

Business and Politics

Volume 12, Issue 3

2010

Article 1

PRIVATE REGULATION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Private Regulation in the Global Economy: Guest Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation:

Büthe, Tim (2010) "Private Regulation in the Global Economy: Guest Editor's Note," *Business and Politics*: Vol. 12: Iss. 3, Article 1.

DOI: 10.2202/1469-3569.1349

The eleven articles in this special issue examine private regulation in the global economy from a variety of perspectives. The papers were first presented at an interdisciplinary workshop, held at Duke University in October 2009 to critically examine our current knowledge about private regulation of global markets and advance the research frontier through conceptual, theoretical, and empirical contributions. Many of the articles focus on previously little-known cases of private regulation with distributional implications and consequences for millions of participants in the global economy, including private standards for food safety (Fuchs and Kalfagianni), greenhouse gas emissions accounting (Green), cross-border financial transfers and the recognition of professional qualifications (Cafaggi and Janczuk), certification of food as "kosher" (Starobin and Weinthal), transnational commercial arbitration (Whytock), and electro-technology (Büthe). Others examine new aspects of familiar cases, such as the role of technological change in the private regulation of forestry practices (Auld, Cashore, *et al*), problems that arise in the implementation of such practices in developing countries (Bartley), or chances for public regulation to compensate for limits of private regulation in light of changing patterns of global production (Mayer and Gereffi). Jointly, the articles illustrate and analyze the politics behind transnational private regulation.

The Duke University workshop, which brought together scholars of political science, sociology, public policy, law, business administration, and environmental studies from the United States, Canada, and Europe, was generously supported by the Center for International Studies (DUCIS). Supplemental support was provided by Duke's Program on Democracy, Institutions, and Political Economy (DIPE).

For their contributions to lively discussions, I thank all the participants of the workshop, which included, in addition to the authors of the papers published in this issue, Andrew Bell, Sarah Bermeo, David Brady, Keegan Callanan, Seth Cantey, Nathaniel Harris, Larry Helfer, Joonkoo Lee, Layna Mosley, Jan Pierskalla, Jim Salzman, Nicholas Troester, Dan Vermeer, Jared Woollacott, and Sean Zeigler, many of whom also served as discussants for individual papers. I also thank DUCIS executive director, Robert Sikorski, and DUCIS assistant director for programs, Daniel V. Smith, for their support of the project from start to finish, as well as Vinod Aggarwal, who as editor-in-chief of *Business and Politics* recruited tough but exceptionally knowledgeable and constructive anonymous reviewers for the individual papers and the issue as a whole. Before final acceptance, David Vogel read the entire special issue and made several additional helpful suggestions.

Tim Büthe
Durham, NC, October 2010