

EXPERT IGNORANCE

Today, a transnational constellation of 'rule of law' experts advise on 'good' legal systems to countries in the Global South. Yet these experts often claim that the 'rule of law' is nearly impossible to define, and they frequently point to the limits of their own expertise. In this innovative book, Deval Desai identifies this form of expertise as 'expert ignorance'. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, Desai draws on insights from legal theory, sociology, development studies, and performance studies to explore how this paradoxical form of expertise works in practice. With a range of illustrative cases that span both global and local perspectives, this book considers the impact of expert ignorance on the rule of law and on expert governance more broadly. Contributing to the study of transnational law, governance, and expertise, Desai demonstrates the enduring power of proclaiming what one does not know. This title is available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

DEVAL DESAI is Lecturer in International Economic Law at the University of Edinburgh. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Young Academy of Scotland, and was an inaugural International Rule of Law Fellow at the Bingham Centre.

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Peer Zumbansen

*Professor of Transnational Law, The Dickson Poon School of Law,
King's College London*

A list of books in the series can be found at the end of this volume.

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The Law and Politics of Rule of
Law Reform

DEVAL DESAI

University of Edinburgh





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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