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# Introduction

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KATARINA TRIMMINGS AND PAUL BEAUMONT

This book grew out of research undertaken by Katarina Trimmings and Paul Beaumont from 2010 to 2012, funded by a grant of over £112,000 by the Nuffield Foundation. The research focused on the growing social phenomenon of international surrogacy and how it could be regulated at the global level. To facilitate the research a workshop was organised in Aberdeen from 30 August to 1 September 2011, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, University of Aberdeen, Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Clark Foundation. This workshop was the genesis for the National Reports and two papers providing an international perspective that are published in this book. Part Three of the book contains the General Report which gives a comparative law overview of the range of domestic approaches to surrogacy. It then highlights the legal problems caused by cross-border surrogacy. The empirical research into cross-border surrogacy that was attempted as part of the two-year research project produced disappointingly meagre results. This was in particular due to the unwillingness of private intermediaries to share information for research purposes. The findings are set out in the General Report even though they are of very limited value. Lastly, an attempt is made to set out a framework for a future Convention that could be constructed in The Hague to regulate international surrogacy arrangements.

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