

Introduction

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Framework

Human rights have become one of the most important fields of academic and legal-political-cultural discourses in recent decades. This scientific attention may be related to the legal, political, economic and cultural changes promoted by the process of globalization in the second half of the 20th Century. The contradictory processes of economic globalization run parallel to equally contradictory processes of political and legal globalization, with the spread of multiple human rights discourses and practices all over the world. The emergence of new forms of international and national power relations has been accompanied by the quest for related adjustments in the field of human rights. In this context, international human rights norms and discourses have been appropriated, transformed and/or contested by social groups, governments, intergovernmental organizations and even corporations in different regional, national and local contexts. This book, composed of texts by international authors from different regions of the world, claims for a constructive, intercultural dialogue across different regions that takes into account alternative knowledge and values.