

EGPA 2025 CONFERENCE

Glasgow, Scotland, UK 26-29 August

EGPA at 50: prospects for public
administration across Europe

CALL FOR PAPERS

Transatlantic Dialogue 2025:
Adapting Public Administrations for Democratic
Resilience and the Future





The **EGPA 2025 Conference** will be held in **Glasgow, Scotland, from 26 to 29 August 2025**, in association with the University of Glasgow's Centre for Public Policy and the Glasgow Convention Bureau.

The EGPA Conference is the annual meeting of the multi-disciplinary community of Public Administration academics, researchers, and practitioners in Europe, also joined by colleagues from the IIAS network. The Conference is organized around several activities: plenary sessions, dedicated seminars (PhD symposium, French-speaking seminar, and thematic ones), panels arranged by 23 EGPA Permanent Study Groups, and side meetings (EAPAA meetings for accreditation, EGPA Steering Committee Meeting, Meeting of the Permanent Study Groups co-chairs and collaborative projects' meetings).

The EGPA 2025 Conference plenary sessions and panels will be centered on the theme ***EGPA at 50: Prospects for Public Administration across Europe***.

We are pleased to announce a **Call for Papers – Transatlantic Dialogue 2025. Adapting Public Administrations for Democratic Resilience and the Future** that will run in parallel to the panels of our EGPA Permanent Study Groups.

It is well-established that the integrity of democratic forms of government internationally are being challenged by a variety of sources. These include the spread of disinformation and the associated erosion of trust in public institutions; the transnational nature of global threats such as the climate and biodiversity crises; the need to better engage and represent citizens in increasingly diverse societies; the spread of nativist politics and of course the challenges wrought by digital technologies on democratic processes. Within public administration research questions are being raised about the fragility of states (Roberts 2025) or even the prospect of failing states (Fukuyama 2024) due to this heightened turbulence (Ansell et al. 2024).

As was exposed by the COVID-19 crisis, there are legitimate questions about the utility and effectiveness of established institutions and modes of



governing to address these and other challenges in the face of rapid, global change and the capacity of governments to plan for the longer-term. New governance gaps have emerged in areas as diverse as mental health and decarbonisation that cannot be solved by market forces. Instead, they require new thinking about the role of the tools of government today and how best to deploy available technologies (Mulgan 2024). This may require more collaborative public administration research, including between Western liberal democracies, but also drawing on examples from beyond the Global North (Bouckaert 2025).

The OECD (2024) recently estimated that only 39% of citizens trust their governments, and only 41% believe that governments use the best available evidence when seeking to make decisions. There is also scepticism about contemporary governments' ability to tackle complex policy issues and only 40% believe that governments are balancing the interests of current and future generations. Recent debates about 'long problems' and how the interests of unborn generations can best be represented in today's policy-making also force the question of how well our public organisations are equipped to address the future (Hale 2024). Some governments have developed wellbeing approaches such as the Scottish government which has adopted a National Performance Framework to help shape public service reform while the Welsh government have appointed a Future Generations Commissioner (Wallace 2018).

In order to explore these issues, for this year's Trans-Atlantic Dialogue we seek to address these changes as they manifest in five domains:

1. How to rethink the role of bureaucracies in the 21st century and their relationship to politics, society and the economy, particularly given changing political-administrative relationships or 'bargains'



2. How to design new national and international public institutions to tackle the political and societal challenges of today, including new technological developments such as AI
3. How to support and reaffirm democratic values within public administrations
4. How best can administrative systems represent future generations and promote wellbeing in their current decision-making

References

Ansell, C., Sørensen, E., Torfing, J., & Trondal, J. (2024). *Robust Governance in Turbulent Times*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bouckaert, G. (2025) Bridging Realities for Global Sustainable Development: A Call for International Comparative Public Administration Research. *Public Administration and Development*

Fukuyama, F. (2024). Failing states and failed politics: A call for public administration research. *Public Administration and Development*, 44(3), 197–199. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pad.2049>

Hale, T. (2024) *Long Problems: Climate Change and the Challenge of Governing across Time* (Princeton: Princeton University Press)

Mulgan, G. (2024) *Designing New Institutions: Ideas and Tools for an Emergent Discipline* (The Institutional Architecture Lab) <https://tial.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Desinging-new-institutions-TIAL2024-opt.pdf>

OECD (2024) *Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions* (Paris: OECD) https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2024/07/oecd-survey-on-drivers-of-trust-in-public-institutions-2024-results_eeb36452.html

Roberts, A. (2025) The trend toward fragility in the Twenty-first century. In Bouckaert Geert, Annie Hondelghem, Trui Steen, Steven Van de Walle (2025, forthcoming) (Eds) *Futures for the public sector*. Leuven University Press, Leuven.



Wallace, J. (2018). *Wellbeing and Devolution: Reframing the Role of Government in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland*. Germany: Springer International Publishing.

Submission Guidelines:

We welcome papers that speak to one or more of these themes. Contributions can be theoretical, conceptual, empirical, or methodological, but must demonstrate a clear contribution to public administration theory and / or practice. We particularly welcome contributions that take a comparative approach.

Typically, abstracts will include:

- purpose of the paper;
- research approach and methods;
- main findings and / or implications;
- references.

Abstracts (max one A4 page) should be submitted via the conference website.

Chair of Trans-Atlantic Dialogue

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Practicalities

Important dates:

- ✓ Deadline for submission of abstracts: **May 9, 2025**
- ✓ Deadline for acceptance notifications to the authors: **May 30, 2025**
- ✓ Deadline for online submission of full papers: **July 25, 2025**
- ✓ EGPA 2025 Conference: **August 27-29, 2025**

EGPA 2025 Conference Website:

<https://ias-iisa.org/egpa-2025-conference/>

EGPA 2025 Conference Management System:

<https://www.conftool.org/egpa2025conference>

For any questions regarding EGPA 2025, please get in touch with us at:

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