



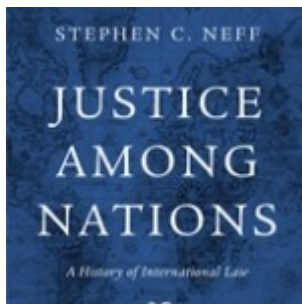
# New publications

## #PublicationJihad

written by Allegra  
March, 2014



This week, our #PublicationJihad continues with Allegra's own curated list of books covering a large spectrum of themes: from the history of international law, to slavery, the European crisis, the transformations of the notion of 'family' and women's labour in the US mining industry. We hope some of you will find inspiration...and if you feel like reviewing any of these books (or any other you find relevant), do not hesitate to contact: [review@allegralaboratory.net](mailto:review@allegralaboratory.net)!



[\*Justice among Nations: A History of International Law\*](#). Stephen C. Neff (Harvard University Press, 2014).

*Justice among Nations* tells the story of the rise of international law and how it has been formulated, debated, contested, and put into practice from ancient times to the present. **Stephen Neff** avoids technical jargon as he surveys doctrines from natural law to feminism, and practices from the Warring States of China to the international criminal courts of today.

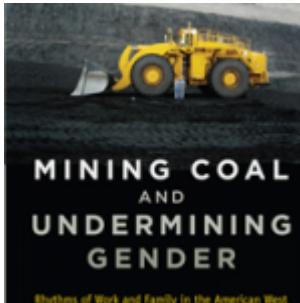


[\*The Future of Europe: Towards a Two-Speed EU?\*](#) Jean-Claude Piri (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

The European Union is in crisis. Public unease with the project, Euro problems and dysfunctional institutions give rise to the real danger that the European Union will become increasingly irrelevant just as its member states face more and more challenges of a globalised world. Jean-Claude Piri, a leading figure in the conception and drafting of the EU's legal structures, tackles the issues head on with a sense of urgency and with candour. The book works through the options available in light of the economic and political climate, assessing their effectiveness. By so doing, the author reaches the (for some) radical conclusion that the solution is to permit 'two-speed' development: allowing an inner core to move towards closer economic and political union, which will protect the Union as a whole. Compelling, critical and current, this book is essential reading for all

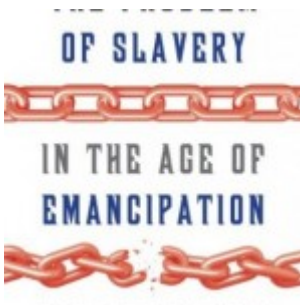


those interested in the future of Europe.



***Mining Coal and Undermining Gender: Rhythms of Work and Family in the American West.*** Jessica Smith Rolston (Rutgers University Press, 2014).

Though mining is an infamously masculine industry, women make up 20 percent of all production crews in Wyoming's Powder River Basin—the largest coal-producing region in the United States. How do these women fit into a working culture supposedly hostile to females? At a time when the Appalachian region continues to dominate discussion of mining culture, this book provides a very different and unexpected view—of how miners live and work together, and of how their lives and work reconfigure ideas of gender and kinship.

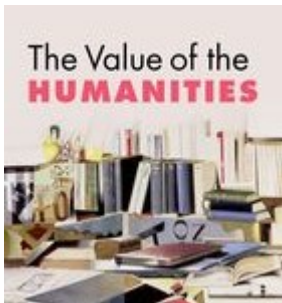


***The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation.*** David Brion Davis (Knopf, 2014).

David Brion Davis is one of the foremost historians of the twentieth century, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Bancroft Prize, and nearly every award given by the historical profession. Now, with *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation*, Davis brings his staggeringly ambitious,

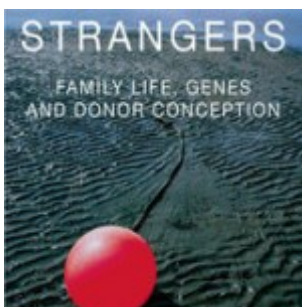


prizewinning trilogy on slavery in Western culture to a close. Once again, Davis offers original and penetrating insights into what slavery and emancipation meant to Americans. He vividly portrays the dehumanizing impact of slavery, as well as the generally unrecognized importance of freed slaves to abolition. Most of all, Davis presents the age of emancipation as a model for reform and as probably the greatest landmark of willed moral progress in human history



**[The Value of the Humanities](#)**. Helen Small (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)

*The Value of the Humanities* provides a critical account of the principal arguments used to defend the value of the Humanities. Tough-minded, alert to changing historical conditions for argument and changing styles of rhetoric, it promises to sharpen the terms of the public debate.



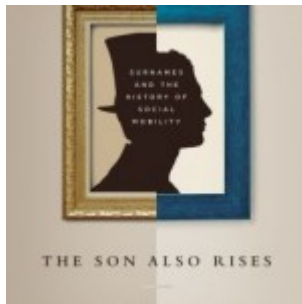
***Relative Strangers: Family Life, Genes and Donor Conception***. Petra Nordqvist and Carol Smart (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014)

What does it mean to have a child born through donor conception? Does it mean





different things for heterosexual parents and lesbian parents? What is it like for the 'non-genetic' parent? How do grandparents feel about having a grandchild who is conceived with the help of an egg, sperm or embryo donor? Since 1991 more than 35,000 children have been born in the UK as a result of donor conception. This means that more and more families are facing the issue of incorporating 'relative strangers' into their families. In this path breaking book, the authors explore the lived reality of donor conception in families by using in-depth interviews with parents and grandparents of donor conceived children.



**[The Son also Rises: Surnames and the History of Social Mobility](#)**. Gregory Clark with Neil Cummins, Yu Hao and Daniel Diaz Vidal (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014).

How much of our fate is tied to the status of our parents and grandparents? How much does this influence our children? More than we wish to believe. While it has been argued that rigid class structures have eroded in favor of greater social equality, *The Son Also Rises* proves that movement on the social ladder has changed little over eight centuries. Using a novel technique-tracking family names over generations to measure social mobility across countries and periods-renowned economic historian Gregory Clark reveals that mobility rates are lower than conventionally estimated, do not vary across societies, and are resistant to social policies. Challenging popular assumptions about mobility and revealing the deeply entrenched force of inherited advantage, *The Son Also Rises* is sure to prompt intense debate for years to come.



***Pills for the Poorest: An Exploration of TRIPS and Access to Medication in Sub-Saharan Africa.*** Emilie Cloatre (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013).

*Pills for the Poorest* offers a new perspective on the much-debated issue of the links between intellectual property and access to medication. Using ethnographic case studies in Djibouti and Ghana, and insights from actor-network theory, it explores the ways in which TRIPs and pharmaceutical patents are translated in the daily practices of those who purchase, distribute, and use (or fail to use) medicines in sub-Saharan Africa. It demonstrates how intellectual property affects access to medicines in ways that are often discreet, indirect and forgotten. By exploring these complex mechanisms, it seeks to ask questions about the modes of actions of pharmaceutical patents, but also, more generally, about the complexity of legal objects.