

Law, Society & Culture
The Buchmann Faculty of Law
Tel Aviv University

Editors:
Assaf Likhovski, Assaf Hamdani

Academic Board
Orna Alyagon Darr, Michael Birnhack, Neta Ziv



Volume 7, 2024

Law and the Material Turn

Guest Editors

Leora Bilsky, Anat Rosenberg

Associate Editors

Nathan Berger, Avigail Zayfman, Omer Zuk

Assistant Editors

Yoav Ben Shalom, Maya Donner, Yael Meskin, Hodaya Miara, Inbar Nachman,
Shada Nahas, Isaac Oryan, Oran Ovadia, Tessa Padwa, Roni Rachamim,
Tomer Ronen, Snir Schwartz, Noa Segal, Alona Zafrir, Deen Ziderman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leora Bilsky and Anat Rosenberg	Prologue	9
Part 1		
Anat Rosenberg	Introduction: Law and the Material Turn	15
Jane Bennett	Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things (2010)	47
	Chapter 1 The Force of Things	47
	Chapter 7 Political Ecologies	65
Part 2		
Binyamin Blum	Silent Witnesses: The Material Turn in Forensic Science	83
Leora Bilsky	Between Warsaw and Treblinka: Rachel Auerbach and the Testimony of Silent Objects	103
Renana Keydar, Amit Pinchevski, Maxim Ifergan and Omri Abend	Testimony from the Machine: A Computational Model of Listening to Holocaust Testimony	143
Tawfiq Da'adli	Ludd: Between legal registration and material finding	169
Eyal Katvan	And they shall beat their swords into signboards: Tracing Adv. Ginzberg's Signboard	203
Part 3		
Nimrod Ben-Zeev	Towards a History of the Age of Expropriation in the Middle East in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century: The Israeli Custodian of Absentee Property in Global and Regional Contexts	225
Meny Friedman	The Custodian of Abandoned Property and the city of Ramle 1948-1963: A "necessary link" for	251

Yuval Erez	The Curious Incident of Government Takings of Apartments for the Use of Government Officials and Jurists During Israel's Early Years of Independence	279
Leora Bilsky and Liat Kozma	Objects as Witnesses: An entangled history of plunder	319
Part 4		
Mickey Zar	The Commodification of Personal Information	363
Michael Bimhack and Tal Morse	From memory objects to digital memories	387
Alon Jasper and Hamad Swaid	Universal Internet Access in Israel? Infrastructure at the Crossroads of Nation, Market, and Materiality	421
Abigail Faust	Contract as Product: Toward a Material Theory of Consumer Contracts	467
Shelly Pasternak	Does Painting a Painting Make a Painter? Law between Materiality and Materialism	497
Eyal Brook	The Material Turn in the Musical Creation Process	505
Part 5		
Adi Yucht	Plastic Bodies: The Material Turn in Personal Injury Claims Following Plastic Surgeries	519
Shira Ayal	Fashion by Decree: Gender Representation in Court	549

ABSTRACTS

Prologue

Leora Bilsky and Anat Rosenberg

Our short prologue discusses this special issue, which provides a first publication in Hebrew on law and the material turn and a first systematic discussion of this connection in Israel. We discuss the issue's organization in five parts, introduce its articles and essays, and briefly return to our sources of inspiration, editorial dilemmas, and choice for the cover.

Introduction: Law and the Material Turn

Anat Rosenberg

This article introduces the material turn in the human sciences, including key terms and concepts. It then examines the implications of the material turn for legal research and thought. Among them is a change in the category of the legal agent; a reconceptualization of legal power as a product of nonhuman agency; a reconceptualization of law within complex assemblages; attention to the role of law in the creation of objects and the performance of objectivity; and a consideration of law itself as an object. The discussion draws on a wide range of examples from a variety of thinkers, fields, and disciplines.

Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things (2010): Chapter 1 (*The Force of Things*) and Chapter 7 (*Political Ecologies*)

Jane Bennett

Translator: Yaniv Farkas

In *Vibrant Matter* the political theorist Jane Bennett, renowned for her work on nature, ethics, and affect, shifts her focus from the human experience of things to things themselves. Bennett argues that political theory needs to do a better job of recognizing the active participation of nonhuman forces in events. Toward that end, she theorizes a "vital materiality" that runs through and across bodies, both human and nonhuman. Bennett explores how political analyses of public events might change were we to acknowledge that agency always emerges as the effect of ad hoc configurations of human and nonhuman forces. She suggests that recognizing that agency is distributed this way, and is not solely the province of humans, might