

Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge: Case Studies and Conflicting Interests. Tania Bubela and E. Richard Gold (eds). Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, UK. 2012. 365 pp. Price: £87.50.

The book under review is on the international legal and political landscape related to rights of indigenous people over their biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. The book is a contribution by 16 authors including case studies from Brazil, Kenya, India and Canada.

The book deals in an informed and competent way with the complex and contentious international discussions surrounding traditional knowledge (TK) and associated properties rights, from a legal, political and administrative perspective. It captures the debates related to the provisions of various international conventions pertaining to the rights of indigenous communities and protection of TK about biological resources. The authors/contributors critically review the relevant conventions and outline critiques, gaps, inconsistencies as well as experiences arising from their implementation. The articles focus on medicinal uses of genetic resources and associated TK, conservation of biological and cultural diversity and traditional ecological knowledge. In part 1 of the book, the authors cover international conventions such as: 'The Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People (2007)', The Convention on Biodiversity, The Bonn Guideline on Access to Genetic Resources, The Nagoya Protocol, The UPOV Convention, The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Trips, The Brundlandt Report and The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Re-

sources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore.' Part 2 of the book focuses on the implementation and effect of national laws and policies to protect and respect TK in four geographies, viz. Brazil, Kenya, India and Canada.

It is observed that the scope of TK in this book is limited by the way it has been defined in most of the above-mentioned conventions. It is limited to the evolving knowledge of indigenous communities related to natural resources (flora and fauna) in the context of forestry and agriculture, covering classification systems, traditional ecological knowledge, customary law, sustainable management of natural resources, agricultural and healthcare practices and medicinal properties of local species. The epistemological basis of TK is not touched nor is there any discussion on the impact of colonialism, neocolonialism and globalization on TK. The broadest definition of TK is provided in WIPO debates, wherein there is recognition of the value, importance and *scientific equivalence* of TK to other knowledge systems. WIPO debates recognize the potential contribution of TK, not only to conservation of the environment, food security, sustainable agriculture, but also to transform mainstream science and technology.

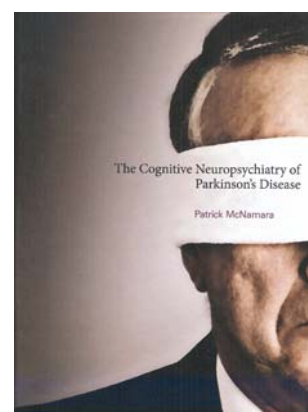
The definition of indigenous people applied in the international debates is also confusing. The current international debates clearly assume only non-European populations to be indigenous people. One wonders why? In principle, one way of defining indigenous people could be refer to those people who are native to a particular country or region. By this definition, Europeans are also indigenous people of their own lands. However, in the international debates, one observes that indigenous people of USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand fall under one category. These are native people whose populations have been largely decimated and the surviving populations have been displaced from their territories and pushed into small reservations. This is perhaps the reason why these countries decided not to sign 'The Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People (2007)', which also grants territorial rights to indigenous people. In South and Central America, the indigenous communities are a mix of purely native communities and others who have mixture of European blood. In Africa, a majority of the

population is native and indigenous and this is also the case in Asia.

Part 3 of this book on conclusions proposes a new approach to TK that is based on distributive justice, equality of capabilities and self-determination. It suggests that the conventional idea of property rights may run counter to many of the interests of indigenous communities because of the inalienable nature of many forms of TK. It visualizes that the appropriate way to support TK would be for nations to build autonomous indigenous institutions with the capacity to self-determine and to sustain and develop TK. In my view, the conclusions are constrained by the contours of the international conventions and thus have not really explored the possibility of a multi-cultural process of modernization as opposed to the current mono-cultural trends, wherein the principle of unity in diversity is explored to accommodate TK alongside other knowledge systems in a balanced way that enriches the development process in all societies.

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The Cognitive Neuropsychiatry of Parkinson's Disease. Patrick McNamara. The MIT Press, 55 Hayward Street, Cambridge, MA 02142. 2011. xi + 231 pp. Price: US\$ 45.00/£30.95.

The book under review is an elegantly written book which will be useful to all neurologists, especially those specializing in movement disorders and cogni-

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tion. The book has 13 chapters, with discussions on (i) clinical features of Parkinson's disease (PD); (ii) role of dopamine in cognition in PD; (iii) discussions on 'agentic self'; (iv) how changes in agentic self in PD results in personality changes and cognitive deficits in PD; (v) deficits of speech, language, and sleep in PD; (vi) mood disorders, psychosis and dementia in PD; (vii) an emerging concept of impulse control disorders in PD and finally (viii) several chapters on rehabilitation of the agentic self.

The book will generate interest among neurologists, psychiatrists and neuropsychologist and they can definitely enrich their knowledge on neuropsychiatric aspects of PD. In the first half of the book, the author has discussed in depth about 'agentic self', the component of a person's identity or unified self that makes decisions and acts; and the six basic operations it does to keep a balance in our normal self in day-to-day interactions. The author discusses about the brain regions which control these operations and finally what goes wrong in the subcomponents of the agentic self in PD. The discussions on these aspects and the

theories proposed are thought-provoking, though the chapters need to be read with careful attention, probably more than once, to actually understand the proposed theories. There is excellent and exhaustive review of available literature, displayed in tabular form, on personality changes in PD. Finally, McNamara discusses the PD neuropsychiatry via investigation of its evolutionary associations.

While the first part of the book may be more appealing to the neuropsychiatrist, for the neurologist and movement disorder specialist, the last six chapters are probably more useful. Here, we obtain a very good clinical discussion on the common problems we face when treating patients with PD, especially in advanced stages. The various neuro-psychiatric problems such as speech and language dysfunctions, sleep and mood disorders and psychosis are scholarly summarized, with hypothesis on the pathophysiology of these changes. The associations of REM-behaviour sleep disorders, dreams, psychosis and how they ultimately affect cognition in PD are well discussed. Finally, the various impulse control disorders such as pathological gambling, sexual dysfunctions, punding, compulsive

eating, etc., which are increasingly recognized in PD, and often attributed to dopamine agonists, are discussed at length, and will be very useful to any caregiver for PD.

The last chapter is on 'Rehabilitation of the agentic self'. McNamara aptly writes '— I do not want to leave the reader with the impression that PD is nothing but a catalogue of deficits' and that 'PD has to be understood as a disorder of the whole person. It is a disorder of action, and only a person can act.' He stresses the importance of developing rehabilitation programmes for correcting the deficits in the realm of agentic self and social cognition.

In my opinion, the book is a very well-written masterpiece that will be an asset to those who treat patients of PD.

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