U. Pagallo, University of Torino, Italy

The Laws of Robots
Crimes, Contracts, and Torts

This book explores how the design, construction, and use of robotics technology may affect today’s legal systems and, more particularly, matters of responsibility and agency in criminal law, contractual obligations, and torts. By distinguishing between the behaviour of robots as tools of human interaction, and robots as proper agents in the legal arena, jurists will have to address a new generation of “hard cases.” General disagreement may concern immunity in criminal law (e.g., the employment of robot soldiers in battle), personal accountability for certain robots in contracts (e.g., robo-traders), much as clauses of strict liability and negligence-based responsibility in extra-contractual obligations (e.g., service robots in tort law). Since robots are here to stay, the aim of the law should be to wisely govern our mutual relationships.

Features
► Provides a comprehensive approach to the legal challenges of robotics technology
► Presents case studies illustrating the current discussion on the agency of autonomous and “intelligent” machines
► Contains a special chapter on new forms of accountability for future use

Contents
Table of Contants.- List of Figures.- List of Tables.- Preface.- Acknowledgments.- Introduction.- Chapter 1 - On Law, Philosophy and Technology.- Chapter 2 - Crimes.- Chapter 3 - Contracts.- Chapter 4 - Torts.- Chapter 5 - Law as Meta-Technology.- Conclusions.- References.

Fields of interest
Theories of Law, Philosophy of Law, Legal History; Artificial Intelligence (incl. Robotics); Ethics

Target groups
Research

Product category
Monograph

Due May 2013

2013. X, 187 p. 20 illus. (Law, Governance and Technology Series, Volume 10) Hardcover
► $129.00
ISBN 978-94-007-6563-4

L. Riccardi, Bergamo, Italy

Chinese Tax Law and International Treaties

The People’s Republic of China’s tax policies and international obligations are as multifaceted and dynamic as they are complex, developing closely with the nation’s rise to the world’s fastest-growing major economy. Today, after decades of reform and the entry into the World Trade Organization, China has developed regulatory systems that enable it to provide stable administration, including a tax structure.

Features
► Comprehensive and updated tax guide which will help readers to better understand the Chinese tax system
► Provides a collection of the most significant tax treaties between China and foreign countries
► Contains practical ways for tax calculation which are very easy to understand

Contents

Fields of interest
Private International Law, International & Foreign Law, Comparative Law; Business Taxation/Tax Law; International Economic Law, Trade Law

Target groups
Professional/practitioner

Product category
Professional book

Due July 2013

► approx. $109.00
ISBN 978-3-319-00274-3

A. Rösel, University of Hamburg, Germany

Detection of Melt Ponds on Arctic Sea Ice with Optical Satellite Data

The Arctic sea ice is characterized by profound changes caused by surface melting processes and the formation of melt ponds in summer. Melt ponds contribute to the ice-albedo feedback as they reduce the surface albedo of sea ice, and hence accelerate the decay of Arctic sea ice. To quantify the melting of the entire Arctic sea ice, satellite based observations are necessary. Due to different spectral properties of snow, ice, and water, theoretically, multi-spectral optical sensors are necessary for the analysis of these distinct surface types. This study demonstrates the potential of optical sensors to detect melt ponds on Arctic sea ice. For the first time, an Arctic-wide, multi-annual melt pond data set for the years 2000-2011 has been created and analyzed.

Features
► Provides the first Arctic-wide multi-annual data set of melt pond fraction
► Melt ponds are retrieved from satellite observations
► Provides the method of calculation of the melt pond fraction from optical satellite data

Contents
Introduction.- Physical characteristics of sea ice.- Optical Remote Sensing.- Melt pond determination from Landsat satellite data.- Melt pond determination from MODIS data.- Summary and outlook.- Glossary.

Fields of interest
Law of the Sea, Air and Outer Space; Earth System Sciences; Climate Change

Target groups
Research

Product category
Monograph

Due June 2013

2013. 130 p. 45 illus. in color. (Hamburg Studies on Maritime Affairs, Volume 25) Softcover
► $129.00
ISBN 978-3-642-37032-8
F. Ruggieri, Università dell’Insubria, Como, Italy (Ed)

Criminal Proceedings, Languages and the European Union

Linguistic and Legal Issues

The book "Criminal proceedings, languages and the European Union: linguistic and legal issues" – the first attempt on this subject – deals with the current situation in the jurisprudential studies, which cover comparative law, language and translation, towards the aim of the circulation of equivalent legal concepts in systems which are still very different from one another. In the absence of common cultures and languages, in criminal procedure it is possible to distinguish features that are typical of common law systems and features that are typical of civil law systems, according to the two different models of adversarial and inquisitorial trials. Therefore, the most problematic challenges are for the European Union legislator to define generic measures that can be easily implemented at the national level, and for the individual Member States to choose corresponding domestic measures that can best implement these broad definitions, so as to pursue objectives set at the European level.

Contents


Fields of interest

European Law; Comparative Linguistics; International Criminal Law

Target groups

Research

Product category

Contributed volume

---

T. Vormbaum, FernUniversität Hagen, Germany

M. Bohlander, Durham Law School, UK (Ed)

A Modern History of German Criminal Law

Increasingly, international governmental networks and organisations make it necessary to master the legal principles of other jurisdictions. Since the advent of international criminal tribunals this need has fully reached criminal law. A large part of their work is based on comparative research. The legal systems which contribute most to this systemic discussion are common law and civil law, sometimes called continental law. So far this dialogue appears to have been dominated by the former. While there are many reasons for this, one stands out very clearly: Language. English has become the lingua franca of international legal research. The present book addresses this issue.

Features

First book on the English-speaking market world-wide that deals in depth with the modern history of German criminal law

Written by one of the foremost German legal historians and edited by a leading scholar of comparative criminal law in the UK, especially with regard to German law

Together with the editor's books on German criminal law and procedure it provides a comprehensive introduction to German criminal justice for an Anglophone audience

Contents

Introduction.- Delimiting the time period and Methodology.- Criminal law at the beginning of the legal-historical period.- 19th century developments.- The shift from the 19th to the 20th century.- The 20th century.- Current events in criminal law.- Review and outlook.

Fields of interest

Theories of Law, Philosophy of Law, Legal History; Private International Law, International & Foreign Law, Comparative Law; Criminal Law

Target groups

Lower undergraduate

Product category

Undergraduate textbook

---

Due June 2013

2013. 300 p. 3 illus. in color. Hardcover

$129.00

ISBN 978-3-642-37151-6

---

Due July 2013

2014. 320 p. 17 illus. Hardcover

$99.00

ISBN 978-3-642-37272-8