

In particular, I was intrigued by your description of the subjects in your book as performing natural law as opposed to discerning it or articulating it.

LLOYD: I'm interested in thinking about natural law not just as a set of propositions to be affirmed or denied or as a pathway through reasoning to get to such propositions. Rather natural law is more of a holistic process of discernment examining the ways of the world that distort our orientation to the good, the true, and the beautiful and practices in the world that help to right that orientation. That orientation allows us to see that the laws on the books are not ultimate, and that there is something beyond them, that we can, through this process of discernment, move in the direction of better, more just laws.

For example, Frederick Douglass, who was one of the most famed orators of his day—many accounts show his listeners being dramatically moved by hearing him speak. I wanted to take seriously the moral effect of that rhetoric. It's not just mere rhetoric, but rather a set of ideas and forms of persuasion that work together to help listeners and a community

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moral tradition meaningful to the Western culture?

LLOYD: That's an interesting way of put-