

## Summaries

**Stephen Humphreys: The Theatre of the Rule of Law.** The promotion of the rule of law has become a multi-billion dollar industry and a mainstay of contemporary development policy. A close examination of the now extensive body of literature that has been generated in and around this work reveals an elaborate worldview consistently embedded and insistently reproduced through project activities – for example, that aim to „modernise“ judiciaries, „update“ laws and eliminate corruption – as well as through the relations between host states, non-governmental organizations and global congeries of financing institutions and investment mechanisms. In this paper I characterise rule of law promotion as a form of theatre: the staging of a certain morality tale about the good life. Rule of law promoters do not attempt to demonstrate the rightness of their propositions through empirical evidence (there is little), nor through reasoned argument (it is not open for debate), nor through historical analogies (there are none). Rather, the field bases its appeal on the force of repeated narratives involving the reproduction of a set of immutable themes (e.g. governance, corruption, privatisation, transparency, accountability, impunity, and judicial independence) that incorporate a recurrent group of morally-tagged actors (e.g. civil society, the judiciary, „the poor“, public officials, and „reform-minded constituencies“). This paper provides an account of the latent theory that animates the theatre of the rule of law.

**Matthias Ebenau: „Law and Development“ at the World Bank: A Critique.** Assuming a critical perspective on „law and development“, this article analyses the World Bank’s contemporary politics in this field. It argues that the better part of its objectives and practices of an „inclusive liberalism“ are marked by a fundamental continuity in regards to the economistic, Eurocentric, as well as market- and business-centred beliefs of the neoliberal paradigm. Thus, even though the Bank, as part of its governance agenda, is giving greater attention to institutions, the latter are still mainly judged on the basis of their market-supporting qualities. The strategy articulated by the Bank’s Legal Vice Presidency translates this premise into a focus on reforms to secure property and contract rights, as well as judicial independence which, in effect, largely obscures socio-economic conflicts of interest and relationships of domination. The Bank’s current strategy also reflects on its concrete practice of project financing and, accordingly, writes itself into the political strategies of borrower countries (e.g. in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers – PRSP). On the level of knowledge production, through their one-sided operationalisation, quantitative indicators (e.g. Worldwide Governance Indicators – WGI – and the Doing Business Index – DBI) exert significant influence over political and economic actors and support the legitimisation of the Bank’s practices. While the new Justice for the Poor Program (J4P) represents some noteworthy progressive innovations compared to the Bank’s mainstream practices, ultimately it remains bound to inclusive liberalism and will, thus, probably contribute to paradigm maintenance rather than to progressive transformation.