



# Governance

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# What is governance

- Lessons from the ESRC Whitehall programme



# What it isn't

- Not the classic Whitehall model with a strong executive running a unitary state
- Not New Public Management with emphasis on a search for efficiency through contracts and markets



# What it is

- Governance emphasises self-organising, inter-organisational networks
- Interdependence. Broader than government brings in non-state actors as traditional boundaries between public and private (state and market) blur



# What happens?

- Network members interact continually to exchange resources and negotiate shared purposes
- An example in the food chain would be high quality, value added food products



# Where is the state?

- Autonomy from the state, but it can indirectly steer networks
- Whether shift from direct to indirect controls reduces or enhances state power is contentious



# Multi-level governance

- Dispersion of authority upwards to EU and downwards to devolved administration
- Horizontal layering of power exists alongside vertical connections
- Vertical connections by definition important in food chain



# Ownership

- Old models of accountability no longer work
- Many decisions are shared between different competences, e.g., food safety
- Difficult for citizen to know who is responsible





# Adequacy of new models

- How adequate are private models of governance?
- For example, retailers as surrogates for consumers in food chain



# Policy complexity

- EU follows German model of federalism, complex distribution of responsibilities, e.g., pesticides



# Regulatory state model

- Wolfe - effort to make state power more efficient. Markets operate as self-organising media of indirect control
- Majone - EU as regulatory state, lacks fiscal policy instruments
- Moran - displaces command state and self-regulation leading to efficiency gains



# New politics

- A politics of collective consumption replaces a politics of production
- Shift produces tensions in polity, e.g., loss of trust in traditional institutions, increasing resort to direct action
- Effective governance in food chain needed