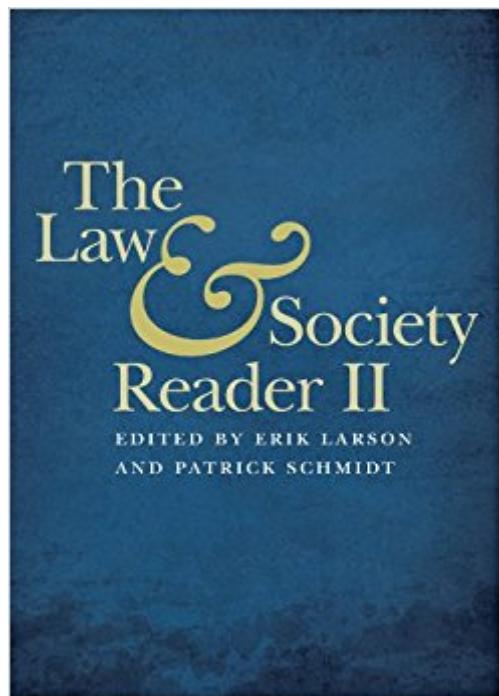


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The Law And Society Reader II



Synopsis

Law and society scholars challenge the common belief that law is simply a neutral tool by which society sets standards and resolves disputes. Decades of research shows how much the nature of communities, organizations, and the people inhabiting them affect how law works. Just as much, law shapes beliefs, behaviors, and wider social structures, but the connections are much more nuancedâ "and surprisingâ "than many expect. Law and Society Reader II provides readers an accessible overview to the breadth of recent developments in this research tradition, bringing to life the developments in this dynamic field. Following up a first Law and Society Reader published in 1995, editors Erik W. Larson and Patrick D. Schmidt have compiled excerpts of 43 illuminating articles published since 1993 in *The Law & Society Review*, the flagship journal of the Law and Society Association. By its organization and approach, this volume enables readers to join in discussing the key ideas of law and society research. The selections highlight the core insights and developments in this research tradition, making these works indispensable for those exploring the field and ideal for classroom use. Across six concisely-introduced sections, this volume analyzes inequality, lawyering, the relation between law and organizations, and the place of law in relation to other social institutions.

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An important antidote to the still dominant approach in law schools that teaches legal doctrine via isolated appellate opinions. This book puts law, lawyers, and legal institutions in their social and cultural context. Larson and Schmidt provide an engaging follow-up volume to Rick Abel's groundbreaking 1995 reader, effectively excerpting recent articles from the leading socio-legal studies journal, the *Law & Society Review*.-Laura E. Gomez,University of California, Los Angeles"In this volume Larson and Schmidt have creatively captured the spirit and diversity of law and society research published over the last 20+ years."-Herbert M. Kritzer,editor, *Law & Society Review*, 2003-07"Offering a stunning collection of disciplinarily diverse, cutting-edge research . . . this collection describes the way law works as a system of ideas, as a source of social identity, and as a force of social organization, inequality, as well as equality and social change. . . . The anthology will be very useful for students seeking access to this flourishing field of scholarship at both the graduate and undergraduate level, and others who simply want an overview of how law works."-Susan S. Silbey,Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor of Humanities, Sociology and Anthropology, MIT

Erik Larson is Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology and Co-Director of Legal Studies at Macalester College. Patrick Schmidt is Professor of Political Science and Co-Director of Legal Studies at Macalester College. He is the author of *Lawyers and Regulation: The Politics of the Administrative Process*, *Conducting Law and Society Research: Reflections on Methods and Practices* (with Simon Halliday), and the editor of *Human Rights Brought Home: Socio-Legal Studies of Human Rights in the National Context* (with Simon Halliday).
The book consists of 18 articles, each approximately 10-15 pages long, that cover a wide range of topics in sociolegal studies. The articles are well-written and organized, providing a clear and concise overview of the field. The book is suitable for both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as scholars and practitioners in the field of law and society.

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