Yücel, Mustafa Tören. *Hukuk Sosyolojisi.* Ankara: Afşar Matbaacılık, 2008, 311pp.

**ABSTRACT**

**Sociology of Law**

*Hukuk Sosyolojisi*

This work consists of Mustafa Tören Yücel’s discussions and evaluations with his students in the courses of Sociology of Law at Ankara University. Chapters include “Law”, “Adjudication”, “Normative regulation”, “Media”, “Justice and power”, “Scientific approach” and “Questions.”

Yücel discusses the theory of law using concepts and abstractions, and gives explanatory examples. Yücel reminds readers that for criminal acts, the convict is still a human being. He emphasises that if a person and their social context are ignored, law is at risk of becoming a mass of inflexible rules.

Yücel states that it is necessary that the concepts of law benefit from the experiences related to individual/social entities and from the results of these experiences. He proposes that the law is meaningless unless the community for whom the rules are established are taken into consideration. Yücel argues that law is not only an individual but also a social phenomenon.

Decisions should be meaningful for both the system of law and the community in which the decisions will be practised. Therefore, a judge’s reference materials should not be limited to the text of the positive law. They should include such points of view as history, philosophy, sociology, and economics.

Yücel’s aim is to create a platform for criticism and discussion, “to cause confusion through law and truth related questions”, to analyse the differences among concepts of social reality and social momentum, and to create awareness for sociology of law in this way. The final chapter features thought-provoking characteristics by which Yücel proposes a social basis for law.

The work uses simple language rather than scientific expressions and terms. It provides realistic examples and tabulates data. Its scientific content is of average quality. Its printing quality is also average.

Müberra Seydi

Translated by Gülşah Dindar