

## **APSA 2016 Best Book Award Citation Human Rights**

**Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Terra Lawson-Remer, and Susan Randolph, *Fulfilling Social and Economic Rights*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.**

Social and economic rights are usually treated as secondary to civil and political rights, and governments often use having limited resources as an excuse for neglecting them. The authors of *Fulfilling Social and Economic Rights* bring these rights to the forefront and introduce a measure that contests such justifications. Their Social and Economic Rights Fulfillment (SERF) Index measures the attainment of a number of internationally recognized rights -- the rights to education, health, housing, food, and work -- in a manner that takes into account the differences in states' capabilities. Thus, we finally have a measure that is comprehensive, replicable, comparable across states with very different material capabilities, and more objective than the prevailing measures. The book not only challenges states by developing a methodology that takes the state obligation of progressive realization to the maximum of available resources seriously, but also tests various hypotheses that explain the cross-country variation in the fulfillment of social and economic rights. This book, rich with data and arguments, is also written in a very accessible and engaging style. It will be a "must reading" for all students of human rights, regardless of their level of expertise.