

Panel 2  
XV IRSPM Conference  
Value, Innovation and Partnership  
11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**Panel Title:**

Bridging the gap between public management research and policy and practice

**Chairs:**

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**Panel Description:**

This panel seeks to create a bridge between public management research and policy and practice. Disconnects between academic research and policy development and implementation in public management are recognised. This disconnect means there is a failure to translate research findings into public sector 'best' practice and an inability to capture the organisational and institutional benefits accruing from research conducted within a public management setting.

This deficiency is discussed by Nutley *et al.* (2003) who identified a '*recurrent research-practice gap, in which evidence of what works is not translated into practice*'.

Further, the failure of conventional approaches to public management exacerbates the problem of public management practice without a research base. Head (2008) describes 'an increasing number of policy areas where traditional approaches fail to 'deliver the goods'. *Traditional here means both technical (expert driven) solutions, as well as routine administrative solutions (bureaucratic business as usual)*'.

The panel organizers seek proposals exploring the conference theme of 'value, innovation and partnerships' through a lens of the nexus between theory/practice. The panel focuses on the approaches to funding regimes in public management. An increasingly significant consideration in public management internationally is achieving value for money in public service delivery. This panel offers the opportunity to explore this theme while closing the *research-practice gap*. Papers are also sought on leadership, evaluation, and performance.

The panel is open to research practitioners and academics. Papers must demonstrate authors' experience of applied research to policy and practice. Abstracts should include the research question and methods, the contribution to academic knowledge and the applicability to policy and practice.

**References:**

Head, B. W. (2008) Three lens of evidence-based policy, *The Australian Journal of Public Administration*, Vol.67(1), pp1-11.

Nutley S., Walter I., and Davies H. T. (2003) *From Knowing to Doing*, *Evaluation*, Vol. 9(2), pp125-148.