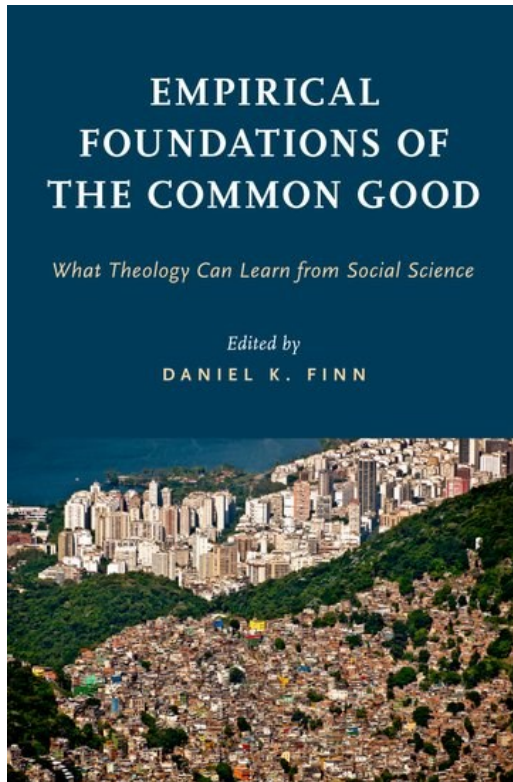


NEW FROM OXFORD

EMPIRICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE COMMON GOOD

WHAT THEOLOGY CAN LEARN FROM SOCIAL SCIENCE

Edited by Daniel K. Finn



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What Theology Can Learn from Social Science

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DANIEL K. FINN

July 2017

248 pages

Hardcover ~~\$99.00~~ **\$69.30**

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What has social science learned about the common good? Can that knowledge improve the views of the common good held by philosophers and theologians? Would humanists ever even alter their definitions of the common good based on what social scientists say? Most view the assumptions undergirding social science as inadequate to a full understanding of human life. In this volume, six social scientists, with backgrounds in economics, political science, sociology, and policy analysis, speak about what their disciplines have to contribute to discussions within Catholic social thought about the common good. Two theologians then examine the insights of social science, including such challenging assertions as: that theology too often ignores the data of everyday life, that it is overly irenic, that it neither understands nor appreciates the unplanned order arising from individual interactions, and that it does not grasp how contention among self-interested nations and persons can be a more effective path to the common good than simply advocating cooperation and brotherly love. This volume's interplay of social scientific and religious views is a unique contribution to contemporary discussion of what constitutes "the common good."

"This book is not just a collection of essays. It is a creative, integrated, and very successful attempt to advance the meaning of the common good through an interdisciplinary dialogue of theology and philosophy with the social sciences. This is a major contribution to a better understanding of the core issue of social ethics."

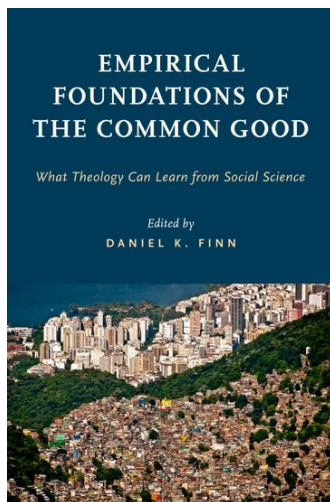
—Charles Curran, Southern Methodist University

Daniel K. Finn is Professor of Theology and Clemens Professor of Economics at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. He is a former president of the Society of Christian Ethics, the Catholic Theological Society of America, and the Association for Social Economics. His books include *Christian Economic Ethics: History and Implications*.

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Features

- Argues that theology is overly irenic and should appreciate how contention and not only cooperation can contribute to the common good
- Alters the definition of the common good based on the insights of social science

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Praise

"This ground-breaking volume is a uniquely helpful resource for theologians, economists, political scientists—indeed anyone eager to understand and promote the common good today. Each essay successfully blends the positive and normative, the empirical and the ethical, to shed light on the full meaning of the common good and the crucial role it can play in our public life. A satisfying exercise of interdisciplinary cross-fertilization, this volume greatly advances the noble enterprise of serious dialogue between theology and the social sciences."

—Thomas Massaro, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

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