

LIU Jia Qualifying report 2020

Title:

Regulatory characteristics and blame intensity in food safety regulation

Abstract:

I study the relationship between the characteristics of regulation and the intensity of blame when a regulatory failure occurs. Compared with general administrative power, regulatory behavior is characterized by more independence and professionalism and a closer relationship with the market. To clarify the relationship between regulatory characteristics and blame intensity, my dissertation will examine three key aspects: the severity of regulatory failure events, responsibility certainty, and the punished cadres' positions. Blame intensity consists of blame scope and blame effort. I develop six hypotheses about the relationship between the three key factors and blame intensity. My dissertation will use a mixed methodology to test the hypotheses and study the regulatory accountability mechanism, with comparative case studies and quantitative analysis of food safety incidents from 2000 to 2020. Focusing on regulatory characteristics enriches the traditional perspectives in explaining blame intensity for regulatory failures. This study will help regulatory agencies in China to develop effective accountability.