

Summary

“Funktionsbedingungen für Regeln und Diskurs zur Beeinflussung von moralischem Handeln: Implikationen organisatorischer Steuerung für Unternehmens- und Wirtschaftsethik”

by Michèle Morner

This paper tries to enhance the partly gridlocked debate in business and economic ethics concerning whether discourse or regulations, i.e. soft law or hard law, represents the ‘superior’ governance mode. Referring to basic assumptions of organizational theory, it shows that the functioning of both governance modes depends on specific conditions. In this line of argument, the effective use of regulations requires adequate transformation knowledge of the regulating entity in order to establish and manage reasonable rules. Otherwise, regulations are unable to function. Discourse, as a specific mode of self-governance, makes particularly high demands on the participating actors. Participants must show a certain cognitive compatibility as well as minimum (conditional) willingness to cooperate in order to allow successful discourse.