



The EGPA 2024 Conference took place from 3 to 6 September at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens.

More than 593 participants from 45 countries participated in the 46th EGPA Annual Conference on the theme: **"Strengthening Democratic Governance for Better Public Policies and Services"**.

726 Submissions	540 papers presented	593 Participants	45 Countries	130 parallel sessions
10 panels and special sessions	1 MethodsNET-EGPA workshop	The EGPA PhD Symposium	23 Permanent Study Groups	The French Speaking Seminar



The Conference started on September 3 with the PhD Symposium chaired by Prof Dr Eckhard Schroeter, Prof. Dr Benjamin Friedländer and Prof Dr Vassilis Kefis, the guest co-chair 2024. 22 selected PhD candidates presented their research and acted as discussant for their peers. Three parallel sessions were organised on the different themes : Public

Management and Local Government, Public Management and Digital Transformation and Public Administration and Public Policy.



The participants at the EGPA PhD Symposium took part to the plenary session dedicated to the theme: Doing research and getting published : Publication strategies from an editor's point of view. During this session they received advice and recommendations from Prof. Dr Sabine Kuhlmann, University of Potsdam (Germany), Editor in Chief of International Review of Administrative Sciences (IRAS) before receiving their certificate of participation from the co-chairs.

The **Opening Ceremony** was held on September 4 and was dedicated to the Conference theme : ***Strengthening Democracy for Better Public Policies***

Welcome and Introduction by Prof. Dr Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans, EGPA President, Science-Po Toulouse (France)

Welcome address by Prof Dr Christina Koulouri, Rector, Panteion University (Greece)

Welcome address by Dr Ra'ed Ben Shams, IIAS President, (Barhain)

Keynote Address by Ms Paraskevi (Vivi) Charalaboyianni, Deputy Minister of the Greek Ministry of the Interior. (Greece)

Keynote Address by Prof Demetrios Argyriades, Panteion University (Greece)

Keynote Address by Dr Marcel Guenoun (PhD), Research & Development adviser at the French Interministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (France)

Discussion

Opening of the Conference by Prof. Dr Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans, EGPA President, Science-Po Toulouse (France)



After a second day of discussions, the participants enjoyed the welcome reception in the nice garden of Panteion University and tasted the Alchemy of flavours of Greece



The second plenary session, organised on September 5, was dedicated to the theme : **Public Administration and the Future of Democracy**



Prof. Dr Michael Bauer coordinated a lively debate between three experts in the field:

- Dr Paraskevi Ant. Dramalioti , Secretary General of Coordination at the Presidency of the Government. (Greece)
- Prof Dr Eva Sørensen, Professor of Public Administration and Democracy at Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University (Denmark)
- Prof Dr Benoît Rihoux, Full Professor in Political Science at the University of Louvain UCLouvain (Belgium)

The discussion focussed on the relationship between the ongoing transformation of democratic systems and Public Administration (PA) as a discipline as well as public administration/public management as a trait.

Thus, PA is meant to encompass both, on the one side the practical side of public administration and management needed to make our democracies/political systems function; and on the other the academic discipline which needs to address the challenges arising from ongoing threats to and transformations of society and democracy.

Micheal Bauer introduced the panel with the following argumentation : Liberal democracies today face a perfect storm of challenges that threaten their foundations. The resurgence of geopolitical tensions, coupled with the weaponization of technology, has created new vulnerabilities. Rising populism and extreme polarization are eroding democratic norms, while the challenges of diversity and immigration test social cohesion. Economic inequality, exacerbated by globalization and the looming disruptions of AI, fuels discontent. These forces combine to feed a growing disdain for liberal institutions

and a dangerous longing for strong, authoritarian leadership. Some observers now question whether deliberative democracies can effectively respond to these complex threats, warning that we may be entering an era where the institutions of representative democracy are being hollowed out from within. The resilience of our democratic systems is being tested as never before, and their ability to adapt and reform will be crucial in navigating these turbulent times.

Public Administration is in the midst of these trends and faces three critical challenges in today's political landscape:

- **The Expanding Executive:** Public Administration has grown increasingly powerful, often at the expense of legislative bodies. This "rise of the unelected" contributes to perceptions of an unresponsive political system, eroding public trust in democratic institutions.
- **Instrument of Illiberalism:** In worst-case scenarios, Public Administration risks becoming a tool for populist governments to implement illiberal transformations, potentially undermining democratic norms and values.
- **Guardians of Liberal Democracy:** Paradoxically, bureaucrats now find themselves in the unexpected role of potential defenders against illiberal attempts to dismantle liberal democratic arrangements. This places them in a delicate position, balancing their duty to serve elected officials with their responsibility to uphold democratic principles.

These challenges highlight the complex and often contradictory relationship of Public Administration with political power and society in modern democracies.

Eva Sørensen talked about robust democracy, and what democratic systems need to withstand and adapt to turbulent times and complex challenges in terms of adaptability, resilience, and citizens involvement.

Benoit Rihoux discussed findings from his research on citizens' perspectives on public administration, focusing on the relationship between citizens and institutions, and the growing sense of disconnection some citizens feel.

Paraskevi Dramalioti talked about government effectiveness & support for democracy in Greece, focus local level.

Then, Michael Bauer invited the panelists to reflect on what, from their individual perspectives and experiences, the discipline of Public Administration/Public Management should focus on more intensively or facilitate in order to effectively address the challenges posed by current turbulences, particularly the threat of populism.



A lively debate followed with the audience.

EGPA PERMANENT STUDY GROUPS @ EGPA 2024 Conference

As mentioned in the figures of the conference, 130 parallel sessions of the 22 Permanent Study Groups were organised on various themes as followed :

PSG 1 on e-Gov: Teaching Digital Governance; and Generative AI in Public Services.

PSG 2 Public Sector performance and its future challenges.

PSG 3 Public Personnel Policy: the importance of the context for people management.

PSG 4 on Regional and Local Government discussed the tensions that are arising between long-established, governmental structures and new, potentially disruptive issues – such those resulting from demographic change, new service demands, migration, climate change and the rise of artificial intelligence.

The PSG 5: Management of Policing addressed several problems as the legitimacy, equity, power, authority, governance and organizational performance in policing.

The PSG 6 Governance of Public Sector Organizations: the Democratic Governance of Public Sector Organizations: new trends and challenges.

The EGPA PSG 7: Ethics and Integrity focused on the ways of making ethics and integrity work from the institutional framework to patterns of work.

EGPA PSG 8 Citizen Participation addressed the Driving Impactful Change through Citizen Participation in Public Governance, Policies and Services.

The PSG 9 on Teaching PA discussed three issues : teaching PA and Management for SDGs, supporting professional development with MPA & MPM program, the role of education, and the role of teaching PA for strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

The Study Group 10 on Law and PA focused on key topics as the up-to-date recent challenges in administrative remedy systems in a digitalised world.

The PSG 11 on Strategic Management addressed challenges related to the main Conference theme as : How strategic management and strategizing in government can strengthen democratic governance, and vice versa, how strategy and strategizing has been or are used to undermine democratic governance; How democratic governance impact strategic management in government.

The PSG 12 on Public Sector Financial Management focused this year on the theme of the Public Financial Management as a Banner for Democratic Governance in the era of SDGs.

The Permanent Study Group 13 on Public Policies addressed the Modes of Service Delivery and Street-Level Behavior amidst Contemporary Societal Challenges

The PSG 15 PATI focused on State Capacities and Capabilities for Societal Transformations.

The PSG 16 on Public Marketing and Communication focused the analysis of marketing and communication strategies and tools adapted by public organizations and more widely by public policies and services.

The PSG 17 on Sociology of State and Resilience in close cooperation with the COST-Action Programme CoRex offered a platform for discussing the theme of Questioning the Reign of the Entourages. Ministerial cabinets, policy advisers, and collaborators of the Executive within the European Union and more specifically : the contributions proposed for Athens will focus on an in-depth study of the actual role and effective power of presidential, prime-ministerial, and ministerial advisers pertaining to the Core Executive entourages, to validate, invalidate or redesign the general hypothesis of a growing reign of the entourages.

The PSG 18 on Justice and Court Administration addressed the following topics: e-Justice, Justice and AI, selection of Judges, Justice administration and politics/society as well as Court administration. They had the privilege to welcome Prof Michail Pikramenos, President of the Council of State (Greece) who provided the audience with a presentation on Currents developments in the organisation and the functions of the Greek justice

The PSG 19 on Collaborative Networks and social innovation gathered participants presenting papers promoting ideas, experiences, and knowledge related to the evolving field of collaborative networks and their potential for driving social innovation practices and public service delivery.

The PSG 20 on Welfare State and Professionalism 'sessions were dedicated to the analysis of welfare state transitions with a special attention to societal, political and professional changes and offers a platform for discussing the use of evidence through the different stages of welfare policies, starting from policy design and ending in policy implementation by professionals and community actors.

The PSG 21 on Policy Design and Evaluation addressed the theme: Public Policy Design, Evaluation, and Democratic Quality in the city of Athens often labelled as the 'cradle of democracy'. Against this backdrop, this year's workshop focus theme was centered on the intersection between aspects of (non-) democratic contexts and policy design and evaluation.

A special join session was organised by PSG 20 and 21.

The PSG 22 on BPA had sessions focusing on How Behavioral Public Administration Can Help Solve Real-world Problems

The PSG 23 on Administration, Diversity and Equal Treatment focused on the various ways and instruments to erase discrimination and foster diversity in PA.



THE FRENCH-SPEAKING SEMINAR/ SÉMINAIRE FRANCOPHONE



De l'art de l'impossible devenant possible : Les administrations et les politiques publiques à l'ère de la transition écologique

Cette année, le séminaire francophone a dédié ses sessions au rôle des administrations publiques dans la transition écologique. Les auteurs de contributions ont analysé les politiques publiques visant cette transition et le changement climatique

Les pouvoirs publics ont, à travers les politiques publiques et les moyens de l'administration, entamé les différents chantiers, inséparablement scientifiques et politiques, de la transition écologique, tels que les politiques climatiques (réduction des émissions et adaptation), la protection de la biodiversité, la transition énergétique (décarbonation et électrification), l'économie circulaire, la permaculture, la sobriété,

l'aménagement durable du territoire (artificialisation des sols et densification), la gestion intégrée des eaux, etc.

Les défis sont nombreux, épineux et d'apparence inextricable, à la fois dans les diagnostics et la recherche de solutions



Une table ronde IGPDE-GEAP avait pour intention d'effectuer un point d'étape : avec le progrès des savoirs et des mises en œuvre, comment les diagnostics de ce qui est possible et (encore) impossible ont-ils évolué dans les politiques de transition écologique ? Comment se déplace au fil du temps le caractère inextricable, épineux des problématiques environnementales ?

La table ronde a regroupé les orateurs suivants :

Message de bienvenue de **Mme. Marie Niedergang**, Directrice générale de l'IGPDE

- Margarita Chondrou-Karavasili, conseillère spéciale pour l'environnement et le changement climatique, Architecte d.p.l.g., MSc Regional and Urban Planner, Grèce
- Thomas Cottinet, directeur Ecolab, Commissariat général du développement durable, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires, France
- Florian Favreau, professeur associé EM Normandie, docteur ès sciences de gestion, docteur en droit, France
- Marcel Guenoun, conseiller recherche et développement, Direction interministérielle de la transformation publique (ministère de la Transformation et de la Fonction publiques), France



Special Session on Independent Administrative Authorities/The Executive State



During the session chaired by **Prof. Stavroula KTISTAKI**, Panteion University and **Prof. Vassilis KEFIS**, Panteion University, the participants discussed the role played by independent administrative authorities and their relationship with politics and democracy. They also questioned their nature and roles in the democratic governance. Other participants addressed some issues related to the Executive State as centralised governance system, characterised by the establishment of "the Presidency of the Government", an autonomous public service. They compared it to a new model "the steering state model"; this new paradigm hinges on separating the strategic functions of steering and controlling the state from the operational functions of execution and policy implementation.

A debate followed the presentations.



PANEL Meet the Editors

Chair : Prof Dr. Andrew Massey

Organized at the initiative of **Prof. Dr Sabine Kuhlmann**, this panel provided the audience with brief introductions to a selection of key journals pertinent for academics, scholars and practitioners from PA disciplines. The participants discussed further questions regarding the publication process as e.g. tips for successful publications, how to cope with reviews and to react to critique, frequent mistakes in the submission/revision process; how to draft developmental reviews and other important aspects of the publication strategy.

Speakers :

- Sabine Kuhlmann – International Review of Administrative Sciences
- Ian Elliott – Public Administration and Development
- Sara Rinfret – Public Affairs Education
- Albert Meijer – Information Polity
- Helen Yu - Public Personnel Management
- Gabriela Lotta - JPART
- Bert George – Public Management Review





PANEL : The Contribution of the Humanities to Public Administration



Chairs : Prof Dr Edoardo Ongaro, The Open University, UK and Dr Fabienne Maron, IIAS

There seems to be a gap in the current research (and practice) in Public Administration about the major contribution the humanities can and ought to make to the advancement of public administration and public governance.

The aim of this panel was to draw attention to this gap, examine in a critical and integrated way the contribution that can be provided by the humanities for the development of Public Governance and Public Administration, and to discuss possible ways forward to bring the humanities (much) more systematically into Public Administration, and how EGPA may contribute to this endeavour.

Speakers :

- Prof Edoardo Ongaro, The Open University, UK
Introduction to the rationale of the Panel and the Contribution of the Humanities to Public Administration.

- Prof Wolfgang Drechsler, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia, UCL – IIPP, UK and Harvard Davies Center, MA, USA

Philosophy and Public Administration

- Dr Michele Tantardini, Penn State, PA, USA

Religious and Theological Studies for PA

- Prof Albert Meijer, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

The value of a historical approach to current topics

- Prof Geert Bouckaert, KU Leuven, Belgium

The Arts and the Sciences and PA



Regional School of Public Administration

ReSPA Panel:

Inclusive and Transparent Policy-making in a Digital World

Chair : Jelena Mrdak, Programme Manager ReSPA.

Speakers :

- **Qendrim Bytyqi**, Acting Head, Department for Management of Public Officials, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo
- **Nedzib Delic**, Public Administration Reform Coordinators Office - Cabinet of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Gordana Gapikj Dimitrovska**, State Advisor, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia
- **Lidija Ljumovic, Director General**, Ministry of Public Administration Developing and Cooperation with CSOs, Montenegro
- **Danilo Roncevic**, Director of Human Resources Management Service, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Human Resources Management Service, Serbia



The speakers examined key challenges, shared best practices and discussed future trends for digital policy-making in public administration throughout the region. They emphasised the transformative potential of emerging technologies, such as AI and big data, in shaping the future of policy landscapes.

The discussion spotlighted the Western Balkan administrations' significant use of digital tools to foster more inclusive and transparent policy-making. They have exchanged the successes of various digital platforms while delving into the challenges. This insightful discussion underscored a crucial need for ongoing collaboration across the Western Balkans to strengthen democratic governance driven by ReSPA.



PANEL : Coordination of Public Policies in the Context of Effective Democratic Governance: Failures and Advantages

Speakers:

- Ruben Tamboleo: "The struggled coordination in Spain: between integration and differentiation".
- Maria Ferreira: "Mainstreaming European Public Policies as an Exercise in Policy Coordination: Case-studies from the European Commission".
- Andrius Puksas: "Exploring the Impact of Policy Coordination Triggers and Obstacles in Lithuanian Governance Practices".
- Anna Uster and Judit Kalman- "Exploring Coordinative Fatigue and Benefits in Successful Youth At-Risk Policies: A Comparative View Between Israel and Hungary"

This panel was aiming to delve into the intricate dynamics surrounding policy coordination, exploring its implications for effective democratic governance. By scrutinizing both failures and advantages, the panellists were seeking to unravel key insights into optimizing policy coordination mechanisms within democratic frameworks.



PANEL : Engaged Research in Public Administration: Do it & Publish it

This panel was conceived in the continuation of the joint initiative of ASPA and EGPA started a year ago in Zagreb and feature cases of engaged research in public administration and a dialogue about strategies for publishing such research.

Panellists shared their experience with communities and practitioners, with the aim of exploring what it means to be an engaged researcher in our field.

The discussion highlighted recommendations for positioning engaged research within the broader literature. Invited editors presented strategies and good examples of efforts to justify and explain engaged research methods to a broader audience of prospective peer reviewers and journal readers.

Chairs : Dr. Carissa SLOTTERBACK, University of Pittsburgh (USA) and Prof. Diana Camelia IANCU, National University of Political Studies and Public (Romania)

Speakers :

[Ian C. Elliott](#), Centre for Public Policy, University of Glasgow, UK

[Călin Hinteă](#), Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

[Monika Knassmüller](#), Institute for Public Management & Governance, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

[Ioana Petrescu](#), Centre for Leadership and Innovation, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania



Special Session : Enhancing Skills for Public Administration



In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, the effective functioning of democratic governance relies heavily on the proficiency and adaptability of public administrators. The Chairs proposed to delve into the critical role of skill development in public administration to foster better governance practices and enhance public service delivery. With a focus on the intersection of theory and practice, the participants explored various dimensions of skill acquisition, application, and adaptation within the context of democratic governance. They examined the evolving nature of public administration roles and responsibilities in the face of contemporary challenges such as technological advancements, societal complexities, and shifting public expectations.

The discussions were centered on key research questions, including an exploration of the fundamental skills and competencies that public administrators need to navigate the complexities of democratic governance. Participants explored the nuances of effective policy formulation and implementation, considering the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes.



MethodsNET-EGPA Workshop: Enhancing Your Case-Based Methodological Toolbox with Flexible Approaches to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA)

Benoît Rihoux (MethodsNET Chair) and Anka Kekez (MethodsNET Vice-Chair) convened a special workshop that focused on improving case-based research methodological toolbox by exploiting emerging options for designs incorporating Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and for coding in Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA).



MethodsNET
Methods Excellence Network



DIALOGUE 1: Strengthening democratic governance and changing administrative practices in Japan

Chairs:

Dr. Shunsuke KIMURA, Meiji University (Currently visiting scholar of universit  de Lille), Japan

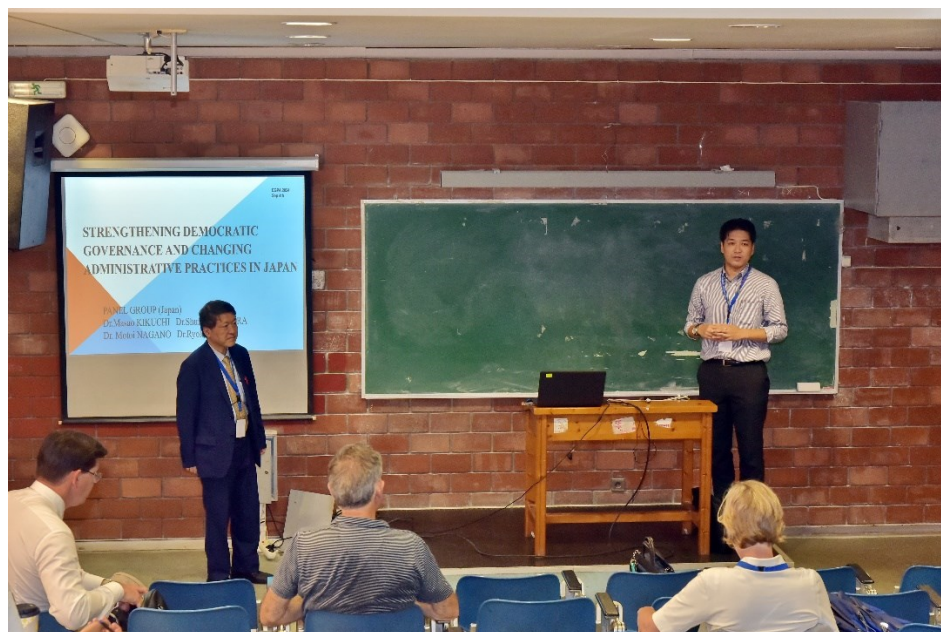
Prof. Masao KIKUCHI, Meiji University, Japan

Speakers :

- **Prof. Masao KIKUCHI**, Meiji University, Japan
- **Dr. Shunsuke KIMURA**, Meiji University (Currently visiting scholar of universit  de Lille), Japan
- **Dr. Motoi NAGANO**, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan
- **Prof. Ryoko TAMAI**, Kyoto Prefectural University, France

Discussants :

Paul Joyce and Ellen Wayenberg





DIALOGUE 2: EURO-ASIA Panel on: Collaborative and participative governance for better public policies

Chair : Prof Dr Calin Hintea, Babes Bolyai University, Romania

Opening Address:

- **Si RUOXIA** - Vice President of CAPS
- **Prof. Eko PRASOJO**, President of AGPA
- **Prof. Jean-Michel EYMERI-DOUZANS**, President of EGPA

Speakers:

- **Prof. Peng LIU**: Institutional Isomorphism and Regulatory State Building: The Case of Food and Drug Administration of China
- **Prof Eva SORENSEN**: Collaborative Governance in Europe: Research Trends and empirical developments
- **Prof Yongzheng YANG**: The impact of regulatory instruments on nonprofits 'compliance: Evidence from a survey experiment in China
- **Prof Lei ZHAI**: The Competitive Logic of Chinese Local Governments Based on Policymaking
- **Prof Yazhuo HUANG**: From "Isomorphic Responsibility" to Governmental Responsibility System: Explaining Grassroots Overburden and Exploring Solutions.
- **Prof Elke LOEFFLER**: Participative Governance in Europe: Main Trends and Perspectives

Concluding remarks



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE PANTEION UNIVERSITY TEAM
FOR HOSTING EGPA CONFERENCE 2024**

