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## LAW AND NATURE

This interdisciplinary study explores the relationship between conceptions of nature and (largely American) legal thought and practice. It focuses on the politics and pragmatics of nature talk as expressed in both extralegal disputes and their transformation and translation into forms of legal discourse (tort, property, contract, administrative law, criminal law, and constitutional law). Delaney begins by considering the pragmatics of nature in connection with the very idea of law and the practice of American legal theorization. He then traces a set of specific political-legal disputes and arguments. The set consists of a series of contexts and cases organized around a conventional distinction between “external” and “internal” nature: forces of nature, endangered species, animal experiments, bestiality, reproductive technologies, genetic screening, biological defenses in criminal cases, and involuntary medication of inmates. He demonstrates throughout that nearly any construal of “nature” entails an interpretation of what it is to be (distinctively) human.

DAVID DELANEY is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought at Amherst College. His publications include *Race, Place and the Law* (1998) and *The Legal Geographies Reader* (co-editor, with Nicholas Blomley and Richard Ford, 2001). He has also written many articles exploring the intersection of legal and geographical scholarship.

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For Austin,  
friend, scholar, example,  
with much appreciation

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