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# Rightful Relations with Distant Strangers

Book Launch Workshop June 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm (CET)

Comments by

Evan Fox-Decent (Montreal) • Macarena Marey (Buenos Aires) • Daniel Häuser (Hamburg) •  
Alessandro Pinzani (Florianópolis) • Antoinette Scherz (Oslo) • Arthur Ripstein (Toronto)

Organized by

Daniel Häuser & Peter Niesen, Political Theory, Hamburg

To register, please contact Daniel Häuser ([daniel.haeuser@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:daniel.haeuser@uni-hamburg.de))



LAW AND PRACTICAL REASON

RIGHTFUL RELATIONS WITH DISTANT STRANGERS

KANT, THE EU, AND THE WIDER WORLD

ARAVIND GANESH

Aravind Ganesh is the Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow in Law at Oxford Brookes University, as well as a Re:constitution Fellow for 2020-21. His research interests include EU law, public international law, private law theory, and the legal and political philosophy of Immanuel Kant. Dr Ganesh possesses degrees from King's College London (LLB), Columbia Law School (JD), and Oxford (BCL), and obtained a PhD (*cum laude*) from the Faculty of Law, VU Amsterdam in June 2019. Previously, Dr Ganesh worked as a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law, as a research associate for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, practiced as a corporate lawyer in New York, and volunteered in South Africa's premier public interest law firm. He has held visiting fellowships at Université Catholique de Louvain (2009-2010) and Tel Aviv University (2014-2015), and his work has been published in journals such as *Legal Theory* and the *Michigan Journal of International Law*.

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The book provides a philosophical critique of legal relations between the EU and 'distant strangers' neither located within, nor citizens of, its Member States. Starting with the EU's commitment in Articles 3(5) and 21 TEU to advance democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in 'all its relations with the wider world', Ganesh examines in detail relevant EU and international legal materials, and thereafter critiques them in the light of a theory of just global legal relations derived from Kant's philosophy of right. In so doing, he departs from comparable Kantian scholarship on the EU by centering the discussion not around the essay *Toward Perpetual Peace*, but around the *Doctrine of Right*, Kant's final and comprehensive statement of his general theory of law.

The book thus sheds light on areas of EU law (EU external relations law, standing to bring judicial review), public international law (jurisdiction, global public goods) and human rights (human rights jurisdiction), and also critiques the widespread identification of the EU as a Kantian federation of peace.

The doctoral thesis this book was based on was awarded the 2020 René Cassin Thesis Prize (English section).'