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Asylum, Welfare and the Cosmopolitan Ideal

A Sociology of Rights

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Asylum, Welfare and the Cosmopolitan Ideal: A Sociology of Rights pursues the premise that rights must be understood as part of a social process: as an object of negotiation and contestation, and so as a terrain for strategies of inclusion and exclusion.



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Asylum, Welfare and the Cosmopolitan Ideal: A Sociology of Rights puts forward the argument that rights must be understood as part of a social process: a terrain for strategies of inclusion and exclusion but also of contestation and negotiation. Engaging debate about how 'cosmopolitan' principles and practices may be transforming national sovereignty, Lydia Morris explores this premise through a case study of legal activism, civil society mobilisation, and judicial decision making. The book documents government attempts to use destitution as a deterrent to control asylum numbers, and examines a series of legal challenges to this policy, spanning a period both before and after the Human Rights Act. Lydia Morris shows how human rights *can* be used as a tool for radical change, and in so doing proposes a multi-layered 'model' for understanding rights. This incorporates political strategy, public policy, civil society mobilisation, judicial decision making, and their public impact, and advances a dynamic understanding of rights as part of the recurrent encounter between principles and politics. Rights are therefore seen as both a social product and a social force.

Contents: 1. The Right to Have Rights: Fond Illusion or Credo for Our Times? 2. Asylum Immigration and the Art of Government 3. Welfare Asylum and the Politics of Judgment 4. Civil Society and Civil Repair 5. An Emergent Cosmopolitan Paradigm? 6. Civic Stratification and the Cosmopolitan Ideal 7. Cosmopolitanism Human Rights and Judgment 8. Conclusion: A Sociology of Rights

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