

Preface

This book started its journey on Friday 14 August 2015, in the Springbank Room of the Crawford Building at The Australian National University (ANU). Much earlier, Hilary Charlesworth had been the Director of the Centre for International and Public Law (CIPL) at ANU when Deborah was one of its academic members. By 2015 I was the Director of CIPL, and Hilary and I decided to organise a day-long symposium, under CIPL's auspices, to honour the work of our friend and colleague Deborah Cass, 15 February 1960 – 4 June 2013.

Deborah's parents Moss and Shirley Cass, her husband Gerry Simpson and their daughters Hannah and Rosa, her brother Dan, as well as extended family from Sydney, were moved by the presentations that all included a personal and professional dimension.

Deborah was a brilliant Australian constitutional and international lawyer who had studied at the University of Melbourne and Harvard Law School, and taught at Melbourne Law School, ANU and the London School of Economics. As a member of CIPL from 1993 to 2000, her work offered illuminating new perspectives in a range of fields, from the right to self-determination, critical international legal theory and feminist legal theory to the international trade law system.

The symposium drew together academics from around the globe to reflect on Deborah's scholarship and contributions to public law and international law, and how they might influence current controversies. Beyond the contributors to this collection, both Jennifer Clarke and Kristen Walker also presented illuminating papers on the day.

It is six years since that event, but the material in this collection, including some of Deborah's original law review pieces, are testament to the foresight of Deborah's work and thinking, which continue to inform current pressing debates.

Thank you to all the people who have been involved in ensuring the outcomes of that workshop have resulted in this book being available for more people to benefit from Deborah's work. I would also like to thank the journals in which Deborah's articles first appeared for permission to reproduce them in this book, so readers can go straight to the source that inspired each contribution. I also thank the ANU Publication Subsidy Committee for the financial contribution supporting the editing. Finally, I would like to thank ANU Law student Ella Beniamini, who undertook a CIPL internship, for her role in ensuring this book has seen the light of day, and Beth Battrick for her excellent editing!

Kim Rubenstein

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