This course attempts at instilling a combined law and economics AND political economy perspective on the spread of transnational private and public regulatory regimes which we have witnessed over the past 30 years, as a corollary to market liberalization and globalization. The questions of power and distributive outcomes are often lost both in the prolific legal literature on regulatory harmonization and IR-centered political science, focusing on the merits of international coordinative institutions. The aim of the course is to give a broad overview on a rapidly evolving research field. Instead of digging deep in one of the specific fields on transnational and global regulation, we will try to highlight important debates in this broad research area for researchers interested in specific aspects of transnationalization of markets and states. We will discuss diverse questions linked to the spread of transnational private and public regulation: How freeer markets create more rules – both private and public regulatory regimes, what are the basic paradigms of regulation? What are the basic features of the politics of transnational regulation, in what ways do transnational regulatory regimes challenge or reproduce existing power relations? What are the various forms of transnational private regulation and how do they interact with attempts to create transnational public authority in various regulative areas? What are the distributive consequences of transnational regulatory regimes and how do transnational regulatory regimes effect opportunities of development in evolving market economies?

If you want to write a term paper for this seminar, please send a copy to the seminar’s professor and the relevant secretaries by 31 May 2012.

(1) 10 January: An Introduction The Political Economy of Regulation


Prosser, Tony “Two Visions of Regulation”, Paper presented for “Regulation in the Age of Crisis”, University College Dublin 2010 (NB: good summary of the regulation literature and its relation to institutions, politics)

(2) 17 January: Changing paradigms of regulation


(3) 24 January: The Politics of Transnational Regulation (I)


(4) 31 January: The Politics of Transnational Regulation (II)

Walter Mattli and Tim Buthe, “Setting International Standards: Technological Rationality or the Primacy of Power?” (2003), World Politics 56:1

(5) 7 February: Transnational Private Regulatory Regimes


(6) 14 February: Corporate Social Responsibility


Contracts: Licensing Agreement (Motorola); Sourcing and Manufacturing Agreement (Heelys)

International Framework Agreements: France Telecom and UNI; IUF/Colsida and Chiquita; PSA Peugeot Citroen and International Metalworkers' Federation and BMW and IFA; Chiquita and IUFA


(7) 21 February: Regulative Integration and Development

Cafaggi, Fabrizio, “Private Regulation, Supply Chain and Contractual Networks: The Case of Food Safety”, EUI Working Papers, RSCAS 2010/10


Laszlo Bruszt and Julia Langbein “Organizing Quality - Transnationalization and institutional change in the Polish and Romanian dairy industry, manuscript
(8) 28 February: Regulatory and Regional Integration


(9) 6 March: The case of Food Safety

S. Henson and J. Humphrey 'The Impacts of Private Food Safety Standards' (2009) FAO - WHO

O. de Schutter, UN Note on Right to Food (August 4, 2011)

S. Vermeulen and L. Cotula, 'Making the Most of Agricultural Investment' (FAO and IIED, , 2010


Chiquita International Banana Purchase Contract; Wal-mart Supply Agreement (one contract with Diamond Foods (including Diamond Food Grower Guidelines) and one with Alpio and Landec Corp); Del Monte Supply Agreement and Terms and Conditions; Wholefoods Distribution Agreement and Vendor Code of Conduct

(10) 13 March: A View from the South
