equality of opportunity principle (second part of second principle). He goes on to examine Rawls' idea of the original position with its veil of ignorance, or in other words the hypothetical position in which, according to Rawls, rational and reasonable people would choose his principles of justice. Readers acquainted with Rawls' theory of justice may find this ordering odd, but it serves the purpose of demonstrating that it was the principles that were central to Rawls' concern – the original position being a tool with which to argue for those principles.

After chapters detailing the institutions within which the principles should operate and the stability thus required, Freeman looks at a transitionary period between *A Theory of Justice* and Rawls' later major work *Political Liberalism*. Crucial here is the idea of Kantian constructivism. There follow two chapters on *Political Liberalism* – on the ideas of the political domain and public reason – and one on Rawls' final essay *The Law of Peoples* in which he set out his ideas regarding the requirements for international justice. As Freeman makes clear throughout the book, Rawls tended in his later works to clarify or revise ideas that had appeared in *A Theory of Justice*.

A substantial glossary is a particularly useful feature of this book, with entries on a wide range of concepts, terms and ideas that Rawls employed in his writings. The bibliography is extensive and well set out in sections. Although the readers who will benefit most from Freeman's *Rawls* are those with some prior knowledge of Rawls' central arguments, this reasonably priced book looks set to become a standard text on Rawls.

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Peter Lamb
(Keele University)

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Transparency: The Key to Better Governance? by **Christopher Hood and David Heald (eds).** Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. 231pp., £30.00, ISBN 0 19 726383 6

Transparency has become accepted as a widespread nostrum of good governance, although its meaning, history and consequences are obscure. In this volume some distinguished academics and practitioners discuss and evaluate three aspects of

the notion. First, the authors trace the history and definitions of the concept. Christopher Hood deals with the origins of the term and whether transparency is a modern construct or has discernible origins in an earlier period. Fellow editor David Heald distinguishes different forms of transparency.

Second, there is an extensive discussion about transparency, which incorporates a wide range of fields and disciplines. Patrick Birkinshaw advocates transparency as a human right, while David Heald argues that this concept is or should be an instrumental value. Onora O'Neill claims that transparency measures 'without an effective ethic of two-way communication can be a cure that is worse than the disease' (p. xi), while Andrea Prat assesses transparency from a principle agent perspective. An overarching theme is whether the various meanings constitute a single idea or whether they are multiple or contradictory. In Part III, the study looks at empirical accounts of institutional behaviour in relation to transparency. Alasdair Roberts reviews international experience of freedom of information legislation, while, in a complementary chapter, Andrew McDonald looks at the UK's freedom of information legislation. James Savage reviews compliance information regimes for member-state budgetary transparency in the European Economic and Monetary Union, while David Stasavage considers transparency in the context of decision making in the European Union Council of Ministers. In Part IV, Jean Camp and Helen Margetts consider issues posed for transparency by information-age technology. The book considers a few key themes about transparency such as the benefits and costs, whether there is a 'trade-off' between quantity and quality, the impact on decision making and the reaction of institutions to mechanisms designed to increase transparency.

This is a work of much significance which uses an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to generate insights about a key concept in the contemporary debate about governance. The resultant text could assist students and scholars from a wide range of disciplines including politics, management science, economics, law and information science. Although this work is probably not suit-

able for first-year undergraduates, it should be useful for undergraduates in the later stages of their degrees, as well as those on taught masters degrees. The text should also form part of the recommended reading for research students writing a thesis on a related area and find a home on the personal bookshelves of many academics.

Michael Cole
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The Game of Justice: A Theory of Individual Self-Government by **Ruth Lane.** New York: SUNY Press, 2007. 208pp., £45.00, ISBN 978 0 7914 7055 8

Ruth Lane criticises mainstream political philosophy for its preoccupation with the state, to the neglect of political society. This is an ambitious but not obviously new or necessary project. While it is true that philosophers from Plato to Rawls have focused on the state, they have also been widely attacked for bringing philosophers' ideals that exclude conflict and therefore politics to the debate, with critics from G. A. Cohen to Susan Moller Okin already having reminded us that 'the personal is political'.

Lane's argument, however, is more original for, drawing on sources from Foucault to social anthropologists, she shows that power, hierarchies and the authoritative allocation of values (i.e. politics) occurs throughout society, much closer to ordinary people than the distant and largely irrelevant state apparatus. After touching on the origins of traditional game theory, she suggests it may be more helpful to adopt a Wittgensteinian approach to these struggles for resources, recognising that game structures are not given but shaped by playing. Football, to use my own example, is not only played by two teams of eleven on a standard-sized pitch, but also in parks and playgrounds, with jumpers for goalposts and players who adapt, change and even make up rules as they go along. This is important because such games are political, allocating values and roles, and it is the winners who can then shape the rules for future contests.

It is unclear what is supposed to follow from this insight, and sometimes difficult to tell how far Lane endorses the interpretations she offers of others; but it appears the lesson gleaned, from discussion of Thoreau, Rousseau and Machiavelli, is that the individual should be self-reliant, rather than depending on others for justice. As she writes, in offering an individualistic interpretation of the later Rousseau, 'To demand justice of other persons is to make oneself vulnerable to those others – one makes oneself their "plaything" ' (p. 139). Given that this independence seems to be equated with 'individual self-government', however, I found disappointingly little discussion of psychology, except briefly in reference to Thoreau and Nietzsche (pp. 68–74), or its implications for 'traditional' state-level politics (pp. 153–4). Indeed, while this book may be of interest to those willing to look to continental philosophy and social science for an original challenge to 'conventional' political philosophy, I must admit that, despite sympathy with some of the main conclusions, I found much of the argument unsatisfactorily superficial or disconnected.

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Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban Frontiers by **Helga Leitner, Jamie Peck and Eric S. Sheppard (eds).** New York: The Guilford Press, 2007. 340pp., £21.00, ISBN 1 59385 320 3

This edited collection focuses on popular resistance, often very broadly defined, to neoliberalism. While much of the resistance stems from opposition to the overarching principles of neoliberal political thought, the concrete actions are taken against specific governmental institutions, typically at the local level. Indeed the book makes the point that cities are the sites of the fullest expression of neoliberalism, particularly in regard to the consequences of rising income inequality (and thus potentially the source of mobilisation against the political system).

Nearly all the chapters address the mismatch between political scales (local, national and international), with some taking the position that local gains are easily revoked at higher levels of government (thus resistance must operate at multiple levels and scales) while others put forward the position that mobilising resistance occurs most