

*The Impact of Legal Meta-Scholarship: Love Thy Navel*

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Abstract:

Writing about legal scholarship encourages the development of a distinct branch of legal scholarship: 'meta-scholarship.' 'Meta' is used here in its epistemological sense to mean 'about its own category': scholarship about legal scholarship. America has a long and well established history of meta-scholarship. A prominent feature of the American scholarship experience is that it comes with its own commentary. Scholars have not only written large amounts of legal scholarship, they have also enthusiastically given public and frank comment on what they and their colleagues are doing and whether this work is any good. Close study of American meta-scholarship highlights its critical role in defining and exposing the boundaries of the discipline and its great potential as both an evaluative tool and driver of scholarly development.