



Linguistic Diversity and European Democracy

By Anne Lise Kjær, Silvia Adamo

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What role does linguistic diversity play in European democratic and legal processes? Is it an obstacle to deliberative democracy and a hindrance to legal certainty, or a cultural and economic asset and a prerequisite for the free movement of citizens? This book examines the tensions and contradictions of European language laws and policy from a multi-disciplinary perspective. With contributions from leading researchers in EU law and legal theory, political science, sociology, sociolinguistic and cognitive linguistics, it combines mutually exclusive and competing perspectives of linguistic diversity. The work will be a valuable resource for academics and researchers in the areas of European law, legal theory and linguistics.

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Review

'European democracy is based on multiple networks and has to find transitional processes between unity and fragmentation. This duality is a powerful tool for social manipulation. This book convincingly highlights the foundations of linguistic diversity and European democracy in a surprising multiplicity of perspectives and settings.' Anne Wagner, Universite du Littoral Cote d'Opale, France 'In the EU, linguistic diversity often is the "elephant in the room": everyone is aware of it but no one dares to talk about it. In academia, the role of language(s) in the integration process has long been an important yet under-researched area. This volume is an excellent way of addressing this gap in the literature.' Thomas Christiansen, Maastricht University, The Netherlands 'Linguistic diversity is a symbol of European democracy, but it also complicates political dialogue and the exchange of ideas. This tension is studied in this book where leading jurists and linguists examine, fruitfully and thoroughly, the relationship between language rights and communication needs in Europe, notably within the EU.' Heikki E.S. Mattila, University of Lapland, Finland

About the Author

Anne Lise Kjær is Associate Professor at the Centre for European Constitutionalization, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen and Director of the international research network Reline for interdisciplinary studies in Language and Law. More recent and current research concerns cross-disciplinary studies of legal integration in Europe and combines theories of language, discourse, culture and law. Silvia Adamo is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Studies in Legal Culture, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. Her research interests and publications revolve around migration law and citizenship law, including language requirements for migrants applying for citizenship, European Union law and the interaction between law and political philosophy on multiculturalism.

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