

SYbIL | Spanish Yearbook
of International Law

Book's review

ADROHER BIOSCA, Salomé, CAMPUZANO DÍAZ, Beatriz, PALAO MORENO, G. (Dirs.), *Un Derecho Internacional Privado centrado en los derechos de las personas*, Tirant Lo Blanch, Valencia, 2025.

The book *Un Derecho Internacional Privado Centrado en los Derechos de las Personas* (A Private International Law Focused on People's Rights) brings together the twenty-two insightful contributions from the VII AEPDIRI Seminar on current issues in Private International Law, held in Madrid in March 2024. Edited by the distinguished Professors Salomé Adroher Biosca, Beatriz Campuzano Díaz, and Guillermo Palao Moreno, this collective work presents a rich and diverse analysis of pressing topics where the individual and their rights serve as the central frame of reference. The volume is the valuable outcome of a seminar that successfully gathered a significant number of specialists, including professors from national and foreign universities, as well as professionals from outside academia who are engaged in the practical application of Private International Law.

The structure of the work is aptly divided into three thematic sections, mirroring the seminar's program: "Rights of Vulnerable Persons", "Due Diligence: Companies, Environment and Human Rights", and "Immigration from a Rights Perspective". This organization provides a coherent framework for a wide array of topics, all unified by a person-centric approach. As Ana Salinas de Frías notes in the prologue, this focus on the individual has regained prominence in the discipline after a period dominated by issues of international trade and investment. The book is a clear testament to the urgent need to restore the importance of a discipline centered on people in a constantly changing world.

The collection opens with an insightful transversal, critical, and prospective analysis by Nicolas Nord, who traces the evolution of Private International Law from a traditional balance of interests to its contemporary focus on individual rights. Nord identifies key drivers for this shift, including the development of fundamental rights, particularly through the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and the principle of free movement of persons within the European Union. He also discusses the growing importance of habitual residence and party autonomy, which have further empowered individuals in cross-border legal scenarios. This introductory chapter masterfully guides the reader, setting the conceptual stage for the more specialized contributions that follow.

The first part of the book, dedicated to vulnerable persons, offers a profound examination of the mechanisms for their protection. Laura Martínez-Mora Charlebois explores the pivotal role of the Hague Conventions in safeguarding children, analyzing instruments on child abduction (1980), intercountry adoption (1993), and child protection (1996). Her contribution also provides a valuable look into the future, discussing the ongoing legislative project at the Hague Conference on parentage and surrogacy, a topic of immense contemporary relevance. Following this, Mónica Herranz Ballesteros focuses on the EU's Private International Law framework for protecting minors and vulnerable adults, delving into theoretical elements that condition its application, such as the

interpretation of “cross-border” situations and its complex relationship with the Hague Conventions. This section is further enriched by a series of specialized communications that address specific, pressing challenges. These include analyses of the proposed EU Regulation on the protection of adults, the data protection rights of individuals in transfers to the US, the convergence of public and private international law in this field, and the ethically complex issue of post-mortem reproduction in cross-border contexts.

The second part addresses the highly topical issue of due diligence, human rights, and the environment. Francisco Zamora Cabot offers a compelling analysis of access to justice against corporations for human rights violations, revisiting the role of the U.S. Alien Tort Statute (ATS) and exploring other federal acts that continue to provide remedies for victims of corporate misconduct abroad. Antonia Durán Ayago discusses the shift towards a “materially sustainability-oriented Commercial Law,” analyzing the far-reaching implications of the new EU Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence for European Private International Law. This core section is masterfully complemented by communications that tackle crucial related issues, such as the extraterritorial scope of the due diligence Directive, the new regulation on non-financial reporting as a tool for transparency, and the Private International Law aspects of the anti-SLAPP Directive. This cluster of contributions provides a comprehensive and multifaceted view of a rapidly evolving legal field.

The third and final part centers on immigration from a rights-based perspective, an area fraught with human and legal challenges. Isabel Lázaro González profoundly examines the right to identity of foreigners, with a particular focus on the complex and sensitive issue of age determination for unaccompanied minors, a topic that sits at the intersection of immigration law and child protection. Carmen Azcárraga Monzonís provides a critical analysis of Article 31 bis of Spain’s Immigration Law, discussing the advances and pending issues in the protection of foreign women who are victims of gender-based violence. Lucas Andrés Pérez Martín proposes a comprehensive reform of the state management system for unaccompanied migrant children, following the migratory routes that have placed immense pressure on regions like the Canary Islands. This section is further strengthened by a diverse set of communications exploring topics such as “invisible children” and the recognition of their legal personality, the persistent problem of child marriage in European and international private law, the new EU Blue Card for highly qualified immigrants, protective coordination for children seeking asylum, and the practical problems of foster care for unaccompanied migrant minors in Spain.

In conclusion, *Un Derecho Internacional Privado Centrado en los Derechos de las Personas* is a collective work of undeniable interest and a significant, timely contribution to legal scholarship. By placing the individual and their rights at the core of the analysis, the book addresses some of the most complex and socially relevant challenges of our time. The editors are to be commended for compiling a cohesive and thought-provoking collection that successfully combines theoretical knowledge with practical experience. The breadth of topics covered, the depth of the analyses, and the diverse perspectives offered by the authors make this volume an indispensable reference for academics, practitioners, and anyone interested in the human dimension of cross-border legal relations. The exemplary systematization of the content allows chapters to be read

either continuously or independently, making it accessible to both experts and a general audience. This work will undoubtedly serve as a crucial theoretical and practical tool for anyone wishing to delve into a Private International Law that is, as the title promises, truly centered on people's rights.

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