



DISCOURSES ON METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW: AN ANTHOLOGY

FOREWORD

Methodology has always been an important part of the legal discourse. Law is, by nature, an imprecise science, since it commonly tends to admit a plurality of views about the same problem. Therefore, more than the solution, it is the correctness of the methodology employed which bestows authoritativeness to the solution arrived at.

This truism sounds even more true with regard to international law. Possibly with a view to establishing the philosophical foundations of this relatively new branch of legal science, methodology has been, for decades, a constant source of inspiration for scholarly analyses. The contemporary debate is rather focusing on the methods to be employed to determine how the law sprouts from its classical and new sources. In this dimension, the debate on methodology deeply permeated the recent editions of the Morelli Lectures. The three last editions devoted a special attention to methodology and the very last one was entirely devoted to that topic.

The written versions of some of the courses are collected in this anthology. In spite of their apparent heterogeneity, the various pieces are bound together by a thin but very visible thread: they all are discourses on method; and discourses on method are part and parcel of the mission assigned to the Morelli Lectures. It is our hope that the subsequent editions of the Lectures will continue to follow this thread in the years to come.

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