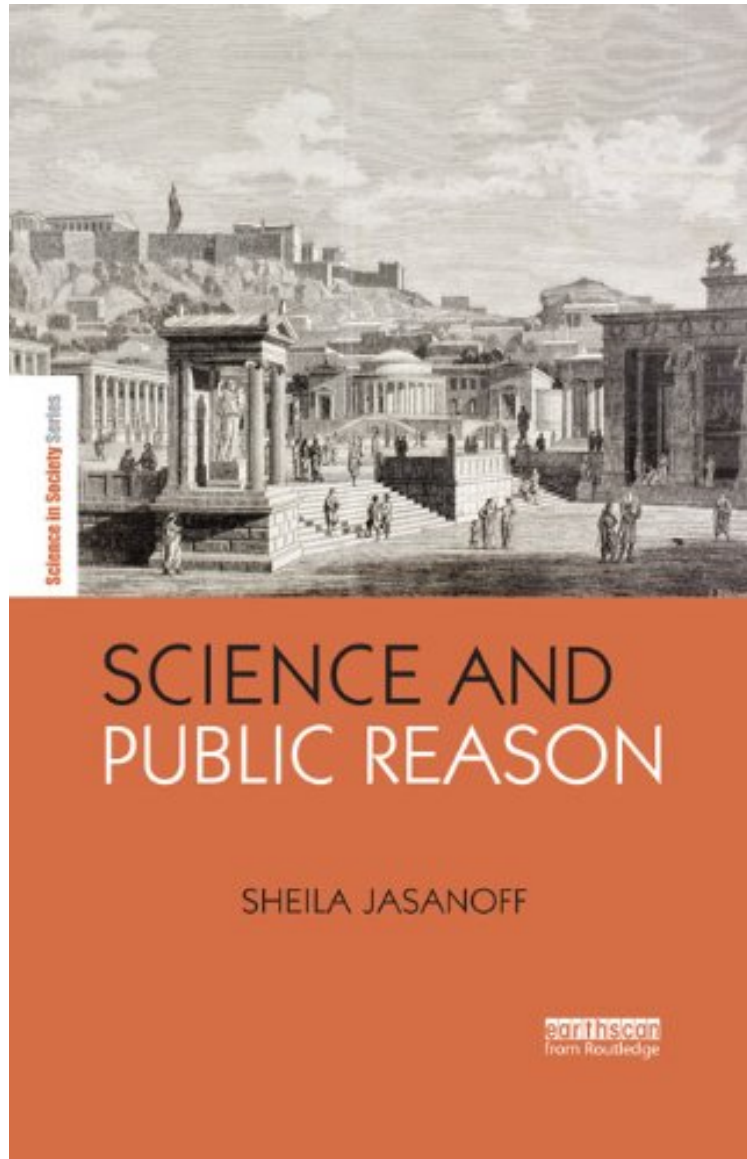


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Science and Public Reason (The Earthscan Science in Society Series)

Sheila Jasanoff

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Sheila Jasanoff : Science and Public Reason (The Earthscan Science in Society Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Science and Public Reason (The Earthscan Science in Society Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Informative, well written. By Oliver Cruse A wonderful sociological assemblage from Jasanoff, Science and Public Reason compares and contrasts the USA, UK, and Germany in their approach to dealing with social issues in an attempt to examine the issues themselves in greater

detail. I found it to be a bit dry for general reading, however it is extremely well written, sourced, and assembled. Definitely something I would refer to anyone interested in how policy decisions evolve to respond to the implications of emerging science and technologies.

This collection of essays by Sheila Jasanoff explores how democratic governments construct public reason, that is, the forms of evidence and argument used in making state decisions accountable to citizens. The term public reason as used here is not simply a matter of deploying principled arguments that respect the norms of democratic deliberation. Jasanoff investigates what states do in practice when they claim to be reasoning in the public interest. Reason, from this perspective, comprises the institutional practices, discourses, techniques and instruments through which governments claim legitimacy in an era of potentially unbounded risks—physical, political, and moral. Those legitimating efforts, in turn, depend on citizens' acceptance of the forms of reasoning that governments offer. Included here therefore is an inquiry into the conditions that lead citizens of democratic societies to accept policy justification as being reasonable. These modes of public knowing, or "civic epistemologies," are integral to the constitution of contemporary political cultures. Methodologically, the book is grounded in the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). It uses in-depth qualitative studies of legal and political practices to shed light on divergent cross-cultural constructions of public reason and the reasoning political subject. The collection as a whole contributes to democratic theory, legal studies, comparative politics, geography, and ethnographies of modernity, as well as STS.

'This collection brings together a quarter century of writing by Sheila Jasanoff on the sources and impacts of science and technology. In showing how they permeate public life, she demonstrates also that the field of Science and Technology Studies is no arcane speciality, but a research field of sweeping significance for law, history, administration, and the social sciences. At stake in the interactions of science with democratic institutions is public reason itself.' — Theodore M. Porter, Department of History, UCLA, USA 'This book fascinatingly asks: What begins where all that seems solid, all that modernity has created, melts into air, leaving no shared ground to stand on? Sheila Jasanoff's exciting answer: a new age and style of public reason that can shed surprisingly clear light on a world in turmoil.' — Ulrich Beck, University of Munich, Germany L.S.E, U.K 'No one has contributed as much as Sheila Jasanoff to furthering our understanding of the importance of law in the complex relationships that develop between politics and technoscience. Science and Public Reason is more than a collection of her most significant articles on the subject; this seminal book opens entirely original perspectives on what, in a globalized world, a new alliance between science, techniques and democracy could and should be.' — Michel Callon, Ecole des mines de Paris, France 'Sheila Jasanoff's latest book demonstrates, once again, why she is at the very forefront of her field.' — Bruce Ackerman, Yale University, USA "Professor Sheila Jasanoff's superb treatise Science and Public Reason, part of Earthscan's Science in Society Series, is a wonderful book describing, through a collection of her essays and articles from the past 25- years, the rise of the field of Science and Technology Studies. The book could not have arrived soon enough, as we now globally face the triple threat of 1) massive biodiversity loss, 2) nutrient cycling disruption (greenhouse gases, Montreal Protocol gases, nitrogen fertilizer caused eutrophication, etc.), and 3) water quality degradation (saltwater intrusion, depleted aquifers, lack of clean drinking water, etc.).' — Gabriel Thoumi, CFA, Mongabay.com 'Without doubt, the essays put together in the volume are work of immense scholarship. Picking on scientific controversies from Germany, England, the US and India, ranging from mad cow scare to silicone gel breast transplant, Jasanoff creates a mosaic of scientific controversies wherein interplay between science and public reasoning had led to influencing state policies to some extent.' — Sudhirendar Sharma, d-sector.org About the Author Sheila Jasanoff is Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. A pioneer in legal and political studies of science and technology, she has written many widely cited articles and chapters and is author or editor of a dozen books, including *The Fifth Branch* (Harvard University Press), *Science at the Bar* (Harvard University Press), and *Designs on Nature* (Princeton University Press).