



The Museum of Bioprospecting, Intellectual Property, and the Public Domain

A Place, A Process, A Philosophy

Edited by Joseph Henry Vogel

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Description

This anthology injects much-welcome humor into the international debate over access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

"Out of the self-absorbed world of global genetic resources and benefit-sharing, emerges an immensely invigorating volume. With a stellar cast of contributors, the editor cajoles the reader forward through the literary device of a gadfly interloper. The result is a compelling must-read for practitioners and neophytes alike." —*Timothy Hodges, Co-Chair, Working Group on ABS, UN Convention on Biological Diversity*

"This book should be read by everyone with an interest in the theory and practice of biodiversity, intellectual property and equity." —*Graham Dutfield, author of Intellectual Property Rights and the Life Science Industries: Past, Present and Future*

"...Adventurous thinkers from a range of disciplines roaming over some of the great conflicts of our time." —*Jay Parini, author of The Last Station and Promised Land: Thirteen Books that Changed America*

"A provocative book about a museum-cum-amusement park-cum-people's forum; just like what prevailed in the pre-mobility, pre-TV culture of a people's gathering to think collectively." —*Ossama El-Tayeb, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University*

Seven scholars discuss how a museum can flesh out the ethics of bioprospecting, intellectual property, and the public domain. Visitors become a source of considered judgments as they screen movies which touch on issues that have no technical solution. Three amphitheatres surround a courtyard café which is a metaphor for the mission of the museum: conversation. The blueprint is vetted before an imaginary octogenarian who is not at all impressed and will "say the damndest things." As this 21st century Don Quixote moseys across the chapters and pokes fun at the scholarly ruminations, the reader begins to understand how the proposed museum is indeed a forum for the nuanced ethics of bioprospecting, intellectual property, and the public domain.

Readership: Professors and students of anthropology, environmental studies, law, and public policy.

Contents

Preface; Acknowledgements; The *Bauplan*; Looking the Gorgon in the Face: The Ubiquity of Propaganda and the Business of Debate; Museums as Venues for Polemics: Exhibits that Provoke Controversy, Argumentation or Refutation; The Museum as a Vehicle for Considered Judgments on Access and Benefit Sharing; Clearing the Air: Applying the Intellectual Property Framework to National, Community, and Individual Rights in The Convention on Biological Diversity; The Tragedy of the Anti-commons Threat to Farmers' Rights: The Case of Crop Germplasm; The Moral Foundations of Intellectual Property and Conservation through Access and Benefit-Sharing; The Nameless Interloper in The Museum of Bioprospecting, Intellectual Property, and the Public Domain: A Place, A Process, A Philosophy; Appendix: The Original Essay; Notes; Index

About the Editor

Joseph Henry Vogel is professor of economics at the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras and has served as a technical advisor to the Ecuadorian delegation to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Contributors: María José Moreno Viqueira, Manuel Ruiz, Tomme Young, Stephen B. Brush, Charles R. McManis, Valentina Delich, Camilo Gomides, Carlos A. Muñoz-Osorio

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