

Panel 14
XV IRSPM Conference
Value, Innovation and Partnership
11th – 13th April 2011

Panel Title:

New Directions in Public Management Theory

Chair(s):

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Affiliation(s):

University of Edinburgh, University of Warwick, Cardiff University

Panel Description:

Public Management of the 21st Century (sometimes still referred to as 'New' Public Management) has been argued by many to have become dominated by 'managerial' concepts such as performance, service delivery, leadership and process redesign and improvement. It has also led to many policy makers and senior public managers to draw on theories and concepts beyond the traditional disciplines of political science and politics. The growth of IRSPM as a society and the range of papers presented at the annual conference reflect the interest in and application of 'public management'. But what is the 'theory' or 'theories' of public management that underpin research and prescriptions for policy and practice?

This panel purposes to draw in and consider a set of papers which aim to 'unpack' the theoretical perspectives on public management that are relevant to the 21st Century. Examples of papers in the panel may include: exploring the degree which management practices such as Lean are context free, so relevant to public services, how service delivery concepts can be applied to environments of multi users, whether public governance has something genuinely new to offer to the field of public management, and how performance management actually relates to service outcomes. Papers will be encouraged to be innovative and conceptual, drawing on a range of disciplines in order to develop new theoretical perspectives on public management.

The panel relates to the theme of the conference in that the papers will be encouraged to focus on value in terms the theory. They will also present innovative concepts and ideas to further the field of Public Management.

Finally, it is intended to use the panel as the core for a book to be co-edited by the panel chairs and to be published in the Routledge 'Critical Perspectives on Public Management Series'.