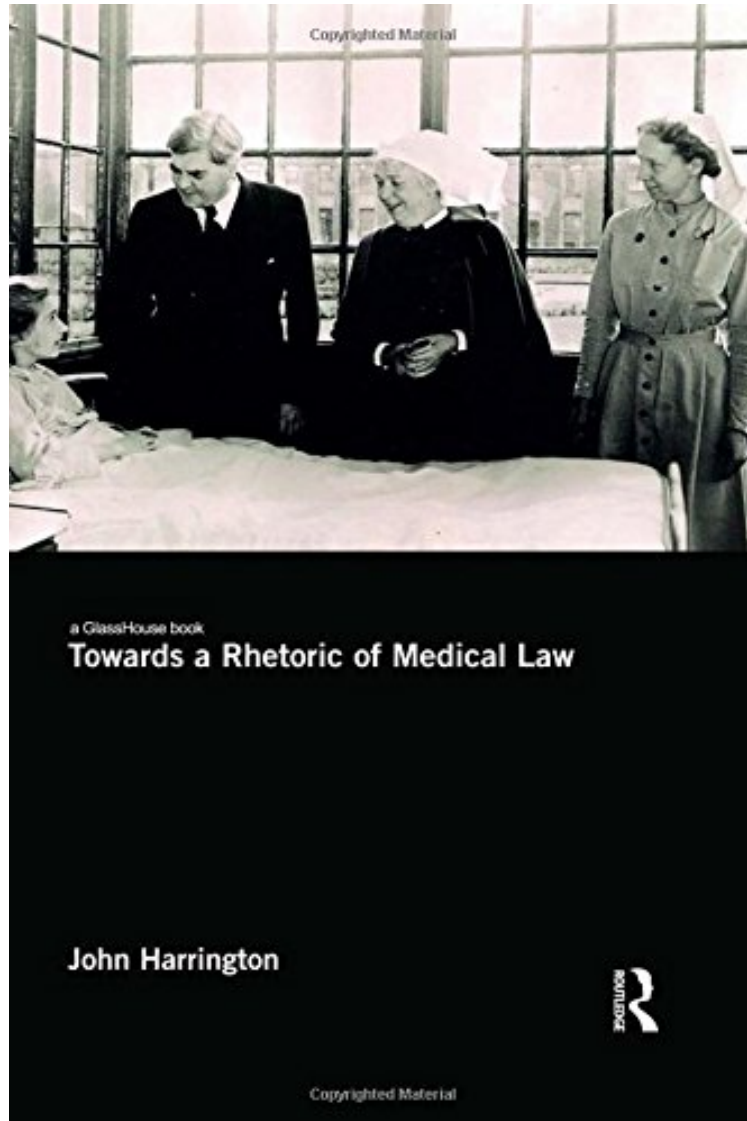


Towards a Rhetoric of Medical Law

John Harrington

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John Harrington : Towards a Rhetoric of Medical Law before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Towards a Rhetoric of Medical Law:

Challenging the dominant account of medical law as normatively and conceptually subordinate to medical or bioethics, this book provides an innovative account of medical law as a rhetorical practice. The aspiration to provide a firm grounding for medical law in ethical principle has not yet been realized. Rather, legal doctrine is marked, if

anything, by increasingly evident contradiction and indeterminacy that are symptomatic of the inherently contingent nature of legal argumentation. Against the idea of a timeless, placeless ethics as the master discipline for medical law, this book demonstrates how judicial and academic reasoning seek to manage this contingency, through the deployment of rhetorical strategies, persuasive to concrete audiences within specific historical, cultural and political contexts. Informed by social and legal theory, cultural history and literary criticism, John Harringtons careful reading of key judicial decisions, legislative proposals and academic interventions offers an original, and significant, understanding of medical law.

'In an interdisciplinary tour de force, Harrington uses rhetorical analysis to shed new light on debates in medical ethics and law, while also showing how the changing political economy of health care shapes the field. This book will be of interest to scholars of law and ethics and also social scientists working on the sociology and politics of medicine.' Mariana Valverde, University of Toronto, Canada. 'Harringtons work is always stimulating and original. This book sets a new agenda for understanding medical law as rhetoric. Lucidly written and intellectually sophisticated it brings excitement and pleasure to the study of medical law and deserves the widest readership.' Richard Ashcroft, Queen Mary University of London, UK. Harringtons insights into the workings of medical law are perceptive, original, and stimulating. He addresses questions that many have overlooked, from perspectives that are unfamiliar. The results are novel, rich and illuminating. His is a very significant contribution to medical law scholarship. Jonathan Montgomery, University College London, UK. With a deft and sophisticated approach, John Harrington has shaken up medical law jurisprudence. He challenges both legal doctrinalists and legal theorists for their failure to grasp what it means to take medical law seriously as a rhetorical practice. Moving seamlessly between theory and practice, he highlights the inescapable contingency and contextualisation of medical law in its efforts to develop and instantiate a convincing ethic of medical care it is an intellectual and juristic tour de force." Allan C. Hutchinson, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Canada About the Author John Harrington is Professor of Global Health Law at the School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University, UK. He has published widely on health and the law in the UK, East Africa and globally, drawing on interdisciplinary approaches in socio-legal studies and the humanities.