

Editorial

Jale Tosun

I am pleased to present you the third edition of our Journal of Self-Regulation and Regulation. After publishing two special issues, this volume with contributions ranging from economics to psychology illustrates the emphasis we want to place on crossing disciplinary boundaries when studying a wide range of phenomena related to self-regulation and regulation and their interconnection.

The actual starting point for this endeavor was the establishment of the interdisciplinary research area “Self-regulation and Regulation: Individuals and Organisations” at Heidelberg University in 2012. “Self-regulation and Regulation” is one of four so called “Fields of Focus”, all interdisciplinary fields of research that were established as part of the institutional strategy to strengthen Heidelberg University as a comprehensive research university. In the past five years researchers from the Faculty for Behavioral and Empirical Cultural Studies, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and the Law Faculty initiated cooperation on multiple questions to better understand how processes of (self-) regulation influence one another.

It is intuitively plausible that disciplines mainly focusing on understanding how individuals regulate themselves (like Psychology, Anthropology...) and disciplines focusing on the study of (self-) regulation in larger social units (e.g. sociology, political science) need to take account of the others perspectives. Both are inevitably connected: social units consist of individuals, and individuals act and react in social environments. Decisions taken by individuals (as parents, teachers, judges...) have implications for many others. At the same time, societal rules and regulations influence the individuals’ self-regulation.

Though taking interdisciplinary perspectives is highly desirable, it is nonetheless a complex journey. Each discipline has its own understanding and own concepts of regulation and self-regulation that not necessarily complement one another. Thus, one overarching aspect of our journal is to deepen mutual interest and understanding of underlying concepts of “regulation” and “self-regulation”. As a result we decided to take up the topic itself and along with one original work and two project reports publish four perspectives on the study of the concepts “self-regulation and regulation” in this volume.

We hope you find reading this volume enjoyable and inspiring and would like to encourage further contributions investigating how individuals and organisations regulate their (inter-)actions. We allow for a range of formats: meta-research, original scientific work, essays and commentaries of high scientific quality are welcome!

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Jale Tosun

On behalf of the Research Council of FoF4