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**THE HIDDEN DIMENSION OF INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY HEGEMONY: GLOBAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND LOCAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES**

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This paper argues for the existence of a 'hidden' but crucial dimension of the current hegemonic view in the international intellectual property (IP) regime, which is the role of technical assistance activities deployed by international organizations, transnational companies and national governments, associated with local administrative policies adopted by local policymakers and bureaucrats. Intellectual property has a 'global' regime after the enactment of the TRIPS Agreement (1994), which meant the creation of minimum global standards of protection. This globalizing process transformed not only the legal international norms, but also who are the actors and practices that constitute and co-produce the very same system. While much attention has been given to the role of developing countries in the global IP system across international organizations and in high-level ministerial debates nationally, the role of seemingly neutral and technical activities performed by multiple agents is central and sometimes even more relevant. In this case, 'technical' assistance is provided as a 'neutral' activity that embodies notions of modernity, development and efficiency, which are all criticizable. Local administrative policies, such as those included in guidelines for examination of pharmaceutical patents, largely define how an IP system operates concretely. A socio-legal analysis of this 'hidden' dimension provides a better account of the processes of construction of international economic law, the underlying political economy of allegedly 'technical' and 'administrative' measures and, more importantly, their entanglements with numerous individual agents and their own personal aspirations.