

Society of Organisation Learning

SoL-UK: Event Bulletin: January 2009

'Better Regulation?'



A SoL workshop presented and led by Arthur Probert

6.45- 8.30pm at the *Friends House*, Room 9, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

There are still places available for this workshop. Please email annward@sol-uk.org as soon as possible if you intend to come along. There is a nominal £10.00 charge for non SOL-UK members.

Two years ago, deregulation was considered 'fine and dandy' by many. How things have changed! It's mid-winter. We are in the middle of financial crisis. We are worried about the economy and confronted by the spectre of recession. Shaken by uncertainty and change, deregulation has become a dirty word. Many are looking for something or someone to blame. Public expectations about increased government control and regulation of corporations, as well as more direct interventions into the business domain, produce mixed feelings in most of us. After all, we are all stakeholders. As citizens, whether through our work, pension schemes or personal investments, regulation affects us all. However, too often, we experience a kind of 'stakeholder schizophrenia', where we have difficulty in aligning these different, often contradictory values.

In the first SoL event of '09, this workshop couldn't be timelier. With a background in the energy sector, and extensive experience of working with regulators, Arthur Probert is well qualified to take us through the pros and cons of regulation and asks:

*Could we be heading towards a world of over-regulation?
How can regulation achieve what it is supposed to achieve?
What does effective regulation look like?*

He will help us to understand the aims, potential problems, advantages and risks of regulation, then to explore how to be proactive in getting effective regulation that minimizes over- or under-regulation of our institutions, learning in the process how to be adaptive and responsive to an uncertain environment.

Please note that the meeting will begin at 6.30pm with SoL-UK's Annual General Meeting, where a short report on this year will be available. You are welcome to join us for this. It will give you an opportunity to get to know some of our members and have a cuppa!

Please contact annward@sol-uk.org

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SoL-UK Profile



SoL-UK member, Arthur Probert is a freelance consultant and accredited Relational Health practitioner. He has advised companies and government agencies in the energy, utility, health, finance and pharmaceutical sectors. Current projects include advising on regulatory issues in the energy sector, exploring, with the business-led think tank *Tomorrow's Company*, the future of the relationship between companies and their shareholders and a social marketing campaign to raise awareness, particularly among the elderly, of the danger to health from being cold.

Arthur is co-author of two other *Tomorrow's Company* reports – *Restoring Trust*, which stressed the importance of self-regulation in improving the reputation of the financial services industry, and *Tomorrow's Global Company*, which advocated companies proactively creating the frameworks needed for sustainable success in collaboration with governments and civil society. More details can be found at www.forceforgood.com.

Before going freelance, Arthur spent 7 ½ years with Yorkshire Electricity, mostly managing the relationship with the energy regulator. Arthur started his career at BP in a variety of business development and commercial roles. He has a MBA from Durham Business School, is married to Claire and has two children, James (17) and Naomi (14). He is an ECB-qualified coach, but still plays the guitar better than he plays cricket.

Please contact annward@sol-uk.org