Adjunct Professor Dr. Joseph Rikhof has published a new book entitled A Theory of Punishable Participation in Universal Crimes

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Dr. Joseph Rikhof, adjunct professor in the faculty of common law where he teaches international criminal law, has published a new book together with Dr. Terje Einarsen, Professor of Law at the University of Bergen, entitled A Theory of Punishable Participation in Universal Crimes (with as subtitle Developing the International Criminal Law Matrix of Personal Liability: Analytical and Empirical Foundations).

This study is the second in the four-part series entitled “Rethinking the Essentials of International Criminal Law and Transitional Justice”. While the first volume, The Concept of Universal Crimes in International Law, explored the parameters and theories related to crimes under international law, this book examines the notion of punishable participation or complicity in such crimes. It presents a general theory of personal criminal liability and provides a comprehensive overview of all forms of criminal participation in international law. The authors examine numerous primary materials in international and transnational criminal law, both historical and current, relating to both international and domestic jurisprudence. They also review academic literature that attempts to explain and bring consistency to the jurisprudence, as well as other sources such as reports of the International Law Commission. This rich empirical tapestry is then used to test and further develop an over-arching conceptual theory and matrix that provides a better understanding of the boundaries of personal criminal liability lex lata and lex ferenda and of the relationship between the various forms of punishable participation in universal crimes.

This is Rikhof’s third book after The Criminal Refugee: The Treatment of Asylum Seekers with a Criminal Background in International and Domestic Law (2012) and as co-author...

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