

Abstracts

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Regulation Theory in Political Science

The article presents two different approaches to the study of governmental regulation: One based on the distribution of costs and benefits of regulation, the other based on principal-agent theory. Their contribution to the study of public policy is discussed. They are further related to the broader field of policy studies as well as to legal and economic studies of regulation.

Mikael Skou Andersen

The Coase-Pigou Controversy

The proposal to tax pollution is neither new nor revolutionary. It originates from the early welfare economy of the 1920's, and the Coase-Pigou controversy is the theoretical dispute concerning the pricing of the environment. In a broader context the Coase-Pigou controversy is also a dispute between the laissez-faire theory of the Chicago-school and Keynesian interventionism. Hundreds of articles have been written about this controversy, but few have bothered to read the original Pigou. It is thus interesting, that Pigou in fact did discuss institutional problems related to the regulation of market failures. Contrary to Coase, Pigou also reflected on the global and intertemporal character of environmental problems. Still, there seems to be basis for a dialogue between the two traditions, especially after Coase's rejection of the so-called Coase theorem. This points to a Lindahl-solution of earmarked taxes.

Peter Munk Christiansen

Industry and the Environment

Over the last 20 years the manufacturing sector has been the most important target of Danish environmental regulation and regulation of working health and hazards. Only a relatively small minority of firms assess the general impact of environmental regulation on their own firm and on the manufacturing sector as a whole negatively. This is interpreted as the result of a complex interplay between an objective assessment of costs and benefits, a spill over from the burden of public regulation in general, the capacity to handle complex regulations and the high saliency of the environment on the public and political agenda.

Karsten Skjalm

The Political Economy of EC-Regulation

Almost passed unnoticed within political science, the European Community gradually confines the Member States' scope for regulation. The aim of this article is to stimulate greater theoretical interest for this aspect of the European Community. Following a short presentation of varieties and target groups of EC regulation, the economic and political rationale for EC regulation is analyzed. This analysis suggests some hypotheses about EC regulation. In preparation for a discussion of the validity of these hypotheses, the EC's decision making process and its institutional framework are next described. Finally, on the background of the theoretical perspective presented, neo-functional integration theory is once more reappraised.

Niels Amstrup

Anarchy versus Order. Rousseau and Kant on International Relations

Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Immanuel Kant are opposites in their thoughts on peace and war. To Rousseau the international system is dominated by inequalities and insecurity and states constantly seek to get stronger relatively to the others. For these reasons the creation of a lasting peace is impossible. Kant recognizes the tensions and conflicts in the international system but is firmly convinced that manhood can and should strive towards a true and lasting peace. Rousseau's ideas have had little influence but they are close to the realistic paradigm in the discipline of international politics. Kant's thoughts have been brought to bear upon the problems of international organisations, e.g. the League of Nations and the United Nations. They also play a considerable role in the ongoing debate on morality and international relations.