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A Burkean theory of institutional stability and change

Abstract: I propose a Burkean theory of institutional stability, outlining five hypotheses. First, institutional stability is normatively desirable. Second, institutional change is slow and layering is prominent. Third, path dependence is functional and legitimate. Fourth, the influence of ruptures is limited. Fifth, endogenous ruptures, associated with institutional entrepreneurs, tend to create negative feedback. In conclusion, I discuss challenges associated with the development of an evidential base.

Keywords: Burke, institutional theory