

## **Public Administration Invitation for Paper Submission to Symposium:**

### **Behavioural and Experimental Public Administration**

#### **Symposium Guest Co-editors:**

**Oliver James (University of Exeter); Sebastian Jilke, Gregg Van Ryzin (Rutgers University)**

We invite proposals for a symposium on *behavioural and experimental public administration*. Behavioural public administration has been defined as the analysis of public administration from the micro-perspective of individual behaviour and attitudes by drawing upon insights from psychology and other behavioural sciences (Grimmelikhuijsen et al. 2016; Jilke 2015). Experimental public administration entails researchers intervening in the world using different forms of intervention randomly allocated to experimental units and using comparison of outcomes to estimate their causal effects (Blom-Hansen, Morton and Serritzlew 2015; James, Jilke, Van Ryzin 2017). This journal symposium focuses on the intersection of behavioural and experimental method which has not previously been the specific subject of a symposium of this kind.

The focus on behavioural, micro foundations, is important because public administration theories often focus on macro- or meso-level conceptions that rest on implicit or seldom tested assumptions about the views and behaviours of individuals. Microfoundations are key to many processes and outcomes, for example underlying how citizens and public sector workers interpret information, make evaluative judgements and consequently behave. Yet, public management scholars have only recently begun to explicitly examine the behavioural micro-level assumptions by integrating psychological and behavioural insights. The use of experiments is similarly increasing in public administration research as their merits for estimating causal effects (Shadish, Cook and Campbell 2002) are increasingly recognised. However, experimental methods are still relatively uncommon in the discipline (James, Jilke and Van Ryzin 2017). Moreover, there is a growing emphasis in recent behavioural work on using experiments as a preferred method for testing theory and demonstrating causal processes. Hence the focus of this symposium on research that is both behavioural *and* experimental public administration.

With these themes in mind, we invite submissions that are part of this emerging area of behavioural public administration. The symposium seeks to be inclusive of a wide range of theories and topics within work influenced by psychology and behavioural sciences that use experimental methods. It is open to a broad range of experimental methods that use randomised intervention, for example survey experiments, field experiments and laboratory experiments (James, Jilke, Van Ryzin 2017; Jilke, Van de Walle and Kim 2015).

## Deadline

Manuscripts should be submitted by Friday 21st Oct 2016 to the coordinating guest editors at [sebastian.jilke@rutgers.edu]. After a first round of screening completed immediately after this deadline, selected authors will be invited to submit their manuscript directly to Public Administration's Editorial Manager System. All manuscripts will be double-blind reviewed via the Editorial Manager System and a final decision on papers will be made by the journal after full peer review. Authors should follow Public Administration's style guidance.

## References

Blom-Hansen, J., Morton, R. & Serritzlew, S. (2015) Experiments in Public Management Research, *International Public Management Journal*, 18:2, 151-170,

Grimmelikhuisen, S., Jilke, S., Olsen A. and Tummers, L. (2016). "Behavioral Public Administration: Combining Insights from Public Administration and Psychology". *Public Administration Review*, in press.

Jilke, S., Van de Walle, S. , Kim, S. (2016). "Generating Usable Knowledge through an Experimental Approach to Public Administration." *Public Administration Review*, 76(1): 69–72.

Jilke, S. (2015). *Essays on the Microfoundations of Competition and Choice*. Rotterdam: PhD Thesis.

James, O., Jilke, S. and Van Ryzin, G. (2017). *Experiments in Public Administration Research: Challenges and Opportunities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., and Campbell, D. T. (2002). *Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for generalized causal inference*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.