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Joseph R. Gusfield

## Contested Meanings: The Construction of Alcohol Problems



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Joseph R. ) and the social and policy consequences of those definitions. His theme throughout Contested Meanings may be the conflicting and changing methods society defines social problems (when does alcohol usage cross the range from cultural activity to social issue? Gusfield provides been for decades the most creative, penetrating, and farsighted sociologist of alcohol' Gusfield begins by supplying two brand-new constructionist analyses of sociable problems, focusing on alcoholic beverages. Merging the perspectives and methods of historian, anthopologist, and sociologist, Gusfield brings together in this volume many of his most significant articles from a period of twenty years, along with several exciting but little-known ethnographic research of bars in San Diego and a previously unpublished research of court-mandated applications for convicted drinking-motorists.s ambiguous place in American society. He emerges in the course of the publication as a thoughtful and reasonable social critic who looks beyond analyses of consuming as pathological behavior to consider the place of alcoholic beverages in American well-known and leisure culture.



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