

THE LAW MULTIPLE

In the field of socio-legal studies or law and society scholarship, it is rare to find empirically rich and conceptually sophisticated understandings of actual legal practice. This book, in contrast, connects the conceptual and the empirical, the abstract and the concrete, and in doing so shows the law to be an irreducibly social, material and temporal practice. Drawing on cutting-edge work in the social study of knowledge, it grapples with conceptual and methodological questions central to the field: how and where judgment empirically takes place; how and where facts are made; and how researchers might study these local and concrete ways of judging and knowing. Drawing on an ethnographic study of how narratives and documents, particularly case files, operate within legal practices, this book's unique and innovative approach consists of rearticulating the traditional boundaries separating judgment from knowledge, urging us to rethink the way truths are made within law.

IRENE VAN OORSCHOT is Senior Lecturer at Erasmus University College, Rotterdam. Emphasizing ethnographic research methods, her research concentrates on the situated character of practices of knowing, valuing, and decision-making. Drawing on socio-legal studies and science and technology studies, she has published on legal modes of knowledge production, the role of narrative in legal settings, the materiality and temporality of legal case files, and the construction of cases in sociological research.

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Judgment and Knowledge in Practice

IRENE VAN OORSCHOT

Erasmus University Rotterdam



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To my mother

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NOTE ON THE TEXT

Chapters 3, 4, and 5 offer more or less reworked versions of arguments appearing in multiple venues. Parts of Chapter 4 have been published in Oorschot, I. van, Mascini, P. and Weenink, D. (2017), “Remorse in Context(s): A Qualitative Exploration of the Negotiation of Remorse and its Consequences” in *Social & Legal Studies* 26(3): 359–377 Copyright © 2017 (Sage). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0964663916679039>. Parts of Chapter 5, as well as parts of its arguments, have been published as Oorschot, I. van (2014a) “Seeing the Case Clearly: File-Work, Material Mediation and Visualizing Practices in a Dutch Criminal Court” in *Symbolic Interaction* 37(4): 439–457. Chapter 6 has appeared in slightly edited form as a chapter “Doing Truths, Doing Times: The Legal Case File as a Folded Object” in the volume *Law & Time* edited by S. Beynon-Jones and E. Grabham, Routledge.

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