



Reimagining Governance

Jerusalem: May 5th to 8th 2026

Call for Papers

Across the world, regulation and governance are undergoing profound challenges. Public trust in government, expertise, and institutions have been weaponized. There have also been concentrated and often effective efforts to reshape the political landscape, to erode the foundations of the modern regulatory state, and to concentrate power in monocentric systems of governance. This conference, *Reimagining Governance*, invites scholars, practitioners, and policy innovators to explore the causes, processes, and implications of these efforts by exploring work on rule-based systems, trust-based systems, and their interactions. Thinking about the future of regulation and governance, the conference seeks to examine how trust, credibility, and accountability are being rebuilt — or undermined — across diverse domains such as environmental regulation, digital platforms, health governance, financial oversight, and beyond.

Some Topics of Interest:

1. Regulatory Reform 3.0 in the face of the War on the (Regulatory) State

- Trust-based, adaptive, and experimentalist regulation
- From command-and-control to co-regulation and self-regulation
- Digital regulatory technologies (algorithms, AI audits)
- Lessons from regulatory successes and failures

2. Governance by and of Intermediaries – New, Old and the Way Forward

- Mapping power shifts from the state to hybrid intermediaries.
- Empirical cases: ESG rating agencies, AI certification bodies, or health accreditation.
- The political economy of intermediation: capture, opacity, and contestation.

- Comparative governance of digital intermediaries in the EU, US, and Asia.

3. Regulation and/or/with Dis/Trust – Politics and Economics in an age of Democratic Backsliding

- Causes and consequences of declining public trust in regulators and institutions
- Populism, anti-bureaucratic movements, and the “war on regulation”
- The erosion of expertise and the rise of disinformation
- Rebuilding trust through transparency, participation, and responsiveness
- The Political Economy of Trust and Regulation

4. Polycentric Governance and the Rise of Autocrats

- Credibility, accountability, and legitimacy in polycentric systems
- Comparative studies of multi-level and transnational regulation
- Challenges for polycentric system and democratic backsliding

5. Governance of the Digital and Green Transformation

- The EU, the US and China as Regulatory Models.
- From Command to Coordination: Regulatory Design for Adaptive Transitions
- Building Credibility in Transition Governance
- Deregulating the Transition: An analysis

Our aim is to bring together leading groups of diverse scholars. This means that the conference is open to many fields and ways of thinking - it is a broad church. Still, some of you may want to use the metaphorical and analytical framework of three imaginary countries: Trustland, Regland, and Concordia. With it we hope to stimulate comparative and theoretical reflection. (This is an option not a must. See Levi-Faur, David, *Reimagining Regulatory Governance; A Journey Through Trustland, Regland, and Concordia*. [Available here](#)) Trustland represents governance built on social capital, moral authority, and relational trust — societies where cooperation precedes codification, and trust substitutes for regulation. Regland symbolizes rule-based governance, emphasizing compliance, hierarchy, and predictability—where institutions rely on procedures, laws, and enforcement to secure legitimacy. Concordia denotes an effort to create a synergy between rule-based and trust-based governance. An effort for trust and regulation to reinforce each other, and where intermediaries, mediate between trust-based and rule-based logics. Of course, this effort is a challenge.

Together, these imaginaries may provide a lens for rethinking the future of regulatory governance in contexts marked by distrust, polarization, and institutional fatigue.

Format and Submissions

Submissions of papers and panels should include a title, abstract of up to 300 words; author(s), affiliation(s), and a short biography (max. 150 words per author). Format: Times New Roman, space 1.5 font 12".

Financial support will be provided **to** selected participants based on the quality of their work, suitability, financial needs and availability of Funding

Please send all submissions to levifaur@mail.huji.ac.il by **December 9th 2025**.