia  
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