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PLATO'S *LAWS*

Long under-studied, Plato's *Laws* has been the object of renewed attention since the late 1990s, and is now considered to be his major work of political philosophy besides the *Republic*. In his last dialogue, Plato returns to the project of describing the foundation of a just city and sketches in considerable detail its constitution, laws and other social institutions. Written by leading Platonists, the chapters in this volume cover a wide range of topics central for understanding the *Laws*, such as the aim of the *Laws* as a whole, the ethical psychology of the *Laws*, especially its views of pleasure and non-rational motivations, and whether and, if so, how the strict law code of the *Laws* can encourage genuine virtue. The chapters make an important contribution to ongoing debates and will open up fresh lines of inquiry for further research.

CHRISTOPHER BOBONICH is C. I. Lewis Professor of Philosophy and, by courtesy, Professor of Classics at Stanford University. He is the author of *Plato's Utopia Recast* (2002) and of a number of articles on the *Laws* and other aspects of Greek ethical and political theory.

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Stanford University



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Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction CHRISTOPHER BOBONICH	I
1 The <i>Laws</i> ' two projects MALCOLM SCHOFIELD	12
2 The relationship of the <i>Laws</i> to other dialogues: A proposal CHRISTOPHER ROWE	29
3 Ordinary virtue from the <i>Phaedo</i> to the <i>Laws</i> RICHARD KRAUT	51
4 Virtue and law in Plato JULIA ANNAS	71
5 Morality as law and morality in the <i>Laws</i> TERENCE IRWIN	92
6 Puppets on strings: Moral psychology in <i>Laws</i> Books 1 and 2 DOROTHEA FREDE	108
7 Psychology and the inculcation of virtue in Plato's <i>Laws</i> RACHANA KAMTEKAR	127
8 Images of irrationality CHRISTOPHER BOBONICH	149
9 Family and the question of women in the <i>Laws</i> THANASSIS SAMARAS	172
10 The theology of the <i>Laws</i> ROBERT MAYHEW	197

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[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
II	Plato's 'truest tragedy': <i>Laws</i> Book 7, 817a–d	217
	ANDRÉ LAKS	
	<i>Bibliography</i>	232
	<i>Index</i>	242

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viii

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