
Section 1: Social-psychological foundations and methodological issues

Under Valerie Braithwaite's leadership, RegNet has a long history of exploring the psychological underpinnings of regulatory institutions such as tax or institutionalised virtues such as trust. The goal has been more to produce an understanding of how individuals engage (or do not engage) with institutions than to produce a general theory of institutional change.

Valerie Braithwaite's chapter draws together much of the work done by RegNet scholars on the psychological processes that underpin individual responses to regulatory institutions. Key explanatory concepts here are motivational postures of accommodation and defiance towards authority and the way these are, in turn, shaped by interaction among the different parts of the individual psychological self, such as the moral, grievance and status-seeking selves. Kristina Murphy focuses on how the use of procedural justice by authorities may draw out the moral self in citizens, highlighting, however, that procedural justice does not operate mechanically to produce greater compliance. Compliance and other regulatory concepts have been dominated by the assumption of rationality in processes of human decision-making. Nathan Harris,

noting the greater attention being paid to the emotions by regulatory scholarship, analyses the various effects of shame and the ways in which it should or should not be used in regulatory settings.

The final two chapters of this section introduce the reader to the various methods employed by RegNet scholars (the reader will also find more on these methods in Brewer, Chapter 26; Burris, Chapter 32; and Broadhurst and Alazab, Chapter 30, this volume). Ibolya Losoncz describes the psychological methods, introduces the reader to the philosophical issues that sit behind choices of methodology and locates much of the work of the RegNet group within the critical realist tradition—a tradition that stays sensitive to the empirics of causality, as well as the need to look for theoretical reconceptualisations of regulation that open up causal fields in new ways for investigation and testing. One way into the complexity of these fields, their linked levels and subjective meanings is through multi-sited fieldwork, with such fieldwork central to many RegNet projects, including on globalisation (see Drahos, Chapter 15, this volume). Kathryn Henne's chapter analyses the strengths and appropriate uses of this method.

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