

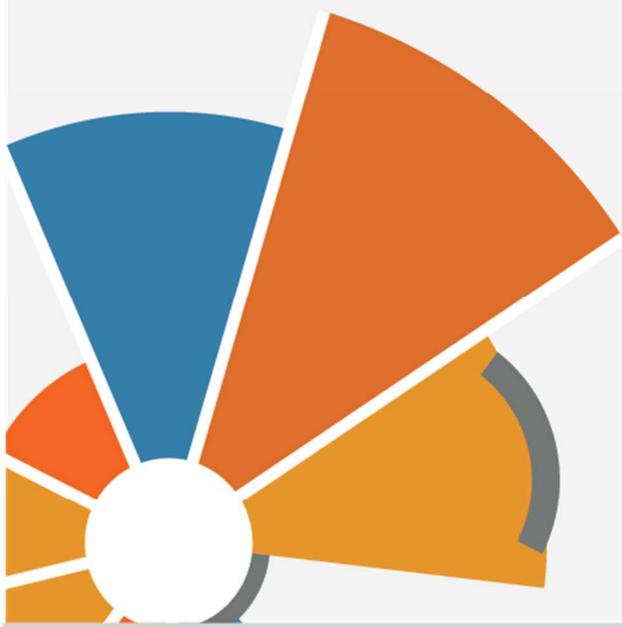


2018

Annual Conference of the
EUROPEAN GROUP FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

LAUSANNE | SWITZERLAND | 5-7 SEPTEMBER 2018
PhD SYMPOSIUM | 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS



EGPA Permanent Study Group XXII on: Behavioural Public Administration

CALL FOR PAPERS

The EGPA Permanent Study Group (PSG) on “Behavioral Public Administration” aims to contribute to our understanding of core public administration and management topics by combining insights from psychology (and the behavioral sciences more broadly) and public administration. It does so by studying the micro-foundations of public administration theory and practice. The behavioral approach towards public administration therefore constitutes three defining features: 1) it rests on a micro-level focus (i.e. (groups of) citizens, public employees and managers); 2) it studies the behavior and attitudes of these people; and, most importantly, 3) it does so by integrating insights from psychology and the behavioral sciences into the study of public administration.

The Study Group’s 2018 theme: Nudging and behavioral insight tactics in Public Administration

The study group’s strategic aim for 2016-2019 is to study the micro-foundations of public services from both the supply (e.g., frontline workers) and the demand side (e.g., citizen-clients). The theme of 2018 will be on nudging and behavioral insight tactics in public administration.

A great share of the challenges public managers face today concern questions of how to change human behavior in desirable ways. For instance, how to effectively encourage small business growth, recruit diverse personnel, or increase city residents’ use of online services are a few of the questions that can be addressed using insights from the behavioral sciences. At the forefront of this behavioral turn in public policy and administration is the application of so-called ‘nudges’ – interventions that use psychological principles to steer people in desirable directions while maintaining freedom of choice (Thaler and Sunstein 2008). Contrary to conventional government reform initiatives, nudges are simple, cost-effective changes of the context in which decisions are made. They are usually piloted through rigorous randomized controlled trials (i.e., applied field experiments) before they are scaled up. The result of such rigorous testing is that we know which interventions work and which do not, allowing government executives and policy-makers to learn from experiences in a robust and evidence-based manner.

While much attention has been drawn to nudging in public policy aiming to make citizens behave in desirable ways, the use of behavioral tactics in government agencies has been underexplored. One important question here is how public organizations use behavioral insights in their daily work practices and interactions with citizen-clients to further their public mission. How are behavioral insights used to make operations and services within public agencies more effective? Which interventions work, and under what circumstances? In this year's PSG meeting, we are interested in exploring the realm of nudging initiatives and behavioral insight tactics within public administration.

Next to this particular yearly theme, we invite theory-based, empirical contributions about other substantive and methodological topics with a clear link between the behavioral sciences and public administration. Examples may include (but are not limited to):

- ✓ Citizen-state interactions more broadly;
- ✓ Citizens' evaluative judgements of government agencies;
- ✓ Judgment and decision-making in public organizations;
- ✓ The effects of administrative reforms on citizens/ public employees;
- ✓ Public employees' attitudes and behavior towards citizens;
- ✓ Methodological contributions to study Behavioral Public Administration.

The meetings of the permanent study group will be used to develop a joint research program on the topic of Behavioral Public Administration, including international publication opportunities.

Procedure

Abstracts should be 300 words maximum (excluding references), written in English, single spaced, plain text, with no tables or figures. It should include title of the proposed paper, overview of the main argument, research methods, and the name(s), affiliation(s) and contact information of the author(s).

Key Deadlines

- ✓ Proposals should be uploaded through the submission website by April 18, 2018
- ✓ Deadline for decision and selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs: and notification to the Authors : May 9, 2018
- ✓ Deadline for submitting the complete papers: August 16, 2018

Practicalities

Please submit your abstract online through the Conference Website www.egpa-conference2018.org or directly through Conference Management System: <https://www.conftool.com/egpa2018>

Practical information on the EGPA 2018 conference can be found at:
www.egpa-conference2018.org

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EGPA Policy Paper on European Governance – Please note that all authors with accepted papers can submit a proposal for an EGPA Policy Paper. For more information, please contact Dr. Fabienne Maron