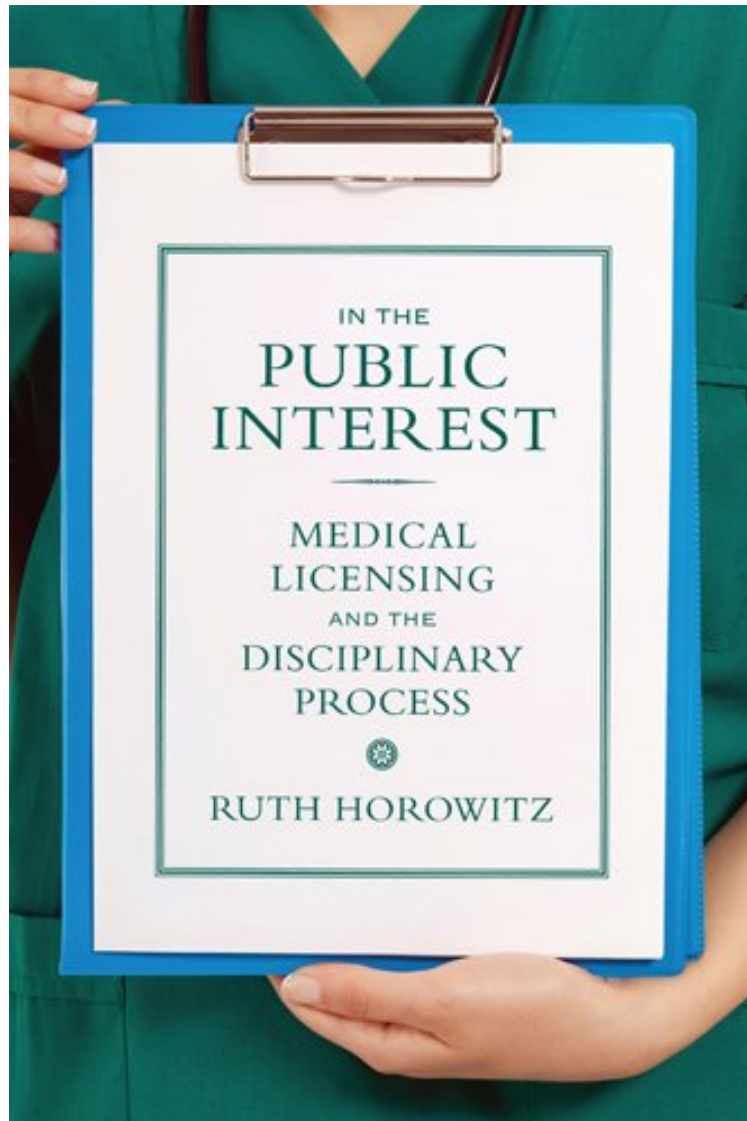


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In the Public Interest: Medical Licensing and the Disciplinary Process (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)

Professor Ruth Horowitz

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#2614858 in Books Rutgers University Press 2012-12-28 2012-12-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1
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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Richard BurneyThis book should be read by anyone who belongs to or works with a state Board of Medicine.

How do we know when physicians practice medicine safely? Can we trust doctors to discipline their own? What is a proper role of experts in a democracy? *In the Public Interest* raises these provocative questions, using medical licensing and discipline to advocate for a needed overhaul of how we decide public good in a society dominated by private interest groups. Throughout the twentieth century, American physicians built a powerful profession, but their drive toward professional autonomy has made outside observers increasingly concerned about physicians ability to separate their own interests from those of the general public. Ruth Horowitz traces the history of medical licensure and the mechanisms that democratic societies have developed to certify doctors to deliver critical services. Combining her skills as a public member of medical licensing boards and as an ethnographer, Horowitz illuminates the workings of the crucial public institutions charged with maintaining public safety. She demonstrates the complex agendas different actors bring to board deliberations, the variations in the board authority across the country, the unevenly distributed institutional resources available to board members, and the difficulties non-physician members face as they struggle to balance interests of the parties involved. *In the Public Interest* suggests new procedures, resource allocation, and educational initiatives to increase physician oversight. Horowitz makes the case for regulations modeled after deliberative democracy that promise to open debates to the general public and allow public members to take a more active part in the decision-making process that affects vital community interests.

"*In the Public Interest* is a fascinating study and a remarkable achievement from one of the top sociological ethnographers working in the field."