



Research Seminar

Corporate Power and Regulation: Protecting Consumers and the Environment in the European Union

Sandra Eckert

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Prof. Dr. Eckert's talk will be based on her forthcoming book, which takes a fresh look at corporate power in the regulatory process. It examines how corporations seek to prevent, shape, make or revoke regulation. The central argument is that in doing so, corporations utilise distinct power resources as experts, innovators and operators. It provides a new perspective on the policy implications of corporate power to scholars, students and practitioners alike. Empirically, the book covers European consumer and environmental policies, with case studies on the chemical, paper, home appliance, ICT and electricity industries. The talk will focus on the case study of innovation in the production of resource-efficient devices (home appliance and ICT products), analyzing the role of consumer and environmental interests, as well as industry influence, on policy discussions and the regulatory process. A key finding is that home appliance producers seek binding energy efficiency standards in order to avoid free-riding and achieve market coverage, while the ICT industry mostly argues against regulatory requirements on the grounds of technological innovation and market incentives. Both industries take a cautious stance towards more encompassing, binding requirements on resource efficiency throughout the life-cycle of their products.



Prof. Dr. Sandra Eckert is Assistant Professor for Politics in the European Multilevel System at the Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main. She previously taught at the Universities of Berlin, Freiburg, Mannheim and Osnabrück. She also worked as a research assistant within an EU-funded project at the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute in Florence. She is the author of *The Social Face of the Regulatory State: Reforming Public Services in Europe* (Manchester University Press, 2015). Her work has also appeared in the *Journal of European Public Policy*, the *Journal of Public Policy* as well as *Regulation & Governance*. Sandra Eckert studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Freiburg and the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne; she holds a PhD from the Free University Berlin.

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