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# Can the reflexive law method be used to improve environmental regulation?

*Li Yuan (LL.M. and M.Sc.)  
Doctoral Researcher  
University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law  
Finnish Society for Environmental Law Seminar 2023, Helsinki Finland*





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# INTRODUCTION

- Environmental regulation has regarded as essential for mitigating ecological and environmental challenges.
- However, traditional environmental regulation relies on “Command and Control” legal norms, enforce compliance through legal repercussions.
  - discourages companies from violating environmental laws, it fails to incentivize them to exceed minimum standards and achieve beyond legal obligations
- Reflexive law offers an alternative to traditional regulation emphasizing self-reflection, transparency, and sustainable practices.
  - help companies break out of the cycle of passive compliance with legal standards



# REFLEXIVE LAW

- German sociologist Gunther Teubner in 1983
  - evolution of law:  
“formal” private law → “substantive” Law → “Third way” (Reflexive law)
- Promotion of self-reflection and transparency among stakeholders through procedural rather than substantive legislation;
- Importance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders.



## *Traditional Regulation*

- Reactive rather than proactive
- Top-down decision-making processes
- Not adequately account for the complexity and uncertainty

## *Reflexive Law*

- Ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and learning
- Stakeholder participation policy-making
- Adaptable and flexible policy-making processes respond to the complexity and dynamic problems



# BREAKING THE CYCLE

How break the cycle of passive compliance under traditional environmental standards by implementing reflexive law methods?

- Environmental Information disclosure
  - such as increased transparency, public accountability, and the promotion of sustainable practices.
- Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence
  - help businesses assess their environmental impact, set ambitious sustainability goals, and integrate sustainability into their core operations and value chains.



# ADVANTAGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Highlight the advantages of reflexive law:
  - flexibility and adaptability in responding to emerging environmental challenges
  - fosters stakeholder collaboration for inclusive environmental governance
  - incentivizes businesses to innovate and develop sustainable solutions, helps businesses stay ahead of regulatory requirements and positively contribute to the environment
- Future outlook of reflexive law:
  - potential to shape a sustainable environmental regulation landscape
  - businesses actively pursue sustainability beyond legal requirements





**THANK YOU!**  
**ANY QUESTIONS!**

**li.yuan@helsinki.fi**

**WhatsApp: +358404102588**

**WeChat: yuanli0303**

**<https://www.linkedin.com/in/li-yuan-41215937/>**