

INTRODUCTION

It has concerned me for some time that legal scholarship is overwhelmingly focus on the Western English-speaking world. With the exception of Hans Kelsen, one might be hard pressed to name a prominent 20th century legal philosophy who wrote primarily in a language other than English. Even Kelsen is a poor example: He spent most of his later career at Harvard Law School.

The Journal Jurisprudence has, in previous editions, curated works on Islamic jurisprudence, which is an area of legal philosophy rising to tremendous international importance. Such jurisprudence is *sui generis* in that it emerged from an independent thought process when compared with the mainstream of Anglo-American legal philosophy. Yet, still, I long to believe that there is a deep and active engagement with the macro questions of law outside of these narrow geographic and cultural confines.

It was, therefore, quite exciting when Trent Smyth proposed this issue on contemporary African jurisprudence. Mr Smyth is a distinguished diplomat, currently serving as the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Malawi in Melbourne, Australia. He has utilised his tremendous network of contacts in African universities and among scholars of the African experience throughout the world to curate this important issue.

As the senior editor of *The Journal Jurisprudence*, I have had the privilege of working with many guest editors. Mr Smyth had a particularly challenging task because of the lack of coordination among Africa scholars. There was not one central point of contact nor one institution to organize with. It is therefore a testament to his hard work that so many distinguished scholars have contributed to this issue.

I am enormously grateful to Trent's dedication and stewardship of this important issue of our journal. I am certain that it will be a landmark in the field of African jurisprudence and serve as a reminder of the innovation occurring in this field in the early years of the Twenty-First century.

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