P279 / Beyond the Regulatory State? Regulation, industrial policies, and new state configurations

Topic : Regulation and Regulatory Governance

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Second Chair : Alejandra Elizondo (Universidad Iberoamericana)

Third Chair : Camilo González (Universidad de Los Andes)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Recent policy developments in Europe and Latin America, among other regions, seem to have transformed the foundations of regulation and the so-called Regulatory State that was predominant since the late 1980s and early 1990s. Empirically, many countries have gone back to developing new industrial policies in a variety of sectors, from culture to energy. Regulatory agencies have been reformed, either through de-delegation of authorities, agency merges, or institutional dismantling. There has been an increased call for more regulatory responsiveness and broader social engagement in regulatory policymaking. The world of regulation has thus allegedly faced a significant transformation in regulatory goals, means, and institutions.

In terms of academic debates, the old consensus surrounding the central role played by the Regulatory State and its semi-independent regulatory agencies has also been called into question. From the “entrepreneurial” to the “transformational” state, new conceptualisations of the role of the state have been put forth by various scholars. The rise of populist and authoritarian governments has also flagged the need to understand what happens to regulatory institutions and policies under non-democratic conditions. Moreover, the new regulatory environment raises important questions about regulatory accountability, agency reputation, and regulatory governance broadly understood.

The objective of this panel is to discuss contemporary empirical and theoretical transformations in the field of regulation and regulatory policies to deepen our empirical knowledge and broaden our theoretical understanding of such changes. Some of the questions to be addressed in the panel discussions are: How has regulation changed in the past 30 years and why? Is the era of the “Regulatory State” over? If so, how can we refer to the present regulatory era? Do regulatory transformations, both in institutional and policy terms, vary across sectors, countries, and regions? To what extent are industrial policies making a comeback around the world? Can we talk about a new “regulatory agency” model? Is it possible to observe different transformation patterns between Global North and Global South countries? When and why (or why not)?

CALL FOR PAPERS

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The panel welcomes papers analysing both current regulatory policy developments, as well as those focused on a more historical-oriented perspective. Studies describing institutional and policy changes (including cases studies and comparative analysis on any world region) from an empirical perspective, and papers proposing new theorizations and conceptualizations about the regulatory state will be equally welcome.

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