



## **Regulatory Decisions in the EU and Perceived Distributional Consequences**

Jun. Prof. Dr. Jale Tosun (Institute for Political Science)

Jun. Prof. Dr. Israel Waichman (Alfed-Weber-Institute for Economics)

### **Abstract:**

This project investigates the impact of politicized regulatory decisions in the multilevel polity of the EU. Until the outbreak of the economic and financial crisis, policymaking in the EU was characterized by a low degree of politicization. Since 2007 and particularly with the series of bailout decisions taken from 2010 onwards, the democratic legitimacy of supranational policymaking has become contested and led to a sharp decline in citizens' trust in EU institutions. This study seeks to understand the public's perception of such contested decisions by applying experimental methods. More specifically, the project addresses three research dimensions located at the intersection between processes of regulation and self-regulation. First, the project assesses how individuals make decisions in response to regulation and how the individual's decisions, in turn, affect policymaking through positive or negative feedback. Second, it provides insights into how citizens perceive the distributional consequences of regulatory decisions taken at the European level and how this is translated into overall economic efficiency. Third, the project sheds light on whether specific framing strategies can increase economic efficiency through self-regulation. This third aspect in particular is expected to provide gainful insights in how the communication of contested policy decision can be improved.