

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Giselle CORRADI is a Ph.D. candidate at the Human Rights Centre, Ghent University Law School. She was born in Buenos Aires, where she obtained a Bachelor in Law degree. She started specializing in legal anthropology during her work for a Masters in Comparative Studies of Culture at Ghent University. She developed an interest in development studies in the course of her work as a consultant in fair trade initiatives in Peru and Guatemala. Currently she combines these three academic domains in her research 'Addressing Traditional Law in Post Conflict Legal and Judicial Development Aid in sub-Saharan Africa', focusing on the relationship between human rights, legal pluralism and justice sector aid in Sierra Leone and Mozambique.

Mengia HONG TSCHALAER was born 1978 in Zürich, Switzerland. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Zürich, and a Research Fellow at the Columbia Law School in New York. She graduated with an MA in social anthropology, international law and East Asian art history from the University of Zürich in 2007. Her Master's thesis focused on an indigenous or 'tribal' women's court in Southern Rajasthan, where she investigated the (re)production of gender relations and kinship norms, as well as their contestation, within the complex landscape of legal pluralism in rural India. Her PhD dissertation deals with issues of Islamic family law, gender, and modernity in the city of Lucknow in northern India. The focus is on the processes of gender construction within state- and non-state Muslim legal institutions. In particular the thesis aims to study the ways Muslim women currently further gender equity and women's rights within Shariat law. It highlights the workings of an unusual new institution, the All India Muslim Women's Personal Law Board, set up recently in 2005 by progressive Muslim women. This dissertation project is supported by a grant from the University of Zürich within the framework of its interdisciplinary postgraduate school in gender studies. Her academic focus is on legal pluralism in the area of family laws, gender, identity politics and the state in India. She has conducted extensive field-research in Udaipur (Raj.) and Lucknow (UP), India.

Kimberly INKSATER, a Canadian, has studied in the Social Sciences (gaining a B. Soc. Sc. Degree at the University of Ottawa) and Law (Bachelor of Laws, University of Toronto and Master of Laws, University of Ottawa). Her academic

interests and professional practice in human rights and justice merge together in her current work, as Executive Director with the Just Governance Group. She has presented papers on legal pluralism from a human rights perspective at international conferences in Bolivia and Colombia. Current research projects focus on how community-based and traditional justice mechanisms respond to violence against women and also whether they promote peaceful coexistence and at the same time respect the equality rights of vulnerable individuals.

Nicholas MENZIES is a Justice Reform Specialist at the World Bank. He has worked at the intersections of plural legal systems as a land and natural resources lawyer for indigenous communities in Australia, on legal empowerment and access to justice issues in Cambodia and in providing policy advice to the Papua New Guinean cabinet across a range of matters, from participatory budgeting and micro-enterprise development to gender-based violence. He has also worked in progressive political advocacy, building social movements for political, cultural and environmental action.

Christa RAUTENBACH is a professor at the faculty of law, North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus), South Africa, where she obtained the degrees B Iuris (cum laude), LLB (cum laude), LLB and LL.D. She teaches legal pluralism and law of succession to undergraduate and postgraduate students and is actively involved in researching issues pertaining to African customary law and religious legal systems. She has published extensively on these subjects in national and international journals. She is an Alexander von Humboldt scholar and undertook several research visits to the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany. Other research visits have been to the Van Vollenhoven Institute in Leiden and the School of Oriental and African studies in London. She is co-editor and co-author a number of textbooks or chapters in textbooks including: 'Customary Law of Succession and Inheritance.' Pp. 190-246 in Willem A. Joubert, J.A. Faris and Joan Church (eds.) *Law of South Africa*. Durban: LexisNexis, 2009; *Introduction to Legal Pluralism in South Africa*. Durban: LexisNexis, 2006; and *Law of Succession in South Africa*. Goodwood: Oxford University Press, 2009. She is co-editor of the open access electronic Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal. Her current research interests include matters of cultural diversity and cultural governance, and she is a member of the interest group of the International Association of Constitutional Lawyers conducting empirical research on the Use of Foreign Precedents by Constitutional Judges.

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Yüksel SEZGIN is a visiting assistant professor of women's studies, religion, and the social sciences at Harvard Divinity School. His research and teaching interests include legal pluralism, informal justice systems, religious law, state-society relations, and human and women's rights in the context of the Middle East, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. His articles on comparative law, religion, and politics have appeared in various edited volumes and journals including *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*, *Journal of Legal Pluralism* ('Theorizing Formal Pluralism: Quantification of Legal Pluralism for Spatio-Temporal Analysis' JLP 50: 101-118, 2004), *Review of International Affairs*, *Turkish Studies*, *Turkish Yearbook of International Relations*, *Insight Turkey*, *Perceptions*, and the *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*. He is currently working on a book manuscript 'Human Rights in the Triangle of State, Law, and Religion'. The manuscript is based on his doctoral dissertation, which received both the American Political Science Association and the Middle Eastern Studies Association best dissertation awards. The project explores the impact of polycentric personal status systems on human and women's rights, and individuals' responses to violation of their fundamental rights and liberties under religious institutions by engaging in various hermeneutic activities. The research primarily relies upon 200 face-to-face interviews with people from 20 ethno-religious communities and ethnographic data collected through fieldwork in Israel, Egypt, India and Sierra Leone.

Milena STEFANOVA is the Program Coordinator of the World Bank's Justice for the Poor program in Vanuatu where she works on issues of land and natural resource management, access to justice, local governance and service delivery. Prior to joining the Bank she worked for the Human Rights Office of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the Crisis Response Unit of Amnesty International in Washington DC.