

# Remoteness Reconsidered

The Atacama Desert and International Law

Much of our understanding of the world is framed from the perspective of a dominant power center, or from standard readings of historical events. These stories are also shaped by the architecture of international information distribution, academic centers, and the lingua franca of international scholarly discourse. *Remoteness Reconsidered* employs the idea of remoteness as an analytical tool for viewing international law's encounter with the Americas from the unusual, peripheral perspective of the Atacama Desert. The Atacama is regarded as one of the most remote places on Earth, although that less-than-accurate perspective comes from standard historical accounts of the region, accounts that originate from the "center." Changing the usual frame of reference leads to a reconsideration of the idea of remoteness and of the subsequent marginalization of historical narratives that influence hemispheric international relations in important ways today. Lessons about international law's encounters with neoliberalism, indigenous and human rights, and the management and extraction of mineral resources take on new significance by following a spatial turn toward the idea of remoteness as applied to the Atacama Desert.

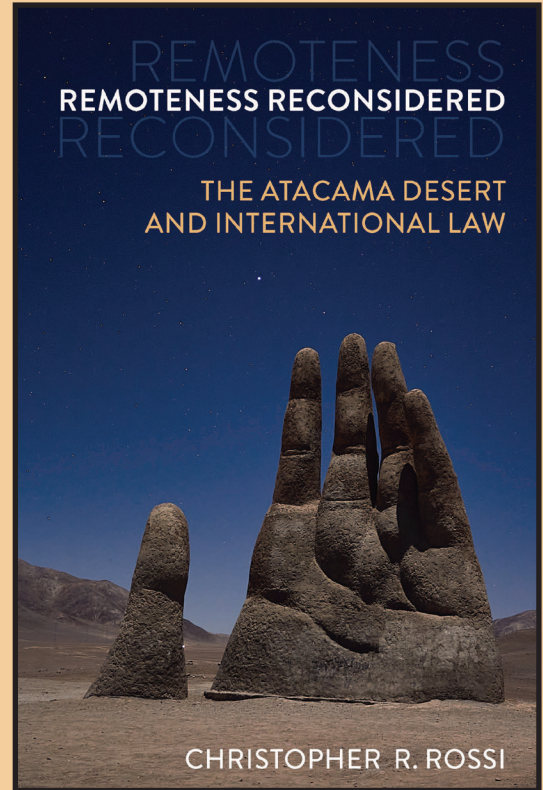
**Christopher R. Rossi** is an Adjunct faculty member at the University of Iowa College of Law.

"A spatial, critical-geographic perspective on international law and its operation...Using the trope of 'remoteness,' Rossi offers both an original conceptual interrogation as well as a critical topography of one particular place—the Atacama Desert."

—Petra Gümplová, Universität Erfurt

"Rossi integrates multiple disciplines in the examination of [remoteness's] centrality in transboundary disputes and conflicts, using the Atacama as the trope."

—Rhett Larson, Arizona State University



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