

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I	Introduction	1
	1 The 'legal-culture' thesis	1
	2 Intestate systems and testamentary formalities: Overview	2
II	The 'legal-culture' thesis questioned: Twelve observations	5
	1 Legal families	5
	2 Receptions	7
	3 Legal unification	8
	4 Legal change	9
	5 Transsystemic constants	11
	6 Transsystemic tendencies of development	12
	a In general	12
	b The rise of the surviving spouse	14
	7 Outdated national peculiarities	16
	8 Outdated transsystemic thinking patterns	18
	9 Critical reflection	19
	10 System-conformity	21
	11 Simplicity	22
	12 No discrimination	23
III	A balance sheet	25