

Preface by the Editors-in-Chief

We are delighted to launch the *Canadian Journal of Comparative and Contemporary Law* with this inaugural issue focused on the theme of health law and human rights.

When the three of us came together last year to discuss the possibility of founding a new law journal, we looked for a way to strike common ground as emerging scholars with seemingly different preoccupations, from public to private law. We wondered how we might make a meaningful contribution to a larger scholarly conversation in law, given the wide range of existing law journals in Canada and abroad.

Part of the answer was found in the common value we place on taking a comparative approach to legal scholarship and a shared desire to gain a global perspective on the legal issues that we study. Although Canadian law schools already host a number of high quality journals, none are focused primarily on fostering comparative legal scholarship, and journals abroad that do so are few in number. Yet, across the many fields and subfields of our discipline, comparative scholarship is undergoing a kind of renaissance. Scholars are increasingly framing their inquiries by crossing jurisdictions, theoretical boundaries, and disciplinary borders. While comparative legal scholarship can trace its roots to figures such as Aristotle, Montesquieu, and Maine, it has become critically relevant to the global age in which we live, an age in which laws and ideas about law are constantly crossing borders and forging broader, more intricate links. Within this global horizon, the idea of a law journal with a domestic focus is beginning to seem anachronistic. We therefore encourage contributors to take a comparative approach, understanding this in a broad sense of drawing upon different jurisdictions, methods, theories, or disciplines.

Another part of the answer was found in the experience of conducting our own past research initiatives, in which we valued high quality publications that offered an in-depth examination of a particular legal issue or area of law. Although there are already a number of established specialist journals in Canada and abroad, our idea to select a new theme for each issue uniquely enables us to respond to contemporary legal problems and debates as they arise.

In this inaugural issue, we have selected the theme of health law and human rights given a host of recent developments in the field that stand to benefit from a comparative approach, and for reasons that Dean Lorne Sossin has aptly identified in his foreword to this issue. Our second issue, to be published in the fall of 2015, explores equity in the 21st century, which will be a valuable addition to the literature by taking a comparative perspective on new challenges and persistent problems in the field. Contributors to the second issue include nationally and internationally renowned scholars, with further details to be posted shortly on our website.

The final part of the answer was grounded in our shared approach to embracing new technological possibilities as part of a newly established and innovative law school at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. We have been inspired by the growing number of scholars seeking to make their research more accessible through open access and online journals. We have therefore adopted an open access model to provide the widest possible dissemination of scholarship that we publish. In addition to its availability through the usual legal databases, all of our published content will be available for free online.

We hope that you find this issue on health law and human rights to be both engaging and informative. We invite you to explore the themes of future issues of the *Canadian Journal of Comparative and Contemporary Law* as we aspire to provide a dynamic forum for quality scholarship, making an important contribution to debates on contemporary legal issues.

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