



## New Environmental Governance

The Centre of Criminology at the University of Cape Town, in collaboration with the Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet) at the Australian National University, are delighted to invite you to a one-day workshop to explore the emerging 'New Environmental Governance (NEG)' framework, and how the theory might relate and / or be applied to your personal work or research projects.

Speakers Include :

Prof Neil Gunningham

*Director of the National Research Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (RegNet), Australian National University*

Dr Cameron Holley

*Climate & Environmental Governance Network, Australian National University*

Prof Clifford Shearing

*Director of Criminology, University of Cape Town*

The workshop will raise and discuss new emerging developments in environmental governance, and include discussions of a forthcoming book entitled : 'New Environmental Governance' by Neil, Cameron and Clifford, due to be published later this year by Earthscan.

**28 July 2011**

**09:00 – 17:00**

**Palm House Hotel**

10 Oxford Street

Kenilworth, Cape Town

*(map attached)*

This workshop will be of interest to people engaged in environmental governance as practitioners, advocates and researchers to explore what role NEG could play in your field work. Please RSVP on or before 20 June 2011.

Theresa Hume

[theresa.hume@uct.ac.za](mailto:theresa.hume@uct.ac.za)

083 400 8521

To find out more about CEGNET, Neil and Cameron, visit

<http://regnet.anu.edu.au/people>



A quiet revolution is taking place in the ways in which citizens and governments are seeking to engage with complex social and environmental issues. Traditionally - at least in the wide range of circumstances where unconstrained markets proved insufficient to achieve socially desired outcomes - such issues have been addressed through regulation by the state (i.e. laws and their enforcement). But today, numerous 'experiments' are taking place around the globe which seek to address such problems through mechanisms that supplement, and in some cases supplant conventional regimes of legal regulation, administration, and adjudication. Rather, the aim of domestic lawmakers is to manage public problems by shifting environmental policymaking processes and implementation tools "downwards" to regions, "outwards" to a host of non-state actors and, in some cases, "upwards" to transnational institutions and organisations.

These initiatives have come to be known as the "New Environmental Governance" (NEG). The term "governance" is preferred to "law" or "regulation" because these new forms of social steering are not necessarily (although they may be) dependent on formal legal regulation or other interventions by the nation state to drive them. The new governance literature does not derive from a single legal or socio-legal theory but rather has a diversity of intellectual underpinnings, as can be illustrated by the diversity of terms that have been used to describe it.

Prominent amongst these are "experimentalism", "modular regulation", "collaborative governance", "multilevel governance" and "regional collaboration". But even though these ideas are diverse in their theoretical pedigree, they have significant commonalities, including an emphasis on collaboration, participation, decentralisation, deliberative styles of decision-making, new forms of accountability, and learning and adaptation. Although there is no single new governance model per se, the term new governance is increasingly used to refer to legal and public policy approaches that encompass some or all of these principles.

While these unique features of NEG have generated significant praise from legal and governance scholars, there have been very few systematic evaluations of NEG in practice, and it is still unclear whether it will in fact "work", and if so, when and how. This workshop will centre around on one of the most rigorous research investigations into cutting edge trends in NEG to date. Focusing its inquiry around some of the most central, controversial and/or under researched characteristics of NEG, the workshop offers fresh insights into the conditions under which we can best achieve successful collaboration, effective learning and adaptation, meaningful participatory and deliberative governance and effective forms of accountability. The workshop will synthesize its findings to identify eight key pillars of "good" NEG that are central to its success and will provide useful guidance for policymakers and scholars seeking to apply new governance to a wide range of environmental and non-environmental policy contexts.

The workshop also advances our understanding of State governance and will be of interest to scholars, researchers and students working in law and regulation studies - especially in the field of environmental law.

# PALM HOUSE 10 Oxford Street Wynberg, Cape Town

