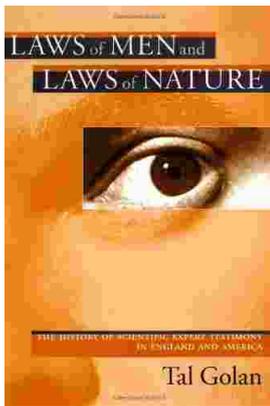


# Laws of Men and Laws of Nature: The History of Scientific Expert Testimony in England and America



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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Golan Puts All The Research In One Accessible Place, ThanksBy JakeThis is an excellent book, I just finished reading independently as a graduate student studying the Philosophy of Science (VT). Golan maps out a history which until this book has been spread out over a number of disparate cases, letters, newspapers, and other new and old publications. The intricate detail of each scientific case which he considers is helpful not only for those interested in the legal history, but for those more interested in the science and its status in jurisprudence. For myself, I am now working on an article to answer a tantalizing question which Golan's work was not meant to address: What is the status of scientific testimony in law today and has it improved since, say, the Frye case of 1923, nearly 100 years ago? Golan correctly traces the struggle throughout the book between men of science and men of law, noting how each party sought to consolidate and/or substantiate their ongoing or newly developing guilds. It seems that today, after *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.* (1992), that the law has won the struggle as the primary gatekeeper of admissible science. However, what Golan has inspired me to explore is whether this gatekeeping power of federal judges has actually promoted the authority of science by filtering out experts whose contradictory opinions are exposed, in a demeaning way, by the adversarial system. I do not yet know whether I will publish the article in a law or philosophy journal, but either way, I will make it plain that Golan's work is the inspiration of my research on this topic. I give four stars for a well-done, chronological structure, excellent writing, and great facility with a vast body of literature. Perhaps not five stars since the book seemed to end too abruptly! Well done. [jacobe15@vt.edu](mailto:jacobe15@vt.edu)7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant and important bookBy Noah EfronWe have all seen the dismaying spectacle of partisan scientific experts testifying in court in support of whichever side hires them. Pundits and politicians decry what they call "junk science" in the courts, suggesting sweeping judicial reforms. It's natural to assume that this is a new phenomenon. In this brilliant book, Golan shows that the place of scientific experts in the courtroom has been problematic and disputed for generations. Golan describes centuries of the complicated