



Editorial



One of my most vivid memories from my time as Liberal Arts & Sciences student is when our program's founding father Willem Witteveen gave a guest lecture about his work and academic interests. This was the start of my first semester, September 2012. 'I often feel like a nomad', he explained, 'travelling from discipline to discipline, always searching, always in wonder'. He had this type of unique curiosity that knew no borders or limits. It amazed and changed me, as it did for many of my fellow students.

I remember even more vividly when, on July 17, 2014, I heard the news that Willem, his wife and his daughter Marit (a classmate of mine) had been killed in a terrorist attack on flight MH17. I was sitting in my room in Perth, where I had arrived a week earlier, after flying over the same area. I remember wishing Marit a nice summer. She was the smartest in her class and such a kind spirit, too. I always felt she had such a bright future ahead of her, but this future was cruelly taken away from her, her mother, Willem, and 295 other passengers.

Willem Witteveen was a professor of jurisprudence at Tilburg Law School and created multiple spaces for law and humanities in the Netherlands and beyond. Our 20(2) issue of autumn 2015 honored the life and work of Willem, with different articles in his honor written by his close colleagues. This special issue on 'Translating Law' takes a different approach and seeks to continue Willem's legacy by giving a stage to scholars that have adopted a similar kind of nomadic perspective to law. Not just with regard to interdisciplinarity, but also with respect to different languages, countries and times. The term 'Translating Law' should hence be understood in this broad sense.

This issue starts with two interdisciplinary articles written by former laureates of the Witteveen Memorial Fellowship on Law and Humanities. The first one is authored by Nayeli Urquiza-Haas, who invokes the ancient Greek tragedian Aeschylus' *The Suppliant Maidens* to provide a defense for hearing of refugee testimonies. Rakhshan Rizwan, in turn, examines the emerge of a pleasure-centric model of human rights advocacy in South Asia through the lens of Kashmiri literary fiction.

The special issue continues with five articles that reflect upon different dimensions of translation and law, the first of which is Terezie Smejkalova's examination of the (in)accessibility of law for the layperson and the barriers that exist who do and who do not master the *language of the law*. The following contribution by Sarah Craig and David Gramling focuses on Refugee Status Determination procedures and examines the relationships among language, translation and interpretation in such procedures, hereby asking whether there is a 'right to untranslatability'? Heleen van Gerwen, Bieke Nouws and Marie Bourguignon then explore the development of the translations of laws and decrees in 19th-century Belgium and thereby expresses an illuminating example of how difficult it is to translate law in a multi-lingual country. Wanshu Cong goes on to examine the metaphor of translation as a way to understand human rights in digital times, with a key focus on the role of civil society as a translator participating in global internet governance. Jaye Dana Ellis, finally, uses the concept of translation as a means to analyze the interaction between science and governance in the field of environmental policy.

The special issue proceeds with two articles that more concretely discuss legal translation as exercise and profession. First is the contribution by Fernando Prieto, who approaches global law as translated text and hereby map institutional legal translation by the UN, WTO and the EU. Juliette Scott then explores how, in an increasingly competitive job market for lawyers, translation may provide young lawyers with new career opportunities. Doing so, she describes legal translation as the 'ultimate legal and linguistic challenge – a gauntlet waiting to be picked up by a new generation as part of a fully globalized mature legal services market'.

The issue proceeds with the yearly Montesquieu Lecture, as delivered this year by the distinguished Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos. The Lecture is accompanied by individual commentaries authored by Nuna Zekic and Conny Rijken. In his Montesquieu Lecture, Santos speaks about 'The Resilience of Abyssal Exclusions in our Societies', underpinning the need to broaden our perspective on law and knowledge and hereby move towards a non-exclusionary social system. In this context, it soon becomes clear that the overarching 'Translating Law' theme flows through the veins of all articles.

Last but not least, some much needed words of thanks. First, I would like to thank my colleagues that have not spared any effort in making this issue publication-ready. José Luis and Kyran have been responsible for managing the editorial procedure and have done so with utmost precision and dedication. Oğuz, who will take over the role of Editor in Chief as of September 2017, has put great effort in setting plans for our upcoming issue on quality assessments of legal scholarship. As he is already growing nicely into his new role, I am

confident he will be a great new Chief. Next, I thank our former chief, Eva van Vugt, who has (thankfully) stayed active as internal editor and much needed advice-giver. Finally, I thank the Editorial Board, which consists of a most talented and dedicated set of PhD candidates and law students. Your work is greatly appreciated.

The transition towards an open access publisher as of 2018 is in my view a victory for us all and should be celebrated as such. I thank our Advisory Board for being so involved in the whole process and giving advice. Most of all, I would like to express thanks to Eleni Kosta, our Faculty Advisor, who has guided us in all matters relating to this transition.

I would like to thank Hans Lindahl for everything regarding the Montesquieu lecture. You have gone above and beyond to make this lecture – again – a success. We are very content you have accepted the invitation to join the Advisory Board and hereby warmly welcome you on board.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who helped translating the original idea of crafting an issue that commemorates the life of Willem, into the current ‘Translating Law’ issue that continues his legacy in a way that I am confident he would have appreciated. I thank Michiel Bot, who wrote the Call for Papers, and David Janssens, Nayeli Urquiza-Haas, Phillip Paiement, who have also been very much involved in giving shape to the overarching theme.

On behalf of the editorial board,

Edwin Alblas
Editor in Chief