Laurence R. Horn (ed.) (2022) *From Lying to Perjury: Linguistic and Legal Perspectives on Lies and Other Falsehoods*

This volume provides new insights on lying and (intentionally) misleading in and out of the courtroom, a timely topic for scholarship and society. Not all deceptive statements are lies; not every lie under oath amounts to perjury – but what are the relevant criteria? Taxonomies of falsehood based on illocutionary force, utterance context and speakers’ intentions have been debated by linguists, moral philosophers, social psychologists and cognitive scientists. Legal scholars have examined the boundary between actual perjury and garden-variety lies. The fourteen previously unpublished essays in this book apply theoretical and empirical tools to delineate the landscape of falsehood, half-truth, perjury and verbal manipulation, including puffery, bluffing and bullshit. The papers in this collection address conceptual and ethical aspects of lying vs misleading and the correlation of this opposition with the Gricean pragmatic distinction between what is said and what is implicated. The questions of truth and lies addressed in this volume have long engaged the attention of scholars in linguistics, philosophy, psychology, cognitive science, organisational research and the law, and researchers from all these fields will find this book of interest. (*from publisher’s website*)

De Gruyter Mouton. ISBN 9783110733730 (419pp) degruyter.com

Sofiya Kartalova (2022) *Ambiguity in EU Law: A Linguistic and Legal Analysis*

Ambiguity – an expression or utterance giving rise to at least two mutually exclusive interpretations – has been traditionally regarded as an ever-present, and therefore trivial, feature of EU law, alongside other forms of linguistic indeterminacy. At the same time, ambiguity has been condemned as a perilous defect in the legal text, since it is commonly assumed that the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) would necessarily exploit it to engage in judicial activism. In contrast, more recent theories present ambiguity as a means of promoting greater acceptability and coherence, while trusting the CJEU’s willingness to exert judicial restraint for the benefit of judicial cooperation. This ground-breaking work
challenges some of the theoretical assumptions about ambiguity in EU law and puts forward a more accurate and complete theory about the CJEU’s strategic use of ambiguity. Ambiguity is here transformed from an underestimated or misunderstood detail of undetermined significance to a desirable systemic feature of the EU legal order with concrete properties and impact. (abridged from publisher’s website)

Routledge. ISBN 9781032279909 (244pp) routledge.com

**Johan Van Der Walt (2022) The Literary Exception and the Rule of Law**

The law and literature movement that has gained global prominence in the course of the last decades of the 20th and the first decades of the 21st centuries has provided the research and teaching of law with a considerable body of new and valuable knowledge and understanding. *The Literary Exception and the Rule of Law* recognises the wealth of knowledge generated by this approach to the relationship between law and literature, and acknowledges its debt to this genre of scholarship. It nevertheless also proposes, on the basis of a number of revealing phenomenological inquiries, a different approach to law and literary studies: one that emphasises the irreducible difference between law and literature. It does so with the firm belief that a regard for the very different and indeed opposite discursive trajectories of legal and literary language allows for a more profound understanding of the unique and indeed separate roles that the discourses of law and literature generally play in the sustenance of relatively stable legal cultures. (abridged from publisher’s website)

Routledge. ISBN 9780367640316 (298pp) routledge.com

**Christopher Williams (2023) The Impact of Plain Language on Legal English in the United Kingdom**

This volume offers insights into the ways in which plain language has influenced the language of the law in the United Kingdom, critically reflecting on its historical development and future directions. The volume details strands where plain language has had considerable impact thus far on legal English in the UK, notably in legislative drafting, but it also explores areas in which plain language has made fewer inroads, such as the language of court judgments and that of online terms and conditions. The book looks ahead to unpack highly topical areas within the plain language debate, including the question of design and visualisation and the ramifications of digitalisation, contributing to ongoing conversations on the importance of plain language both in the UK and beyond. This book will be of
particular interest to students and scholars interested in the intersection of language and the law as well as related disciplinary areas such as applied linguistics and English for Specific Purposes. (abridged from publisher’s website)

Routledge. ISBN 9780367457297 (218pp) routledge.com

**Matthew Williams (2022) Judges and the Language of Law: Why Governments across the World have Increasingly Lost in Court**

By machine reading 60,556,672 words of legislation, and analysing 7,469 country years, this book uncovers changing patterns in the language of laws. In addition to this wide angle, a tight focus on five countries – Canada, France, Germany, the UK and the US – reveals the effects of changing legal language on policy power for judges. With this new perspective and these new data, the book explains how and why judges have become more actively involved in public policy disputes on such sensitive topics as abortion, human rights and terrorism. (from publisher’s website)

De Gruyter Mouton. ISBN 9783030914943 (408p) degruyter.com

**Ian Johnstone and Steven Ratner (eds) (2021) Talking International Law: Legal Argumentation Outside the Courtroom**

Examining legal argumentation by states and other actors in the settings where it mostly transpires – outside of courts – Talking International Law challenges the realist assumption that legal argumentation is largely inconsequential. Addressing a gap in scholarship within international law and international relations theory, this book provides a comprehensive analysis of why it occurs, how, where and to what effect by exploring the phenomenon in a range of issue areas, from security and human rights to the environment, trade and intellectual property. Diplomats and other governmental actors are the principal participants in international legal discourse, but intergovernmental officials, non-governmental organisations, academics, corporations and even non-state armed groups also engage in ‘law talk’. Through close examination of legal arguments in political and other settings, the authors uncover various motives these actors have for making legal claims – including persuasion, strategic calculations, assertions of identity and the felt need to legitimate one’s actions – or to delegitimate those of an adversary. (abridged from publisher’s website)

Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780197588437 (368pp) oup.com
Zakeera Docrat, Russell Kaschula & Monwabisi Ralarala (2021) A Handbook on Legal Languages and the Quest for Linguistic Equality in South Africa and Beyond

A handbook on legal languages and the quest for linguistic equality in South Africa and beyond is an interdisciplinary publication located in the discipline of forensic linguistics/language and law. This handbook includes varying comparative African and global case studies on the use of language(s) in courtroom discourse and higher education institutions: Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Australia, Belgium, Canada and India. These African and global case studies form the backdrop for the critique of the monolingual English language of record policy for South African courts, the core of this handbook, discussed in relation to case law and the beleaguered legal interpretation profession. This handbook argues that linguistic transformation and decolonisation of South Africa’s legal and higher education systems needs to be undertaken where legal practitioners are linguistically equipped to litigate in a bilingual/multilingual courtroom that enables access to justice for the majority of African-language-speaking litigants, enforcing their constitutional language rights. (from publisher’s website)

African Sun Press. ISBN 9781991201263 (302pp) africansunmedia.store.it/si/za/