IASIA AIEIA

ekdda
NATIONAL CENTRE for PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

IASIA 2026 CONFERENCE

12-16 October Athens, Greece

Rethinking Governance for a Changing World

CALL FOR PAPERS

https://iias-iisa.org/iasia-2026-conference/

Table of Contents

Rethinking Governance for a Changing World 4
Concept Note 4
Working Group Calls Overview 6
Working Group I: Education and Training in Public Administration 8
Working Group II: Ethics and Culture in the Public Sector 13
Working Group III: Public Service Reform 17
Working Group IV: Sub-national Governance and Development 23
Working Group V: Gender, Equity and Diversity 27
Working Group VI: Public Sector Governance, Leadership and Management 31
Working Group VII: Public Policy, Public Decision-Making, and Policy Implementation 34
Working Group VIII: Human Resources Management in the Public Sector 38
Working Group IX: International Dimensions of Public Administration 42
Working Group X: Public Administration in Conflict-Affected and Fragile Countries 46
Working Group XI: Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience 51
Conference Theme Track 56
PhD Seminar 59
Submission Guidelines 62
Generalities 62
Submission Instructions 62

Language 63
Abstract 63
Final Paper 63
Presentation and Registration Conditions 65
Calendar 66
Registration 66
Best Paper Awards 67
Open Access 67
Contact 67

Rethinking Governance for a Changing World

The International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) 2026 Conference will be held in Athens, Greece, from 12 to 16 October 2026, under the theme **"Rethinking Governance for a Changing World"**.

The annual conference of IASIA will be organized in close cooperation with the National Centre of Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA) of Greece. The event will feature plenary sessions, special panels and forums, sessions of the IASIA Working Groups, and a PhD seminar.

Concept Note

"Rethinking Governance for a Changing World" calls for both critical reflection and practical action. Governance systems must remain dynamic and responsive to ensure effectiveness, legitimacy, and public trust. Institutional reform, professional development, and educational innovation are mutually reinforcing components of this transformation. Against the background of these thematic pillars, scholars, practitioners, educators, and policy-makers are invited to actively engage with the following recommended – though not limited to – areas of inquiry, including:

- Rethinking Public Administration Education and Curricula
- Capacity-Building for Complex and Multilevel Governance
- Professionalization of Public Service
- Digital Transformation and Governance Learning
- Leadership, Management, and Ethics in Changing Contexts
- Comparative and International Perspectives on Governance

Key Research Questions

Guiding research questions frame the intellectual direction of the conference theme and identify the central challenges facing governance systems in a rapidly changing world. They call for rigorous analysis, comparative insight, and practical reflection.

To structure scholarly contributions and facilitate focused dialogue, the conference invites engagement with the following research questions:

- How can governance systems adapt institutionally to remain effective, responsive, and legitimate in a rapidly changing environment?
- What competencies and skills should define the future public servant?
- How must public administration education and training evolve to support modern governance needs?
- How can digital transformation and emerging technologies strengthen governance capacity and public value?
- What leadership approaches best support ethical decision-making, innovation, and sustainable reform?

Hosted in Greece, this conference symbolically bridges historical democratic foundations with contemporary governance renewal. It provides a global platform for reassessing established models, strengthening professional competencies, and promoting innovative approaches to public administration education. In doing so, it reaffirms that governance is not static. It is a living system—one that must continuously evolve to meet the changing needs of societies worldwide.

We invite you to submit your abstracts, in English on the focus areas of the various permanent IASIA Working Groups detailed below, as well as on the main conference theme.

Overview: Working Group Calls

#	Working Group Name	Position	Name
I	Education and Training in Public Administration	Chair	Hendri Kroukamp
		Co-chair	Ludmila Gajdosova
II	Ethics and Culture in the Public Sector	Project Director	Pregala Pillay
		Co-chairs	Najat Zarrouk
			John-Mary Kauzya
III	Public Sector Reform	Project Director	Randhir Auluck
		Co-chairs	Wang Manchuan
			David Ferraz
IV	Subnational Governance and Development	Project Director	Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta
		Chair	Marco De la Cruz Sanchez
V	Gender, Diversity and Equity	Co-chairs	Enaleen Draai
			Leticia Godinho
VI	Public Sector Governance, Leaderships and Management	Project Director	Juraj Nemec
		Co-chairs	Liezel Lues
			Yingchun Sun
VII	Public Policy, Decision-making and Policy Implementation	Chair	Henry Wissink
		Co-chair	Fani Komseli
		Co-chair	Angeliki Bourbouli
VIII	Public Sector Human Resources Management	Project Director	Liza van Jaarsveldt

		Co-chair	Jelena Lagger
IX	International Dimensions of the Public Administration	Project Director	Adrian Velazquez Vazquez
		Co-chair	Frank Naert
X	Public Administration in Fragile and Conflict-affected States	Project Director	Tamer Qarmout
		Co-chair	Rabeh Morrar
XI	Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience	Project Director	Mohamed Mastere
		Co-chair	Sara Hoeflich
		Co-chair	Mark Pelling
Conference theme track: *"Rethinking Governance for a Changing World"*		Project Director	Mareve Biljohn
		Co-chair	Angela Bourbouli
PhD Seminar		Chair	Randhir Auluck

Working Group I: Education and Training in Public Administration

Project Director: Prof. Hendri Kroukamp
University of the Free State
Republic of South Africa
kroukhj@ufs.ac.za

Chair: Ms Ludmila Gajdosova
NISPACEE
Slovak Republic
gajdosova@nispa.org

Co-chair: Ms Melanie Recour
BOSA
Belgium
melanie.recour@bosa.fgov.be

Introduction

IASIA's Working Group I, **Education and Training Programme: aligning missions and quality**, is considered by many to be the "heart" of the Annual IASIA Conference. Papers presented as part of this Working Group, focusing on the enhancement of instruction and capacity building, the improvement of research in pedagogy, and the development of high performing Schools and Institutes of

Administration (SIAs), are also highly relevant to the main theme of the 2026 IASIA conference focusing on "Rethinking governance for a changing world".

We are aware that, in addition to the challenges of creating in our students/participants the competencies of building national and sub-national administrative policies / procedures / administrative structures that are economic, efficient, effective, ethical and equitable, the faculty and staff of Schools and Institutes of Administration must ensure that all citizens perceive that the government's policy outcomes are equitable, procedurally just, and that the citizens are treated with respect and their dignity is maintained.

This theme offers many opportunities for those wanting to present their thoughts at the sessions of Working Group I. This Working Group is encouraging papers that response to the following research questions:

Research Questions

Competencies required by our student/participants: What competencies are required by our students/participants to meet the challenges of designing, monitoring and evaluating the administrative structures and policy and procedures to ensure the delivery of economical-efficient-effective-ethical and equitable public goods and services by national and sub-national governments in shaping the governance of a changing world? What new skills and theories are needed by our students/participants to achieve these competencies?

Instructional methods: What are the "best" methods for developing these competencies? For what types of students?

Evaluation: How do we evaluate whether our students gain these competencies?

Distributional methods: What are the "best" ways of distributing these instructions (ie lectures, visuals, internet, learning packages, online education, etc) for achieving these competencies?

Research: What research needs to be carried out by staff and students on the requisites, consequences, and practices of meeting the challenges posed to achieve the future of governance and expanding knowledge sharing?

Other topics relevant to the designing and managing SIAs and the enhancement of Instructions in Schools and Institutes of Administration. Presentations directed at these questions are welcomed. These papers can be based upon empirical research, theoretical considerations, and/or case studies. For single site case studies, every effort should be made to identify the relevance of findings to other situations. In every presentation, evidence-based implications for the improvement of training and education and/or the management and design of Schools and Institutes of Administration should be clear.

Criteria used by the WGI leadership for the selection of presentations include:

- the relevance of the presentation for the study of Public Administration Pedagogy
- the relevance of the presentation for the practice of Public Administration Pedagogy
- the unique added value to the study and/or practice of Public Administration Pedagogy
- the soundness and consistency of the argumentation
- the originality of the research question/problem formulation
- the significance of the findings for other SIAs
- the quality and understandability of the writing

capacity through network governance. It is also for this reason that the nature and role of governments and other non-state actors in driving and legitimising governance warrant new pathways to rethinking governance. In a changing world confronted with global challenges and wicked problems, this requires a shift from static, rigid, traditional forms of governance to collaborative, responsive, innovative, adaptive, agile, and transformative modes. Grounded in principles of equity, access, transparency, and ethics, *such governance recognises the importance of* enhancing society's capacity to act, whilst maintaining government's role in governance reforms through, amongst other systems and institutional adaptations, capacity building, professionalisation, and digital transformation.

Aligned with the conference theme "***Rethinking Governance for a Changing World"***, and its three interconnected pillars, this working group invites papers with a focus on the following areas of inquiry:

- Institutional adaptation and governance reforms.
- Digital transformation to strengthen governance capacity and public value.
- Governments and society as drivers of governance.
- Society-centred and government-centric approaches to governance.
- Comparative and international perspectives on governance.

Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of this working group may include:

Create a platform for sharing high-quality practice- and scholarly-oriented research that contributes to the governance discourse.

Contribute to enhancing collaborative research initiatives amongst participants.

Serve as a platform for fostering networks among participating scholars and practitioners.

Potential presenters should keep in mind that "best complete papers" submitted to any Working Group are considered for publication in the International Review of Administrative Science and for the prestigious Pierre De Celles Award.

Working Group II: Ethics and Culture in the Public Sector

Project Director: Prof. Pregala Solosh Pillay
University of Stellenbosch
South Africa
Pregala@sun.ac.za

Co-chair: Dr John-Mary Kauzya
University of Stellenbosch
Uganda
jKauzya@hotmail.com, jKauzya.jmk@gmail.com

Co-chair: Dr Najat Zarrouk
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa)
Morocco
najat_zarrouk@yahoo.fr

Introduction

Rethinking governance for a changing world requires addressing several challenges, including engaged and ethical leadership, human capital development at all levels of governance, transparency and accountability, the

prevention of and fight against corruption, citizen empowerment and engagement, institutional capacity, and the digital transformation. At all these levels, we need to understand and promote the centrality of public sector culture and ethics as a common concern and common good if we truly want to achieve sustainable development that leaves no one and no place behind.

Public Service Culture and Ethics should address core values, the nature of leadership, and how we prepare human capital through training, empowerment, capacity building, and socialization to reinforce ethical behaviour.

During each of the annual conferences organized by IASIA, contributions have highlighted **the challenges** facing public sector culture and ethics. This year, we aim to examine the common challenges across Africa as well as those that are specific to particular countries.

We would also like to give visibility to, share, and learn from existing **best practices from around the world**, such as:

- Participatory Governance: Implementing participatory governance models (such as participatory budgeting, gender-sensitive budgeting, citizen budgets, Open Government, and e-Government), which can enhance citizen engagement;
- Digital Governance: Leveraging digital technologies can improve access to information, transparency, accountability, and service delivery;

- Anti-Corruption Measures: Implementing robust anti-corruption measures, such as independent commissions, can help prevent and reduce corruption;
- Performance-Based Governance: Focusing on performance-based governance can improve service delivery and accountability.

Encouragingly, there exists notable experiences and best practices in this field that should be considered a "goldmine" — a source of inspiration, innovation, emulation, and competitiveness. This year, we aspire to establish a peer-to-peer learning initiative focused on best practices at the national and subnational levels, in particular those that have been recognized nationally, regionally, or globally (Why, How, for Whom and with Whom?).

We call on our community to contribute papers emphasizing the following aspects:

1. The current state of public sector culture and ethics, particularly in a turbulent world facing AI challenges;
2. What is needed to rethink public sector culture and ethics in this context?
3. Sharing innovations and best practices to inspire and empower others.

Ultimately, culture and ethics are not peripheral concerns but the very foundation upon which effective, trustworthy, and resilient governance is built. Without a strong ethical framework and a culture of integrity, even the most ambitious reforms risk being undermined by mistrust, inefficiency, and corruption. By placing

culture and ethics at the heart of public sector transformation, we lay the groundwork for governance systems that truly serve the public interest and stand the test of time.

Working Group III: Public Service Reform

Project Director: Prof. Dr Randhir Auluck
University of Westminster
United Kingdom
R.Auluck@westminster.ac.uk

Chair: Prof. Dr David Ferraz
Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon
Portugal
David.ferraz@iscte-iul.pt

Co-chair: Prof. Dr Manchuan Wang
Chinese Academy of Governance
China
mchwang@vip.sina.com

Introduction

Public sector reform is being redefined by a convergence of "polycrises" that test state capability and democratic legitimacy simultaneously: rapid digital transformation and AI diffusion, climate and demographic pressures, fiscal constraints, geopolitical disruption, and escalating expectations for transparency, integrity, inclusion, and service quality. In this context, the IASIA 2026 theme—

"Rethinking Governance for a Changing World"—raises a fundamental question for administrative reform: how can public institutions adapt at speed without weakening accountability, trust, and the public value foundations of democratic governance?
WG III provides a forum for scholarship and practice knowledge sharing on Public Sector Reform and Administrative Modernization, focusing on reforms that strengthen institutions in the face of challenging socio-economic and turbulent political conditions.

The Working Group welcomes contributions that connect governance paradigms and reform trajectories—bureaucratic-legal traditions, NPM and post-NPM reforms, collaborative and networked governance, public value approaches, and digital-era governance—to contemporary realities of AI-enabled administration, data governance, interoperability, regulatory capacity, and implementation under uncertainty.

A distinctive emphasis is placed on democratic resilience and the integrity of the administrative state. Across countries, public administrations face pressures associated with political polarization, populism, disinformation, and rising contestation of the legitimacy of establishment expertise. These dynamics amplify classic reform tensions: professionalization versus politicization, merit and competence versus patronage, autonomy versus control, and performance versus legitimacy. WG III therefore invites work that examines how institutional

design, leadership and ethics, accountability systems, and civil service regimes can safeguard impartiality and capacity while remaining democratically responsive, responsible and ethical.

To attract a broad range of submissions, we particularly welcome papers addressing: digital transformation and AI governance (auditability, procurement, ethics, safeguards, public value); evidence, big data and data-to-decision systems (including data quality and "evidence readiness"); the digital divide and inclusion-by-design in service delivery; reforms that rebuild trust and integrity (anti-corruption, transparency, communication and change management); multilevel and joined-up governance for integrated services; and administrative reforms that enable governments to respond credibly to global challenges and polycrises through learning, resilience, and coordination across sectors and jurisdictions.

Research Questions

To frame contributions and attract a diverse audience of scholars, practitioners, and educators, WG III proposes three guiding questions that connect core concerns:

1. administrative reform under digital transformation,
2. integrity and resilience of democratic institutions, and
3. the reconfiguration of public administration models in polycrises contexts.

These questions are intentionally reflective and comparative: they invite papers that diagnose previous reforms, test alternative institutional designs or extract transferable lessons about *what works, where, and why*, including unintended consequences and trade-offs.

They also aim to bring together multiple communities (public management practitioners and governance scholars from institutional reform, digital government, PA AI researchers, civil service and HRM specialists or integrity and accountability experts and academics, engaged in real-world change efforts. Therefore, we propose the following research questions for paper proposals:

1. How can public sector reforms strengthen democratic resilience—protecting legitimacy, trust, and accountability—under conditions of populism, polarization, and contested expertise?
2. How can digital transformation (AI, automation, big data and evidence systems) be governed so that it improves performance and public value while reducing risks, bias, exclusion, and institutional vulnerability?
3. Which institutional arrangements and professionalization strategies best sustain implementation capacity in polycrises contexts, balancing the professional and political logics of reform across levels of government?

Expected Outcomes

WG III aims to deliver outcomes that are directly actionable for reconfiguring public administration models and reform toolkits in a changing world. First, the

Working Group will produce a consolidated, comparative set of "reform propositions" drawn from the papers presented—i.e., evidence-based conclusions on which combinations of institutional design choices, professionalization mechanisms, governance arrangements, and digital capabilities most consistently generate public value while strengthening democratic legitimacy. These conclusions will be structured as a practical framework for updating administrative reform models (including hybrid configurations that combine legal-bureaucratic strengths, performance systems, collaborative governance, and digital-era capabilities), explicitly addressing the trade-offs between professional and political logics, and the conditions under which those trade-offs can be managed without eroding integrity, competence, or responsiveness.

Second, WG III will develop a practice-oriented synthesis translating conference findings into a reconfiguration roadmap for administrations facing polycrises: a short set of transferable design principles and implementation conditions (capability, integrity safeguards, evidence readiness, inclusion-by-design, interoperability, and organizational learning) that can guide governments and public administration schools in reform planning, curriculum renewal, and executive training content. This synthesis will be designed for policy and training use, highlighting "what works, where, and why," and identifying recurring failure modes (e.g., technology-first reforms without skills, politicization risks, data fragmentation, exclusion effects) alongside mitigation strategies.

Third, building on the momentum of the call, WG III will pursue post-conference scholarly consolidation through a special issue proposal and/or edited volume capturing the most robust contributions, and will formalize sustained research–practice network, including follow-up panels for next conferences and/or joint comparative research consortium projects. The intention is that the outputs are not only publishable, but also usable for a structured set of conclusions, frameworks, and learning assets that help reframe administrative reform from isolated interventions into coherent governance capability building for democratic resilience and digital transformation.

Working Group IV: Sub-national Governance and Development

Chair: Dr Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta
Florida International University
United States
rodriguezacostacris@gmail.com

Co-chair: Dr Marco De la Cruz
KU Leuven
Belgium
marco.delacruzs@kuleuven.be

Introduction

Sub-national governance (encompassing local, municipal, provincial, regional, and state levels) remains the most immediate interface between citizens and the state. At this level of government, policies are translated into lived realities, public trust is built or eroded, and democratic legitimacy is experienced in everyday interactions. As the world confronts accelerating urbanization, widening inequality, climate disruption, and democratic backsliding, subnational governments are not peripheral actors but frontline institutions responsible for responding to complex and evolving challenges.

The conference theme, "Rethinking Governance for a Changing World", directly aligns with the mission of this Working Group. Any meaningful rethinking of governance must engage with the realities of governance at the subnational level. Decentralization frameworks, local democratic participation, and the

institutional capacity of provincial and local governments to deliver services, foster economic development, and uphold ethical standards form a critical foundation for effective governance. Without capable, accountable, and adaptive subnational institutions, broader governance reforms risk remaining aspirational rather than operational.

Working Group IV invites scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to present research that examines the evolving dynamics of subnational governance across both developed and developing contexts. We welcome local case studies, comparative analyses, and theoretical contributions that explore how provincial and local governments are responding to contemporary governance challenges.

Particular attention will be given to contributions addressing decentralization and subsidiarity, participatory and inclusive governance, local and regional economic development, ethics and integrity in public administration in the context of subnational governments, capacity development for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the role of public trust in strengthening subnational institutions.

In addition, the Working Group encourages papers examining how subnational governments address emerging challenges related to digital transformation, artificial intelligence, data-driven governance, digital inclusion, smart cities, service innovation, and digitally enabled citizen participation. Particular interest will be given to experiences involving participatory budgeting, co-creation, civic technology, local innovation, and institutional adaptation to changing social and technological demands at the subnational level. Contributions may also address how local governments are managing climate resilience, migration pressures, fiscal stress, intergovernmental coordination, and trust deficits, while

strengthening their capacity to act as drivers of sustainable and inclusive development.

Submissions may include empirical research, policy analysis, or conceptual and normative frameworks, reflecting the Working Group's commitment to advancing effective, accountable, and resilient provincial and local governance worldwide.

Research Questions

The Working Group invites papers that engage with, but are not limited to, the following guiding research questions:

1. How are subnational governments adapting their institutional capacities, governance frameworks, and participatory mechanisms to remain effective, legitimate, and responsive in the face of global disruptions such as climate change, economic volatility, and democratic backsliding?
2. To what extent do decentralization frameworks and principles of subsidiarity enable or constrain provincial and local governments in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, reducing inequality, and promoting inclusive local and regional economic development?
3. What governance innovations, ethical standards, and trust-building strategies at the subnational level are proving effective, and under what legal, institutional, or sociocultural conditions can they be replicated across different contexts?
4. How are subnational governments using digital technologies, artificial intelligence, open data, and digital platforms to improve service delivery, strengthen transparency, and foster citizen engagement?
5. What forms of innovation at the local level, including civic innovation, administrative experimentation, and collaborative governance, are

helping subnational governments respond to complex development challenges?

Expected Outcomes

The Working Group aims to generate substantive scholarly and professional outputs from the contributions presented. A proposal for a special issue in IIAS public administration outlets (e.g., *Developments in Administration)*, will be developed around the theme of subnational governance adaptability, innovation at the subnational level and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Authors of selected papers will be invited to further develop their contributions for potential inclusion in these publication outputs following the conference.

Working Group V: Gender, Equity and Diversity

Chair: Prof. Dr Enaleen Draai
Nelson Mandela University
South Africa
enaleen.draai@mandela.ac.za

Chair: Prof. Dr Leticia Godinho
Fundação João Pinheiro
Brazil
leticia.godinho@fjp.mg.gov.br

Introduction

We live in a complex era characterised by rapid change, new developments, and a multitude of global challenges that question the efficacy of systems and structures of governance. Rapid technological advancement and digitalisation coexist with political instability, declining political trust and the erosion of good governance. Likewise, socio-economic disparities, marginalisation, and vulnerability emerge perpetually amid changing societal needs. Wars and conflicts that lead to displacement and migration have caused shifts in society. Climate change, environmental sustainability, and adaptability have raised important questions. These

developments and challenges impact all areas of daily life and challenge inclusive governance that embraces diversity for societal well-being.

Digitalisation offers opportunities to amplify minority voices and expand access to services, but digital divides and algorithmic biases risk reinforcing exclusion. Wars often displace minority groups, stripping them of representation and exposing them to heightened vulnerability. Climate change intensifies these risks, disproportionately affecting marginalised communities through resource scarcity, health inequities, and economic instability. Together, these global challenges demand rethinking inclusive governance to build resilience in a changing world.

By integrating gender, diversity and equity perspectives, governments can strengthen representation, rebuild social trust, and ensure that public policies equitably address the needs of all groups. Inclusive governance and administrative reforms are necessary to ensure that nobody is left behind.

In this sense, this working group seeks to gather research and experiences that demonstrate that global governance challenges can only be effectively addressed if they incorporate inclusive perspectives sensitive to inequalities. The aim is to foster critical reflection and propose pathways toward a more inclusive public administration that can respond to contemporary complexities while remaining committed to universal inclusivity.

Research Questions

The following questions are for consideration:

1. What type of reform or strategies are required for inclusive governance that mitigates marginalisation and vulnerability?
2. How can administrative reform be implemented to promote inclusive governance and diversity for societal well-being? How can public administration incorporate diversity and equity into institutional reform processes?
3. What is the role of civil society organisations in ensuring equity and tending to the needs of the marginalised groups?
4. What competencies and skills are needed by women and other underrepresented groups in public service to be able to meet future challenges?
5. To what extent do rigid mindsets and traditional structures act as barriers to inclusive transformations?
6. What lessons can be learnt from cases of innovation and diversity in governance?
7. How can transformation and reform mitigate obstacles encountered by the vulnerable and marginalised groups and expand their participation?

Expected Outcome

A specific outcome anticipated from the activities of Working Group 5 is the publication of a special issue in a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to "Inclusive Governance: Integrating Gender, Equity, and Diversity". This special issue will bring together selected contributions presented within the group, showcasing innovative research and practical experiences that demonstrate how inclusive governance can strengthen resilience and legitimacy in a changing world.

Working Group VI: Public Sector Governance, Leadership and Management

Project Director: Prof. Dr Juraj Nemec

Masaryk University Brno

Czech Republic

juraj.nemec@umb.sk

Co-chair: Prof. Dr Liezel Lues

University of the Free State

South Africa

luesl@ufs.ac.za

Co-chair: Prof. Dr Yingchun Sun

Chinese Academy of Governance

China

1807207759@qq.com

Introduction

The core thematic area of Working Group VI is public sector governance and leadership, with continued interest in public management and its subfields. Public governance is the main topic of the 2026 IASIA conference, Theme: "*Rethinking Governance for a Changing World*", and it is also the core part of the focus of this working group. Governance systems across the globe are undergoing profound transformation. Effective governance, effective public sector leaders, and effective management structures and processes are necessary to respond to comprehensive critical challenges associated with the current "poly-crisis" environment, which is facing additional challenges, especially from technological advancements and shifting societal expectations. High-quality public sector departments, leaders, and managers are critical to economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The focus needs to be on developing public sector leaders and managers with agile character and innovative skills, changing the leadership culture while supporting communities to become independent thinkers, and having the capacity to understand and promote alternative service delivery arrangements.

We invite papers and proposals that focus on the future of public sector governance, leadership, and management, reflecting on how different governance approaches - from hierarchical administration to managerial reforms and network-based models - operate under conditions of complexity, uncertainty, and cross-sector interdependence, building governance for the future.

Questions to Consider:

Possible research questions include, for example, issues like:

1. Reassess prevailing governance models in light of contemporary structural changes.
2. Identify institutional arrangements that enhance coordination, performance, and public value.
3. Strengthen capacity-building strategies for complex and multilevel governance systems.
4. Can accountable, responsive, sustainable, and resilient governance systems be built to ensure a successful leadership transformation?
5. What is expected from public sector leadership and management to support the rethinking of governance?
6. What needs to change around public sector leadership and management to foster better governance for future generations?
7. What are the best leadership, governance, and management practices that can support research on governance and sustainable societal responsiveness?
8. What leadership, governance, and management types might support inclusive, effective, and sustainable forms of human and societal development?

Working Group VII: Public Policy, Public Decision-Making, and Policy Implementation

Project Director: Prof. Henry Wissink

University of KwaZulu-Natal

South Africa

wissinkh@ukzn.ac.za

Co-chair: Dr Fani Komseli

National Centre of Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)

Greece

fanikomseli@gmail.com

Co-chair: Dr Angeliki Bourbouli

National Centre of Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)

Greece

abourbouli@ekdd.gr

Introduction

The Working Group on Public Policy, Public Decision-Making, and Policy Implementation invites scholars and practitioners to submit papers for presentation at the upcoming conference of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) in Athens, Greece. The Working Group examines developments in public policy across national, regional, and local contexts and seeks to advance scholarly and practical understanding of how policies are designed, how decision-making affects implementation and outcomes in solving complex problems in rapidly changing environments.

In line with the conference theme "Rethinking Governance for a Changing World," the Working Group encourages contributions that critically examine how public policy processes evolve in response to increasing complexity, uncertainty, and interdependence among sectors and governance levels. Contemporary governance challenges such as digital transformation, the impact of AI, climate risks, economic resilience, and social inclusion require innovative, but discerning policy approaches, collaborative decision-making, and adaptive implementation strategies.

Submissions are welcome across four broad categories. Theoretical papers may explore conceptual frameworks and analytical perspectives for understanding policymaking, including themes such as co-production, evidence-based policymaking, policy nudging, AI applications and use, and the effectiveness, efficiency, legitimacy, and rationality of policy decisions.

Empirical papers may examine innovative policy practices and governance arrangements through case studies or comparative analyses, highlighting lessons learned and potential best practices.

Problem-based papers may address shortcomings in the understanding of public policy, decision-making processes, or policy implementation, including cases of policy failures, or policy success stories.

By bringing together diverse perspectives from scholars and practitioners worldwide, the Working Group VII aims to contribute to deeper insight into how public policies are conceptualized, debated, and implemented under changing governance conditions, and how these processes can be strengthened to improve public outcomes.

Research Questions

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following guiding questions:

- How are emerging governance challenges reshaping the processes of public policymaking, decision-making, and policy implementation across different levels of government?
- What theoretical and practical innovations—such as collaborative governance, evidence-based policymaking, policy laboratories, or policy experimentation—are improving the effectiveness, legitimacy, impact and adaptability of public policies?
- What lessons can be learned from policy successes and failures in addressing complex and interconnected societal problems, global and multilateral problems that affect all nations, increasing international geopolitical conflict and threats. How can these insights inform processes to improve public policies, decision-making and implementation practices.
- How will these changing trends and challenges in public policy making, decision-making and implementation affect Public Policy and Administration education to address the knowledge and competency needs in in a rapidly changing world?

Expected Outcomes

The Working Group aims to generate high-quality scholarly and practice-oriented outputs from the papers presented. Potential outcomes may include:

- The development of a special issue in an academic journal focusing on innovations and challenges in public policy and governance.
- An edited book or book proposal bringing together selected contributions from the Working Group during the next two to three years.
- Collaborative research initiatives, projects, and growing networks among participating scholars and practitioners.

Policy-relevant insights that can inform the teaching, research, and practice of public administration and public policy in the form of case studies or augmentation to public policy teaching guides.

Working Group VIII: Human Resources Management in the Public Sector

Project Director: Prof. Liza Ceciel van Jaarsveldt
University of South Africa
South Africa
vjaarlc@unisa.ac.za

Chair: Prof. Jelena Lagger
University of Bath
United Kingdom
jelena.lagger@cafrad.com

Introduction

The IASIA Working Group on "*Public sector human resource management*" (HRM) focuses on all aspects related to the management of public servants to enhance public sector delivery, operational efficiency, and organisational performance. HRM are at the core of the public sector. As governments confront increasingly complex world, work and policy environments characterised by digital transformation, demographic change, fiscal pressures, and rising societal expectations, the strategic management of HRM in the public sector has become a central pillar for effective governance.

Public sector HRM has moved far beyond administrative personnel management. It encompasses a strategic role in shaping institutional capacity, leadership development, professional competencies, and organisational culture. Governance in a changing world requires public servants who are capable of operating in complex, multi-level, and collaborative environments while maintaining high standards of integrity, accountability, and public value. This view is strongly supported by the United Nations, primarily through the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA, 2018) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA, 2021), emphasising that public servants in the 21st century must move beyond traditional expectations and roles to become facilitators in complex, multi-level, and collaborative governance systems.

Strengthening the professionalisation of the public sector requires renewed attention to recruitment systems, competency frameworks, leadership development, performance management, and continuous professional learning. At the same time, emerging challenges such as digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence and the future world of work, new work arrangements such as working from home, and global competition for skills and talent are reshaping the nature of the public sector.

Within the broader conference theme "*Rethinking Governance for a Changing World*," this Working Group examines how public sector human resource management could and must evolve to support adaptive, accountable, and high-performing public institutions. This Working Group subsequently invites scholars, practitioners, and researchers to explore how public sector HRM can support governance reform, strengthen institutional resilience, and enhance the capacity of public institutions to respond effectively to rapidly changing societal needs. The Working Group welcomes:

- Empirical research papers

- Comparative and international studies
- Conceptual and theoretical contributions
- Practitioner-oriented case studies
- Policy and reform analyses

Contributions from scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers are particularly encouraged to foster dialogue between research and practice and to strengthen international collaboration focused on public sector HRM

Research Questions

1. How can HRM systems strengthen the professionalisation and legitimacy of the public sector in complex governance environments?
2. What competencies and capabilities are required by future public servant?
3. How can the public sector attract, develop, and retain talent in an increasingly competitive and complex world?
4. How is digital transformation reshaping the public sector workforce and the future world of work?
5. How can public sector reforms be implemented in a fast changing and complex world?

Expected Outcomes

The Working Group on Public Sector Human Resource Management seeks to generate both scholarly and practice-oriented outputs that advance knowledge and strengthen governance capacity. The group aims to facilitate the development of an international research network focused on public sector HRM, professionalisation, and public sector capacity-building. This research network will aim to promote comparative research, foster collaboration among scholars and practitioners, and contribute to the development of a forward-looking research

agenda on the future of public sector HRM. In addition to traditional academic outputs, the Working Group will also explore innovative knowledge dissemination formats, including the potential development of a podcast highlighting emerging research, practitioner insights, and global perspectives on public sector human resource management.

References

United Nations, Committee of Experts on Public Administration. (2018). Principles of effective governance for sustainable development. New York: United Nations. United
Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2021). World Public Sector Report 2021: Working together across public sectors for sustainable development. New York: United Nations.

Working Group IX: International Dimensions of Public Administration

Project Director: Assoc. Prof. Dr Adrian Velazquez Vazquez
University of La Verne, United States
United States
avelazquez@laverne.edu

Chair: Em. Prof. Dr Frank Naert
Ghent University
Belgium
frank.naert@ugent.be

Introduction

In today's rapidly changing world, governments regularly operate in environments of increased uncertainty and dubious stability. As the number of complex challenges grows exponentially, from rapid technological advancements and shifting societal expectations to global crises, such as armed conflicts, climate change, pandemics, rising inequality, and geopolitical instability, systems governance must evolve beyond traditional frameworks. From an international point of view, scholars and practitioners need to rethink how governance may accommodate increasingly complex world structures that involve issues such as international coalitions, multinational collaboration, digital diplomacy, AI-driven policymaking, among others.

Many of these current problems transcend national borders and require the participation of a multitude of institutions and agencies, oftentimes with different interests, guidance, regulatory frameworks and perspectives on the actual implementation of international commitments. Issues related to climate change, economic development, public health, gender equality, defense and security, environmental preservation, poverty eradication, migratory movements and other areas, increasingly show features of global public goods that need to be addressed by committing to international collaboration and cooperation. Parallel to these commitments, new multilateral governance systems have gained more relevance, where shared public policies, international mediation, and global conflict resolution are often discussed, designed, and put into action. All of this contrasts, however, with the ongoing breakdown of world order based on international law that we currently witness.

Therefore, it is important to observe carefully those actions that occur within the close convergence of national public administrations, organized civil society and supranational/global governance systems. However, since the design and implementation of governmental action frequently fails to consider relevant international dimensions of multilateral organizations and the sensitivities of civil society, the objective of Working Group IX is to explore the forms and spaces that such convergence generates. Of special interest are contributions that analyze innovative approaches to these challenges, taking into consideration the problems and goals articulated in the United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as studies involving the design and

implementation of collaborative governance practices with inclusive and cooperative components, with lessons of broad applicability at the international level.

Research Questions

1. How do national public administrations, civil society organizations and supranational institutions co-create effective collaborative governance frameworks to address global public goods challenges such as climate change, public health and migratory movements?
2. In what ways can digital diplomacy and AI-driven policymaking enhance multilateral cooperation amid growing instability in the international legal order?
3. What innovative governance practices have emerged from international coalitions working toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and how can these practices be scaled or adapted across diverse political and institutional contexts?

Expected Outcomes

Papers submitted for WG IX may be recommended for future publication in the various IASIA and IIAS journals and other periodicals. Participants of previous WG IX sessions who wish to continue the lines of inquiry established in previous IASIA conferences are also encouraged to submit their work. Practitioners and

pracademics interested in participating in WG IX activities, can submit annotated and exhaustive PowerPoint presentations for consideration.

Working Group X: Public Administration in Conflict-Affected and Fragile Countries

Chair: Dr Tamer Qarmout

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Qatar

Tamer.karmout@dohainstitute.edu.qa

Co-chair: Dr Rabeh Morrar

An-Najah National University

Palestine

rabeh.morrar@najah.edu

Introduction

Governance systems around the world are facing increasing pressure from political instability, economic shocks, technological change, environmental stress, and geopolitical fragmentation. These challenges are particularly acute in fragile and conflict-affected settings where governments operate under conditions of limited institutional capacity, contested legitimacy, and fragmented authority. At the same time, recent global crises such as the conflict in the Middle Eat have demonstrated that fragility is not confined to a small group of conflict-affected states often assumed to be underdeveloped, poor or lacking proper government structures. Economic crises, pandemics, climate change,

and geopolitical tensions have exposed governance vulnerabilities across diverse political, developmental and economic contexts.

A growing body of research suggests that fragility should be understood in broader and more dynamic terms than traditionally assumed. Rather than being confined to war-torn or low developed and-income countries, fragility exists across all states to varying degrees (OECD, 2022). As reflected in the Fragile States Index, fragility results from multiple and interrelated pressures that weaken state cohesion and governance effectiveness (The Fund for Peace, 2025). These pressures often manifest in declining political legitimacy, limited governmental capacity to perform core functions of statehood, institutional paralysis in policy formulation and implementation, and reduced ability to engage effectively in international cooperation (Brinkerhoff, 2007; Brock, 2012).

In today's interconnected world, fragility is increasingly shaped by overlapping global pressures. Intensifying geopolitical competition, shifting global economic power, and the rise of new multilateral alignments have unsettled established governance arrangements. Rapid technological change, particularly advances in artificial intelligence, is transforming labour markets, economic systems, and state regulatory capacity. These pressures are compounded by rising inequality, declining trust in institutions, and the fragmentation of public discourse (Habermas, 2021; Roberts, 2025). Environmental stressors such as climate change, drought, and large-scale migration further intensify these dynamics, deepening governance challenges across diverse political and institutional contexts often leading to fragility and sometimes even conflict.

Despite growing international attention to fragility, much of the literature in public administration and public policy continues to focus on governance reform in relatively stable environments. Less attention has been devoted to understanding how policy-making processes and administrative systems function under conditions of conflict, crisis, and institutional fragility. This Working Group seeks to

address this gap by examining how policy capacity, administrative institutions, and governance arrangements operate in fragile contexts. The Working Group therefore invites scholars and practitioners to submit research that advances theoretical understanding and empirical analysis of governance in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Contributions may include conceptual papers, comparative research, or empirical case studies that examine how governments adapt institutions, rebuild legitimacy, and strengthen policy-making capacity under conditions of fragility and conflict.

Research Questions

To guide scholarly contributions and facilitate focused discussion, the Working Group invites papers that address, but are not limited to, the following research questions:

- How do fragile and conflict-affected environments shape public policy-making processes, administrative capacity, and institutional legitimacy?
- What governance arrangements and institutional reforms can strengthen policy coordination, service delivery, and state–society relations in fragile contexts?
- How can governments, international organizations, and non-state actors support adaptive and resilient governance systems in fragile and conflict-affected states?

Expected Outcomes

In response to the growing prevalence of conflict and state fragility affecting governance, the Working Group seeks to produce both scholarly and policy-relevant outcomes. Selected papers presented within the Working Group may be

considered for inclusion in a proposed edited book volume on adaptive governance and public policy in fragile and conflict-affected contexts currently under development. To facilitate this objective, the Working Group discussions will be organized around several thematic areas that correspond to the conceptual framework of the edited volume and reflect key governance challenges in fragile contexts.

First, contributions may address conceptual foundations of fragility and governance, including debates on the nature of fragility, the relationship between legitimacy and institutional capacity, and the role of resilience and adaptability as governance capacities.

Second, papers may examine core governance functions in fragile settings, including policy-making processes such as agenda-setting, coordination, and strategic planning, as well as administrative systems, service delivery, and institutional trust.

Third, the Working Group welcomes comparative analyses of adaptive governance practices, including studies of decentralization, service delivery reform, security sector governance, and fiscal governance in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Fourth, contributions may explore the role of international and non-state actors in governance, including the influence of international organizations, donor practices, civil society organizations, and hybrid governance arrangements involving state and non-state actors.

Finally, papers may address emerging governance challenges, including digital governance and artificial intelligence, environmental stress and climate change, migration and displacement, and other cross-cutting pressures shaping governance in fragile contexts.

Through these discussions, the Working Group seeks to foster international scholarly collaboration, encourage comparative research, and contribute to advancing academic and policy debates on governance and institutional capacity in fragile environments.

References

OECD. (2022). States of Fragility 2022. OECD Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1787/c7fedf5e-en

The Fund for Peace. (2005). Fragile States Index. Retrieved on October 6, 2025, from https://fragilestatesindex.org/

Brinkerhoff, D. W. (2007). Capacity development in fragile states. International Public Management with Research Triangle Institute (RTI International), Mimeo.

Brock, L., Holm, H.-H., Sørensen, G., & Stohl, M. (2012). Fragile States: Violence and the failure of intervention. Polity Press.

Habermas, J. (2021). A New Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere and Deliberative Politics (C. Cronin, Trans.). Polity Press.

Roberts, A. (2025). The trend towards fragility in the 21st century. Futures for the Public Sector, 45.

Working Group XI: Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Project Director: Prof. Mohamed Mastere

Université Mohammed V de Rabat

Morocco

mohamed.mastere@is.um5.ac.ma

Co-chair: Ms Sara Hoeflich

United Cities and Local Governments

hoeflich@uclg.org

Co-chair: Prof. Mark Pelling

University College London

United Kingdom

mark.pelling@ucl.ac.uk

Introduction

Contemporary societies are increasingly globalized and urbanized, with more than 65% of the world's population living in urban areas. High concentrations of people, intensified mobilities and global flows, growing interdependencies, and

the civilizational, cultural, political, economic and religious tensions that may emerge from them all contribute to complex and evolving risk environments. These dynamics carry within them the potential for crises of multiple origins including natural hazards, technological disruptions, and socio-economic shocks. As a result, local governments face mounting pressures to manage disasters and crises while simultaneously addressing persistent social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. In this context, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience have become central components of sustainable urban governance.

Working Group XI on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience was established in **2023 in Manila** with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), particularly under the guidance of Dr. Sanjaya Bhatia. This collaboration helped define the Working Group's objectives, emphasizing the integration of disaster risk reduction into urban governance, the strengthening of institutional capacities, and the promotion of evidence-based practices through education, training, and international cooperation.

Working Group XI focuses on the governance, institutional, and capacity-building dimensions of managing risks in urban environments. Local authorities are often at the forefront of disaster response, recovery, and adaptation efforts, yet they frequently operate with limited financial, technical, and institutional resources. Strengthening resilience therefore requires integrated governance frameworks that connect disaster risk management, climate adaptation, urban planning, and

public administration reform. Such frameworks must also address the coordination challenges that arise across levels of government and between public institutions and societal actors.

The Working Group also highlights the importance of education and professional training in building resilient governance systems. Universities, training institutes, and public administration schools play a key role in developing the competencies required for effective risk governance. Through interdisciplinary research and policy dialogue, the Working Group seeks to foster knowledge exchange between scholars and practitioners and to contribute to innovative governance approaches that enable cities and local governments to anticipate risks, adapt to changing environmental and socio-economic conditions, and foster community resilience.

Aligned with the 2026 conference theme "Rethinking Governance for a Changing World," Working Group XI invites contributions that explore how governance systems can evolve to address increasingly complex and interconnected risks. Rapid urbanization, climate change, technological transformations, and growing socio-economic inequalities are reshaping the risk landscape faced by cities and local governments. These dynamics call for governance approaches that move beyond reactive disaster management toward proactive risk-informed, and adaptive systems of governance. In particular, the working group seeks to examine how decentralization processes,

multilevel governance arrangements, and the role of partnerships among governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector can strengthen institutional capacities for disaster risk reduction and resilience. By bringing together perspectives from public administration, urban studies, environmental governance, and disaster risk management, the Working Group aims to advance both theoretical and practical insights into how governance system can better anticipate, manage, and adapt to emerging risks

Research Questions

The Working Group welcomes conceptual, empirical, and comparative contributions addressing, but not limited to, the following research questions:

- How can governance systems integrate disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation into urban development strategies and public administration frameworks?
- What institutional arrangements and multilevel governance models most effectively support local governments in managing complex and evolving urban risks?
- How do decentralization reforms influence the capacity of local governments to implement risk-informed planning and resilience strategies?
- What roles can partnerships among governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector play in strengthening disaster risk governance?

- How can education, training, and professional development programs enhances the competencies required for effective risk-informed decision-making in the public institutions?
- What innovative governance practices or policy instruments are emerging to support urban resilience across different regional and institutional contexts?

Expected Outcomes

The Working Group aims to generate a set of scholarly and policy-relevant outputs. Selected contributions may be considered for the development of an edited academic volume or a special issue in a peer-reviewed journal focusing on governance, disaster risk reduction, and urban resilience. In addition, the discussions are expected to foster international research collaboration and produce policy-oriented insights that can support local governments and training institutions in strengthening resilience-oriented governance practices.

Conference Theme Track

Project Director: Dr Maréve Biljohn

University of the Free State

South Africa

BiljohnMIM@ufs.ac.za

Chair: Dr Angeliki Bourbouli

National Centre of Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)

Greece

abourbouli@ekdd.gr

Introduction

Governance remains central to the existence of contemporary governments and states that are ethical, capable and developmental. It transcends all functions and structures of effective public administrations in modern-day governments with strong institutions that are transparent, accountable, uphold the rule of law, foster public value, ensure inclusive and responsive decision-making, whilst promoting a just and equitable society grounded in public trust.

Whilst the notion of contemporary modes of governance is believed by some to weaken the role of governments by decentering them, the centrality of other

societal and non-state actors in governance is seen as essential to enhancing government and state capacity through network governance. It is also for this reason that the nature and role of governments and other non-state actors in driving and legitimising governance warrant new pathways to rethinking governance. In a changing world confronted with global challenges and wicked problems, this requires a shift from static, rigid, traditional forms of governance to collaborative, responsive, innovative, adaptive, agile, and transformative modes. Grounded in principles of equity, access, transparency, and ethics, *such governance recognises the importance of* enhancing society's capacity to act, whilst maintaining government's role in governance reforms through, amongst other systems and institutional adaptations, capacity building, professionalisation, and digital transformation.

Aligned with the conference theme "***Rethinking Governance for a Changing World"***, and its three interconnected pillars, this working group invites papers with a focus on the following areas of inquiry:

- Institutional adaptation and governance reforms.
- Digital transformation to strengthen governance capacity and public value.
- Governments and society as drivers of governance.
- Society-centred and government-centric approaches to governance.
- Comparative and international perspectives on governance.

Research Questions

Submissions may address, but are not limited to the following guiding research questions:

- How can governance systems adapt institutionally to remain effective, responsive, and legitimate in a rapidly changing environment?
- How are emerging societal and global challenges reshaping governance models for contemporary public administration?
- What are some of the new developments in society-centred and government-centric approaches to governance?
- How can digital transformation and emerging technologies strengthen governance capacity and public value?

Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of this working group may include:

- Create a platform for sharing high-quality practice- and scholarly-oriented research that contributes to the governance discourse.
- Contribute to enhancing collaborative research initiatives amongst participants.
- Serve as a platform for fostering networks among participating scholars and practitioners.

PhD Seminar

Chair: Prof Dr Randhir Auluck

Westminster University

United Kingdom

R.Auluck@westminster.ac.uk

Introduction

The **IASIA Doctoral Studies Seminar Track** provides early career researchers and prospective doctoral candidates with an opportunity to engage with an international and interdisciplinary scholarly community in public administration, public management, and public policy.

The track has a strong **practice-oriented focus**, supporting critical reflection on doctoral research design, progress, and challenges. Participants benefit from structured feedback from experienced scholars and peer researchers in a collegial and developmental environment.

Format

The doctoral track consists of two **dedicated sessions during** the conference. Selected participants may present research at:

- an **early stage** (e.g. research objectives, research questions, literature review, or methodological design), or

- a **more advanced stage** (e.g. conceptual framework, methodological development, data analysis, or emerging findings).

Each presentation will be **10-15 minutes**, followed by **10-15 minutes of discussion and feedback**. Presenters will also be offered a **15minute one-to-one feedback session** with the track Chairs or conveners.

Submission Requirements

Submissions should include a **500 word proposal** outlining:

- the stage of the research,
- its focus, and
- the scope of the proposed presentation.

Advanced stage candidates are encouraged to submit a **sample chapter** in addition to the proposal.

Eligibility and Participation

Applicants must be **formally enrolled in a doctoral programme** and have the **approval of their supervisor** to participate. While only accepted candidates will present and receive formal feedback, the doctoral sessions are **open to all doctoral students** attending the IASIA conference, as well as those considering doctoral study.

Full participation in all doctoral track sessions is expected. Participants who

attend all sessions will receive a **Certificate of Participation** from the Chair.

Doctoral candidates are also strongly encouraged to attend the conference session ***How to Get Published***, which provides guidance on the academic publishing process.

Submission Guidelines

Generalities

Each submission should be developed in line with its specific format- whether empirical, theoretical, or case-oriented- and conform to accepted academic conventions. Presentations should be structured to highlight the central problem, main insights, and any limitations, and should be delivered within a 15-minute timeframe. The use of visual aids is optional, though they may be used to support clarity and engagement.

Contributions are expected to be analytically robust, supported by a coherent conceptual grounding and appropriate methodological design. Submissions may take the form of data-driven studies, theoretical explorations, or case-based analyses. For single-case contributions, authors should aim to draw out broader implications to ensure relevance beyond the immediate context.

The conference welcomes diverse forms of scholarly work, including qualitative and quantitative research, case studies, and critical or literature-based analyses. Authors should clearly outline the purpose of their work, its contribution, the methods applied, and the key outcomes, including any limitations encountered

Thorough adherence to the guidelines outlined herein is requested.

Submission Instructions

- Please **create an account here:** https://www.conftool.org/iasia-conference-2026/
- Go to "Your submissions" and select a working group or track.
- Please follow the specific instructions given in the call-for-papers.
- If prompted, add an attachment

Language

Papers should be submitted in English, ensuring proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. All contributions will be submitted through the ConfTool system with adherence to the stipulated deadlines. For your final submission, it is crucial that you submit a thoroughly revised paper that takes into full consideration all the feedback provided by the reviewers.

Abstract

The deadline for abstract submissions is **June 11th, 2026.**

Authors should submit an abstract containing a maximum of **500 words**, covering the research question(s), its societal relevance, the theoretical framework, data collection methods, empirical evidence collected, and main findings and contributions to the conference tracks. This section should include a list of keywords that describe the main topic of the paper.

Submitted abstracts will undergo a peer-review process to ensure academic quality and relevance. Reviewers will provide feedback and recommendations for revisions if necessary.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent out as soon as possible and no later than June 30th, 2026

Final Paper

The deadline for submitting the final paper is **August 31, 2026.**

Authors whose abstract(s) have been accepted should submit a final paper of between **4000 and 7000 words in doc/docx or pdf version** and follow the below layout:

i. ***Title Page***

This section should include the title of the paper, names and affiliations of authors, the abstract and keywords

ii. *Introduction*

This section should include a clear description of the paper's structure. The research problem, objectives and significance of the text should be well outlined.

iii. *Main Body*

Contents in this section should be organized into headings and subheadings. The suggested structure is:

-Theoretical framework: on the basis of literature, some abstract elements are selected, through which the empirical material will be analyzed

-Methodology and data collection: this section describes the empirical material which will be analyzed, and explains how the data has been collected

-Findings: this section presents the empirical material through the abstract categories selected in the theoretical framework.

The figures, tables, and equations that are used should be of good quality.

iv. Conclusion

This section should mirror the introduction, summarizing each section of the paper. It should discuss the limitations of the research, its implications for unstudied cases and include potential future research directions.

v. References

This section should include a list of all the sources cited in the paper in APA style.

Presentation and Registration Conditions

All presentations will be delivered onsite, and presenters are expected to be physically present at the conference venue to ensure full participation and engagement in the programme.

Only authors who have completed their registration by 31 August 2026 will be included in the main conference programme. Submissions without confirmed registration by this deadline may not be scheduled.

Each session is scheduled to run for 90 minutes, with 15 minutes allocated to each presenter. Presenters should prepare their presentations using PowerPoint, submit a version on ConfTool prior to their presentation date and have a copy saved in a flash drive on their presentation date.

Please find the PowerPoint template here.

Calendar

Phase	Deadline
Call for Papers Launch	March 31, 2026
Abstract Submission	June 11, 2026
Notification to Authors	June 30, 2026
Opening of Registrations	June 30, 2026
Full Paper Submission	August 31, 2026

Please note that deadlines may be subject to change. You are advised to consult the official conference website regularly: https://iias-iisa.org/iasia-2026-conference/.

Registration

- Participation in the conference is conditional upon the payment of registration fees.
- The applicable conference rates can be found on the conference website.

- The registration fee covers participation in the conference, as well as the social events (welcome reception and gala dinner). Two excursions are also included.

Best Paper Awards

Potential presenters should note that the "best papers" submitted to a Working Group will be considered for publication in the International Review of Administrative Sciences and will also qualify for nomination for the prestigious Pierre DeCelles Award.

Open Access

Participants can opt in for the Open Access program of IIAS by clicking the option on the ConfTool System.

Contact

info@iasia-conference2026.org

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens as we collectively shape the future of governance.