

# Public Policy and Risk Regulation: Environment, Health, Safety, and Technological Innovation

Ronit Justo-Hanani, PhD

Tel-Aviv University

Recent years have seen increasing interest among public policy scholars in what is known as ‘regulatory policy divergence’, which refers to cross-national differences in the regulation of environmental, health and safety (EHS) risks, and technological innovation. Recent studies have revealed numerous divergence phenomena. To date, however, little is known about why policy divergence occurs, as well as the political factors, institutions and policy communities that shape regulatory policies on these issues. In this talk I will present the sources, and some challenges for the creation of regulatory policies on EHS and technological innovation. I will outline some reasons why I focus in particular on cases where theoretical analysis of *policy processes* can help us determine when and why regulatory divergence occurs, using the empirical cases of nanotechnology and biodiversity regulations in Europe and the United States. The theoretical framework I will discuss can be applied quite generally, whenever regulatory policy divergence on EHS risks and new technologies is encountered. The talk concludes with current and future research on regulatory divergence perspective that is also extended to Artificial Intelligence and Big-Data. Importantly, the talk includes overt discussion of various ways students and faculty can collaborate on my research. As time allows, I shall also briefly discuss international opportunities for students, as well as my other two primary lines of research.