

**Dr Ruth Towse**

**ECONOMICS OF PERFORMERS' RIGHTS: SOME DEVELOPMENTS**

Over the last century, performers emerged as a group in need of statutory protection of their economic and moral rights (similar to that of their 'author' colleagues) as the ability to reproduce and copy their performances became ever easier. Though their legal rights are not copyright in the legal sense (because they typically have only remuneration rights that are collectively administered), in economic terms their rights are similar in terms of benefits and costs. With the WPPT (WIPO Performers and Phonograms Treaty), performers may now be awarded individual exclusive rights; this leads to the interesting question whether the award of statutory rights can alter the economic rewards accorded by the marketplace.