

IRSPM Annual Conference 2019  
16-18 April, Victoria University of Wellington

*Panel proposal for the SIG on Public Service Motivation*

Public service motivation refers to an individual's desire to help others, improve the well-being of society, and work towards the common good and public interest. Such motives are not the exclusive province of government employees; rather, they are exhibited by many other individuals including volunteers, nonprofit and private sector employees, government contractors, and private citizens, all of whom may perform meaningful public service during their lifetimes. The spread of public-regarding motives is thus very important in an era of burgeoning demands on government, questions about its capacity to meet those demands, and blurring the boundaries between public service and private interest. These concerns inevitably tie back to the motivation and behavior of individuals operating in the public square: are they self-interested and self-serving, or do they act on higher motives that serve the public interest? Whereas the former perspective relates to the heyday of New Public Management, the latter perspective more related to the mission of stewardship of government. It is in this sense that the panel will contribute to the overall theme of the conference.

Despite the recent surge of research on public service motivation, many questions remain unanswered. Therefore, within the framework of the SIG public service motivation (as granted by the IRSPM board in 2017), we propose a panel that will invite papers for two types of activities. First, regular research papers are invited. We seek for papers that comport with the general theme of public service motivation and motivation in the public sector in its broadest sense (e.g. HRM aimed at enhancing motivation; various types of motivation related to the public interest and public service). Papers could focus on many related issues within this broad theme and the paper will be presented through a regular presentation and be subject to discussion afterwards. A second type of papers concerns research proposals. We will devote one or more sessions to the peer-review of research proposal be it before or after submission to funding agencies. This will enable authors to increase quality of the proposals and subsequent research, thereby possibly the probability of success. Papers in this strand should at least entail a research question, a theoretical framework and an elaborate research plan. Also, we plan to do a keynote and round table discussion. If possible, we aim to publish a special issue in an academic journal based upon the research papers presented (just as we have done previously – in the *International Journal of Public Administration* (Brewer, Ritz and Vandenabeele, 2012), *Public Administration* (Vandenabeele, Brewer and Ritz 2014) and *International Public Management Journal* (forthcoming).

**SIG co-chairs (in alphabetical order)**

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