

Keele Law Review – Volume 4 – Editorial Note

This volume of the Keele Law Review celebrates two leading legal texts.

The first is John Adenitire's book on *A General Right to Conscientious Exemption: Beyond Religious Privilege* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). The question of whether the legislature or the courts should add (religious) conscientious exemptions to otherwise generally applicable laws, is one of the most important, complex, yet unresolved problems within the fast-growing field of law and religion.

The book argues that there is in the US, Canada and UK, a general right to conscientious exemption available to a person who objects to any legal obligation whatsoever on the basis of a religious or non-religious conscientious belief. The book provides a liberal defence of this right and argues that it should be considered a defining feature of a liberal democracy.

The book, as is shown by the contributions to this volume, may face either approval or criticism, but will either way be a focal point of discussion and reference, whenever a question regarding conscientious exemptions arises.

The second book is Yaniv Roznai's *Unconstitutional Constitutional Amendments - The Limits of Amendment Powers* (Oxford University Press, 2017). The problem of 'unconstitutional constitutional amendments' has become one of the most widely debated issues in comparative constitutional theory, constitutional design, and constitutional adjudication. This book describes and analyses the increasing tendency in global constitutionalism to substantively limit formal changes to constitutions. The book sets out to explain what the nature of amendment power is, what its limitations are, and what the role of constitutional courts is and should be when enforcing limitations on constitutional amendments.

The book was joint winner of the ICON·S Book Prize, got worldwide praising reviews from constitutional theory scholars, and is widely considered as the leading text on the topic of unconstitutional constitutional amendments.

We hope that this volume will promote the legal discourse about these two complex and important legal topics – and will do justice to these two fascinating books.

Prof Yossi Nehushtan

General Editor, Keele Law Review.