

Preface

This collection of essays is a project of scholarship and of intercultural exchange. While discussing their views on fault-based and strict liability, European scholars deepen their understanding of the legal culture in China, while our Chinese colleagues gain insights into the legal culture in Europe. Although there are now many useful texts that offer introductions and even more for those who seek to learn about either legal culture in their own language, we believe our efforts must not remain limited to these written guides, because true exchange also thrives on an active and continuing discussion in person and in context.

Following ‘The Aims of Tort Law’, ‘The Protection of Personality Rights’ and ‘Tortious and Contractual Liability’, the current volume is the fourth publication flowing from the cooperation between the Sino-European Private Law Forum (Yantai University, China) the Institute for European Tort Law (ETL, Vienna, Austria), and the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL, Vienna, Austria). The present collection of essays has a rather long history. The original papers were presented in Vienna on 18 October 2019. The aim to publish them was regrettably on hold for some time due to various instances of bad luck that will be of little interest to the reader. In Autumn 2023, we undertook a new and successful attempt to revive the plan for a publication that makes the hard work of all contributors accessible. We are fortunate and grateful that this suggestion was well-received by the authors, who agreed to update their papers as well as could reasonably be expected. We are therefore happy to present this volume now as documentation of the lively debate in Vienna and the insights that have been presented, and we are confident they may be useful for further comparative research on fault-based and strict liability.

We owe our profound thanks to Donna Stockenhuber and Kathrin Karner-Strobach for their proofreading, not an easy task considering that most of us are not native speakers of English and there are very different systems and references involved. Zhang Yudong deserves much gratitude for his patient support of the project on behalf of Yantai University, as do the entire staff of ETL and ECTIL for their support in vari-

ous ways. Finally, the assistance provided by Jan Sramek Verlag was as professional, personal and thorough as editors can wish for.

Vienna, August 2024

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