

Law and the Cultivation of Desire

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Central strands of western law have a complex relation to both an economy that depends upon the insatiability of consumer desire and a religiously inflected morality according to which greed is one of the seven deadly sins. Highlights from the history of this promiscuous and seemingly contradictory relation include (i) the life and times of sumptuary law; (ii) episodes in what E. Posner has dubbed the jurisprudence of greed; (iii) giddy evidence of law's share in the ambivalence about abundance.

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