PhD in Public Policy and Administration

PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION FOR IMPACTS

Instructor
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Objective and Learning Outcomes

Public sector innovation has become an important domain both for practitioners and scholars in response to an important criticism of governments: namely, their inability to produce high quality public services, or develop efficient and effective ways of achieving desired social outcomes. Unlike the private sector, where innovation is at the base of the competitive advantage of firms and represents a necessary condition for survival and longer-term sustainability, governments do not face the same pressure to innovate. Still they have to meet demands for improved performance and societal impacts.

This leads to an important research question:

To what degree and how do governments actually produce value through innovations?

This can be further exploited in the following sub-questions that the course aim to address within its three parts.

Coursework and Grading

Coursework will be weighted as follows:
A. In class discussion – (10%) – Read in advance the suggested readings and be ready for discussing them in class.
A. Class seminars – (40%) – For every specific required reading, one student will be responsible for giving a presentation and one person will act as the discussant. The presenter will make his/her report available to the discussant at least 48 hours before the class meeting. The discussant will then prepare his/her remarks.
B. Take-home exam – (50%) – to be distributed towards the end of the course.
PART ONE – 4 sessions
Part one aims at analysing how inner and outer contexts aid or impede government’s ability to respond to public sector challenges.

SESSION 1-2: INTRO TO THE COURSE. WHAT IS INNOVATION? WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

Please read in advance and prepare for in class discussion:


SESSION 3-4: DETERMINANTS AND BARRIERS OF INNOVATION ADOPTION

Please read in advance and prepare for in class discussion:


Background readings PART 1:

Rhodes M. L. 2013. Innovation in complex public service systems, in Osborne and Brown Handbook of innovation in public services Edward Elgar Cheltenham, UK

PART TWO – 4 sessions

Part two extends the discussion investigating how structures, processes and tools contribute to governments’ capacity to deliver public value. It also discusses the innovation-value relationship.

SESSION 5-6: COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

Please read in advance and prepare for in class discussion:

Paper for in class seminar:


SESSION 7-8: PERFORMANCE OF INNOVATION

Paper for in class seminar:


Background readings PART 2:


PART THREE – 4 sessions

Part three focuses on advanced topics for understanding innovation in the public sector

SESSION 9-10: COMPETITIVENESS AS OUTCOME OF INNOVATION

Paper for in class seminar:


SESSION 11-12: TRANSPARENCY AND INNOVATION

Paper for in class seminar:


Course wrap up.

Background readings PART 3:
