

# NATIONAL CULTURAL FEATURES AND THEIR IMPACT ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

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# CONTENT

- Assumptions, problematizations and dimensions concerning culture
- Research tasks
- International nuclear safety regime and national cultural patterns
- Conclusions
- Remarks and questions for discussion

# ASSUMPTIONS



# ASSUMPTIONS RELATED TO CULTURE



AS STABLE FEATURES

- CULTURE AS DEEPLY HELD VALUES AND NORMS
- ~ AS A CAUSAL FACTOR
- ~ AS ENABLING OR CONSTRAINING

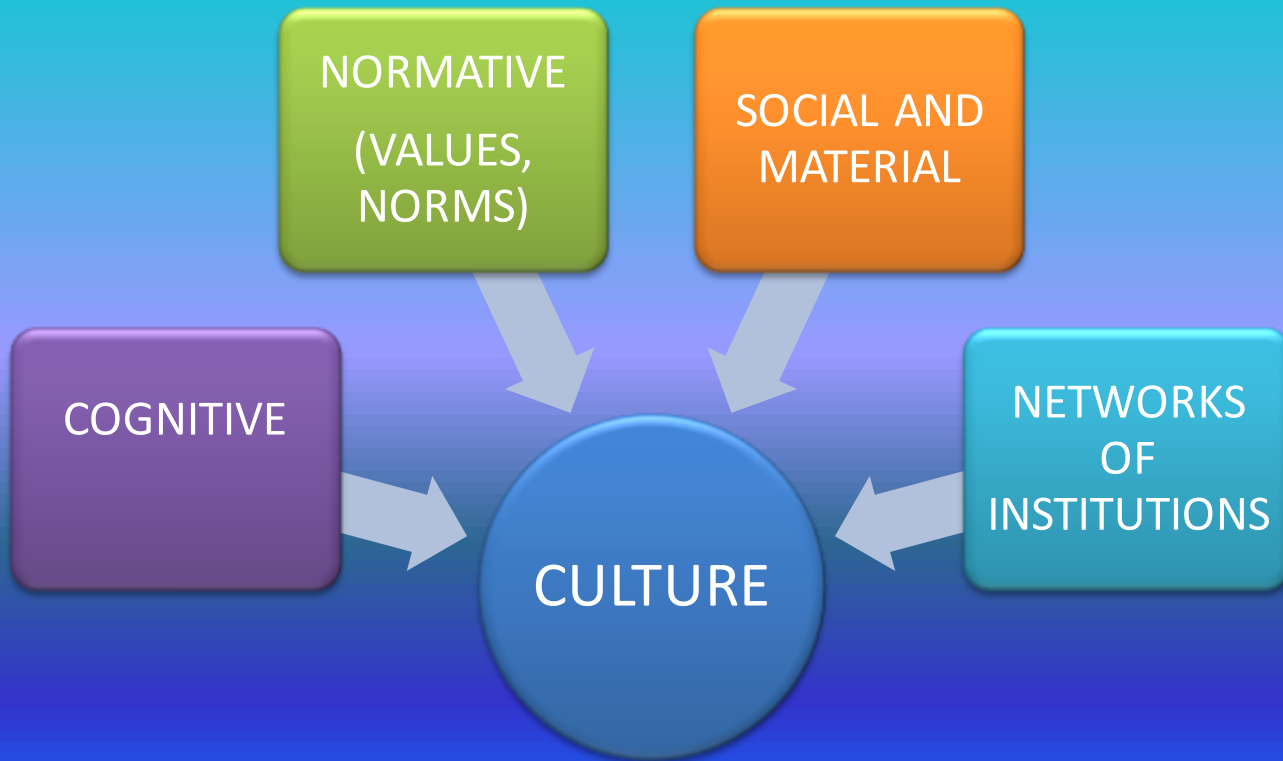


SAFETY



- THROUGH WHAT KINDS OF MECHANISMS CULTURE AFFECTS BEHAVIOUR?
- CAN CULTURAL FACTORS BE GOVERNED ?

# DIMENSIONS OF CULTURE



# CULTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ISOMORPHIC FEATURES

## OBJECTIVE

- Gain understanding of cultural and institutional isomorphic aspects of safety, which may either enhance or hamper safety.
- raise additional questions that are critical for safety

## HYPOTHESES

- 1) Isomorphic features enhance similar effective understanding of safety
- 2) ~ may create blind spots
- 3) ~ may be sources of clashes between different organizations or regulatory fields

# RESEARCH TASKS

- Identification of international and national nuclear safety regimes
- Identification of national cultural patterns, which may either enhance or hamper safety
- Based on documentary analysis & European Social Survey 2010, 2012

# INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SAFETY REGIME

## SAFETY-INTENSIFYING

### TWO CONTRASTING PRINCIPLES OF ACHIEVING SAFETY



"SAFETY SHALL BE A PARAMOUNT WITHIN THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OVERRIDING ALL OTHER DEMANDS"  
(GSR-3, 2006, 5)



THE FUNDAMENTAL SAFETY OBJECTIVE OF PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT HAS TO BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT UNDULY LIMITING THE OPERATION OF FACILITIES (SF-1, 2006)

## CO-REGULATORY

### DEMANDS VS. PRECONDITIONS OF TRUST



INCREASING DEMAND OF TRUST  
(CO-REGULATORY TENDENCIES, PRIVATISATION OF REGULATION)



WEAKENING PRECONDITIONS FOR TRUST  
(GLOBALISATION AND INTERNATIONALISATION OF NUCLEAR BUILDING, NEW COMERS IN THE FIELD)



# FINNISH CULTURAL FEATURES



TRUST IN OTHER PEOPLE



TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS  
(EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY, AUTHORITIES)



OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW



APPRECIATION OF DILIGENCE,  
PROMPTNESS AND HONESTY

# Trust and trustworthiness

- Trust as socially binding, integrating mechanism, which creates and sustains solidarity among the people
- Different sources of trust

# CONCLUSIONS

## INTERNATIONAL SAFETY REGIME

- Increasingly homogeneous understanding of safety



## NATIONAL CULTURAL PATTERNS

- Finnish nuclear safety regime: Ambitious, Co-regulatory, Technical, Safety-intensifying
- Trust – double-edged sword
- Demands of trust vs. Weakening preconditions for trust

# REMARKS & QUESTIONS

- Relevance of culture for safety?
- How to operationalize culture?
- How do national cultures enhance/hamper nuclear safety regimes?
- Can national culture be governed?
- Dilemmas related to trust, obedience to the law etc.
- Cultural values do not emerge in a vacuum

