Explaining Compliance

Business Responses to Regulation

Edited by Christine Parker, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, Australia and Vibeke Lehmann Nielsen, University of Aarhus, Denmark

Explaining Compliance consists of sixteen specially commissioned chapters by the world’s leading empirical researchers, examining whether and how businesses comply with regulation that is designed to affect positive behaviour changes.

‘A thoughtful collection on meaning and method in compliance. Parker and Nielsen assemble stellar scholars to provide a state-of-the-art understanding of business compliance with regulation.’
– John Braithwaite, Australian National University, Canberra

‘This innovative book dispels the notion that there can be a single coherent theory of regulatory compliance based on a simple model of deterrence and rational choice, and shows how more social constructionist approaches can enrich our understandings of what it means for a business to respond to regulation. Suitable for graduate students and academics working in the field of regulation across a number of disciplines such as politics, economics, sociology, criminology and law, Explaining Compliance opens up the field for further research in this significant area of social and political life and will help to ensure this more nuanced, dynamic, complex and pluralistic view of regulatory compliance is incorporated into regulatory policy.’
– Siân Lewin, British Journal of Sociology

‘Business responses to regulation is a key area of social science research. Parker and Nielsen’s collection brings together an excellent group of scholars with innovative, and I believe highly influential contributions that problematize the relations between regulation and compliance. The collection is a highly welcome addition to our field, that will redefine the research agenda on compliance. A significant achievement that will help to improve policy making and frame the scholarly research agenda for the years to come.’
– David Levi-Faur, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and the Free University of Berlin, Germany

‘Taking a broad view of regulation, and covering a wide range of issues and industries, this collection is the most innovative effort to date to understand the responses of business firms to regulation. The book brings together an impressive group of scholars who analyze the concept of compliance and offer theoretically informed studies of its assumed links to regulation. A must read for both academics and practitioners, this ground-breaking collection firmly establishes a scholarly field of compliance studies.’
– Ronen Shamir, Tel Aviv University, Israel

‘A timely and important set of analyses on how and why businesses respond to regulation in the way that they do from some of the leading authors in the field, covering business responses to both state and non-state regulatory systems’
– Julia Black, London School of Economics, UK