

IRSPM Newsletter

December 2022

Dear Members and Colleagues,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to introduce our “new” newsletter.

The last few years have dramatically transformed our ways of working, communicating, and interacting. We may have found those years particularly challenging. Yet they have provided a unique opportunity for us to reflect on what we value as a Society, and to prove that our community has the strength to continue bringing forward research, ideas, and societal change, even in the most difficult circumstances.

This is probably one of the reasons why our virtual conferences have proven so successful. Even though many of us had to accommodate sessions and presentations during unusual hours, the virtual conference format brought the public management field closer together: it opened up new ways of connecting scholars and practitioners from all of IRSPM’s regions, and thereby allowed us to strengthen the representation of regions where member figures are still emerging (see the Membership overview below).

The pandemic time was also a moment when Jenny, my predecessor, ignited an important reflection about the future strategic direction for IRSPM. Embracing this effort, with the board we have been actively continuing this work of re-thinking IRSPM mission, our relationship with members, the community, practice and policy, and how we can produce value for them. This is an exciting moment, when we can build on our core strengths, while inviting fresh perspectives on moving forward.

My special thanks go to all the colleagues who are engaged in building IRSPM’s new strategy, strengthening our engagement with members and with New Researchers, nurturing the Special Interest Groups, connecting with the world of practice and policy, organizing our events and conference. We look forward to share more about the strategic reflection, and to listen to members’ views on IRSPM future, at the upcoming Conference 2023 in Budapest. I am sure, you have all missed mingling during the breaks and catching up with colleagues face-to-face over dinner as we have – it will thus be our pleasure to welcome you at the beautiful venue of Corvinus University in spring, together with the great local team!

Kind regards,

Neana Steccolini

IRSPM President

At a glance

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IRSPM Conference 2023 – Budapest



We are excited to welcome you to Budapest for our next Annual Conference themed “**United or divided? Public value(s), Management and Governance in turbulent times**”. A total of **667 accepted abstracts in 37 panels** will contribute to an inspiring discussion and reflection on how external shocks and crises may create divisions along key values within societies, what this means for public policies and institutions, and how public management may respond to these ‘game-changing’ cleavages.

We are delighted to return to Corvinus University Budapest, our host of the IRSPM Conference 2017, for our first in-person conference in three years.

Make sure you register until **14 February 2023** for the **Early Bird Rate**. See more Key Dates and information on Registration Fees on our all-new website!

[Read more](#)

New Researchers Panel



From its early steps, IRSPM has devoted great effort towards supporting early career scholars and practitioners engaging in public management research. With its long-standing New Researchers Panel, the society has been providing a well-respected platform to present, further develop, and reflect on research ideas, projects, and papers. Renowned IRSPM members in the various streams of public management research have acted as discussants, providing on-point comments, helpful critiques, and suggestions for improvement.

As the New researchers' coordinator for the last six years, I had the pleasure of watching colleagues thrive in this unique panel, connecting with colleagues who can act as a sounding board for future ideas, building

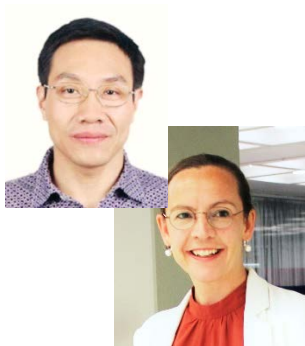
their networks for further collaborative projects, and developing as the “new generation” of IRSPM. I have been thrilled to see many of them contributing to other panels and Special Interest Groups over the years. I also had the opportunity to celebrate with lots of them great achievements, such as receiving the “Stephen Osborne Prize for Best New Researcher Paper” or seeing the work they presented in the panel published in top journals.

The New Researchers Panel, for many years, has been among the biggest panel at the IRSPM Annual Conferences, hosting around 50 to 60 paper presentations. In my parallel role as the panel chair, I am grateful to so many colleagues who, over the last years, have shared the work and made the panel a success for Ph.D. students, new researchers, and IRSPM as a whole. It has been fascinating and highly rewarding work, and I am very much looking forward to having the opportunity and the pleasure to Chair

again in person this year the New Researchers Panel and to continue to support the Panel in a different role in the future.

See You All in Budapest!

Selected News from our Regional VPs



In this issue, we bring you some new and noteworthy items from our **VP Asia**, Lihua Yang, and **VP Western Europe**, Eva Thomann.

Publications:

In line with our next year's conference, we are happy to draw your attention to a study that reveals role conflicts, ambiguities, and tensions in the interaction between scientific advisors and policy-makers in the context of the COVID-19 crisis:

Kuhlmann, S., Franzke, J., & Dumas, B. P. (2022). *Technocratic Decision-Making in Times of Crisis? The Use of Data for Scientific Policy Advice in Germany's COVID-19 Management*. *Public Organization Review*, 22(2), 269–289. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11115-022-00635-8>

In his publication in Chinese language, Lihua Yang argues that in our attempts to research contemporary public administration, public management, and governance in a broader sense, it is necessary to develop a historical research path and develop a systematic science of historical public administration:

Lihua Yang, 2022. *Historical Public Administration or Historical Public Management and Others: Historical Mirror of National Governance Research*. *Chinese Public Administration*, (06), 109-115.

Projects:

The Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), University of Potsdam, the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Wien) launch a joint research project on **“Digital Transformation at the Local Tier of Government in Europe: Dynamics and Effects from a Cross-Countries and Over-Time Comparative Perspective (DIGILOG)”**. This collaborative research project systematically analyzes the state of implementation and the effects of the digital transformation at the local government level in Europe in a cross-countries and over-time comparative manner. It focusses on the dynamics (scale and pace) of the digital transformation and its intended and unintended effects. The € 1.1 mio. Project will take the form of a regular and automated quantitative survey of all local authorities in 47 European countries (members of the Council of Europe), based on web crawling and machine learning techniques, and case studies in selected European countries.

The project is jointly led by [Prof. Dr. Sabine Kuhlmann](#) and [Prof. Dr. Isabella Proeller](#) (University of Potsdam), [Prof. Dr. Reto Steiner](#) (ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences) and [Prof. Dr. Renate Meyer](#) (Vienna University of Economics and Business). The project runs from 2022 to 2025 and is funded by the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#) (SNSF) and the [German Research Foundation](#) (DFG). [Here](#) you can find more information on the project.

Awards and Prizes



The calls for the **IRSPM Routledge lifetime achievement award 2023** and **IRSPM O'Leary prize 2023** are open until **16 January 2023**.

The **Rosemary O'Leary Prize** for Scholarship on **Women in Public Administration** was first awarded in 2019, and was established to recognise excellent scholarship on women in public administration, broadly defined. It is named after Professor Rosemary O'Leary who is an outstanding public management scholar and a previous IRSPM Routledge lifetime achievement award winner.

The **Routledge lifetime achievement award** is presented to an outstanding scholar who has made sustained contributions to public management research over a significant period of time.

The award was first presented in 2007 and is sponsored by Routledge. If you know of any worthy candidates for these prizes, then please do nominate them by writing to admin@irspm.org.

[Read more](#)