

24.02.2018

gLAWcal #171
COMMENT

IS IT POSSIBLE TO THINK OF ATOMISTIC GOVERNANCE?

Based on

Margaret Stout and Jeannine M. Love
“Atomistic Governance”



gLAWcal
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development



Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

A gLAWcal comment on “Atomistic Governance ” in Margaret STOUT and Jeanine M. LOVE “ A Radically Democratic Response to Global Governance”

The starting point of this chapter lies in the idea that existence can be understood in physical terms that can be perceived through the senses. As a consequence, according to the authors, individuality is characterized by stable identities that are pre-social and independent of the group, and every person can be considered as a psychophysical “universe of one.” In this perspective, human beings are believed to exist prior to society. Looking at the administrative theory, this pluralist approach to both governance and economics is New Public Service; it ideally engages all actors equally in pluralistic policy making and implementation. In Denhardt and Crothers’ opinion, Public officials “play an important role in governance by balancing community values, legal and organizational constraints, and a variety of other factors in a manner that can be legitimized relative to a particular situation”. The authors describe the historical background regarding the issue, focusing on the agricultural production, until

the present time characterized by the fact that Government regulation of production, pricing, and subsidies are now largely guided by pluralist politics. The study highlights how decentralizing authority and leaving food policy to competitive market mechanisms have transformed agricultural production. The example of the US is presented: in 2010, 70 percent of the net agricultural value added to the US economy was produced by farms classified as very large family farms or corporate farms, with only 18 percent produced by small family farms. It is clear that market mechanisms are the preferred means for determining production type, quantity, and processes, as well as distribution to consumers. The means of production are privately held and controlled, and to the extent that government is involved in regulating the agricultural sector and providing incentives for production, these decisions are influenced by pluralist politics driven by special interest groups.



Cite as: gLAWcal Comment #171 “IS IT POSSIBLE TO THINK OF ATOMISTIC GOVERNANCE?” (2018) based on “Atomistic Governance” in Margaret STOUT and Jeannine M. LOVE “ A Radically Democratic Response to Global Governance”, gLAWcal Book Series, Routledge Publishing (New-York/London), 2017, ISBN 978-1138654051.

The gLAWcal comments are insight and short analytical pieces written by the gLAWcal team. The gLAWcal comments are based on, and inspired by, the books and chapters published within one of the [gLAWcal book series](#) published by Routledge Publishing (New York/London).

gLAWcal is an independent non-profit research organization (think tank) that aims at providing a new focus on issues related to economic law, globalization and development, namely the relationship between international economy and trade, with special attention to a number of non-trade-related values and concerns. Through research and policy analysis, gLAWcal sheds a new light on issues such as good governance, human rights, right to water, rights to food, social, economic and cultural rights, labour rights, access to knowledge, public health, social welfare, consumer interests and animal welfare, climate change, energy, environmental protection and sustainable development, product safety, food safety and security.

OUR MISSION

To collaborate with Government, Civil society and business community to balance the excess of globalization with Non Trade Concerns.

OUR GOALS

To influence policymakers, to raise awareness over Non Trade Concerns, to encourage stakeholder participation, and to disseminate gLAWcal's publication results.



gLAWcal
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

Email: research@glawcal.org.uk

Website: glawcal.org.uk

Facebook: [gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development](#)

Twitter: [@gLAWcal](#)

LinkedIn: [gLAWcal](#)