# Table of Contents

Preface ................................................. 7

Acknowledgements ................................. 11

1 Is Law a Parasite? An Evolutionary Explanation of Differences among Legal Traditions .......................... 13
   1.1 Introduction .................................... 13
   1.2 Legal Traditions and Their Differences ...... 14
   1.3 Legal Traditions and Evolution: Law as a Parasite ... 16
   1.3.1 A Memetic Theory of Language Evolution: Language as a Parasite ... 17
   1.3.2 Is Law a Parasite? ......................... 18
   1.4 Can We Prove This Memetic Theory of Legal Evolution? 22

2 Darwin at Work: How to Explain Legal Change in Transnational and European Private Law? .................... 25
   2.1 Introduction .................................... 25
   2.2 The Theoretical Model: A Darwinian Evolutionary Framework ... 26
   2.3 Understanding Legal Change: Law as an Organism ....... 27
   2.4 Evolutionary Lessons for Transnational and European Private Law ........ 29
   2.4.1 The Importance of ‘Nature’: Path Dependence and Legal Change ... 30
   2.4.2 How Law Develops: A Race to the Bottom? ........ 34
   2.4.3 Extinction or Living Together? ............ 36
   2.5 Conclusions .................................... 37

3 Do Small Jurisdictions Have a More Complex Law? A Numerical Experiment in Constitutional and Private Law ........................................... 39
   3.1 Introduction .................................... 39
   3.2 Formalizing Complexity: How to Measure Complexity in Law? ............ 41
   3.3 The Experiment: Coding the Density of a Legal System ............. 44
   3.4 Explanation: Why Are Some Jurisdictions More Complex than Others? ... 48
   3.5 Conclusions .................................... 53

4 If You Shoot My Dog, I’m a Kill Yo’ Cat: An Enquiry into the Principles of Hip-Hop Law ........................................... 55
   4.1 Introduction .................................... 55
   4.2 Methodology .................................... 57
   4.3 Principles of Hip-Hop Law .................... 59
   4.3.1 Introduction .................................. 59
Five Uneasy Pieces

4.3.2 Punishment: An Eye for an Eye 60
4.3.3 Self-Justice and Self-Government 62
4.3.4 Respect: No Dissing 64
4.3.5 Instrumental Use of the Law 66
4.4 Conclusions: A Law to Survive in the Urban Jungle? 67

5 The Phylogeny of the Unpaid Seller’s Right to Vindicate Goods:
A Test Study 69
5.1 Introduction 69
5.2 The Price Payment Rule: A Comparative-Historical Overview 71
5.3 Phylogenetic Analysis: Dataset and Methodology 74
5.3.1 Introduction 74
5.3.2 The Dataset 75
5.3.3 Coding of the Characteristics 77
5.3.4 Phylogenetic Methods Used 78
5.4 Results of the Analysis 79
5.5 Conclusions 86
Annex 1 Full list of texts 87
Annex 2 List of traits 105

Index of Names and Places 107