

FOREWORD TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

As the current Director of the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law ('CPICL'), it gives me great pleasure to write this Foreword to the Special Issue of the *University of Queensland Law Journal* ('UQLJ') celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the CPICL. I wish to record my sincere gratitude to the editors of the *UQLJ* for agreeing to and supporting this Special Issue.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my CPICL colleagues who served as guest editors of the Special Issue, and the authors and peer reviewers of the excellent articles that follow. The seven articles making up this anniversary edition cover the breadth of CPICL's focus on public law, international law and comparative law. These seven articles also embody CPICL's founding principles of collaboration and support for colleagues at different stages in their academic journeys. The authors include current and former CPICL Directors, and current and former CPICL Fellows, including former CPICL research scholars who successfully undertook their doctoral research under the supervision of CPICL Fellows.

Professor Ann Black and Dr Joseph Lelliott have offered a thoughtful account of CPICL's establishment in their introduction to this Special Issue. I will take this opportunity to offer some brief reflections on my early involvement in CPICL, which I think illustrate some of the 'value' that CPICL 'adds' to the life of the TC Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland. As a junior scholar at the time of CPICL's establishment, my colleagues in the Centre provided me with both intellectual and financial support to pursue my research interests in public and international law. CPICL funded my presentation of a paper at an important conference organised by the Australian Red Cross in Adelaide. CPICL Fellows also assisted in deepening my understanding of the issues upon which I spoke at that conference, and the journal article that followed in the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* remains one of my most regularly cited journal articles. All of this was made possible by the support offered by CPICL and by the collegial group of scholars who make up the Centre. For 20 years CPICL has provided this form of support. Long may it continue.

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