

BOOKS RECEIVED / LIVRES REÇUS

P. ALA'Ì / R. G. VAUGHN (eds), *Research Handbook on Transparency*, Edward Elgar Publishing, UK, 2014, 418 pp., ISBN: 978-1-78100-793-8

Transparency... What is hidden under this common and widely used word? The *Research Handbook* is a great opportunity to explore and understand the multi-faceted nature of this term. Transparency is considered to be a core element in the democratic society, promoting the modern values of the rule of law principle, human rights, economic efficiency and environmental protection. Nevertheless, the flexibility and prevalence of this term increase the necessity of detailed study of its limitations and inconsistencies. The comparative and international perspectives being studied by the editors, a reader can analyze the strengths and weaknesses of transparency.

To understand better all the aspects of this term, the book is divided into four parts. The first chapter determines the basic framework. The second focuses on the cultural and national peculiarities. The third is dedicated to the impact on the legal rules and regulations. The final part describes the correlation between transparency and global governance. Despite the fact that the *Research Handbook* is a thorough and consistent study, the editors encourage the reader to form his own point of view regarding the accomplishments and challenges of transparency.

O. Naumchyk

J. BELL / M.-L. PARIS (eds), *Rights-Based Constitutional Review: Constitutional Courts in a Changing Landscape*, Edward Elgar Publishing, UK and USA, 2016, 443 pp., ISBN: 978-1-78471-760-5 (cased)

This book examines how the existing system of constitutional review evolved, from an institutional, procedural and substantial

point of view, aiming to increase the efficiency of the politico-legal system of rights protection. The 'civil law/common law' distinction is not so important in the approach of this system. Nevertheless, the comparison between constitutions leads us to expect that fundamental rights are not fixed and are likely to change over time. The stories from the past and problems of a particular society make its emphasis within fundamental rights distinctive. Comparative law makes us aware of the specific features of our own constitutional traditions, why they work and what might be the specific constraints which we take for granted.

The book is based on the contributions of leading scholars at the Annual Seminar of the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) held in Dublin in 2013. These issues deserve continuing analysis in light of the challenges posed to the development of constitutional justice in the domestic and international sphere.

P. Stergiannis

J. BEST / A. GHECIU (eds), *The return of the public in global governance*, Cambridge University Press, UK, 2014, 265 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-05295-6

In *The return of the public in global governance*, the authors point out the transformation of the public dimension of governance in the era of globalization.

The unique structure of the book, which is split into four parts containing theoretical implications of governance in the public sector, allows the reader to gain an understanding of global governance. Notably, this is done by not only focusing on each level of the system, but also on the different actors working within each level. The work effectively explores three types of complexity associated with contemporary public practices where the public practices are associated with the state.

This book gives a great amount of knowledge about public involvement in global governance. The book is written directly and concisely, making it easy to read and streamlining all important information about how a new authoritative line between the public