

Expropriation by Law

Intellectual Property, Value and Labor

Christian Bessy, IDHES ENS Paris-Saclay, France

Placing himself at the crossroads of economics, law, and sociology, Christian Bessy investigates the contemporary transformation of intellectual property rights (IPR) with the emergence of new conventions for their valuation. He demonstrates how things previously considered inappropriate have now become the object of property rights by means of a creeping legal codification.

The book examines how the extension of IPRs has given rise to new forms of expropriation of the wealth produced, allowing companies to protect their investments in intangible assets. Presenting an original basis of legal disputes and decisions concerning the attribution of IPRs, chapters illustrate that patents are at the heart of the economic development of multinationals, start-ups, and the rise of new technologies. Bessy traces the contours of the appropriation of intellectual creation and the new class of lawyers who participate in it, drawing a portrait of contemporary capitalism in which the grip of law threatens the pioneers of innovation.

Challenging the mainstream thinking dominating the theoretical literature on IPRs, *Expropriation by Law* will be an essential text for postgraduate students and researchers of the economics of innovation and IP law. Its original empirical analysis will also prove insightful to industrial economists, policymakers, IP lawyers and innovation managers in cultural and creative industries.

'Christian Bessy's book makes a significant contribution that goes beyond a mere synthesis or update of existing literature. It opens up new avenues for reflection, making it highly compelling for intellectual property lawyers, as well as for sociologists and economists focused on innovation.'

– Fabien Girard, Université Grenoble Alpes and Institut Universitaire de France, France

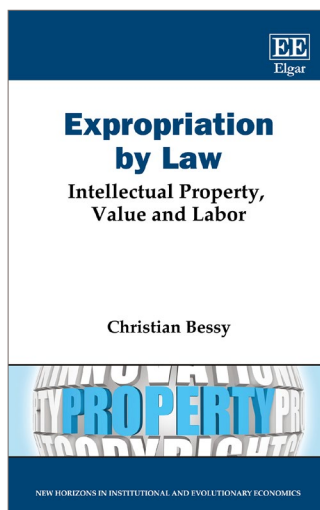
'This essential book shows how the evolution of valuation conventions over time has allowed the transformation of IPRs into negotiable assets and, ultimately, how the constitution of a market for patents is struggling to operate on a large scale.'

– Sophie Harnay, University of Paris Nanterre, France

'Christian Bessy has written a timely and highly original book on the evolution of intellectual property rights. Based on insights from economics, technology, and law and combining theory with empirical studies, he demonstrates that IPR-conventions that expropriate workers increasingly are shaped by new professions operating in the cross-field between law and finance.'

– Bengt-Åke Lundval, Aalborg University, Denmark

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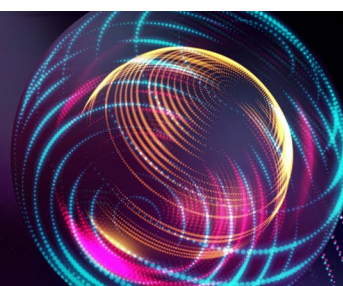
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