



Public Management

Track Chair

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Public management has been a neglected subject of academic study until the late '70s, especially in non-Anglo-Saxon countries. It has gained growing attention after the adoption of the New Public Management (NPM) philosophy by OECD countries in modernisation efforts of their public sectors. In the early '90s, however, the Public Governance approach has gained ground both in the academic debate and in the political and managerial rhetoric, often as a fightback from NPM ideas. More recently, public management has regained relevance and has been reframed as broader than the business-like interpretation of management and the internal running of the government's business.

From an empirical point of view, public management reforms in the past two decades have affected the structures and processes of public service organisations and have included levers such as performance management, accountability and managerial controls, budgeting and expenditure management, organisational change, market-type mechanisms, human resources management, e-government, openness and transparency, quality management, ethics, multilevel decision making, etc.

The organizers invite papers that provide theoretical and empirical foundations for addressing the questions that rise in organizing and carrying out managerial responsibilities in public administrations:

network management; the role of political-legal constraints; appropriate levels of discretion and resources; ex ante versus ex post controls; accountability to the public; criteria for evaluating individual and organizational performance; organizing the public sector, administrative reform, change management, innovation, etc.

In line with the general theme of EURAM 2009, research proposals that include elements of traditional public administration, public policy, and generic management and focus not only on how to manage people, budgets, and processes, but also on managing public service provision, policy implementation processes, and program evaluation are welcome. Priority will be given to papers that explore how public management reform processes are grounded in local contexts, what are the competencies that public managers should possess to steer new forms of governance such as networks, what performance management tools they use to measure outcomes and public value, etc.