



December 8, 2017

Policy Shock: Recalibrating Risk and Regulation after Oil Spills, Nuclear Accidents, and Financial Crises

Time: 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Location: Golkin 238

In this seminar, historian Edward J. Balleisen will examine how policy-makers in industrialized democracies respond to major crises.

After the immediate challenges of disaster management, crises often reveal new evidence or frame new normative perspectives that drive reforms designed to prevent future events of a similar magnitude. Such responses vary widely—from cosmetically masking inaction, to creating stronger incentive systems, requiring greater transparency, reorganizing government institutions and tightening regulatory standards. The seminar will be based around the new book Balleisen co-edited, *Policy Shock: Recalibrating Risk and Regulation after Oil Spills, Nuclear Accidents, and Financial Crises*, which situates post-crisis regulatory policy-making through a set of essays written by leading scholars from economics, psychology and political science, which probe the latest thinking about risk analysis, risk perceptions, focusing events and narrative politics.

Balleisen's research and writing explores the historical intersections among law, business, politics, and policy in the modern United States, with a focus on the origins, evolution, and impacts of the modern regulatory state. Another of his recent books is *Fraud: An American History from Barnum to Madoff* (Princeton University Press, 2017). A Professor of History at Duke University, he serves as Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, working with university-wide institutes and initiatives to foster collaborative, interdisciplinary research, teaching, and engagement.



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Feedback