

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A PRIMER

| | |
|---|----|
| FONS COOMANS, FRED GRÜNFELD and MENNO T. KAMMINGA | 11 |
| 1. Problems with Methods of Human Rights Research..... | 12 |
| 2. Some Suggestions..... | 14 |

SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

| | |
|--|----|
| TODD LANDMAN | 19 |
| 1. Introduction..... | 19 |
| 2. Human Rights as an ‘Object of Inquiry’ | 21 |
| 2.1. Absence of Agreed Philosophical Foundations..... | 21 |
| 2.2. Contestation over the Meaning of Human Rights..... | 22 |
| 2.3. Applicability of the Social Sciences..... | 24 |
| 3. Methods in Social Science..... | 25 |
| 3.1. Dimensions of Social Science Research | 26 |
| 3.1.1. Epistemological Continuum..... | 26 |
| 3.1.2. Cross-National Generalisations and Comparative Methods..... | 31 |
| 3.1.2.1. Global Comparative Analysis..... | 31 |
| 3.1.2.2. Few-Country Comparisons | 33 |
| 3.1.2.3. Single-Country Studies..... | 36 |
| 3.2. Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence | 39 |
| 4. Conclusion: Methods Matter | 41 |

REDEFINING NORMATIVE LEGAL SCIENCE: TOWARDS AN ARGUMENTATIVE DISCIPLINE

| | |
|--|----|
| JAN M. SMITS..... | 45 |
| 1. Introduction..... | 45 |
| 2. From Internal to External Approaches of Legal Science | 46 |
| 3. Towards a Redefinition of Normative Legal Scholarship: the <i>Homo Juridicus</i> | 48 |
| 4. The Methodology of Normative Legal Scholarship | 50 |
| 4.1. Law as the Science of Competing Arguments..... | 50 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 4.2. How Can the Better Arguments Be Found? | 51 |
| 4.3. Three Consequences..... | 54 |
| 5. Two Examples: Fundamental Rights in Relationships between Private Parties | 55 |
| 6. Conclusions: Legal Science as a Scholarly Discipline | 57 |

**HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES: ON THE DANGERS OF
LEGALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| DAVID P. FORSYTHE..... | 59 |
| 1. Introduction..... | 59 |
| 2. Legalistic Studies | 62 |
| 2.1. General Overview | 63 |
| 2.2. A Focus on Impact..... | 70 |
| 2.3. A Focus on Legal Obligation..... | 71 |
| 3. Conclusion | 74 |

METHODS IN LEGAL HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

| | |
|---|----|
| EVA BREMS..... | 77 |
| 1. Introduction..... | 77 |
| 2. Research Question(s) and Method..... | 77 |
| 2.1. Research Questions | 77 |
| 2.2. Method..... | 78 |
| 2.2.1. Examining the Attitudes and Practice of Researchers..... | 78 |
| 2.2.2. Examining the Research Output..... | 82 |
| 3. Results of the Empirical Research | 83 |
| 3.1. Questionnaire | 83 |
| 3.1.1. Who? | 83 |
| 3.1.2. The Importance of Methodology..... | 83 |
| 3.1.3. Training and Guidance..... | 84 |
| 3.1.4. Methods Used | 85 |
| 3.1.5. Empirical vs. Normative Research..... | 86 |
| 3.1.6. Some Conclusions from the Questionnaire..... | 87 |
| 3.2. Examination of the Corpus | 87 |
| 4. Normative Conclusions | 89 |

THE NEED FOR EVIDENCE-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

| | |
|--|----|
| HANS-OTTO SANO and HATLA THELLE..... | 91 |
| 1. Introduction..... | 91 |
| 2. The Sources of Human Rights Research..... | 95 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 3. Empowerment and Making Claims — Two Different Contexts..... | 101 |
| 4. Evidence-Based Research: an Example of the Complexities Involved | 104 |
| 5. Conclusion | 108 |

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: UTILIZING LEGAL NORMS AND HEALTH DATA IN MEASURING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| DABNEY EVANS and MEGAN PRICE | 111 |
|------------------------------------|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Introduction..... | 111 |
| 2. Global Health Inequalities Between States | 112 |
| 3. Establishment of Right to Health under International Human Rights Law..... | 114 |
| 4. A New Theoretical Model: The Synergistic Approach..... | 117 |
| 4.1. The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination..... | 119 |
| 4.2. Special Rapporteur on the Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health | 120 |
| 4.3. General Comment 14 | 121 |
| 5. Applying the Synergistic Approach..... | 123 |
| 6. Barriers and Challenges to the Approach..... | 130 |
| 7. Conclusion and Implications | 131 |

METHODS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH: TOWARDS A SPIRAL OF CO-LEARNING

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| MARIA STUTTAFORD | 135 |
|------------------------|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Introduction..... | 135 |
| 2. Health and Human Rights | 136 |
| 3. Review of Methods Used in Health and Human Rights Research..... | 137 |
| 3.1. Methods Used in Research into Developing Policy and Programmes..... | 138 |
| 3.2. Methods Used in Research into Analysing and Critique Government Performance | 139 |
| 3.3. Methods Used in Research Providing Evidence in Redress for those who Suffer Violations of their Rights..... | 140 |
| 3.4. Methods Used in Research into Supporting Advocacy and Civil Society Mobilization..... | 141 |
| 4 Reflections on Research Design and Methods Used to Explore Health and Human Rights..... | 142 |
| 4.1. Exploring Collective Rights to Public Health for Homeless People | 144 |
| 4.2. Towards Establishing a Learning Network to Advance Health Equity Through Human Rights Strategies | 145 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 4.3. Learning by Doing and Doing by Learning: A Civil Society Network to Realise the Right to Health..... | 146 |
| 4.4. Strengths and Weaknesses of Methods used in the Completed Research Projects..... | 146 |
| 5. A Learning Network to Facilitate a Spiral of Co-Learning..... | 148 |
| 6. Mixed Methods of Research in the Learning by Doing Network..... | 153 |
| 7. Conclusions..... | 156 |

TELLING TRUTH? THE METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES OF TRUTH COMMISSIONS

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| PAUL GREADY..... | 159 |
|------------------|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Introduction..... | 159 |
| 2. Concepts and Methods..... | 160 |
| 3. Qualitative and Quantitative Methods..... | 163 |
| 4. Truth as Genre..... | 167 |
| 5. Legitimacy and Impacts Beyond Report ‘Fetishization’..... | 170 |
| 6. Speaking Truth with and to Power..... | 175 |
| 7. History as Saviour?..... | 179 |
| 8. Conclusion..... | 184 |

METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN RESEARCH

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| MARCO FORMISANO..... | 187 |
|----------------------|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Introduction..... | 187 |
| 2. A Definition of Country of Origin Information..... | 189 |
| 3. The Quasi-Judicial Character of Country of Origin Information and Its Role in Asylum Law..... | 191 |
| 4. The Three Elements of COI Research: the Observer, the Facts and the Research Instruments..... | 196 |
| 4.1. The Observer..... | 196 |
| 4.2. The Facts..... | 197 |
| 4.3. The Research Strategy..... | 198 |
| 4.4. Procedural Principles..... | 200 |
| 4.4.1. Impartiality and Objectivity..... | 200 |
| 4.4.2. Public vs. Anonymous Sources..... | 201 |
| 4.4.3. Assessing Sources..... | 202 |
| 4.5. Substantive Principles..... | 203 |
| 4.5.1. Relevance..... | 203 |
| 4.5.2. Accuracy..... | 204 |
| 4.5.3. Reliability..... | 206 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 4.5.4. Currency | 207 |
| 4.6. Presenting Research Results | 208 |
| 5. Conclusions..... | 210 |

TREATY INTERPRETATION AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

| | |
|---|-----|
| KOEN DE FEYTER..... | 213 |
| 1. Introduction..... | 213 |
| 2. Multidisciplinarity in Treaty Interpretation | 213 |
| 3. The <i>Awas Tingni</i> Judgment | 219 |
| 4. Subsequent Case Law | 226 |
| 5. Lessons for Human Rights Research..... | 230 |

METHODS OF PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH ON HUMAN RIGHTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| ANDREAS FOLLESDAL | 233 |
| 1. Introduction..... | 233 |
| 2. Amartya Sen | 235 |
| 3. Charles Beitz..... | 237 |
| 4. The Method of Reflective Equilibrium | 237 |
| 4.1. Three Main Features | 238 |
| 4.1.1. The Aim of Arriving at Reflective Equilibrium is Practical: To Attain Agreement on Specific Moral Issues..... | 238 |
| 4.1.2. The Starting Points of the Procedure are Non-Foundational Empirical and Normative ‘Considered Judgments’ | 238 |
| 4.1.3. The Theory Claims That There Is a rational Procedure by Which This Aim Sometimes Can Be Reached. | 239 |
| 4.2. Elaboration..... | 240 |
| 4.2.1. Partial, Wide, Ideal Reflective Equilibrium..... | 240 |
| 4.2.2. The Method of Reflective Equilibrium | 240 |
| 4.2.3. Justification by Reflective Equilibrium | 241 |
| 4.2.4. Four Norms that Guide the Method of Reflective Equilibrium..... | 241 |
| 5. The Method of Reflective Equilibrium applied: Sen and Beitz..... | 242 |
| 5.1. On Sen: Why are Philosophical Human Rights Overriding?..... | 243 |
| 5.2. On Beitz: The Complexity of Object-dependent Theories and of Multiple Roles for Human Rights..... | 243 |
| 6. Conclusions..... | 245 |

Table of Contents

About the Authors.....247

Subject Index.....253