

## Behavioral and Experimental Public Administration

### Panel Chairs

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### Panel Description/Call for Papers

This panel aims to further the development within IRSPM and the field of public management of research informed by the behavioral sciences and experimental methods. For the 2019 conference, we especially encourage papers that contribute to the conference theme of “renewing public management for stewardship, innovation and impact”. To this end, we welcome behavioral and/or experimental work that advances understanding of and innovative solutions to traditional public-management concerns, applied studies of nudge tactics or other applications of behavioral science to practice, replications of previous experimental work, and even experiments at the design stage (to present for critical feedback before data are collected). Indeed, behavioral public administration has already helped “renew” public management research by bringing new theoretical perspectives from psychology and behavioral economics into the study of core public management issues, such as work motivation, leadership, and managerial decision making. In practice, nudge tactics have provided “innovations” used by governments around the world to engage more in “stewardship” of communities and the provision of public goods, as opposed to the traditional tools of command and control. And experimental methods generally provide rigorous evidence of the “impact” of policies and administrative reforms. In these ways, we expect the conference theme to be well represented in the wide variety of work coming from the growing number of scholars using behavioral and/or experimental approaches to public management research.

Thus, we invite theoretical and empirical contributions that integrate psychological and behavioral science insights into public management research to better understand the cognitive and behavioral foundations of public policy and management. This behavioral science work may employ various methodologies including experimentation, observational studies, qualitative methods, or mixed methods. We also welcome studies of traditional public management topics that employ experimental methods, including lab, field and survey experiments. In addition, fully developed experimental designs that include a plan for implementation are also encouraged, consistent with our aim of encouraging pre-review and critical feedback on experimental designs before data collection.

The format of the proposed panel will be 3-4 papers per session. We encourage papers from all regions of the world and from researchers at various career stages, including doctoral students and postdocs. Proposals will be judged on their merits and with the aim of encouraging a diversity of presenters in terms of region, gender, career stage, methodological approach, substantive research interests.

This panel proposal builds on the success over the last few years at IRSPM conferences of this panel, which has seen a growing number of high-quality papers and the involvement of a diverse group of scholars from around the world.