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The Transforming Power of Cultural Rights

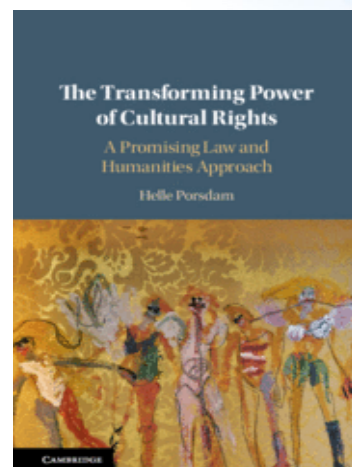
A Promising Law and Humanities Approach

Helle Porsdam

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Cultural rights promote cultural and scientific creativity. Transformative and empowering, they also enable the pursuit of knowledge and understanding, thereby working as atrocity prevention tools. *The Transforming Power of Cultural Rights* argues that this gives these rights a central role to play in promoting the full human personality and in realizing all other human rights. Looking at the work of the UN Special Rapporteurs in the field of cultural rights as well as UNESCO's efforts, Helle Porsdam addresses the question of how a universal human rights agenda can include a dialogue that recognizes the importance of cultural diversity without sliding into cultural relativism. She argues that cultural rights offer a useful international arena and discourse in which to explain and negotiate cultural meanings when controversies arise. This places them at the center of human rights - and at the center of law and humanities.

Introduction; Part I. Setting the Scene: 1. Law and humanities: a cultural rights perspective; 2. Television judge shows: rights talk and popular culture; Part II. Cultural Rights: 3. The queen of human rights: on the right to education and Malala Yousafzai, *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban*; 4. The right to take part in cultural life: on cultural heritage, identity, and Orhan Pamuk's *Museum of Innocence*; 5. The right to science: issues, challenges, and Pernille Rørth, *Raw Data*; 6. Copyright, patents, author's rights, and the right to culture and science; Part III. Connecting Main Themes and Arguments: 7. A global human rights priority: on gender and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *We should All Be Feminists* and Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions.



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Advance praise: 'This book is original in its focus, current in its concerns, provocative in some of its approaches and at the same time shows very in-depth knowledge of the cultural, philosophical and legal aspects needed to understand the cultural rights and their dilemmas. Professor Helle Porsdam has written the work which we should all know in order to continue participating in the debate on cultural rights.'

Mikel Mancisidor

Independent expert member of the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (2013–20)



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