

editorial

Engagement has become a key theme in contemporary regulation. Calling for more engagement is being promoted as a recipe to enhance the legitimacy of regulation and regulators; it is said to offer enhanced information to customers, and promises to facilitate greater participation in decision making and implementation. The current interest in engagement goes beyond the traditional debates about account-giving and account-holding by regulatory bodies to citizens and their representatives alike.

This issue of *risk®ulation* is devoted to advancing knowledge of, and in engagement processes. As in other regulated sectors, engagement has become a term that is widely bandied around in the British higher education landscape, especially in the context of the so-called impact and knowledge exchange agenda. Whatever the merits of this new emphasis, and the resultant rise of an impact industry, the underlying idea that social science research should be important and public-minded is central to **carr**'s work.

carr provides space for high level comparative and cross-disciplinary research activity, and a venue for exchange across academic and practitioner perspectives in order to enhance scholarship and improve public policy. This issue of *risk®ulation* offers a number of perspectives on engagement. Mathias Koenig-Archibugi and Kate Macdonald raise the critical question that engagement processes need to consider who the actual potential benefactors (such as workers) are supposed to be, and how different forms of representation and engagement affect regulatory standards. The question of 'who benefits' is therefore of particular importance when the focus is on complex production chains. A related set of questions emerges from the contribution by Tommaso Palermo and colleagues who, in the context of studying the liberalization of cannabis in Colorado, trace how activities to bring cannabis 'out of the shadows' have affected the development and structure of cannabis markets.

Engagement also means participating in 'unhelpful' findings that go against the grain of current policy orthodoxy. Alex Griffiths highlights the potential difficulties of moving towards a risk-based approach in higher education. That regulators have to continuously engage with a particular set of dilemmas is the starting point for Annetje Ottow's contribution. Based on her academic and practical experience, she puts forward five principles to guide agency decision making. Questions of engagement are usually also raised in the context of involvement during rule making and monitoring. The articles by Rasheed Saleuddin and Yaiza Cabedo on different aspects of regulatory responses to the financial crisis argue, in their different ways, for greater engagement in regulatory politics in order to reduce the potential for further scandal and crisis.

carr's own research builds on existing international collaborative links with other leading researchers in different disciplines. We are developing the research theme of regulation and quantification which has been featured extensively in the previous edition of this magazine. **carr** has been awarded a prestigious ESRC grant under the Open Research Area programme for the study of Quantification, Administrative Capacity and Democracy (QUAD). Andrea Mennicken provides in this edition a short overview of the key themes of this new project and we will present emerging findings in the coming issues of *risk®ulation*.

Our other major research project on transboundary crisis management (TransCrisis) in the EU is progressing in a context of increasing uncertainty about the wider problem-solving capacity of the European Union. This issue features an article by Lydie Cabane, TransCrisis research officer, on the rise of crisis management in the modern state. To facilitate engagement with the actual world of transboundary crisis management, there is a contribution from the world of practice. Björn Paterok's article gives insight into the challenges the German federal administration faces in the context of managing and accommodating refugee flows.

Knowledge of and in engagement processes requires considerable resources – and we are extremely grateful for all the support and advice that helps **carr** play its role in engaging in and with the worlds of research and practice. We hope you enjoy this issue of *risk®ulation*. **Martin Lodge & Andrea Mennicken**