

1. Full citation:

Arnoldussen, Tobias. "Precautionary Logic and a Policy of Moderation." Erasmus Law Review. Erasmus Law Review, n.d. Web. <http://www.erasmuslawreview.nl/files/Arnoldussen_-_issue_Pieterman_d.d._27_augustus.pdf>.

2. Where did/does the author work, what else has s/he written about, and what are her/his credentials:

Tobias Arnoldussen is a PhD Candidate in the Sociology of Law Department at the Erasmus School of Law in Rotterdam. They write about sociology of law and things pertaining to the precautionary principle. Their credentials include being a PhD candidate.

3. What are the topics of the text:

The topic of this text is what the author describes as 'precautionary logic.'

4. What is the main argument of the text:

The main argument of this text is that precautionary thought is not a turn from Western thought but rather hearkens back to an older school of thought.

5. Describe at least three ways that the argument is supported:

- a) The author gives an example of how precautionary logic is applied to environmental issues.
- b) The author discusses how we are still responsible for our actions even if we were unaware of those actions.
- c) The author describes how there is always intrinsic uncertainty.

6. What three quotes capture the message of the text:

- a) "In practical public health and environmental politics, this trend that Ewald signals is already visible: for instance, in the valuation of air-pollution by particles. It is feared that tiny particles are a substantial cause of illness and even mortality. This category of pollutants is called particulate matter (PM) and is defined as every tiny particle or droplet that has a diameter of less than 10 micrometres. However, it is still unclear what chemical composition a particle must have in order to be dangerous. The trend is to fear that the smaller a particle is, the more dangerous it becomes. Since the 10-micrometre particle appears not to be very dangerous, the 2.5-microgram particle must be the dangerous one. However, our measurement systems are becoming increasingly sensitive and we may now identify particles with a diameter of 1 micrometre and even of 0.1 micrometre. The smaller the particle becomes, the more difficult it is to measure, but the more fear and suspicion it instils. Voices are raised currently that tell us to fear in particular the 1 and 0.1 PM."

- b) “We are responsible even if we do not know. We must maintain the balance of intricately woven systems against large odds. Wisdom is needed from us, whereas it is implied that this wisdom is something different from scientific knowledge.”
- c) “Precautionary arguments are considered true when they rest on the following basic assumptions: firstly, humankind and its environment are vulnerable. This is a given. Almost all precautionary arguments will display this presumption of vulnerability; secondly we are facing a world of intrinsic uncertainty. Science is unable to help us cope with the risks and does not make the weighing of risk possible. Science and technology are part of the problem and not part of its solution, unless they transform themselves, as Raffensperger and Tickner argue and Ewald signals; thirdly, human action is viewed with suspicion, since humans have a tendency to disrupt nature.”

7. What three questions about environmental risk and precaution does this article leave you with:

- a) Where is Erasmus Law School located and how do they deal with precaution overall?
- b) Does the ELS focus a lot on precautionary logic.
- c) Does the author see a transformation back to precautionary logic?

8. What three points, details or references from the text did you follow up on to advance your perspective on environmental risk and precaution:

- a) ELS is located in the Netherlands and as such being a part of the European Union, follows the precautionary principle quite a bit.
- b) The ELS has lots of work on precaution and in fact, one of their Law Reviews focused solely on precautionary logic.
- c) While I can't speak with certainty, I would imagine that the author, based on his reading, would agree that we as a whole, are transitioning back towards a more precautionary approach.