

Emerging from a 2014 roundtable at the Harvard Yen-ching Institute at Harvard University which brought together lawyers, linguists and anthropologists to discuss intersections between language use in law and different understandings of power, this book presents 13 analyses of topics including: 'ordinary' and legal language; language used in national constitutions; misuse of hate speech protection by socially dominant communities; appeals to categories in the case law on transgender marriage; gesture and bodily performance by courtroom advocates; the symbolic power of filmic representations of law; interpreting and translation in courtrooms and bilingual jurisdictions; and others. Illustration of these topics takes the form of US, UK, Nepali, Indian, Hong Kong and Chinese legal case studies, as well as many examples not specific to a given jurisdiction. Contributors include longstanding international leaders in the field of language and law such as Janet Ainsworth, Lawrence Solan, Greg Matoesian, Laura Nader, and Peter Goodrich, as well as other important scholars of law and language from the USA, UK, Hong Kong SAR, China, India and Japan.