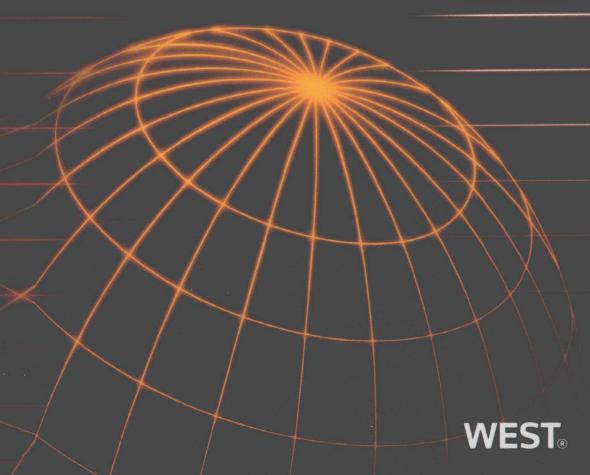
Global Issues in Antitrust and Competition Law

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Foreword

Eleanor Fox has frequently reminded us that while markets are global, antitrust laws—the rules that undergird effectively functioning markets—are national. She would be first to recognise that each of the key elements of this insight require a degree of qualification. In fact, surprisingly few markets are seamlessly global. And increasingly the practice of antitrust law is already in the process of becoming international, although it is certainly true that the instruments of antitrust enforcement and merger regulation are overwhelmingly national, notwithstanding their extraterritorial reach.

This monumental volume is focused on the critical interplay between the national and the global elements of antitrust. It does so through the medium of national jurisprudence, through the reproduction of key speeches, through an analysis of commissions and treaties and the efforts of antitrust enforcers to align their practice, or, at the very least, to understand the bases of divergent national practices.

Few are better qualified to undertake this task than the two authors. Eleanor Fox is the scholar most closely associated with describing, understanding and analysing international antitrust, as evidenced by her truly massive output in this area alone, and by no means her only area of contribution to antitrust scholarship. But even more than her scholarship, for those of us whose work in antitrust started at its geographical margins—that is to say, beyond the borders of the United States and the European Union—Eleanor is distinguished by her empathy with and her deep interest in these efforts. She has been a voice of the new antitrust authorities and as they have grown in stature and importance, so has she expanded her already vast horizons by incorporating the work of these new agencies into the corpus of international antitrust law and practice. The range of experiences drawn upon to produce this volume is testament not only to the centrality of the international markets/national antitrust insight, but to Eleanor's intellectual curiosity and willingness to embrace the experiences and insights of those who are not used to making an appearance in the scholarly antitrust tomes emanating from the US and Europe.

My introduction to Daniel Crane's work comes by way of his seminal historical accounts of the ups and downs, the ebbs and flows, of US antitrust. Just as I would insist that economic historians, rather than plain and simple economists, are best placed to understand contemporary economic phenomenon and even predict their future paths, so are legal historians best placed to understand the place to which decades of antitrust law has evolved and where it is likely to go. Historians are, per definition, sensitive to the often determinative force and power of context—politics, economics, stages of development, state-business relations, even wars all, as Daniel's work reminds us, influence the character and course of antitrust. This is the canvas of history and Daniel's regard for history permeates this volume.

We are at an important cusp in the development of international antitrust. Effective public international institutions are working precisely in those interstices between global markets and national antitrust that are the concern of this volume. The International Competition Network has brought together the vast majority of the world's national antitrust authorities. The ICN has developed best practices, not only in antitrust rules and approaches, but also in the building of effective antitrust authorities. And at least, as important, it has, largely through the active participation of precisely those of its members who used to be on the antitrust margins, that the ICN is beginning to appreciate "informed divergence", essentially an appreciation of why historical and other contexts may necessitate divergence rather than convergence. The OECD continues to produce applied scholarship of high quality and to embrace participation from way beyond its membership. UNCTAD continues to support those antitrust authorities from nations whose resource endowment and history most constrains their ability to develop into effective members of the international community of national antitrust authorities. And if the WTO is the avowed and self-proclaimed agent of a globalised world, for how long can antitrust remain on the periphery of its agenda.

Forewords traditionally extol the timeliness of the volumes that they are introducing. This volume is a majestic survey of an issue whose time has truly come. It will not only be a building block in the enterprise of aligning global markets and national antitrust, it is a veritable world tour of the rules and practices that already propel that world further and map out its future direction.

In their introduction to the volume the authors note that this volume on global antitrust issues may be used "to supplement domestic antitrust casebooks". They then immediately identify the oddity implicit in treating a volume on global antitrust as a supplement to national antitrust scholarship precisely because markets—the very stuff of antitrust—are global. As markets become ever

more global—and even that inexorable development will experience ebbs and flows—so will this volume come to occupy a central place on the bookshelves of antitrust scholars and in the reading lists of their students.

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