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The role of culture in risk regulations: a comparative case study of genetically modified corn in the United States of America and European Union.

Guehlstorf NP, Hallstrom LK

Environ Sci Policy 2005 **8**: 327-342 [[order article](#)]

Selected by | Niklaus Ammann

Evaluated 28 Nov 2005

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PLANT BIOLOGY



Hypothesis

Comments

The authors present a good case for the argument that scientific knowledge is not the only factor in risk regulation and that regulation and risk perception are related to history and culture. As the authors state in the abstract, "The way governments regulate modern biotechnology is not necessarily a reflection of how their political culture perceives the new scientific technology, but how their existing regulatory structure can create a political culture of acceptance or rejection for contested technological advancements." They also state that "This comparative study casts doubt on interpreting agricultural biotechnology decisions solely on equations of risk analysis, and offers a detailed cultural analysis of the regulatory differentiation of modern agricultural policy between America and Europe". Excellent arguments are provided for a more discursive dialogue on biotech issues. For the abstract of this paper, please see <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/14629011> . Please see also work by myself and co-worker: Ammann K & Papazova Ammann B: "Factors Influencing Public Policy Development in Agricultural Biotechnology." In: Handbook of Plant Biotechnology, P Christou & H Klee (Eds), Part 9: RISK ASSESSMENT OF TRANSGENIC CROPS, S Shantaram (Ed). Hoboken, NJ USA: Wiley and Sons; 2004: pp1552.

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