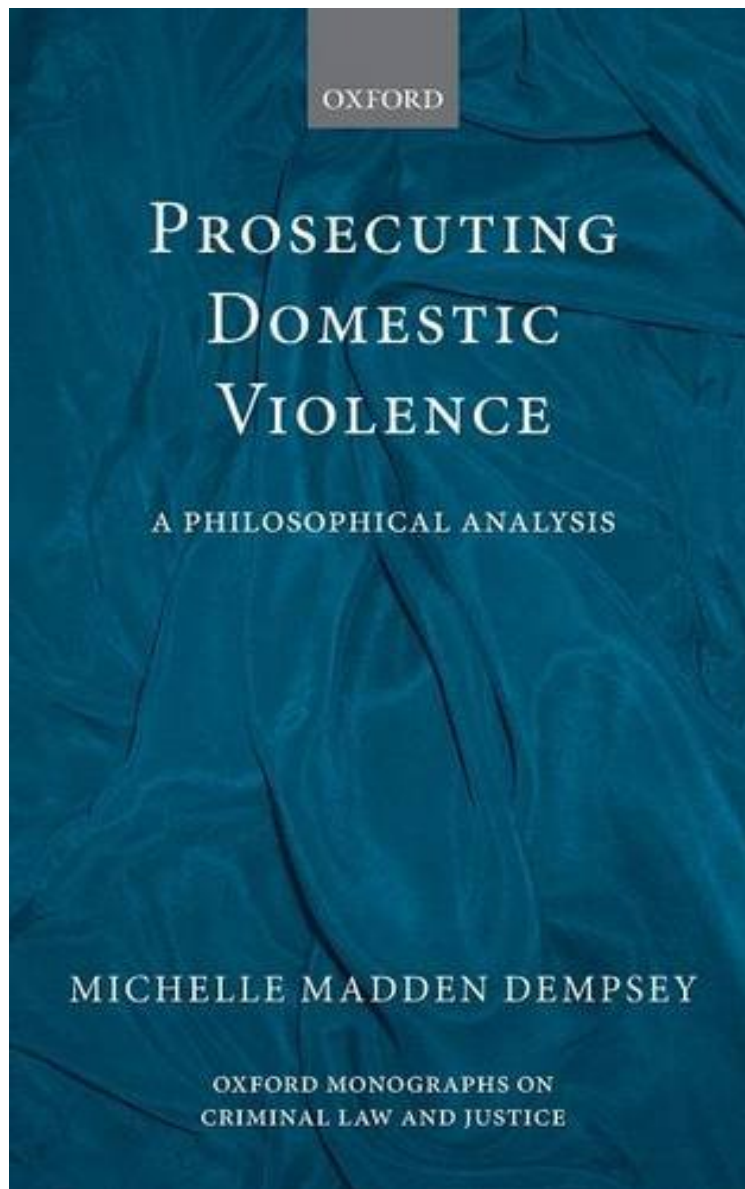


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Prosecuting Domestic Violence: A Philosophical Analysis (Oxford Monographs on Criminal Law and Justice)

Michelle Madden Dempsey

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praised *Prosecuting Domestic Violence: A Philosophical Analysis* (Oxford Monographs on Criminal Law and Justice):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. very important contribution the field-critical reading
By Pamela Shifman
This is an extremely thoughtful and thought provoking book about prosecutorial discretion, in particular as related to domestic violence. As someone who has worked on issues of domestic and sexual violence for many years, I found its analysis of the problem appropriately complex and spot on. This book, despite the title focusing on domestic violence also offers such an original contribution to thinking about prosecutorial discretion generally. This book adds huge value to the field--I hope to see more from the this author in future.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. thoughtful and well-written
By Frank Johnson
This lively and well-written book examines the roles and responsibilities of the prosecutor in domestic violence cases. Applying a feminist, and criminological lens to this complex issue, the author masterfully crosses and combines a range of literature and fields of inquiry to build her case. Unlike so much legal scholarship (and some feminist theory), this is accessible and easy to read. It should be welcomed by practitioners, scholars and students. I certainly learned a lot!
1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The Dominance of Ideology in the American Response to Domestic Violence
By R. McLaughlin
Working daily, as I do, with victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse: male, female, adult, and child, and responding to the destructive behaviors and destructive effects of human hurtfulness, as counselor, therapist, educator, trainer and consultant, in my office, in homes, and in court as expert witness, I am all too familiar with the thesis apparently defended in this monograph, according to it's descriptions here and elsewhere. The thesis is painfully relevant because of the daily damage it does in the form of statutes, public agency rules of administrative procedure, and operational policies. Priced at \$110.00, the relevance of this particular defense of the thesis is likely to be limited. Unless, of course, American political office holders make the unlikely choice to use it as a text with which to challenge and dismantle the public policies that subject so many women, children and men to it's destructive consequences each day. On the political left, this thesis, in practice, is an analog of the ideology on the political right that replaced science and simple facts in the George Bush administration. It is often pointed out that every 15 seconds a woman is assaulted in the United States by a household or family member. I have yet to see it pointed out, and explained, that every 15 seconds she, her relationships with the perpetrator and their children, if they are parents, are subjected to the destructive responses of ideological structures of policy and practice that dominate public and private response to domestic abuse and that have been constructed since the 1970's in accordance with the ideology apparently defended in this book.

What should public prosecutors do when victims withdraw support for domestic violence prosecutions? The answer to this question that motivates the investigation undertaken in this book defends the claim that (other things being equal) domestic violence prosecutors should respond as feminists. This claim is intended as a provocative formulation of the proposition that domestic violence prosecutors should act for reasons generated by the value of reconstituting communities as less patriarchal. This thesis is defended first by developing a general theory of prosecutorial practical reasoning, and then by considering the prosecution of domestic violence offences in particular. Along the way, this book provides an original account of the nature of prosecutorial action, the values that can be realized through such action, and the relationship between these values and the practical reasoning of criminal prosecutors. Moreover, it provides original analyses of two key concepts, domestic violence and patriarchy, and explains the relevance of the latter to a proper understanding of the former. These insights are put to work in answering the motivating question stated above, and provide answers both in terms of what prosecutors would be justified in doing, and what prosecutors should do in order to be effective.

"This book is a valuable addition to the domestic violence literature and undoubtedly adds a fresh dimension to what has hitherto been a somewhat narrow debate about what constitutes an 'effective' domestic violence prosecution." -- Mandy Burton, University of Leicester, *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family* 24(1)
About the Author
Michelle Madden Dempsey, D.Phil (Oxon, 2007), LL.M. (Dist., LSE, 2002), J.D. (Michigan, 1996), B.A. (Philosophy, Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1994), is a CUF lecturer and tutorial fellow at Worcester college, where she teaches criminal law and jurisprudence. Formerly, she was a tutor in law at University College London and an Adjunct Professor of Law at DePaul College of Law in Chicago. Before that, Michelle served as a domestic violence criminal prosecutor and a civil trial lawyer in the U.S.