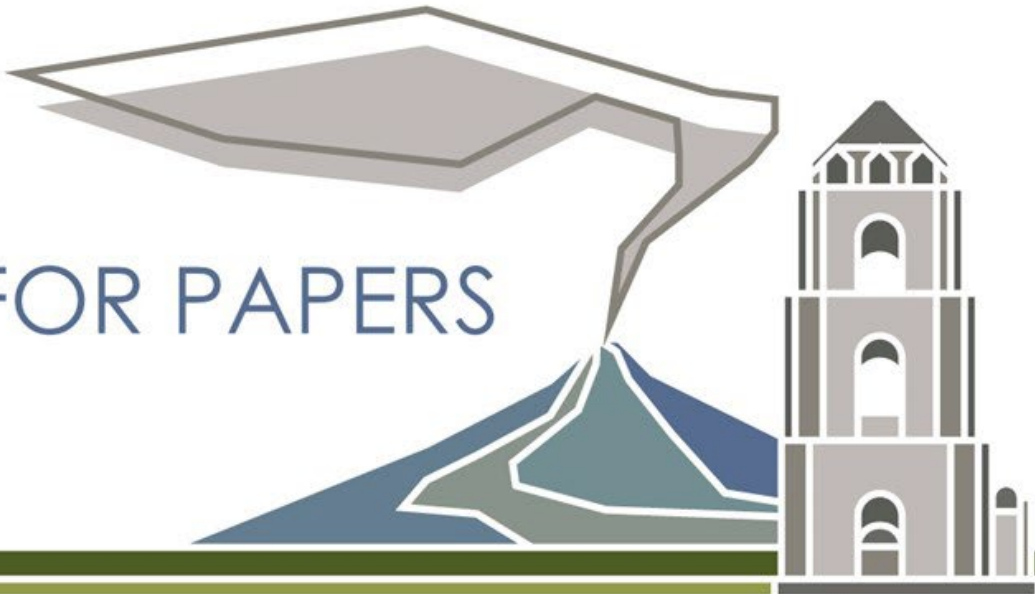


IASIA2023

CONFERENCE 31 July - 4 August
Manila, Philippines

"Building Better Futures of Governance
towards Achieving the SDGs
in a VUCA World"

CALL FOR PAPERS



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Conveners:



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IASIA2023

The **IASIA2023 Conference** will be held from July 31 to August 4, 2023, at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, The Philippines, on the theme **"Building Better Futures of Governance towards Achieving the SDGs in a VUCA World."**

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, stated in 2022 that shaping the future of government is more important than ever. This comes at a time of growing mistrust in government by citizens, increased conflicts and diverse forms of violence, climate change and natural disasters, the socio-economic crisis around the world, bankrupt global financial system, challenges and impacts related to the Covid-19 pandemic, increased inequality, poverty and vulnerability, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Agendas for the World We Want by 2030 slipping out of reach (Guterres 2022). How do we plan for the future of government if we are uncertain of what the future will include from one moment to the next? Without a doubt, a myriad of challenges is faced by governments in a challenging and unpredictable world environment. According to Johansen (2020), this new, uncontrolled, and complex environment can be described using the "VUCA" acronym, i.e., "Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous." Although it has become popular to put a spin on the negativity of VUCA by rather focusing on the positive by creating an environment focused on "Vision, Understanding, Clarity and Agility"... Check the full Concept Note on the website.

Visit IASIA2023 website

This conference is a unique opportunity for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to come together and engage in a critical dialogue on the challenges and opportunities of building better futures for government and governance in a rapidly changing world. Among the spaces available for these activities, we will count on:

- Plenary sessions.
- Special panels/forums and
- Permanent and ad-hoc Working Groups' sessions.

The IASIA2023 Conference will be in person. All Plenaries will be transmitted by streaming; Panels/Parallel and Working Groups' sessions will be face-to-face.

We would like to invite you to submit your abstracts, in English, on the focus areas of the different permanent IASIA working groups, detailed below, as well as the main conference theme:

#	Working Group name	Position	Name
I	Education and Training in Public Administration	Project Director	Blue Wooldridge
		Co-chairperson	Ludmila Gajdosova
		Co-chairperson	Hendri Kroukamp
II	Ethics and Culture in the Public Sector	Co-chairperson	Pregala Pillay
		Co-chairperson	Najat Zarrouk
III	Public Sector Reform	Project Director	Randhir Auluck
IV	Subnational Governance and Development	Project Director	Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta
		Co-chairperson	Amitava Basu
V	Gender, Diversity and Equity	Project Director	Laila El-Baradei
VI	Public Sector Governance, Leaderships and Management	Project Director	Juraj Nemec
		Co-chairperson	Liesel Lues
		Co-chairperson	Yingchun Sun
VII	Public Policy, Decision-making and Policy Implementation	Project Director	Michiel S de Vries
		Co-chairperson	Christina Andrews
		Co-chairperson	Henry Wissink
VIII	Public Sector Human Resources Management	Project Director	Liza van Jaarsveldt
		Co-chairperson	
IX	International Dimensions of the Public Administration	Project Director	Adrian Velazquez Vazquez
		Co-chairperson	Frank Naert
		Co-chairperson	Ruben Dario Echeverri
X	Public Administration in Fragile and Conflict-affected States	Project Director	Tamer Qarmout
Conference theme track: "Building Better Futures of Governance towards Achieving the SDGs in a VUCA World."		Project Director	Liza van Jaarsveldt
		Co-chairperson	Kristoffer B. Berse
		Co-chairperson	Lizan Perante-Calina
PHD Seminar		Project Director	Michiel DeVries
		Co-chairperson	Hendri Kroukamp

Guidelines and Deadlines

Expected format of the Abstract, Final Paper and Oral presentation

A format and structure of a paper should reflect its category – either research paper, theoretical paper, or a case study. Authors are requested to follow relevant academic standards in this regard. The oral presentation should focus on research questions and findings and their limits, **the length of the presentation is expected to be app. 15 minutes max.** The use of appropriate visual technological aids, such as PowerPoint, is encouraged, but is not a requirement.

Papers should have a clear conceptual basis and meet research methodological standards. Papers can be based on empirical research, or case studies. For single site case studies, an effort should be made to identify the relevance of the findings to other contexts, thereby introducing a comparative international dimension.

All academic papers are welcomed – quantitative, qualitative, case studies, literature reviews, etc. The value-added, goals, research methods, and findings (and their limits) must be explicitly formulated.

You are requested to follow the proposed structure for the final paper:

- The topic and **purpose of the envisaged paper.**
- The **design/methodology/approach applied** needs to be provided.
- The **main findings** need to relate to the conference and working group theme.
- What are the **practical implications**, also for the broader audience?
- Please indicate the **originality/value** for the broader audience.

Abstract length: 400 - 500 words.

Full paper length: 3 000 - 8000 words

Please take note that all abstracts that do not adhere to the proposed structure will be send back for revision. Also, presenters will not be allowed to present if they have not submitted a full paper before the conference.

Calendar

May 31, 2023	Abstracts Submission deadline (extended)
June 06, 2023	Registration
June 07, 2023	Authors' notification (extended)
July 17, 2023	Final papers submission deadline

Submission Instructions

Please create an account here: <https://www.conftool.org/iasia-conference2023>

- 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.

Registration

- Participation in the conference is conditional upon the payment of registration fees.
- The conference fees will be communicated soon.
- The registration fee cover: participation in the conference, in a reception and dinner. Virtual registration is also available.

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 programme of IAS. Their full papers will be reviewed and channeled to partner journals of the IAS. For further details, please [access this link](#).

Contact: info@iasia-conference2023.org

IASIA Working Group I: Education and Training Programme: aligning missions and quality		
Project Director:	Prof. dr. Blue Wooldridge Virginia Commonwealth University (United States)	
Co-chairperson:	Ms. Ludmila Gajdosova NISPACEE (Slovak Republic)	
Co-chairperson:	Prof. dr. Hendri Kroukamp University of the Free State (South Africa)	
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Introduction

The mission of the Working Group I Education and Training Programme: aligning missions and quality, is to stimulate the development of resources that will develop High Performing Schools and Institutes of Administration around the world. These SIA's will provide instruction, research, and consultancy services that will increase the ability of Governments and their staff to respond to the challenges facing their governments in an equitable, effective, efficient, and economic manner. Because of this mission, Working Group I is considered by many to be the "heart" of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration.

Since the general conference theme for 2023 is focused on "**Building Better Futures of Governance towards Achieving the SDGs in a VUCA World**", Working Group I is encouraging proposals that will respond to the following questions:

- What **challenges** are being faced by our governments because of this emerging VUCA environment?
- What **changes** are required by these governments to respond to these challenges in an equitable, effective, efficient, and economical manner?
- What **changes must SIAs** undertake to best assist our governments to respond positively to the challenges of a VUCA environment?
- What **competencies** are required by our students/participants to meet the challenges of designing, monitoring, and evaluating the administrative structures and policy and procedures needed to ensure the delivery of economical-efficient-effective-ethical, and equitable public goods and services during a VUCA? What new skills and theories are needed by our students/participants to achieve these competencies?

- In light of the expected characteristics of the VUCA environment, what are the **"best methods"** for developing these competencies in our students? For what types of students?
- How do we **evaluate** whether our students gain these competencies?
- What are the **"best" ways of distributing** this instruction (ie: lectures, visuals, internet, learning packages, online education, etc.) for achieving these competencies?
- What **research** needs to be carried out by staff and students on the requisites, consequences, and practices of to meet the challenges posed to achieve the state of "Good Governance" under the conditions of a VUCA environment?

Presentations that focus on other topics relevant to the design and management of SIAs and the enhancement of instructions in Schools and Institutes of Administration are welcomed.

Presentations can be based on 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. Proposers are encouraged to review the UNDESA/IASIA "Standards of Excellence" and their supporting criteria for possible topics and research questions <https://iasia.iias-iiisa.org/accreditation.php>

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 delivery 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 presentation.

IASIA Working Group II: Public Sector Ethics and Culture		
Co-chairpersons:	Prof. dr. Pregala PILLAY University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)	
	Dr. Najat ZARROUK IASIA President and Director of Development, Capacity Building, Knowledge Management, and the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of UCLG Africa (Morocco)	
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Introduction

The world we live in is rapidly changing, and the public sector faces unprecedented challenges as it seeks to provide effective government and governance in a VUCA world. VUCA stands for Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity, and it refers to the fast-changing and unpredictable conditions that organisations must navigate to survive and thrive. The public sector is not immune to VUCA conditions and must therefore be able to adapt to the changes and challenges that come with them. In this context, ethics and culture are more important than ever as they shape the behaviour and decision-making of public servants, and they are essential for promoting accountability, transparency, and trust in government. In a VUCA world, ethical considerations are critical for ensuring that public sector organisations remain resilient, adaptive, and effective in delivering the services and outcomes that citizens expect.

The citizens expect resilient governments to reflect on their core governance responsibilities and adapt and adjust in VUCA times against the backdrop of sustainable development goals. Inequality, poverty, unemployment, violence, and vulnerability abound. In most cases, many government and business leaders are open, transparent, and compassionate to the needs of their people. However, we also witness unparallel scales of corrupt activities. Citizens are confronted by autocratic, greedy, self-centered, toxic leaders as corruption continue unabated at a time when the economy is weak and millions of poor people are distressed and suffer untold pain and misery.

Questions to consider:

- Living in a volatile world, how can citizens **trust** their governments during times of crisis?

Call for Papers

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- In what ways can **accountability mechanisms and transparency culture** be fostered in uncertain times?
- Given the complex nature of government and governance, what role can the **youth, faith-based organisations, civil society, media and chapter 9 institutions, and private sector** play in curbing the nature, scope, and scale of corruption?
- With the ambiguity of serving the public interest and serving oneself, discuss various case studies that depict **unethical conduct and weak/failed leadership**. What type of **deterrents** should be adopted to avert corrupt practices?
- How do VUCA conditions impact **ethical decision-making** in the public sector, and what can be done to ensure that ethical considerations are properly considered?
- How can public sector leaders promote a **culture of ethical behaviour** in their organisations in a VUCA world, and what specific **leadership strategies** are effective in this context?
- What are the ethical implications of **emerging technologies** in the public sector under VUCA conditions, and how can these be addressed?
- How can the public sector **build resilience and adaptability in a VUCA** world, while still upholding ethical standards and promoting accountability, transparency, and trust?
- Why are **anti-corruption reforms** important at legislative, policy, and institutional levels and what governance **lessons and best practices** can we learn in a VUCA world?

We are looking for high-quality research papers that present innovative ideas, rigorous analysis, and practical recommendations for how the public sector can navigate VUCA conditions while upholding ethical standards and promoting accountability, transparency, and trust.

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IASIA Working Group III: Public Sector Reform		
Project Director:	Dr. Randhir K. Auluck University of Westminster (UK)	
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Introduction

The conference theme of the future of government and governance in a VUCA world is of specific value and interest to this IASIA Working Group on Public Sector Reform. In an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment, public sector administrations face significant challenges in operating effectively and efficiently, making robust and responsive policies, and maintaining sustainable institutional processes that deliver fit-for-purpose and affordable services. Public Sector Reform can serve as a vehicle for enabling governments and public institutions to become better equipped to operate with more agility, adaptability, and flexibility in responding quickly to changing external conditions and new challenges.

Financial reforms, infrastructure reforms, revised policy, and planning processes, implementing digital transformation and open data strategies, reducing bureaucracy, and increasing public sector innovation can help governments to adapt to the ever-evolving challenges of the VUCA world. Additionally, public sector reforms can serve as a vehicle for public administrations to articulate a clear vision that communicates the commitments and priorities for action based on a well-grounded understanding and consideration of the needs of the constituents and communities and the mechanisms for responding to them. Vision refers to the overall goal and direction of the reform effort, while understanding encompasses the knowledge and insight required to develop and implement successful reforms. Consultation, communication, and engagement with stakeholders, communities, and service users are essential to ensure that all actors and agencies understand the goals and purpose of the reforms and the rationale and factors taken into account in the methods for achieving them. This is critical in preserving public confidence in public administrations and state actors. Finally, agility is essential for effectively responding to new challenges, gaining insights from feedback, and adapting strategies. By adequately considering and embracing the dynamics of the VUCA world and embedding this in public sector reform initiatives, governments can become better prepared and more resilient, enabling them to serve their citizens sustainably, responsibly, and responsively.

This Working Group is interested in paper proposals focused on Public Sector Reform in a VUCA world. We have a specific interest in public sector reforms that are currently

being implemented. We welcome papers that are grounded in research as well as practice-based case studies.

Submissions for this Working Group can address any of the following themes related to public sector reform in a VUCA world:

Questions to consider:

- How does the VUCA world influence public sector reform?
- How can public sector organizations adapt to the challenges of a VUCA world?
- What strategies should be implemented to ensure the success of public sector reform in a VUCA environment?
- What measures should be taken to ensure the transparency and accountability of the public sector during reforms and transitions?
- How can the public sector ensure agility and responsiveness during rapidly changing conditions?
- How can public sector organizations promote innovation and collaboration in a VUCA world?
- What kind of organizational changes and cultural shifts should be made to promote public sector reform in a VUCA world?
- How can public sector organizations improve customer service and engagement in a VUCA world?
- What kind of leadership and management strategies should be adopted to promote public sector reform in a VUCA world?



IASIA Working Group IV: Sub-National Governance and Development		
Project Director:	Prof. dr. Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), New York, United States of America	
Chairperson:	Prof. Amitava Basu Center for Environmental Management & Participatory Development, New Delhi (India)	
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Introduction

Growing mistrust in government by citizens increased conflicts and diverse forms of violence, climate change, and natural disasters, and the socioeconomic crisis around the world has increased inequality, poverty, and vulnerability. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation. The combined impact is an urgent need for a more effective and responsive governance system. To address the volatile and uncertain times, it calls for recognizing the required changing pattern of governance, comprehending the distinction between governance and management, establishing sustainable evidence-based strategies for implementing transparent, shared, and responsive governance systems, and examining the importance of institutional values during times of uncertainty. And, in this regard, the sub-national governments have an equally important role as the national governments.

Questions to Consider:

Against this background and under the broader context of the conference theme, Working Group IV invites papers from the perspective of sub-national government to address the following issues –

a) Health Governance Challenges

Following the COVID-19 Pandemic, reforming the health governance by the local government has become a key area of concern. How can the local governments prepare themselves to address this challenge by identifying the direct and indirect determinants?

b) Water Management and Climate Change

Water is critical for human survival. Water resources are sensitive to climate change and variability. Unwise water use can significantly exacerbate climate change impacts on water availability. If well managed, it will allow us to react and adapt to a changing climate. Are regional and local governments planning actions to bolster the resilience that is called for? Many climate change mitigation initiatives must be implemented (if not initiated) at the local level. What kind of policies and what kind of national-to-local coordination are taking place that can help mitigate climate change?

c) Preparedness for Leveraging Technology & Interface with Science

Despite considerable efforts, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 does not seem to be on track. To step up the pace of implementation and make the coming decade a decisive decade for the people and the planet, leveraging technology and strengthening the interface between science and policymaking are pivotal factors for good and innovative governance. Are the regional and local governments moving in this direction? What kind of initiatives is being used at the subnational level to take advantage of new technologies for SDGs implementation? Are the new technologies people-centered?

d) Regional and Local Area Development

Promoting economic growth is a ubiquitous concern and a priority for all levels of government. Local and regional economic development can both act as enabling and constraining devices in terms of the role of subnational governments in economic development. What is the experience of the sub-national governments in this regard?



IASIA Working Group VI: Public Sector Governance, Leadership and Management		
Project Director:	Prof. dr. Juraj Nemec Masaryk University Brno (Czech Republic)	
Co-chairpersons:	Prof. dr. Liezel Lues University of the Free State (South Africa)	
	Prof. dr. Yingchun Sun Chinese Academy of Governance (China)	
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Introduction

Working Group VI core thematic area is governance and leadership. The group also maintains its interest in public management and its subfields. No one could have foreseen the complexity of the environment and its effect on public governance, leadership, and management worldwide. Public sector leaders face a vastly different futures – the so-called VUCA world dominated by Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity or the other VUCA world dominated by Vision, Understanding, Clarity, and Agility. Public sector departments operating in this rapidly changing and dynamic environment require a significant amount of re-planning, teamwork, bold leadership, and innovative management practices. The focus needs to develop public sector leaders and managers with an agile character and innovative skills, changing the leadership culture while supporting communities to become independent thinkers. We invite papers and proposals that focus upon the future of public sector governance, leadership, and management in a VUCA World.

Research questions include, for example, issues like:

- What is expected from public sector leadership and management to ensure the futures of government and governance in a VUCA world?
- What needs to change around public sector governance and management to convert a negative VUCA world to a positive one?
- What should be done to make the SDGs effectively relate and adjust to the VUCA world?
- How will the governments plan for and adapt to such a 'new normal' of VUCA environment?
- Are the future public servants ready to take bold leadership decisions, make innovative suggestions, and become the leaders we need?
- Can accountable, responsive, sustainable and resilient governance systems be built to ensure a successful transformation of leadership?

IASIA Working Group VII: Public Policy, Public Decision-making and Policy Implementation		
Project Director:	Prof. dr. Michiel S de Vries Radboud University (The Netherlands)	
Co-chairpersons:	Prof. dr. Christina Andrews Federal University of São Paulo (Brazil)	
	Prof. dr. Henry Wissink University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)	
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Introduction

The IASIA2023 Conference will be held with the general theme "Building Better Futures of Government and Governance in a VUCA World."

As part of this conference, the Working Group on Public Policy, Public Decision-making, and Policy Implementation invites submissions of original research papers that explore the challenges, opportunities, and innovations in public policy, decision-making, and implementation in a VUCA world.

We welcome submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Innovative approaches to public policy development, implementation, and evaluation in a VUCA world
- The role of public institutions, stakeholders, and civil society in shaping public policies
- Collaborative governance and multi-stakeholder partnerships in policy development and implementation
- Digital transformation, emerging technologies, and their impact on public policy and service delivery
- Social innovation, sustainability, and resilience in public policy and governance
- Policy responses to global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, migration, and security threats
- Ethical and moral dimensions of public policy and decision-making in a VUCA world
- The role of policy laboratories in innovation and creative policy management

- Digital governance and management of public policy

We encourage submissions from scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and graduate students working in the fields of public policy, public administration, political science, economics, law, sociology, psychology, and related disciplines.

We look forward to your contributions to this important and timely discussion on the future of government in a VUCA world.



IASIA Working Group VIII: Public Sector Human Resources Management		
Project Director:	Prof. dr. Liza Van Jaarsveldt University of South Africa (South Africa)	
Co-chairperson:		
Short bios and contacts		Go to Index

Introduction

The world is characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA). In this challenging environment, public Human Resource Management (HRM) plays a critical role in the success of public organizations. HRM is responsible for managing the most important asset of the public service: its people. The success of the public service depends upon the ability of its HRM practitioners and departments to attract, select, develop, and retain the best possible talent.

In this complex world, public HRM practices must be **Visionary, Understanding**, have **Clarity and Agility** (VUCA) in their response to changing conditions. To ensure that the public service is well-positioned to respond to this rapidly changing VUCA environment, HRM must focus on three key areas. Firstly, HRM must be strategic in its approach to talent management. It must develop a comprehensive strategy that focuses on recruiting, developing, and retaining the best possible talent for the public service. This may include developing innovative recruitment and selection processes to identify the best candidates, as well as implementing training, retraining and development programmes to ensure that public servants are well-positioned to navigate a changing environment. Secondly, HRM must focus on developing a culture of collaboration and adaptability. In a VUCA world, the public service needs to be able to quickly adjust to new conditions, requirements, and challenges. Public HRM departments must ensure that employees have the necessary skills and knowledge to work together and adapt as the public service adapts and changes in a VUCA world. This may include creating a culture of openness and collaboration among public servants. Finally, public HRM practitioners and departments must be proactive in developing and implementing work procedures that support the changing environment. This may include developing flexible procedures that allow public servants to work remotely. Providing public servants with an opportunity to be entrepreneurial and innovative when solving public service problems.

The working group invites paper proposals on public Human Resources Management (HRM) from around the world. Please share with us your current research as well as practical experiences from the public service. Submissions for this Working Group can address any of the following themes related to the future of public HRM in a VUCA world:

Questions to consider:

- How does the VUCA world affect the work of public HRM practitioners and departments?
- How can the public service ensure that HRM strategies remain agile and adaptive in a fast changing VUCA environment?
- What processes and procedures need to be put in place to ensure that public servants' function optimally in a VUCA world?
- How should recruitment, selection, training and development processes be adapted to ensure the best possible public servants are employed and retained?
- How can a culture of collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship be developed in the public service to address VUCA challenges and opportunities being experienced?
- Will it be possible for public HRM teams to equip public servants with the resources they need to handle the unpredictable nature of a VUCA world?
- How can a safe and secure public workplace be created for public servants?
- What new HRM strategies can we implement to better align public servants with citizens changing needs?
- How can public servants be motivated to excel in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment?
- What HRM steps can be implemented to ensure public servants have Vision, Understanding, Clarity and Agility for the future?
- What practical HRM steps and actions are currently being implemented and used in the public service in preparation for a VUCA world?

IASIA Working Group IX: International Dimensions of Public Administration		
Project Director:	Prof. dr. Adrian Velazquez Vazquez University of La Verne (United States)	
Co-chairpersons:	Prof. dr. Frank Naert Ghent University (Belgium)	
	Prof. Ruben Dario Echeverry Universidad del Valle (Colombia)	
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Introduction

In a VUCA world, governments face an environment of increased uncertainty, a lack of stability, and familiarity as the rate of change and complexity of challenges increase. Apart from the Covid-19 pandemic, governments experience a VUCA environment that can be devastating, for example, destabilising communities while jeopardising livelihoods, the interruption of planning processes, development cycles, and service delivery challenges.

VUCA also has an important international component as solutions to contemporaneous problems involve an increasing number of international commitments. Problems of 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 have to be addressed by committing to international collaboration. Parallel to these commitments, countries' own participation in new multilateral governance systems has gained relevance, where shared public policies, international mediation, and global conflict resolution are often discussed, designed, and put into action.

Consequently, a close convergence is paramount between the actions of national public administrations, organized civil society and even global governance systems. However, the design and implementation of governmental action frequently fails to consider relevant international dimensions of multilateral organizations and civil society sensitivities. 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 SDGs, 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.

Questions to consider:

In order to achieve this objective, suggested research questions to explore in this Working Group include:

- How have governance practices going beyond national levels contributed to dealing with a VUCA environment?
- What lessons can be learned from supranational governance systems in times of VUCA?
- How can international actors and governments implement processes and apply solutions to get closer to the achievement of the SDGs in a VUCA context?
- What steps, programs and actions are needed in a VUCA global governance arena?

Former participants 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 activities, can submit annotated and exhaustive PowerPoint presentations for consideration. Selected manuscripts from this conference will be considered for future publication in IIAS/IASIA periodicals.

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

Project Director:	Dr. Tamer Qarmout Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (Qatar)	
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Introduction

Fragile and conflict-ridden countries face unique challenges in adapting to the VUCA world. These include limited institutional capacity, security risks, political instability, lack of funding, limited citizen engagement, lack of data and information, and lack of coordination among stakeholders. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that considers the unique context of each country, as well as a long-term commitment to building institutional capacity, promoting citizen engagement, and ensuring effective coordination among stakeholders. To successfully navigate the VUCA world, public sector organizations in fragile and conflict-ridden countries must also embrace innovation, leverage digital technologies, and adopt an agile approach to service delivery. In this panel we invite academics, researchers, and practitioners to submit papers to address key questions related to public administration and public services reforms in fragile and conflict-ridden countries in a VUCA world. These include but not limited to the following:

- How can public administration reforms contribute to strengthening state capacity and building effective governance systems in fragile and conflict-ridden contexts?
- What are the challenges and opportunities of delivering public services in conflict zones, and how can innovative approaches be developed to ensure continuity of service provision?
- How can public sector organizations involve communities in decision-making and service delivery in fragile and conflict-ridden countries, and what are the key factors for success?
- What role can international actors play in supporting public administration and public services reforms in fragile and conflict-ridden countries, and how can international support be better coordinated and targeted to achieve impact?

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IASIA Conference theme track: "Building Better Futures of Governance towards Achieving the SDGs in a VUCA World."		
Project Director:	Prof. Dr. Liza Van Jaarsveldt University of South Africa (South Africa)	
Co-chairperson:	Dr. Kristoffer B. Berse Dean of the National College of Public Administration and Governance - NCPAG (The Philippines)	
Co-chairperson:	Dr. Lizan Perante-Calina Development Academy of the Philippines- Graduate School of Public and Development Management - DAP-GSPDM (The Philippines)	
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Introduction

The world is concurrently facing political instability, deteriorating environmental conditions, poverty, and an imbalance in the distribution of wealth (UN 2020). This intense landscape is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous. It is referred to as a VUCA world. The VUCA world leaves many questions as well as opportunities about the future of government, governance, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The four characteristics relevant to the VUCA world do not happen in isolation or alongside each other. All four characteristics of the VUCA world are interconnected and reinforcing, which leads to increased complexity and instability when for example doing future planning to ensure the success of SDGs. It is therefore becoming increasingly important for governments to readjust their work procedures, planning, policy, and decision-making processes. Governments need to anticipate and plan for different types of risk and uncertainty while being mindful of the potential consequences of decisions. Decision-making processes will have to be streamlined while remaining transparent and ethical. Creative problem-solving based on situational understanding and context will be required of leaders to ensure success in the achievement of the SDGs and the future of government and governance in a VUCA world.

Although the challenges and instability of a VUCA world appear overwhelming it is possible to use a constructive perspective in view of a VUCA world. VUCA could infer

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a positive and clear **Vision**, gain better **Understanding**, search for **Clarity** when making complex decisions, and develop **Agility**. Governments could embrace change as they modernise and streamline the governance process and build a resilient public service ready to rise to the challenges of a VUCA world. Governance processes could be re-engineered to withstand rapid change. Public servants could adjust to working in public service in flux. It could very well be possible that the SDGs could be achieved, and that government and governance processes could thrive through innovation, future planning and thinking, perseverance, optimism, and collaboration in a VUCA world.

This working group on the conference theme "[Building Better Futures of Governance towards Achieving the SDGs in a VUCA World](#)" invites paper proposals from scholars, researchers, and practitioners. Please share with us your current view, practices, and research relevant to the future of government and governance in a VUCA world. We are specifically interested in practices that have already been put in place by governments to address the impact of the VUCA world that we can learn from and that could form the basis of best practices for the future. Submissions for this Working Group can address any of the following themes:

Questions to consider:

- How does the VUCA world (positive or negative) affect the current work and the future of public service?
- How does a VUCA world affect the implementation and successful achievement of the SDGs?
- How can the public service remain agile and adaptive in a fast-changing VUCA environment?
- What leadership, policy processes, and work procedures need to be put in place to ensure that governments function optimally in a VUCA world?
- How can a shared vision, understanding, clarity, and agility be developed and created for the public service?
- How will success be determined in government in a VUCA world?
- What planning and decision-making processes should governments put in place to withstand the challenges of a negative VUCA world?
- What leadership qualities and management styles are required to ensure the future success of the public service?
- Can the challenges of a negative VUCA world be withstood by implementing new and resilient governance practices?

IASIA PhD Seminar		
Project Director	Prof. dr. Michiel S de Vries Radboud University (The Netherlands)	
Co-chairperson:	Prof. dr. Hendri Kroukamp University of the Free State (South Africa)	
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Description and objective of the Seminar

The IASIA PhD Seminar provides young researchers with a unique opportunity to engage with an international and interdisciplinary research community. The PhD Seminar offers PhD students the occasion to present and discuss their research framework, methodology, and results with senior scholars and their peers and to share research problems and concerns. The Seminar provides them with a platform for discussion and with a first opportunity to confront their ideas with comments from an international community of scholars and practitioners.

The chairs will provide an overview of the state of research in public affairs, public administration, and public policy generally, and related research methodologies.

Features and Format

Two plenary sessions are dedicated to the presentation and use of PA theory and methodology. The selected candidates can present their research framework, research question, and results. Presentations should be brief (10 mins) and supported by a PowerPoint. Each presentation is discussed with the chairs and the peers present at the session.

Submission of proposals

Depending on the stage of the thesis, candidates must submit the following:

- An abstract or a research proposal (first-year students)
- Table of Contents, a sample chapter as well as a bibliography – or other research paper (from the second year and on)

Important: All candidates must submit a Curriculum Vitae.

Selection conditions and other requirements

The candidates willing to present must be already enrolled in a PhD programme and have the agreement of their supervisor to attend the PhD seminar.

Only accepted candidates are able to present their contributions and receive recommendations from the chairs. Nonetheless, the session is open to all PhD students attending the IASIA conference during which the PhD seminar is organized.

Full participation to the PhD seminar is required for the selected candidates. Only candidates that have attended all sessions are awarded a certificate of participation to the PhD seminar.

In addition, PhD students are highly recommended to attend the 'How to get published' session which also takes place during the conference. The session aims at presenting and giving advice in terms of submission and publication processes.

[Visit IASIA2023 website](https://www.iasia-conference2023.org)

We are looking forward to hosting you to Manila!

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