von Liebenstein

Legislating Fatness

Current Debates in Weight Discrimination, Policy, and Law

Discrimination based on body weight is an underestimated and widespread problem. There is not a single national law worldwide that prohibits weight discrimination, but quite a number of laws and policies that reinforce, or at least reflect, the existing socially ubiquitous weight stigma. This volume focuses on where and how fatness and law intersect, discussing current anti-discrimination protections related to fatness; the ongoing debate around the introduction of new anti-discrimination categories; national and international principles that seem to argue against the introduction of legal protection of fatness; the question whether fatness should be considered a disability; and weight stigma in legal practice. Starting from a fat studies perspective, this book also considers the legal implications of anti-discrimination legislation for fatness through an intersectional lens, noting how fatness often overlaps with other marginalized identities, including race and ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. This book will be of interest to both professional and lay audiences, providing an introduction into the legal aspects of weightism, as well as offering solutions for legislative practice. It will be an invaluable resource for everyone who would like to be more weight-sensitive in their legal work. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society.

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