

editorial

Welcome to this issue of risk & regulation! This issue's emphasis is on sustainability, one of **carr**'s primary research themes. Sustainability is one of those words that seem to attract universal support, but often for very different reasons. One of the key challenges for accounting, for example, has been how to account for issues of sustainability. Similarly, regulation more broadly is supposed to incentivize sustainable resource use, while regulatory efforts themselves may be said to be faced with criticisms in terms of their resource intensity and their associated compliance costs.

This issue brings together a number of perspectives on sustainability. Will Jennings questions whether 'mega-events' can be sustainable. Questions about the design of bidding processes sit side by side with concerns regarding wider governance issues, whether this is about the operation of organizations allocating mega-events, such as FIFA, or about the host countries' labour regulation and human rights records. Elsewhere in this issue, Bruno Cunha questions whether recent popular protests, such as those witnessed in Brazil, illustrate the limitations of established regulatory approaches. He challenges countries to reflect more creatively on the governance and regulation of public services. Antoine de Raymond highlights the consequences of contemporary approaches towards research on food security for understandings of risk and risk regulation. Linda Hancock, in turn, points to the trade-offs and unintended consequences that arise from the advocacy of particular, supposedly sustainable, technologies, such as new battery energy storage technologies.

Whether regulation itself can be sustainable is a question that has been much debated since the financial crisis and the subsequent age of austerity affecting government finances. Such concerns will feature ever more prominently in the post-election world of UK politics, where the issues of the relationship between the UK and the European Union, the relationship among different parts of the United Kingdom, as well as the relationship between national regulators and local authorities will witness renewed attention, regardless of the party-political make-up of the new government. How regulation interacts with the changing political context is illustrated in Roger King's contribution on the regulation of higher education, which reflects on a **carr** workshop that was held on this theme in late March this year.

Challenges at the frontline of regulation have featured prominently in our discussions at the **carr** Regulators' Forum. As described in a separate article in this magazine, this initiative was established to create a venue for those regulators that previously did not have opportunities to speak freely about their experiences. More general insights regarding 'safe spaces' for exchanges between professionals about their experiences are discussed by Julien Etienne. A 'different frontline experience' is explored by Ed Humpherson who illustrates how 'thinking like a regulator' has become an increasingly pertinent theme in the life of his agency, the National Statistics Authority.

carr's own sustainability is dependent on success with research grant applications. After having received ESRC funding for the 'Regulation in Crisis?' seminar series, we were particularly delighted to receive funding under the European Union Horizon 2020 scheme for a project on Transboundary Crisis Leadership Capacity (TransCrisis). This three-year project not only brings new faces to **carr**, but also allows us to lead a trans-European research effort with partner institutions. We are very pleased to welcome Kavita Patel as TransCrisis project manager to **carr**. More information on this new research project can be found in a separate article in this magazine.

We would also like to express our gratitude for all the positive and encouraging comments that we received following the publication of the previous re-launch issue. We hope that you will find this issue similarly interesting and attractive and we are looking forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to our events.

Martin Lodge & Andrea Mennicken