

Abstract: On the Mind-Independence of Legal Norms.

Abstract: One shortcoming of H.L.A. Hart's discussion of legal reasoning and interpretation in his famous book "The Concept of Law" is his failure to distinguish between disagreements over legal norms (among legal-governmental officials) and the indeterminacy of legal norms. Some subsequent legal philosophers, including Ronald Dworkin, have maintained that Hart ran together that epistemic matter and that ontological matter because his theory lacks the resources to differentiate between them. My talk will show that a Hartian model of law can readily distinguish between the aforementioned matters (i.e., between indemonstrability and indeterminacy) by differentiating between ways in which entities are mind-independent.