

BOOK REVIEWS

Comparative Law and Society. Edited by David S. Clark. Cheltenham, UK; Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2012. Pp. v, 461. ISBN: 978-1-84980-361-8. UK£135.00; US\$229.95.

If you draw a Venn diagram with comparative law in one circle and law and society in the second, the overlapping area represents the field of comparative law and society. Law and society, which is also known as socio-legal studies, encompasses many different social science fields and uses them to analyze aspects of legal systems and legal rules. The basis of comparative law is studying the similarities and differences between the legal systems of countries. When the two fields combine, they result in investigations of legal systems across countries from the perspective of social science disciplines. In *Comparative Law and Society*, Davis S. Clark has brought together international scholars to explore how comparative law and society can help us understand many different aspects of the legal world.

In the introductory chapter, Mr. Clark provides a detailed history of comparative law and society and shows how it developed and spread worldwide. He surveys the early legal systems of Greece, Rome, China, India, and the Islamic world and explains how they have influenced modern law and society. He also explores works of jurists, such as Hugo Grotius, Alexis de Tocqueville and Emile Durkheim, among others, to show the evolution of comparative socio-legal studies. He then introduces the main social science disciplines that are engaged in this comparative research. Each of these disciplines is expanded upon in a separate chapter in the “Methods and Disciplines” section of the book.

In “Methods and Disciplines,” chapters are devoted to sociology of law, criminology, anthropology of law, law and economics, law and political economy, and legal psychology. For each of these areas, the chapter provides background and history of its development and examines the key methodologies of study. For example, in comparative criminology, case studies and focused comparisons are two main methods of study, while empirical testing is frequently used in comparative law and economics. The chapter on comparative legal psychology evaluates eyewitness identification in the United States and England and Wales by applying psychological evaluation methods. The interaction between employment law and institutional structure across four countries is the focus of the comparative law and political economy chapter. The “Method and Disciplines” section

provides a necessary grounding which helps in the understanding of the research issues discussed in the next part of the book.

The second section of the book, "Core Issues," uses comparative law and society analysis to discuss research in different areas of legal systems. The topics range from how separation of powers is structured in parliamentary compared with presidential legal systems, to the development and functions of administrative agencies in the United Kingdom and Sweden, to the rise of constitutional courts and how they operate in different legal systems. Legal education, law firm organization, and judicial careers and independence are also analyzed across the legal traditions of common law and civil law countries. There is a chapter addressing federalism that looks at Canada and its subnational legal structure, with a focus on Quebec, in comparison with the United States. Workplace health care law, environmental law, civil litigation and alternative dispute resolution, and legal cultures are also explored from a comparative socio-legal perspective. Taken together, the "Core Issues" section provides a wide-ranging look at many aspects of this diverse field.

Comparative Law and Society was published as part of the Research Handbooks in Comparative Law series, which also includes books on comparative administrative law, comparative constitutional law, and methodology of comparative law. This book provides an interesting look at legal systems from a variety of subjects and perspectives and there is a great diversity of subject matter throughout. All chapters include footnotes and bibliographies of further readings, some of which are more extensive than others. From the perspective of a reader less familiar with the subject, the book would have benefited from a more detailed introduction with a more developed explanation of what tied the different parts and chapters of the book together. As an alternative, there could have been a concluding section that pulled the various topics together. With that small caveat, *Comparative Law and Society* would be a good resource for academic law libraries, especially at law schools with a comparative law focus, as well as for libraries at universities with law and society programs.

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U.S. Supreme Court Library
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The Israeli Legal System. By Marcia Gelpe. Carolina Academic Press, Durham, North Carolina: 2013, Pp 596, ISBN 978-1-59460-868-1.

According to the author, an emerita Professor of Law at William Mitchell College of Law, this book is intended to provide American students