

Preface

My engagement with ACP-EU cooperation started as a narrow study on the legal scope of Article XXIV GATT in North-South regional trade agreements and has developed into a philosophical inquiry of the normative nature of ACP-EU relations, with law at the centre of its analysis. The transformative shift from preferential trade to reciprocity has been examined extensively in the literature of political science, international political economy and economics. While this body of scholarship is rich and diverse, ranging from the materialist focus of the rationalist theories to the normative approach of constructivism, I found the literature to be lacking in a critical perspective that conceives of regions as constituted *through* law. Analysing the regional agreements through a critical legal lens, and drawing insights from both the rationalist and constructivist schools of international political economy, this book offers a fresh perspective on the ACP-EU relationship.

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