

## **John Cobb Cooper: At the Frontiers of International Law**

**Thea Agape V. Lim**

### **Abstract**

This paper examines the development and formalization of air and space law as a subfield of international law by focusing on the contributions of John Cobb Cooper, founder of the Institute of Air and Space Law at McGill University and a pioneer in air and space law. John Cobb Cooper's experiences and vision greatly influenced the direction of air and space law, both in terms of shaping the substantive law and its supporting institutions. By reflecting on John Cobb Cooper's work, I discuss the process of creating a subfield and the interactions between the specific subfield of air and space law and the wider body of international law. The rapid technological developments that made air space and outer space accessible to humans necessitated order. The legal community responded with treaties, organizations, and a body of legal principles, reflecting an international cooperation that was dictated, in large part, by the common nature of air space and outer space.

### **Author**

Thea Agape V. Lim graduated from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law in 2006. She holds a Masters of Philosophy in medieval history from the University of Cambridge and a Bachelor of Arts in history and classics (joint honours) from McGill University. She maintains a civil litigation practice at Adair Morse LLP in Toronto. She may be reached at [thea.agape.lim@gmail.com](mailto:thea.agape.lim@gmail.com).