

## Newsletter Chair in Regulatory Practice #5 (July – September 2019)

### Welcome from Professor Jeroen van der Heijden, Chair in Regulatory Practice

Welcome to the fifth quarterly Regulatory Practice Newsletter highlighting recent activities, research and news from the Chair in Regulatory Practice. The Chair is based at the [School of Government](#), in the [Victoria University of Wellington](#). It is part of the [New Zealand Government Regulatory Practice Initiative \(G-REG\)](#), a network of central and local government regulatory agencies established to lead and contribute to regulatory practice initiatives.

With this fifth newsletter, we reflect on the start of the second year of the Chair in Regulatory Practice (July 2019 – June 2020). The Annual Report for the first year of the Chair is available on the Chair's website:

- [Chair in Regulatory Practice Annual Report 2018-2019](#)

Over the last quarter, we have continued implementing the Chair's five-year research plan and continued our engagement with the regulatory community in New Zealand. This newsletter touches on a few of the activities undertaken.

### Research

#### *Palgrave Handbook of the Public Servant*

Jeroen acts as editor of a section in the *Palgrave Handbook of the Public Servant* (Section 7, *Public servants as regulators*). The book will bring together some 40 to 60 chapters on public servants by international academics and practitioners. All chapters for the section assigned to Jeroen have been completed, including a contribution by a group of G-REG representatives. The editors of the full book, Prof Helen Sullivan and Prof Helen Dickinson (both Australian National University), expect that the book will be available in 2020. Considering the good progress made with Section 7, *Public servants as regulators*, they have decided to include this section in an 'early view' launch planned for November 2019. We are currently working with the publisher, Palgrave, to get all chapters in top-shape for their online availability.

#### *G-REG/The Skills Organization Qualifications evaluation*

New Zealand has in place a unique qualification framework to provide people employed in, or who want to go into, the regulatory compliance sector with core knowledge of regulatory compliance. This framework helps to build out the regulatory profession in New Zealand and serves as a world-leading (and to the best of our knowledge, world-first) example of a systematic approach to the training of staff in government and non-government organisations working in a regulatory compliance environment. This research project seeks to map, explore, and interrogate the development of the NZ Qualifications Framework, its implementation and performance with a specific focus on Level 3 Core Knowledge. Results will help future development of the NZ Certificate in Regulatory Compliance. G-REG and Jeroen have begun to reach out to local and national government bodies to participate in the research project.

### *Systems theory and regulatory practice*

This year, two themes are central to the Chair's research program: systems theory and regulatory practice (July – December 2019) and responsive regulation (January – June 2020). Both themes will result in State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Papers. The first theme was chosen as the terminology of regulatory systems is frequently used in regulatory policy and practice, but often without careful explanation of terminology. The Chair is undertaking a broad scoping of the international academic literature on (complex adaptive) systems theory (including cybernetics) as it relates to regulatory governance and practice. This research will seek to understand how advances in systems thinking may help improving regulatory design and regulatory practice.

### **Outreach**

In consultation with the Chair's Advisory Board, we have decided to make changes to the Chair's engagement program. Effectively this implies that rather than giving Regulatory Clinics at the individual sponsoring agencies, in this second year of the Chair we will provide

- Three units in G-REG's continuous professional development program (more information will follow in a future newsletter).
- One half-day symposium on the history and future of regulatory governance and practice at VUW/VBS.
- Two roundtables on emerging issues in regulatory governance and practice at VUW/VBS.

In last months, Jeroen had various opportunities to introduce G-REG and the New Zealand regulatory community more broadly to various international audiences. These included participants at

- *International Conference on Regulatory Governance*, Hong Kong SAR: Chinese University of Hong Kong – 4-6 July 2019
- *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning* editorial meeting, Berlin, Germany: Humboldt University – 8-10 September 2019
- *Regulatory Governance in the Era of Disruptive Innovation* seminar, Seoul, South Korea: Korean Institute for Public Administration – 20 September 2019
- *International Urban Resilience Forum*, Seoul, South Korea: Seoul Metropolitan Government/UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – 23-24 September 2019

### *Workshops and invited lectures*

- *Governing urban resilience: Facilitation, coercion and mixed incentive models*, International Urban Resilience Forum (Seoul Metropolitan Government/UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction), Seoul, South Korea - 23 September 2019
- *Voluntary programs for regulatory flexibility: Insights from urban sustainability and resilience governance*, Korean Institute for Public Administration, Seoul, South Korea – 20 September 2019
- *An introduction to qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)*, Open University, Heerlen, the Netherlands – 17 September 2019
- *Good regulatory governance: A critical research agenda for environmental policy and planning*, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany – 10 September 2019
- *Global trends in regulation: A future outlook*, Senior Public Service Operational Leaders Board, Wellington, New Zealand – 2 September 2019

- *What's the next logical step in regulatory reform*, WorkSafe Board, Auckland, New Zealand – 26 August 2019
- *The nature and future of regulatory stewardship*, New Zealand Standards Approval Board, Wellington, New Zealand – 8 August 2019
- *What can we learn from behavioural insights?* (Discussant to Dr David Halpern), Competition Matters 2019 – Competition and Regulation Conference, Auckland, New Zealand – 25 July 2019
- *Reforming regulatory governance: How Aotearoa/New Zealand aims to become a world leader in regulatory practice*, International Conference on Regulatory Governance, Hong Kong SAR: Chinese University of Hong Kong - 6 July 2019

#### *From the Regulatory Frontlines blog*

The blog *From the Regulatory Frontlines* has seen continued success as a highly promising means of communication. Since launching it in September 2018, it has had close to 5,000 views from close to 1,500 visitors.

#### *State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Paper Series*

The two State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Papers, *Behavioural insights and regulatory practice* and *Risk governance and risk-based regulation*, published during the first year of the Chair have also proven to be a promising means of communication. With over 200 downloads from the *Social Science Research Network*, they have been trending as among the most downloaded publications there over the last months.

### **Education**

Jeroen has continued supervising the MSc thesis of Craig Hobbs, General Manager Licensing and Regulatory Compliance, Auckland Council, and the PhD theses of Ryan Wong, Australian National University, and Sayel Cortes Berrueta, Wageningen University.

### **Publications/output**

- *Academic*
  - Sara Burch, Aarti Gupta, ... [Jeroen van der Heijden](#), et al. (2019) "New Directions in Earth System Governance Research.", *Earth System Governance*, 1(1) article 100006
  - [Jeroen van der Heijden](#) (2019) "Studying urban climate governance: Where to begin, what to look for, and how to make a meaningful contribution?", *Earth System Governance*, 1(1), article 100005.
- *Blogs*
  - 6 August 2019, [Brief book review – Inside the Nudge Unit: How small changes can make a big difference](#)
  - 3 July 2019, [One year on the job](#)
- *Guest blogs by Keith Manch, Chief Executive and Director of Maritime New Zealand*
  - 30 September 2019, [Exploring issues about regulation: policy and operations \(also known as chalk and cheese\)](#)