

# AXEL HÄGERSTRÖM AND MODERN SOCIAL THOUGHT

This major volume of studies of Axel Hägerström (1868–1939) presents contributions by leading international scholars to a 2011 symposium on the only Swedish philosopher of international significance for social thought. Axel Hägerström, in contrast to his contemporaries, rejected the reality of values, and then applied this rejection by reinterpreting legal theory. His influence was enormous for the school of “Scandinavian legal realism” which includes Gunnar Myrdal, Karl Olivecrona and Alf Ross, and had a formative influence upon Swedish political culture and Scandinavian social science.

“This is a book of cultural importance. A multi-faceted, internationally situated anthology presenting and analyzing the early 20th-century Swedish philosopher Axel Hägerström, moral guide of Gunnar Myrdal and other intellectuals, and of the radical 20th-century transformation of Swedish society.”

—Göran Therborn, *University of Cambridge*

“Scandinavian legal realism, a sophisticated legal theory in sharp contrast to its American counterpart, enjoyed a good bit of attention in its heyday. Standing behind the movement and informing its work is the remarkable philosopher Axel Hägerström. These new essays, devoted largely to Hägerström’s philosophy, are therefore most welcome.”

—Stanley L. Paulson,  
*University of Kiel, Washington University in St. Louis*

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