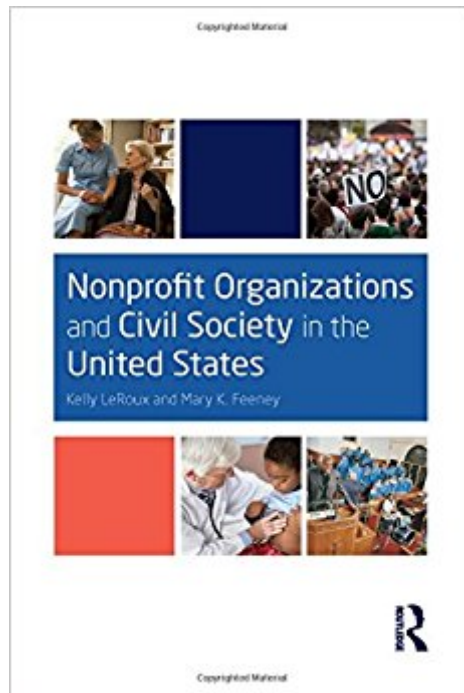




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# Nonprofit Organizations And Civil Society In The United States



## Synopsis

LeRoux and Feeney's *Nonprofit Organizations and Civil Society in the United States* makes a departure from existing nonprofit texts on the market: rather than focus on management, it focuses on nonprofit organizations and their contributions to the social, political, and economic dimensions of society. The book also covers the nexus between nonprofits and civil society. This text offers a theory-oriented undergraduate introduction to the nonprofit field and an examination of the multifaceted roles these organizations play in American society.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"At last, a book on nonprofits for undergraduates that is not a management text. *Nonprofit Organizations and Civil Society in the United States* fills a longstanding gap in undergraduate nonprofit texts by exploring the big questions about the history and roles of nonprofits in our society. Through vivid, accessible examples and lively writing, this book guides students through the organizations, people, achievements, and controversies that make up the nonprofit sector in the U.S." -Victoria Johnson, Ph.D., Organizational Studies, University of Michigan "Most of today's students of nonprofit management have one thing in common—they want to change the world. Finally there is a book that shows them how that can happen. LeRoux and Feeney have written a terrific text that is smart, sophisticated and scholarly. It goes beyond traditional treatments of the nonprofit sector shows how today's nonprofits are dealing with a complex world. *Nonprofit Organizations and Civil Society in the United States* moves the

conversation forward with an interesting and timely discussion of the major issues in the field. Especially exciting are the book's discussions of the influence of technology on the nonprofit sector, the role of advocacy and social movements and the global context of the sector. While this is a great book for a variety of courses, it is also a volume that anyone interested in the way that civil society is evolving will want to have on their shelves." -John G. McNutt, Ph.D., Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware

"At last! A book treating nonprofit organizations as a subject worthy of serious academic study, and not just a manual of lame management advice, has been published. This book would be appropriate for both undergraduate and graduate courses. Instructors will find teaching from this book a joy because there is plenty of meat and controversy in every chapter." -Robert S Rycroft, Ph.D., Economics, University of Mary Washington

"In this fascinating book, LeRoux and Feeney challenge readers to go beyond management and leadership issues and look at the larger picture of nonprofit and voluntary action. They thus offer a balanced and refreshing view of the many important roles and functions of nonprofits in the America society. Theoretically grounded and yet written in a way that is readily accessible to students, this is an ideal text for introductory courses on nonprofit organizations and civil society." -Chao Guo, Ph.D., Nonprofit Management, Penn School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania

"Nonprofit Organizations and Civil Society in the United States offers a refreshing perspective on this important topic. The authors present a broad, interdisciplinary treatment that should interest undergraduate and graduate students and classes committed to understanding the place of nonprofits in U.S. society. The authors provide rich discussion of how nonprofit organizations in the United States are shaped by political, social, and economic forces and how they shape them." -Jeffrey L. Brudney, Ph.D., Cameron Family Distinguished Professor of Innovation in the Nonprofit Sector, University of North Carolina Wilmington

"Nonprofit Organizations and Civil Society in the United States is the only text I know that introduces students to the nonprofit sector by taking a political economy perspective. Other books emphasize management, organizational theory, or economics while this book places civil society and the political processes of pluralism at the center. While political economy is the focus, the authors nonetheless give a thorough introduction to legal and conceptual definitions of nonprofit organizations and to the quantitative dimensions of the sector. The text is very readable and one aspect that I found particularly attractive is the large number of interesting, appropriate, and creative cases the authors use to introduce their chapters and develop conceptual points. For some time there has been a desire among nonprofit organization researchers and public administration scholars to bring the two fields closer together by generating texts that provide bridges and historical perspectives to be used in courses in both fields.

A product of this collaborative effort, LeRoux and Feeney do an outstanding job of achieving this bridging synthesis." - Carl Milofsky, Ph.D., Sociology, Bucknell University, and Former Editor, Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly "Overall, Nonprofit Organizations and Civil Society in the United States succeeds as a broad, interdisciplinary introduction to nonprofits, exactly as the authors intended... The text poses many important questions, but is, and is meant to be, a versatile text that can be adapted to the needs of different approaches." - Ruth Hansen, Indiana University, Indianapolis, USA, Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

Kelly LeRoux is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she teaches courses in nonprofit management. Before beginning an academic career, she worked for eleven years as an administrator for a nonprofit behavioural health and housing organization, and has served on numerous nonprofit boards. Her research has been published in more than a dozen public and nonprofit management journals and has been sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, Kresge Foundation, the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, and the Great Cities Institute. Mary K. Feeney is an Associate Professor at the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University and is the Lincoln Professor of Ethics in Public Affairs. She also serves as the Associate Director for the Center for Science Technology and Environmental Policy Studies at ASU. Her research focuses on public and nonprofit management and science and technology policy. Feeney has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles in public management, science and technology policy, and higher education research and co-authored the book *Red Tape Research: A Prism for Public Administration Theory* with Barry Bozeman.

I used this book as the primary text for an undergraduate course in nonprofit studies and found it to be an excellent and accessible overview of the main topics important to the sector. It also provides a nice update to some of the older core texts by incorporating more material on social movements and the political role of US nonprofits. After reviewing many possible textbooks for the class my conclusion is that most of the existing options are either overly academic in nature, or written by practitioners with lots of experience but minimal knowledge of the extensive research in this field. This text does a great job of balancing coverage of the empirical foundations of nonprofit studies, and colorful real-world examples to demonstrate the main themes. It is appropriate as an overview text for undergraduate and masters-level courses.

In recent years, the nonprofit sector has become an increasingly vital sphere of democratic governance. While this is a notion that I think remains commonly undervalued, it is one that will become more important in the years to come as more people grow interested in the complexities surrounding groups' social, economic, and political mobility. The contents of this book are vital for developing an understanding of such complexities. You simply can't arrive at a broader appreciation for how certain outcomes in society evolve as they do without an appreciation of the role that nonprofit organizations play in that evolution. This book by LeRoux and Feeney is an essential reading en route to developing such an appreciation.

Great book for students! Easy to read and students really enjoy the anecdotes. Well organized text providing an introduction for nonprofits to any public service service course.

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