

Call for Book Proposals

Book Series: Critical Perspectives and Issues in Governance and Public Management

Over the past 2 – 3 decades, the study of public administration, public management and public policy has often been construed within the broader context of governance (rather than government) to connect the public and private, government and civil society, and state and economy. The rise of innovation technology has also spurred academic interest in digital government and the impact of the Internet on practical politics and governance.

Most academic books in the field tend to focus on American-European systems and their developed-world experiences. With a more globalized and multipolar world and the precipitous rise of Asia this century, the emerging challenges and issues in governance and public administration need to be explored in wider East-West and North-South comparative perspectives, drawing upon diverse experiences and factoring in different traditions, cultures and institutional practices.

This Series aims to be comparative; cross-cultural and cutting-edge. Focusing on critical emerging trends, it aims to enlighten the understanding of the administrative and policy real-worlds across systems and cultures, so as to bring closer theory and practice, and institutional/policy design and impact. Apart from promoting intellectual and academic discourse, it is hoped that publications in the Series will be found relevant and useful by those working in the public domain and public service delivery (e.g. politicians, civil servants and other public sector agents) as well as managers and professionals in those businesses that are in frequent contact with government.

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The 21st century has brought new challenges to governance and public administration not seen before. New Public Management (NPM) has demised even as the new managerial state was still much talked about just before the outbreak of the 2009 global financial crisis. In a way, there is an intellectual crisis being faced by public governance. New tensions have arisen in terms of the interface between government and civil society, between state and economy, and between the public and private sectors.

The advent of the new information technology age — with AI and Big Data — has turned the world upside down, empowering many but also threatening conventional governance institutions and systems, even the future prospect of democracy and bureaucracy. The impact of the risk society, climate change, populism and mediatization, to mention just a few important trends, has yet to be fully gauged. The transformation of politics and social and economic life by the COVID-19 pandemic will likely have long-lasting implications, generating new critical issues for reflection and reorientation.

Against this global backdrop, this Book Series aims to provide an intellectual platform for new and inspiring academic discourses which are comparative, cross-cultural, cutting-edge and reflective of critical emerging trends, helping to enhance the understanding of the administrative and policy real-worlds across systems and cultures. Apart from contributing to academic studies, the books in this Series will also be relevant and useful for practitioners working in the public domain and public service delivery (including politicians and civil servants) as well as managers and professionals in those businesses having frequent contact with government.

Within the scope of this Book Series, book proposals are welcome in, among others, the following areas:

- Governance: East vs. West – Cultures and traditions, institutional designs and values
- Governing the Risk Society
- Smart Governance: The Internet world and digital governance, opportunities, constraints and threats
- Market State, Developmental State and Regulatory State: Reviewing international experiences in balancing the polity, economy and society
- Rethinking Governance and Public Sector Reforms
- Public Leadership
- Public Values
- Innovations in Financial and Resources Management
- Behavioural Insights and Interventions in Public Policy
- Rethinking the Public-Private Interface: Contracting, outsourcing and public-private partnership
- Development and Sustainability: Paradoxes in planning and managing infrastructure projects

Book proposals are invited, particularly from the younger generation of Western and Asian scholars who have benefitted from more globalized higher education and research training and who embrace cross-national and cross-culture perspectives in examining and reflecting on the emerging critical issues of governance and public management. Apart from comparative edited volumes, single-authored or co-authored book proposals that narrate national or regional governance stories in the new era of the 21st century are also welcome. However, handbook-type proposals are not expected to fit the purpose of the Book Series.

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