Rules and norms are object of continuous change or adaptation. In some cases, there are straightforward mechanisms to bring about and govern change. For instance, legal systems contain procedures for introducing and regulating legitimate modification of laws. The case of rules and informal social norms that are closely tied to practices or costumes and deeply entrenched in a social community, is more complex.

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the varieties of mechanisms underlying organic changes in systems of rules as well as strategies for bringing about changes in normative practices and motivating members of the community to adapt to and undertake such changes.

In particular, we will discuss changes of norms which affect the behavioural regularities of a community. The discussion centres on Cristina Bicchieri’s seminal work on these topics.