Borders, Legal Spaces and Territories in Contemporary International Law
Foreword

It constitutes for me a signal honour to have been invited to write the Foreword to this collected volume, which is the felicitous result of the 2-year-long work of a group of young international law scholars. The invitation of the two editors, Dr. Tommaso Natoli and Dr. Alice Riccardi, carries for me a twofold special meaning: first, as I was the Dean of the Department of Law at Roma Tre University when the Conference inspiring this volume took place and, second and foremost, as for the personal relationship of affection and esteem that has tied me to Alice and Tommaso for a long time. They have both worked for years at the department which I directed. Thanks to their intuitions and constant commitment to international law, it has been possible to launch and deliver numerous researches touching themes of great actuality and originality and pursue innovative teaching projects which are at the forefront of national legal education and beyond.

It is also for these reasons that when Alice and Tommaso approached me to get the department’s support to organize the 13th edition of the Italian Conference of the Young Researchers of International and European Union Law, I could not but offer such support. Furthermore, the theme of the Conference, namely, Borders, Legal Spaces and Territories, seemed to me of considerable value for two main reasons. The first reason is, as conceptualized by the editors in the chapter “Borders and International Law: Setting the Stage”, because the Conference touched upon what I believe is one of the central issues at this historic time. This theme also allowed to engage scholars from different backgrounds (international public law, international private law and European Union law) in a cross-cutting and inclusive discussion. Indeed, although the eight chapters composing this volume focus on very different topics, they are actually profoundly interconnected among themselves—and this highlights that it is unnecessary, if not unproductive, to adopt a compartmentalized perspective when approaching the notion of the border. The second reason is methodological. The idea at the backdrop of the Conference organized by the two editors was not that of simply collecting a number of papers individually drafted. On the contrary, the editors have truly realized a collective research project based upon a system of cooperative peer review among them and the authors, so that each one has
been given the chance of studying, presenting and criticizing constructively the work of others. This system allowed a stimulating and fruitful confrontation among the members of a group composed by both the editors and the authors which resulted in a harmonic and dense book.

I hence congratulate the editors for the result achieved with this volume, which I am sure will be an essential point of reference for future reflections. In a world in which processes of migration increase day after day; where walls—both legal and physical—are built with the aim to exclude and distinguish; where new and old tendencies challenge the protection of fundamental human rights; and where technological innovations force to reread the impact of international law, there it lies this book gathering together eight studies, rigorous and innovative, whose publication could not be more opportune.

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Acknowledgements

This volume closes a 2-year-long journey that started in late 2016, when the editors decided to take up the challenge of organizing the 13th edition of the Italian Conference of the Young Researchers of International and European Union Law at the Law Department of the University of “Roma Tre”, Rome, Italy. The chapters that compose this volume originate from a selection among more than 50 abstracts that were received upon the publication of a call for papers and were discussed during the Conference entitled Frontiere, spazi giuridici e territorio (“Borders, Legal Spaces and Territory”) that took place on 11–12 May 2017. The editors are deeply grateful to the authors of the chapters of this volume, who engaged with them in a long though enriching collective research effort. We wish to thank the Law Department of the University of “Roma Tre” which hosted the Conference and its Dean Professor Giovanni Serges for his unconditional support. A debt of gratitude goes to the senior academics involved as discussants during the Conference, namely, Professors Giulio Bartolini, Federico Casolari and Mirko Sossai, and to the international and European Union lawyers of “Roma Tre”, namely, Professors Paolo Benvenuti, Giandonato Caggiano, Antonietta Di Blase and Claudia Morviducci. A special thank goes to Professor Edoardo Boria, who brilliantly introduced the Conference with his illuminating lectio magistralis providing the participants with a geopolitical perspective on the notions of statehood, borders and territories. We also wish to extend our gratitude to the members of the Board of the Italian Society of International Law and European Union Law for their encouragement and words of sincere appreciation.

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