
GLOBALIZATION AND THE LAW: AN INTRODUCTION

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Globalization is both a concept and a process. As a concept, it has largely happened. Put simply, it marks the increased movement of, and the connection between, goods, services, people, capital, and cultures both between and within regions and countries around the world. Much of this discussion is often framed in economic terms of trade, technology, and capital flow. As a process, however, globalization is far from over. Whether and how the process of globalization should develop are still very open questions. In this sense, globalization signals an opportunity to participate in the social, political, legal, cultural and economic realities, as well as the futures of our individual and collective well-being.

The focus of this special issue of the *Alberta Law Review* is globalization and the law. The purpose of this special issue is to look at ways that law is participating, and can participate, in the process of globalization. Given the social and political regulatory power of law — both domestic and international — there is no doubt that law can and should have a lot to say about how the process of globalization develops.

As guest editors of this special issue, we solicited papers from all over the world on all aspects of the topic of globalization and the law. As we hoped, we received submissions from a variety of regions on a variety of topics. Included are papers touching on issues of globalization and human rights, genetics, trade law, procedure, immigration, terrorism, and the judiciary, among others. There are obviously significant differences between the papers. There is also a unifying theme: the role that law can and should play in the future direction of our global community.

Finally, we hope that the articles included in this issue will not only further our current understanding of the various topics discussed, but will also spark further research, thinking, and dialogue on these and other related issues of globalization and the law.

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