

Law – Technology – Society

LunchTime Series

Prof. Brice Laurent | MINES ParisTech

European Objects: the troubled dreams of harmonization

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The EU is in a difficult state, as current events such as Brexit and the Eurozone crisis show. In this talk, I argue that many of the current European democratic issues can be understood by analysing a mode of regulatory intervention based on technical objects. “European objects” are at the heart of the European regulation, as it targets food products, chemicals or energy. European objects are often associated with harmonization goals that draw on the idea of the universality of science and the market, and define the European citizen as a trusting individual or an economic agent. But European objects also give rise to more complex technical and legal constructs. The latter situations raise constitutional questions that have important democratic implications.



Brice Laurent is a research professor at the Center for the Sociology of Innovation of MINES ParisTech (Paris, France). His work builds on Science and Technology Studies to explore the relationships between science and democracy, particularly in domains where technical projects have social implications and raise legal issues. His most recent book is *Democratic Experiments: problematizing nanotechnology and democracy in Europe and the U.S.* (MIT Press).

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