

Ben Martin Irle, **Convergence of Communications: Implications for Regulating Market Entry**, Nomos, 2009, 392 pp., \$86.00 (paperback).

Reviewed by
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This volume is a translation of a dissertation submitted to the Law School of the University of Hamburg in November 2004. Its author is the co-founder of a business law firm specializing in media, intellectual property, and unfair competition law. Unfortunately, Dr. Irle did not update his analysis and conclusions for this English translation.

As others have done, Irle argues that the introduction of digital technologies is eroding the stand-alone telecommunications, broadcasting, and information technology silos. The author's intent is to assess the consequences of this convergence for the regulation of communications, especially with regard to market entry.

Chapter 1 provides a legal perspective on the meaning of (technical, network, service, and market) convergence and its implications for regulation. In Chapters 2 and 3, the situation in the UK and Germany in the late 1990s and early 2000s is analyzed and compared with regard to market entry regulation in telecommunications and in electronic media. Chapter 4 discusses the EU framework on communications adopted by the EU Council in Britain (2003) and in Germany (June 2004). The final chapter analyzes and compares the implementation of Britain's 2003 Communication Act and the revised German Telecommunications Act.

Irle provides an historical snapshot of the British, German, and EU legal developments impacting communications and market entry just after the turn of the century. His book is thorough and quite detailed in what is examined, but narrow in its focus. Irle offers a careful legal analysis, but does not provide a theoretical framework or any data or statistical analysis. His analysis also suffers from the omission of any comparison to developments in the United States, Asia, or other EU member states. The book features a well-organized table of contents to guide readers, but lacks an index. This author provides an excellent overview of a moment in time, but the analysis is not sufficiently dynamic.

