

Newsletter Chair in Regulator Practice #1 (August – October 2018)

Welcome from Professor Jeroen van der Heijden

Welcome to the first 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.

Over the last three months, we have begun to lay the foundations for the Chair for the next years. This involved the development of the five-year research plan, trialling different formats for the Regulatory Clinics, and exploring possibilities for coursework on regulation. This newsletter touches on a few of the activities undertaken.

Research

Behavioural insights informed regulatory practice in New Zealand

This year, the central focus of the Chair is to understand whether, how and with what results insights from the behavioural sciences are being applied in New Zealand and elsewhere (Cluster 1 and Cluster 2 of the research programme). To this end, Jeroen is carrying out an extensive systematic literature review of the international academic and grey literature on the use of behavioural insights in regulation that has been published over the last decade. Jeroen has further begun a series of interviews with regulatory professionals and others in New Zealand who are or have been involved in experiments and trials to use insights from the behavioural sciences in regulatory practice. He will continue this research project over the months to come.

Urban climate governance

Over the last three months, Jeroen has continued his work on urban climate governance. He has completed a study on Moscow and St Petersburg, Russia, in September and is currently scrutinizing urban climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives in Mumbai, India, and the various governance interventions that seek to accelerate these. This includes a series of 40 interviews with policymakers, bureaucrats, practitioners and citizens in Mumbai that he has carried out in 2017. The reason to update the research project now is that the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has recently published the Greater Mumbai Development Plan 2034 that sets out the development ambitions of the city, and its actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other wastes and improve its resilience to extreme weather events and climate change related risks. Over the next months, Jeroen will explore possibilities for external funding to deepen and broaden his research on urban climate governance across the world to inform policymaking and regulatory practice in New Zealand.

Related to this research, Jeroen is collaborating with Prof Harriet Bulkeley (Durham University) and Chiara Certoma (Ghent University) on an edited book that brings together chapters by some 20 internationally leading urban climate scholars. The book, *Urban Climate Politics: Agency and Empowerment*, will be published with Cambridge University Press, most likely in 2019. The book is part of the [Earth Systems Governance \(ESG\) Project's Harvesting Initiative](#). Earth System Governance — a global research alliance, is the largest social science research network in the area of governance and global environmental change. He is also working with Dr Viveka Hocking and Professor Steve Dovers at the Australian National University on a book to explore novel approaches to bring more nature and biodiversity to the city—'[Untaming the Urban](#)'. In this book, Jeroen will coordinate a chapter to address the question: Why untame the urban? Finally, Professors Cor van Montfort and Ank Michels, Utrecht University, have asked him to contribute a chapter to their new book *Partnerships for Livable Cities*.

Palgrave Handbook of the Public Servant

Prof Helen Sullivan and Prof Helen Dickinson (both Australian National University) have invited Jeroen to act as editor of a section in the *Palgrave Handbook of the Public Servant*. In this section (Section 7, *Public servants as regulators*), he hopes to bring together up to seven chapters from internationally leading regulatory scholars as well as give space to G-REG as an internationally leading example of the professionalization of regulation. At the time of writing this newsletter, Jeroen is awaiting replies to a call for chapters that he has set out earlier in October.

Earth Systems Governance Project

[Earth System Governance](#) (a global research alliance and a core project of Future Earth) is the largest social science research network of governance and global environmental change. It takes up the challenge of exploring political solutions and novel, more effective governance mechanisms to cope with the current transitions in the biogeochemical systems of the planet. From 2016 onwards, as part of a group of some 20 scholars from across the world, Jeroen has been involved in developing the new 10-year *Science and Implementation Plan for the Project* that will inspire and guide research in the years to come, and to form a new leadership team to oversee the implementation of this next research agenda. We have completed the new science plan in October and it will be formally launched at the 2018 Earth Systems Governance Annual Conference in Utrecht in November (which, unfortunately, coincides with the G-REG Annual Conference).

Outreach

Regulatory Clinics

Based on the first set of Regulatory Clinics held, it seems that a promising structure for the Clinics is a lecture-style presentation for a broad audience (given the level of theory discussed in each presentation, 2 hours lectures are suggested) followed by a workshop or brainstorm session with a selected audience to address a specific regulatory problem (1 to 2 hours). This allows for broad knowledge sharing and reflection on specific areas of regulation in each of the sponsoring Agencies. In combination, the Clinics allow for moving well beyond knowledge sharing at the sponsoring agencies. They can, for example, be combined with VUW's education program (combined training of agency staff and VUW students), become part of G-REG's continuous professional development (CPD) program, or be worked out as a G-REG and VUW co-branded MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). At the next Chair Advisory Board meeting, Jeroen will

present a set of 12 clinic topics that, to such ends, can be packaged as a foundational course (e.g., Introduction to Regulatory Practice) and an advanced course (e.g., Advancements in Regulatory Practice).

From the Regulatory Frontlines blog

The blog *From the Regulatory Frontlines* provides a promising means of communication. Since launching it in August, it has had some 700 views from close to 300 visitors. For a blog as young and specialist as this one, these are promising numbers. The blog has already some traction outside of New Zealand, with some 20% of overseas views. Currently, Jeroen mainly uses the blog to provide an in-depth discussion of the use of behavioural insights in regulation. This complements the clinics on the same topic, and helps building a knowledge repository for G-REG.

Education

Coursework in Regulation

Within VUW, we are exploring possibilities to deliver one or more courses in Regulation. It makes logical sense to deliver the School of Governance course *GOVT536: Regulatory Policy Course* again from 2019 or 2020 onward. This course would be ideal for the development of risk regulation case studies by students as part of a research collaboration with Dr Brendon Swedlow (Northern Illinois University), Dr Martin Lodge (LSE), and Dr Stavros Zouridis (Tilburg University). These three scholars have been collaborating for some time now to develop in-depth case studies of 30 areas of risk regulation in their respective countries, and Jeroen sees a great opportunity in joining them. That would, ultimately, allow for out cross country comparisons in the four countries. Jeroen's VUW colleague Dr Flavia Donadelli has expressed interest in co-teaching this course. She has earlier worked with Dr Lodge at the LSE and taught the course that has resulted in risk regulation case studies by students there.

Regulatory Compliance Qualification

Jeroen have completed Modules 1, 2 and 6 of Level 3 in the Regulatory Compliance Qualification. For module 6, he has joined the New Zealand Transport Authority's cohort.

Publications/output

- *Academic*
 - Jeroen van der Heijden and Johanna Kuhlmann (2018). Assessing policy knowledge: A systematic review of three theoretical approaches that are applied to cases of policy change. *European Policy Analysis*, 4(1), 72-93
 - Jeroen van der Heijden (2018). From leaders to majority: A frontrunner paradox in built-environment climate governance experimentation? *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 61(8), 1382-1401
- *Blogs*
 - 16 October 2018, [Behavioural insights for effective regulation: Examples from around the world](#)
 - 8 October 2018, [Behavioural insights for effective regulation: 10 of my favourite \(popular science\) books](#)
 - 1 October 2018, [Behavioural insights for effective regulation: The evolution of \(ir\)rational behaviour](#)

- 1 October 2018, Behavioural insights for effective regulation: Presentation and notes
- 10 September 2018, Launch of the Chair in Regulatory Practice
- 29 August 2018, First month on the job
- *Other*
 - Sarah Burch, Aarti Gupta, Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue, Agni Kalfagianni, Åsa Persson, Andrea K. Gerlak, Atsushi Ishii, James Patterson, Jonathan Pickering, Michelle Scobie, Jeroen van der Heijden, and Joost Vervoort (2018) *Earth System Governance. Science and Implementation Plan of the Earth System Governance Project*, Utrecht: Earth System Governance Project
 - 31 August 2018, Stuff interview, <https://www.stuff.co.nz/science/106690280/science-is-shaping-how-you-behave-heres-how>