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Fighting Words: Individuals, Communities, and Liberties of Speech

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Kent Greenawalt, *Fighting Words: Individuals, Communities, and Liberties of Speech* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), 189 pp.

Words that *do* something can be fought with guns and silenced. Words that *say* something will be protected, and the guns will be turned on those who try to silence. This little distinction between doing and saying is Greenawalt's guide for the use of legal force as he examines departures from market-based complacencies about free speech inspired by feminist and communitarian appeals. Dogged fairness is the appeal of Greenawalt's treatment of the heated particulars—insults, flag burning, pornography, harassment—dogged fairness, and tantalizing glimpses of legal method at work in Greenawalt's construction of the law. Neither Greenawalt's guiding distinction between doing and saying nor legal method itself will appeal to cognitive scientists and others who *say* that all must be reducible finally to the *doings* of things, until in their own encounters with words they have occasion to want the use of law's guns.

—Joseph Vining
