Constitutional change in a globalised world

The Constitution Transformation Network (ConTransNet) at Melbourne Law School is a network of expert scholars and practitioners of constitutional transformation. ConTransNet can reliably deliver quality, evidence-based advice, research and expertise on the development of constitution-making processes and content, transformation and implementation.

Focus areas
- Constitutions and peacebuilding
- Constitution making and design
- Interaction between international, regional and domestic constitutional systems
- Constitutional implementation and transition

Expertise
- Expert technical advice on the development, transformation and implementation of constitutions on a public or confidential basis
- Brokerage of connections between country experts and partner organisations on a basis of equality and mutual respect
- Research and analysis on the practice and theory of the transformation of constitutions globally and with particular reference to Asia and the Pacific
- Design and delivery of knowledge exchange and networking forums (conferences, policy dialogues, capacity-building / training workshops)
- High quality academic services (research, publications, post-graduate courses).

Approach
- Sharing global experiences and lessons learned drawing on comparative methods and accurate, global constitutional knowledge
- Recognising and responding to the dynamics of internationalisation, globalisation and regionalism
- Building and engaging global networks of practitioners and scholars to extend and apply evidence-based global constitutional knowledge.

For more information, visit law.unimelb.edu.au/constitutional-transformations
Convenors

Cheryl Saunders is Laureate Professor Emeritus at Melbourne Law School, where she specializes in comparative constitutional law from a global perspective. She is a former President of the International Association of Constitutional Law and of the International Association for Centres of Federal Studies and a senior technical advisor to the Constitution Building Program of International IDEA.

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William Partlett is a Senior Lecturer at Melbourne Law School whose research broadly focuses on the role of history and institutions in constitution-making. Drawing on his background in Russian history, he is particularly interested in exploring the distinctive institutional legacies of the Russian constitutional tradition and their persistence in both post-Soviet and post-socialist constitution-making.

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Tom Gerald Daly is a Fellow of Melbourne Law School, Associate Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law at Edinburgh Law School, and a consultant on public law, human rights, and democracy-building. Tom’s research focuses on the connections between law, policy and democratic governance, with a particular focus on young democracies and fragile democracies.

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Anna Dziedzic is a PhD Candidate at Melbourne Law School. She researches and consults in the field of comparative constitutional law with a special focus on the constitutional systems of the Pacific. She has written on aspects of constitution-making, federalism, institutions of government and the interaction between constitutional provisions and gender issues.

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Members

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Tim Lindsay is Malcolm Smith Professor of Asian Law, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Director of the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society at the Melbourne Law School. A specialist in a wide range of aspects of Indonesian law, Tim teaches and researches Indonesian law, shari’a (Islamic law), comparative law and law reform in developing countries.

Pip Nicholson is a Professor and the Director of the Asian Law Centre at Melbourne Law School and Director of the Comparative Legal Studies Program. Pip’s research interests include dispute resolution, comparative legal studies, law and reform in Asia, and law and society in Asia. Pip has consulted widely on these issues and regularly advises on court reform in Vietnam.

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Bruce (“Ossie”) Oswald is Professor and Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law in the Melbourne Law School. His research includes peacebuilding and constitutional transformation (including the recognition of civil defence groups in interim constitutions and constitution making processes) and the implications of pluralist legal systems for constitution building and law-making in the context of peacebuilding.

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Charmaine Rodrigues is a PhD Candidate at Melbourne Law School. Her PhD examines the intersections between constitution making and peace building.

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Adrienne Stone holds a Chair at Melbourne Law School where she is also an ARC Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate Fellow, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Director of the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies. Adrienne researches in the areas of constitutional law and constitutional theory with particular attention to freedom of expression.

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