

## Book Review

*Organ Transplantation: Ethical, Legal and Psychosocial Aspects—Towards a Common European Policy.* W. Weimar, M. A. Bos, and J. J. Busschbach eds., Lengerich, Germany: PABST Science Publishers, 2008.

Weimar's, Bos's and Busschbach's edited collection *Organ Transplantation: Ethical, legal and Psychosocial Aspects—Towards a Common European Policy* is divided into seven sections. In the first, the editors outline the European platform on ethical, legal and psychosocial aspects on organ transplantation. M. A. Bos then provides the European perspective on organ transplantation; this is followed by L. D. de Castro providing a Philippine perspective on organ transplantation and F. L. Delmonico providing an American perspective on transplant tourism and organ trafficking. The second section addresses the issues of commercialization and trafficking of human organs. This includes two very well-argued articles that advocate a regulated system of compensation for kidney transplantation. Although A. J. Matas's article here is essentially a repetition of his 2007 policy analysis for the Cato Institute ('A Gift of Life Deserves Compensation'), the article by the editors (together with Frank de Charro and Mark Oppe) is an incisive one, noting that since kidney markets will occur, it is better to legalize and regulate than not. This section also contains two articles by J. Zargooshi discussing the kidney markets in Iran, noting that this has led to inequitable distribution of kidneys and a decline in deceased donation. The third section addresses current legal systems for organ donation and allocation, covering issues of equitable access to organs, kidney paired exchanges, presumed consent and living-donor list exchanges. It contains a short paper by H. Kreis, which addresses the fundamental question of 'Whose organs are they, anyway?'. Although Kreis's arguments for the view that deceased-donor organs are social property is underdeveloped, this is a question that needs to be addressed, and this volume would have been better had more attention been paid to it. The fourth section of the volume addresses the issues of altruism, counseling and psychological aspects of organ donation. The most interesting articles in this section are by G. van Hartogh and J. W. Saloma. Hartogh correctly argues that it is wrong to think that a person's voluntariness to donate is compromised any influences whatsoever, and draws out the implications of this view. By contrast, Saloma argues that the

Internet solicitation of organs is immoral, as they violate social justice, could be coercive and may lead to discrimination. Although provocative, his arguments are undercut by those of Hartogh. The fifth section of this volume concerns minorities and the religious and gender-based aspects of organ donation. The papers in this section mainly cover the sorts of issues that one would expect to find addressed, including Islamic views of organ donation and a study of physicians' views on living altruistic donation in France and Quebec that show that they have similar concerns, even though this type of donation is prohibited in France but not in Quebec. The most provocative article in this section is J. Radcliffe Richard's on 'Transplants and the Problems of Justice to Groups' in which she argues that transplant policy in most countries that reduce donation rates are based on ideas about group entitlements that are unjustified. However, there are also articles in this section that seem out of place. It is not clear why the article by M. Potts and D. W. Evans, which argues that solid organ donation by living donors is unethical as it violates the Hippocratic Oath is included here, nor why S. Sevimli's article on transplantation and medical ethics in Turkey is included—unless the editors assume that Turks are by their nature minorities? The penultimate section of this volume address issues associated with postmortem donation, such as family refusal and 'donation after cardiac death. This section contains several insightful papers, including an account of why bereaved relatives decline organ and tissue donation and an excellent article by D. Sperling on postmortem symbolic existence. The final section addresses the various roles of patients, media and the pharmaceutical industry in the transplant field—although this is a very *ad hoc* selection with no obvious overarching theme.

Overall, this volume is an excellent snapshot of the ethical, legal and psychosocial aspects of contemporary transplantation and is highly recommended.

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