
Acknowledgements

The invitation to edit the Handbook on the Politics of Regulation came from Edward Elgar and his team. Following some hesitation, I humbly undertook it in order to ensure and consolidate the work done by my colleagues and me in the ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance and with the interdisciplinary journal *Regulation & Governance*. I also trusted the professionalism of the publisher and his contribution to the social sciences. I was not disappointed. This is the second edited collection that I have published with Elgar (the first being *The Politics of Regulation: Institutions and Regulatory Reforms for the Age of Governance*, co-edited with Jacint Jordana, 2004). The contribution of Edward Elgar's team to the development of the field is evident to anyone familiar with their catalogue on regulatory governance.

My interest in the study of regulation was first ignited by a public seminar on "Governmental Regulation in the Global Economy" chaired by Robert Kagan and David Vogel at the Center of Law and Society at UC Berkeley in 1995/96. It took, however, some time before I placed regulation on my research agenda. Its relevance became all the more clear when I studied the so-called deregulation of the Israeli, European and global telecommunications regime and even more so when I developed a strong interest in EU public policy. Regulation, EU public policy, and international and comparative political economy all came together during a research fellowship with Jeremy Richardson at Nuffield College between the years 2000 and 2003. After this, I had the opportunity to develop my interests and extend my perspective first, briefly, at the Centre on Regulation and Competition at the University of Manchester and then for a longer period with RegNet at the Australian National University, mainly with John Braithwaite, Peter Drahos and Peter Grabosky. During this period I cooperated with Jacint Jordana, who became not only a partner in my scholarly explorations but also a friend.

I started to work on this handbook in 2008 shortly after moving from the University of Haifa to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It took three years of work, with the final stages being done during a research leave in Berlin. This is an opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who warmly facilitated my integration into the Department of Political Science and the Federmann School of Public Policy. I am also grateful to my hosts in Berlin: Tanja Börzel and Thomas Risse at the Free University and Dieter Plehwe and Arndt Sorge at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB). The excellent research assistance provided by Hannan Haber and Michal Alef is deeply appreciated. Finally, it is a pleasure to note and acknowledge my gratitude to the 57 contributors of the various chapters for their cooperation and dedication to the project and to the field of regulatory governance. Their work in this handbook, and beyond, extends the scope of research in this field and lays strong foundations for a better understanding of the politics of regulation. I do hope that what we present here allows us to be optimistic about further, ever better and more exciting research than we can currently envisage.

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