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May 2012 Vol. 49 No. 09

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

49-5020

HD61

MARC

Demortain, David. **Scientists and the regulation of risk: standardising control.** E. Elgar, 2011. 263p bibl index ISBN 9781849809436, \$125.00

This book focuses on European aspects of regulation, but Demortain (Univ. of Paris-East, France), a sociologist and political scientist, acknowledges the transnational aspects of regulation and includes US examples. While researching the creation, success/failure rates, and power of regulatory agencies, the author shifts to the impact of scientists on the processes, including their historical influence; sociological and political implications; and the differing processes of standards and regulations for the safety of food and medicines and "novel foods." Demortain provides critical insight on the influence of scientists on regulatory processes; although he expresses some skepticism, this reviewer believes that scientists' "power" is justified. The author deplores scientists' use of neologisms. However, Demortain himself uses many, but he defines them. Although regulators, the public, and even scientists themselves seem to demand certainty, the necessary scientific probabilistic evaluations lead directly to politicization and disputes. Even though "risk" is in the title, the author claims to minimize the use of the term in favor of others more explicit. The book uses informatics via "co-word map[s]" of publications to study the invisible colleges of experts that influence regulation. Useful for readers in regulatory, toxicology, sociology, and government affairs disciplines. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals. -- *R. E. Buntrock, formerly, University of Maine*