

## Regulating technologies

Panel session at the event [Pathways to sustainability: knowledge, politics and power](#)  
8 December 2021 at 13.00-15.00 UTC

*This event will not be recorded.*

The STEPS Centre [Rethinking Regulation](#) project ran from 2006-2011, building on a history of [work on biotechnology](#) predating the establishment of the Centre. The project looked at the challenges facing internationally harmonised regulation, focussing on antibiotics and genetically modified organisms in Argentina and China. It elucidated different national framings that informed risk and regulation in each case, and uncovered tensions associated with implementation at local levels. This panel 'looks back to look forward', engaging with scholar activists in the same countries to explore emerging issues a decade later.

We will limit our discussions to consider the regulation of genetically modified organisms and examine how the associated technologies, institutions and geopolitics have evolved over the past ten years. An interactive panel will consider questions such as:

- How will the TRIPS agreement accommodate different interpretations of intellectual property protection associated with gene-editing?
- To what extent can the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety guard against negative environmental impacts in a context of proliferating biotech innovation?
- What new questions are emerging, given the rapid social, technological and environmental changes that can be expected in the coming decade? And (how) can regulation respond?

The session will begin with a reflection on the original 'Rethinking Regulation' project from the chair, and then hear from two speakers who will discuss their own path-breaking work in this field. The session will then invite questions and short contributions from other participants. The meeting will take place on Zoom and will *not* be recorded for online publication.

### Chair

**Adrian Ely**, Reader in Technology and Sustainability, SPRU & STEPS Centre, University of Sussex

### Speakers (in a personal capacity):

- **Vanessa Lowenstein**, Researcher and Lecturer, Centre of Interdisciplinary Studies of Economic and Industrial Law (CEIDIE), University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Yuhan Bao**, PhD Researcher, Tsinghua University School of Public Policy and Management/ Youth Organiser, Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 Meeting, Kunming, China