This book is the second in a series of volumes on the Sociology of Constitutions. This volume focuses on the rise of transnational constitutional laws, primarily created by the interaction between national and international courts and by the domestic transformation of international law. Through detailed analysis of patterns of institutional formation at key historical junctures in a number of national societies, it examines the social processes that have locked national states into an increasingly transnational constitutional order, and it explains how the growth of global constitutional norms has provided a stabilizing framework for the functions of state institutions.

The book adopts a distinctive historical–sociological approach to these questions, examining the deep continuities between national constitutional law and contemporary models of global law. The volume makes an important contribution to the sociology of constitutional law, to the sociology of post-national legal processes and to the sociology of human rights law.

**Chris Thornhill** is Professor of Law at the University of Manchester. His research is mainly focused on the sociology of constitutional law, both in domestic and transnational contexts, and he has published a number of influential works in this area. His work has been published in many languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, German, and Russian.
Cambridge Studies in Law and Society aims to publish the best scholarly work on legal discourse and practice in its social and institutional contexts, combining theoretical insights and empirical research.

The fields that it covers are studies of law in action, the sociology of law, the anthropology of law, cultural studies of law, including the role of legal discourses in social formations, law and economics, law and politics and studies of governance. The books consider all forms of legal discourse across societies, rather than being limited to lawyers’ discourses alone.

The series editors come from a range of disciplines: academic law, socio-legal studies, sociology and anthropology. All have been actively involved in teaching and writing about law in context.

Series editors

Chris Arup Monash University, Victoria
Sally Engle Merry New York University
Susan Silbey Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A list of books in the series can be found at the back of this book.
A SOCIOLOGY OF TRANSNATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS

Social Foundations of the Post-National Legal Structure

Chris Thornhill