Book announcements


‘[Agamben] rejects the common idea that the oath finds its origin in religion, arguing instead that the oath points toward a particular response to the experience of language, a response that gave birth to both religion and law as we now know them. This book is important…for anyone interested in questions relating to the relationships among religion, law, and language.’ *(from publisher’s website)*

Stanford U P. ISBN 9780804768986 (pb, 104p) sup.org

Elizabeth Carter. (2011) *Analysing Police Interviews: Laughter, Confessions, and the Tape*

‘This book uses transcripts from real UK police interviews, investigating previously unexplored and under-explored areas of the process. It illustrates the way in which police and suspects use language and sounds to inform, persuade and communicate with each other. It also looks closely at how interactional tools such as laughter can be used to sidestep the legal boundaries of this setting without sanction.’ *(from publisher’s website)*

Continuum. ISBN 9781441179739 (hb, 240p) continuumbooks.com

Audun Kjus. (2011) *Stories at Trial*

‘Through close studies of the arguments in a selection of criminal trials, based on transcripts and interviews, [this book] examines the criminal trial as a scene for storytelling. The author analyses the rhetorical devices used by the various participants in the court (the witnesses, accused, counsel, and judges), and shows how the parties emphasize particular aspects of the case, build sense-enhancing chronologies, and negotiate credibility.’ *(from publisher’s website)*

Deborah Charles. ISBN 9781906731083 (hb, 212p) legaltheory.demon.co.uk
Roger W. Shuy. (2011) *The Language of Perjury Cases*

‘[Shuy’s latest book] outlines the contributions that linguistics can make to both the gathering of evidence and the way that evidence is analyzed in perjury cases. [the book] describes eleven representative lawsuits—involve bankruptcy, unions, hunting licenses, doctors, priests, and Senators…Shuy’s linguistic analysis illustrates how grammatical referencing, speech acts, discourse structure, framing, conveyed meaning, intentionality, and malicious language affected the outcome of these cases.’  (from publisher’s website)

Oxford U P. ISBN 9780199795383 (hb, 256p) oup.com

Evandro Menezes de Carvalho. (2011) *Semiotics of International Law*

‘By analyzing the decision-making process and the legal discourse adopted by the WTO’s Appellate Body, this book highlights the active role of language in diplomatic negotiations and in interpreting international law. In addition, it also shows that the debate on the effectiveness and legitimacy of international law cannot be separated from the linguistic issue.’  (from publisher’s website)


Katherine A Stewart and Madeline M. Maxwell. (2010) *Storied Conflict Talk: Narrative Construction in Mediation*

‘This book examines *narratives-in-interaction* co-constructed by participants in formal mediation sessions by asking how many of the five cases in the videotaped data display the adversarial narrative pattern pervasive within the interpersonal conflict literature and…what other narrative patterns may be present, and how do they work? Focusing simultaneously at the utterance level and the macro-levels present within the larger dispute context, this book reveals situated communicative practices by which interlocutors interactively construct, resist, reproduce, and intertextually transform adversarial narratives…’  (from publisher’s website)

John Benjamins. ISBN 9789027226525 (hb, 137p) benjamins.com


‘This volume presents a combination of practical, empirical research data and theoretical reflection to provide a comparative view of language and discourse in the courtroom. The work explores how the various disciplines of law and
linguistics can help us understand the nature of ‘Power and Control’ – both oral and written – and how it might be clarified to unravel linguistic representation of legal reality. It presents and examines the most recent research and theories at [the] national and international level. (from publisher’s website)

Ashgate. ISBN 9781409423478 (pb, 104p) ashgate.com

**Book announcement backlist**


