

Informal constitutional change: constitutional change without formal constitutional amendment in comparative perspective

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INFORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE Constitutional change without formal constitutional amendment in comparative perspective

van Reijer Passchier

- The historical institutionalist perspective enables us to understand how multiple processes of change outside formal constitutional amendment procedures may effect changes in the meaning of formal constitutional norms.
- Legal or non-legal institutional developments that have taken place in areas addressed by the written constitution may have profound and durable implications for the meaning of existing constitutional norms, even if these developments have not been brought about by way of a formal constitutional amendment.
- The difficulty of formal constitutional amendment may not be the only important reason why constitutional change does not always travel the path of a formal constitutional amendment procedure in a given constitutional order.
- 4. Constitutional democracies facing problems similar to those discussed in this dissertation may want to consider developing, after the German example, a legal doctrine of informal constitutional change.
- 5. There is no point in studying constitutional law without studying the object that this particular type of law seeks to regulate.
- 6. In the marriage between constitutional law and politics, law is not always the one that wears the pants.
- 7. The social and democratic constitutional state has served, to some extent, the needs of living man. It has done little for the rest of life on Earth, or for future generations.
- 8. A good constitutional course or curriculum need not to be comprehensive, but it should be inviting and stimulating.
- 9. If anything, universities should cherish or bring back the old school, small scale seminars.
- 10. Education without commitment has no place at a university.

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