

feminist legal theories

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Feminist legal theories critically examine how law and legal systems have historically perpetuated gender inequality and patriarchal structures, aiming to expose biases and advocate for substantive gender justice. This interdisciplinary field seeks to reform laws to better represent and protect the rights and experiences of women and marginalized genders, often incorporating intersectional analyses to address diverse forms of oppression.

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Feminist Legal Theory

This book offers powerful analyses of the relationship between law and gender and new understandings of the limits of, and opportunities for, legal reform drawn from the experiences of women and from critical perspectives developed within other disciplines.

Feminist Legal Theory (Second Edition)

Feminist legal theory is one of the most dynamic fields in the law, and it affects issues ranging from child custody to sexual harassment. Since its initial publication in 2006, *Feminist Legal Theory: A Primer* has received rave reviews. Now, in the completely updated second edition of this outstanding primer, Nancy Levit and Robert R.M. Verchick introduce the diverse strands of feminist legal theory and discuss an array of substantive legal topics, pulling in recent court decisions, new laws, and important shifts in culture and technology. The book centers on feminist legal theories, including equal treatment theory, cultural feminism, dominance theory, critical race feminism, lesbian feminism, postmodern feminism, and ecofeminism. Readers will find new material on women in politics, gender and globalization, and the promise and danger of expanding social media. Updated statistics and empirical analysis appear throughout. The authors, prominent experts in the field, also address feminist legal methods, such as consciousness-raising and storytelling. The primer offers an accessible and pragmatic approach to feminist legal theory. It demonstrates the ways feminist legal theory operates in real-life contexts, including domestic violence, reproductive rights, workplace discrimination, education, sports, pornography, and global issues of gender. The authors highlight a sweeping range of cutting-edge topics at the intersection of law and gender, such as single-sex schools, abortion, same-sex marriage, rape on college campuses, and international trafficking in women and girls. At its core, *Feminist Legal Theory* shows the importance of the roles of law and feminist legal theory in shaping contemporary gender issues.

The Ashgate Research Companion to Feminist Legal Theory

As a distinct scholarly contribution to law, feminist legal theory is now well over three decades old. Those three decades have seen consolidation and renewal of its central concerns as well as remarkable growth, dynamism and change. This Companion celebrates the strength of feminist legal thought, which is manifested in this dynamic combination of stability and change, as well as in the diversity of perspectives and methodologies, and the extensive range of subject-matters, which are now included within its ambit. Bringing together contributors from across a range of jurisdictions and legal traditions, the book provides a concise but critical review of existing theory in relation to the core issues or concepts that have animated, and continue to animate, feminism. It provides an authoritative and scholarly review of contemporary feminist legal thought, and seeks to contribute to the ongoing development of some of its new approaches, perspectives, and subject-matters. The Companion is divided into three parts, dealing with 'Theory', 'Concepts' and 'Issues'. The first part addresses theoretical questions which are of significance to law, but which also connect to feminist theory at the broadest and most interdisciplinary level. The second part also draws on general feminist theory, but with a more specific focus on debates about equality and difference, race, culture, religion, and sexuality. The 'Issues' section considers in detail more specific areas of substantive legal controversy.

Feminist Legal Theory: Foundations

Feminists have recently begun to challenge the powerful influence of the law on the social and cultural construction of women's roles, identities, and rights. *At the Boundaries of Law* is a timely and path-breaking work that provides a series of non-technical, interdisciplinary explorations into the nature and effects of legal regulation on women's lives. Together the essays examine the fertile – and radically revisionary – links between feminism and legal theory. But *At the Boundaries of Law* rejects the abstract 'grand theorizing' of traditional feminist legal theory, focusing instead on the concrete and material implications of the legal injustices endured by women. These essays emphasise the complex diversity of female experience, collectively arguing for legal theory and practice that both recognises and accommodates the concept of 'difference' – in gender, class, race and sexual orientation. *At the Boundaries of Law* also raises provocative questions about the methodology and future of feminist legal theory itself. In its rich variety of issues and approaches, this volume will command the interest not only of legal theorists, but of those interested in women's studies, philosophy, politics, sociology and history. It is sure to set the future agenda for scholars, policymakers and anyone concerned with the role of law in society.

At the Boundaries of Law (RLE Feminist Theory)

Annotation Feminists have recently begun to challenge the powerful influence of the law on the social and cultural construction of women's roles, identities, and rights. This timely work provides a series of non-technical, interdisciplinary explorations into the nature and effects of legal regulation on women's lives.

At the Boundaries of Law

A collection of previously published articles.

Feminist Legal Theory (Vol. 1)

This book provides a student text covering the major issues in feminist jurisprudence and to analyse the manner in which both traditional jurisprudence and law have remained a masculine subject.

Feminist Legal Theory

Feminists have recently begun to challenge the powerful influence of the law on the social and cultural construction of women's roles, identities, and rights. *At the Boundaries of Law* is a timely and path-breaking work that provides a series of non-technical, interdisciplinary explorations into the nature and effects of legal regulation on women's lives. Together the essays examine the fertile and radically revisionary links between feminism and legal theory. But *At the Boundaries of Law* rejects the abstract grand theorizing of traditional feminist legal theory, focusing instead on the concrete and material implications of the legal injustices endured by women. These essays emphasise the complex diversity of female experience, collectively arguing for legal theory and practice that both recognises and accommodates the concept of difference in gender, class, race and sexual orientation. At the

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Introduction to Feminist Jurisprudence

This volume carefully examines the relationship between gender, equality, and power across an array of realms: sex, reproduction, pleasure, work, money. It identifies social, political, economic, developmental, and psychological and somatic forces, operating both internally and externally, that complicate the expression and constraint of power.

At the Boundaries of Law (Rle Feminist Theory): Feminism and Legal Theory

An updated edition of the praised primer for feminist legal theory and how it shapes contemporary gender issues At long last, the complex field of feminist legal theory is presented in accessible, teachable form by two of its experts, Nancy Levit and Robert R. M. Verchick. In this outstanding primer, the authors introduce the diverse strands of feminist legal theory and the array of substantive legal issues relevant to women's and gender studies. The book centers on feminist legal theories—including equal treatment theory, cultural feminism, dominance theory, critical race feminism, lesbian feminism, postmodern feminism, and ecofeminism. The authors also address feminist legal methods, such as consciousness raising and storytelling. The primer demonstrates the ways feminist legal theory operates in real-life contexts, including domestic violence, reproductive rights, workplace discrimination, education, sports, pornography, and global issues of gender. Levit and Verchick highlight a sweeping range of cutting edge topics at the intersection of law and gender, such as single sex schools, women in the military, abortion, same sex marriage, date rape, and the international trafficking in women and girls. At its core, Feminist Legal Theory shows the importance of the role of law and feminist legal theory in shaping contemporary gender issues.

Special Issue

The Research Handbook on Feminist Jurisprudence surveys feminist theoretical understandings of law, including liberal and radical feminism, as well as socialist, relational, intersectional, post-modern, and pro-sex and queer feminist legal theories.

Feminist Legal Theory

"In the completely updated second edition of this outstanding primer, Nancy Levit and Robert R.M. Verchick introduce the diverse strands of feminist legal theory and discuss an array of substantive legal topics, pulling in recent court decisions, new laws, and important shifts in culture and technology. The book centers on feminist legal theories, including equal treatment theory, cultural feminism, dominance theory, critical race feminism, lesbian feminism, postmodern feminism, and ecofeminism. Readers will find new material on women in politics, gender and globalization, and the promise and danger of expanding social media. Updated statistics and empirical analysis appear throughout. At its core, Feminist Legal Theory shows the importance of the roles of law and feminist legal theory in shaping contemporary gender issues"--Unedited summary from book cover.

Research Handbook on Feminist Jurisprudence

Multidisciplinary focus Surveying many disciplines, this anthology brings together an outstanding selection of scholarly articles that examine the profound impact of law on the lives of women in the United States. The themes addressed include the historical, political, and social contexts of legal issues that have affected women's struggles to obtain equal treatment under the law. The articles are drawn from journals in law, political science, history, women's studies, philosophy, and education and represent some of the most interesting writing on the subject. The law in theory and practice Many of the articles bring race, social, and economic factors into their analyses, observing, for example, that black women, poor women, and single mothers are treated by the wielders of the power of the law differently than middle class white women. Other topics covered include the evolution of women's legal status, reproduction rights, sexuality and family issues, equal employment and educational opportunities, domestic violence, pornography and sexual exploitation, hate speech, and feminist legal thought. A

valuable research and classroom aid, this series provides in-depth coverage of specific legal issues and takes into account the major legal changes and policies that have had an impact on the lives of American women.

Feminist Legal Theory (Second Edition)

Feminist Legal Theory is a groundbreaking collection of feminist work proceeding from the core assumption that the differences among women are essential to feminist analysis. Rather than presenting feminist legal theory sequentially, with "African American feminism" or "critical race feminism" added on at the end, the volume thoroughly integrates key readings from non-white, non-middle class, and non-mainstream writers throughout. The volume explores the intersections of race, class, and gender in such areas as theory, family, work and economic issues, and violence against women. Each section of the book begins with an introduction providing context and insights into how the particular pieces included challenge norms and create new paradigms. This vibrant, challenging collection of work by a broad range of authors represents the cutting edge of feminist theory in concrete applications essential to gender equality. Contributors include: Patricia Hill Collins, Bonnie Thornton Dill, Angela P. Harris, Sylvia A. Law, Mari Matsuda, Martha Minow, Esther Ngan-Ling Chow, John A. Powell, Jenny Rivera, and Maxine Baca Zinn.

Feminist Legal Theories

First published in 1998, this book explores the links between theories of feminism and the practice of law, and does so through an examination of a number of contemporary themes in feminist legal studies. From an interdisciplinary perspective, this book examines, as one of its overarching themes, the existence of a distinctively female legal voice, or voices. In arguing for a recognition of the diversity of women's experiences of the law and in the law, it is also maintained that the role of feminism as a political strategy must not be lost. Feminist legal studies is one of the most exciting and dynamic areas of contemporary legal studies and the ambition of this book is both to capture and channel this dynamic. In introducing themes from politics, philosophy, literature, sociology and cultural studies, this book will be of interest to a wide ranging audience.

Feminist Legal Theory

Uses the failure of women to fit into male models of both law and theory as a way to rethink legal questions, including the meaning of equality, freedom, justice and citizenship. This includes concern about the way in which queer theory and critical race theory intersect with feminist theory today.

Feminist Legal Theory

Mary Joe Frug charts a course for future feminist thinking about law. She identifies the political and theoretical limitations of earlier strands of legal feminism and demonstrates why postmodernism offers more hope for women in law.

Legal Feminisms

How should feminist theories conceive of the subject? What is it to be a legal person? What part does embodiment play in subjectivity? Can there be a conception of rights which does justice to the social contexts in which rights claims are embedded? Is the way the law constitutes legal subjects a form of violence? These questions lie at the heart of contemporary feminist theory, and in this collection they are addressed by a group of distinguished international scholars working in law, philosophy and politics. The volume, in which the concerns of one author are taken up by others, advances current debate on two interconnected levels. First, it contains original and ground-breaking discussions of the questions raised above. At the same time, it contains a more reflexive strand of argument about the intellectual resources available to feminist thinkers, and the advantages and dangers of borrowing from non-feminist traditions of thought. It thus provides an exceptionally rich examination of contemporary legal and political feminist theory.

Feminist Perspectives on Law and Theory

While masculinities theory has had much to say on relationships of subordination, few feminist legal scholars have examined the implications of masculinities theory for feminist legal theory. This volume investigates the ways in which emerging masculinities theory in law could inform feminist legal theory

in particular and law in general. As many of the chapters in this collection illustrate, law is constantly in a dynamic interaction with masculinities: it has both influenced existing masculinities and has been influenced by those masculinities. The contributions focus feminist and critical theoretical attention on masculinities and consider the implications of masculinities theory for law and legal theory. The book sets out the theoretical trajectory of masculinities studies as a field and its application in law and uses insights from a masculinities approach to study socio-political construction of gender identities in specific settings. It also explores how understanding historical construction of gender identities can inform more effective public policy and activism. Written by leading experts in the area, the book poses important questions about the development of the relationship between feminisms and masculinities theory and will be essential reading for those working in law and gender and related areas.

Feminist Legal Theory

The essays in this volume fall within a chapter on one of the foundational law subjects on the degree syllabus, and aim to provide an account of feminist approaches to each of the following areas: contracts, torts, land law, equity and trusts, criminal law, public law, and European law.

Postmodern Legal Feminism

Analyzing the relationship between feminist theories and the law, this work takes as its starting point a study of women and culture on an international level, which demonstrates how religious and cultural influences have been fundamental in establishing contemporary legal and social mores.

Visible Women

Feminist and Queer Legal Theory: Intimate Encounters, Uncomfortable Conversations is a ground-breaking collection that brings together leading scholars in contemporary legal theory. The volume explores, at times contentiously, convergences and departures among a variety of feminist and queer political projects. These explorations - foregrounded by legal issues such as marriage equality, sexual harassment, workers' rights, and privacy - re-draw and re-imagine the alliances and antagonisms constituting feminist and queer theory. The essays cross a spectrum of disciplinary matrixes, including jurisprudence, political philosophy, literary theory, critical race theory, women's studies, and gay and lesbian studies. The authors occupy a variety of political positions vis-à-vis questions of identity, rights, the state, cultural normalization, and economic liberalism. The richness and vitality of feminist and queer theory, as well as their relevance to matters central to the law and politics of our time, are on full display in this volume.

Exploring Masculinities

A collection of previously published articles.

Feminist Perspectives on The Foundational Subjects of Law

Transcending the Boundaries of Law is a ground-breaking collection that will be central to future developments in feminist and related critical theories about law. In its pages three generations of feminist legal theorists engage with what have become key feminist themes, including equality, embodiment, identity, intimacy, and law and politics. Almost two decades ago Routledge published the very first anthology in feminist legal theory, *At the Boundaries of Law* (M.A. Fineman and N. Thomadsen, eds. 1991), which marked an important conceptual move away from the study of "women in law" prevalent in the 1970s and 1980s. The scholars in *At the Boundaries* applied feminist methods and theories in examining law and legal institutions, thus expanding upon work in the Law and Society tradition. This new anthology brings together some of the original contributors to that volume with scholars from subsequent generations of critical gender theorists. It provides a "retrospective" on the past twenty-five years of scholarly engagement with issues relating to gender and law, as well as suggesting directions for future inquiry, including the tantalizing suggestion that feminist legal theory should move beyond gender as its primary focus to consider the theoretical, political, and social implications of the universally shared and constant vulnerability inherent in the human condition.

Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training, 25-29 July 2005, Jakarta, Indonesia

This book raises awareness about gender perspective in political and legal theories and historical analysis. The impacts of feminist political and legal theories, as well as critical legal studies, have been

embedded in all the papers in different ways and degrees. Differences among feminist political and legal ideas are visible in the different approaches. The ongoing issue of defining gender, for example, is a recurring theme in the texts. Some papers question the binary basis of the gender issue and the notion of gender as such, while others start from the binary dichotomy and attempt to expand the consideration towards a multi-dimensional understanding of gender identities. The main focus is on a feminist reconsideration of all relevant fields of legal knowledge. The primary aim is to demystify the seemingly neutral character of legal norms and legal knowledge and highlight the power relations at different layers, beginning with male and female legal subjects of Western heredity (in terms of culture, ethnicity, and race), then moving on to different needs and power relations among female persons of different races and classes, and finally addressing differentiating gender relations and identities beyond the framework of the women-men binary codification, i.e., also taking into consideration the multiple options of intersex, transgender, queering, etc. Taking seriously the issue of the "maleness" of political and legal theories is indeed a challenging and relevant endeavor for legal scholars. The male bias is present not only throughout history but also in the present, given that our "universal" categories of political and legal thought are still overburdened by unequal power relations. It is also important to open our minds and knowledge production for a gender-sensitive and gender-competent intersectional approach, which would also include various queer-, race- and class-based considerations. These tasks should be of interest not only to critical legal scholars but also all those belonging to mainstream legal and political thought.

Sourcebook on Feminist Jurisprudence

This volume chronicles a quarter-century of feminist theorizations on equality and liberty. The essays demonstrate a continuing commitment to feminist method (a democratic notion that all people have a right to participate in the production of knowledge of the world, including legal knowledge) and manifest feminism's continuing critical tradition (namely, theorists' willingness to see multiple factors, including feminism itself, as obstructing enlightened constructions of the world). Taken together, the essays suggest that liberty to make the world is not just a means to an end - equality - but is a substantive end in itself.

Feminist and Queer Legal Theory

The leading text in the field, *Introduction to Feminist Legal Theory* was the first book that served as an introductory survey of feminist jurisprudence. Its historical view of feminist legal theory places issues in social context and thoroughly reviews the evolving paradigms of contemporary feminism from the 1970s through the present. The full range of legal issues affecting women are covered, including gender discrimination, rape, sexual harassment, motherhood, reproductive issues, and much more. Clear, energetic presentation keeps students engaged and involved with succinct overviews, intellectually stimulating material, and jargon-free prose. The Third Edition features up-to-date theories and topics, such as the "autonomy" feminism and "masculinities" theory. Expansion of the current theory-based structure includes the "big three" feminisms described in the previous edition and the "new three" feminisms, which are expanded in the third edition. New applied areas are covered as well, such as transgender legal issues and sex trafficking. While the book remains U.S.-focused, important new material on global and comparative feminism has been added. Throughout the text, students will find discussion about changes in the law since 2003 on issues such as rape, pay equity, sex stereotyping, marriage equality, Title IX, and more. Thoroughly updated, the revised Third Edition presents: Up-to-date theories and topics "autonomy" feminism, "masculinities" theory, "social justice" feminism LGBT and critical race perspectivesa Two-part organization, focusing on chronology and substantive areas of the law that are of particular importance to feminist legal scholars Part one focuses on chronology by examining the three generations of feminist legal theory that have emerged since 1971 the Generation of Equality (1970s) the Generation of Difference (1980s) the Generation of Complex Identities (1990s to present) this part will also include the "new three" feminisms in the 3rd edition (intersectional, autonomy and postmodern feminism) Part two focuses on substantive areas of the law, which fall into three categories economic subordination of women sexual subordination of women motherhood and reproduction Introduction of new applied areas transgender legal issues sex trafficking reproductive justice More material on global and comparative feminism, while remaining U.S.-focused Discussion of changes in the law since 2003 rape domestic violence pay equity torts and tax law same-sex marriage Title IX, and more

Feminist Legal Theory (Vol. 2)

This pioneering work is the first student treatise to survey issues such as sex discrimination, rape, and domestic violence. Author Martha Chamallas breaks new ground in reviewing the history of the feminist movement, prevalent feminist paradigms, and related cultural and political movements. **INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST LEGAL THEORY** easily accompanies casebooks used in courses on feminist jurisprudence of gender and the law. When you review this treatise, be sure to notice how Chamallas: makes the material accessible through clear, concise writing examines significant feminist paradigms in the historical context of the 1970s (equality), 1980s (difference), and 1990s (diversity) reveals the impact of the law on all aspects of women's lives Beginning with the development of feminist ideologies and progressing to how the law affects women both economically and socially, The book covers the three stages of Feminist Legal Theory: the Equality Stage (1970s) the Difference Stage (1980s) the Diversity Stage (1990s) For a refreshingly modern and intellectually sound introduction to feminist theory, you now have a new resource: **INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST THEORY**. Be sure to examine this groundbreaking treatise before your next course.

Transcending the Boundaries of Law

The living experience of practice imparts a special vitality to Legal Feminism, as does the personal voice. . . . Offers readers a kind of you-are-there viewpoint that law students hunger for and that any legal audience appreciates. -Elizabeth Rapaport, Dickason Professor of Law, University of New Mexico A significant and unique contribution to the field of jurisprudence. . . . Links feminist jurisprudence to the central debates and approaches of the jurisprudential field in general, and shows how it can serve as a general set of jurisprudential principles that transcend what are usually thought to be its gendered boundaries. -Lucinda M. Finley, University of Buffalo Law School, State University of New York In the late 1970s, feminist scholars and activists joined together to build a movement aimed at bringing feminist theory and experiences to the practice and teaching of American law. Three decades later, the feminist jurisprudence movement has taken root, with courts and legislatures addressing matters of sex and gender inequality, and law schools employing feminist and post-feminist theory in the classroom. The time is ripe to reflect on the past, present, and future directions of feminist jurisprudence, and there is no better person to do this than Ann Scales. Written by a founding contributor to feminist jurisprudence, **Legal Feminism** situates that movement within the larger context of Western law and philosophy, focusing first on common problem areas of legal theory and decision-making, and then explaining how feminist jurisprudence can analyze and address these issues in new ways. Throughout, Scales draws on legal disputes to show how feminist theory works in the courtroom and other real-life arenas. Part personal memoir, part primer, and part treatise, **Legal Feminism** is a de-jargonized, lively account of how feminist jurisprudence can solve traditional legal conflicts, and why it matters to anyone committed to building an equitable and progressive society.

Feminist Legal Theory

Attuned to the social contexts within which laws are created, feminist lawyers, historians, and activists have long recognized the discontinuities and contradictions that lie at the heart of efforts to transform the law in ways that fully serve women's interests. At its core, the nascent field of feminist legal history is driven by a commitment to uncover women's legal agency and how women, both historically and currently, use law to obtain individual and societal empowerment. Feminist Legal History represents feminist legal historians' efforts to define their field, by showcasing historical research and analysis that demonstrates how women were denied legal rights, how women used the law proactively to gain rights, and how, empowered by law, women worked to alter the law to try to change gendered realities. Encompassing two centuries of American history, thirteen original essays expose the many ways in which legal decisions have hinged upon ideas about women or gender as well as the ways women themselves have intervened in the law, from Elizabeth Cady Stanton's notion of a legal class of gender to the deeply embedded inequities involved in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*, a 2007 Supreme Court pay discrimination case. Contributors: Carrie N. Baker, Felice Batlan, Tracey Jean Boisseau, Eileen Boris, Richard H. Chused, Lynda Dodd, Jill Hasday, Gwen Hoerr Jordan, Maya Manian, Melissa Murray, Mae C. Quinn, Margo Schlanger, Reva Siegel, Tracy A. Thomas, and Leti Volpp

Feminist Approaches to Law

Our understanding of the law and its potential for reforming social and political norms was dramatically reshaped in the 1980s by the intellectual movement known as feminist legal theory. What makes this new theory so important is the far-reaching challenge it poses to the assumptions embedded

in traditional legal doctrine and method as well as the light it sheds on how these assumptions so consistently undercut efforts toward fundamental gender change. Feminist legal theory also suggests how feminist practice might move toward strategies capable of fostering more effective reform. In a carefully balanced and thoughtfully edited collection of classic and new, cutting-edge papers, Katharine Bartlett and Rosanne Kennedy present some of the most provocative and diverse work in this exciting field. The selections reveal the influences of feminist work in philosophy, psychoanalysis, political theory, and literary criticism, among other fields. These disciplines have enriched legal theory and provided feminist scholars with more and sharper tools, and the results, as evidenced in this volume, are impressive and encouraging. They are also sobering, in that they force the realization that there is much theoretical and practical work yet to be done, under constraints we are only beginning to fully comprehend. For students of the law, for anyone interested in women's issues, for experienced scholars, and for newcomers, Feminist Legal Theory is not just essential reading but an enduring reference work.

Gender and Feminist Theory in Law and Society

Aspen Treatise for Introduction to Feminist Legal Theory