

IRSPM Newsletter

October 2023

Dear Members,

As the golden hues of autumn paint our horizons, we are buzzing with anticipation to host you in the mesmerizing city of Tampere for our next Annual Conference. The venue promises a symphony of history, culture, and innovation. From its industrial roots, reflected in its red-bricked edifices, to its contemporary embrace of arts, theaters, and gastronomy, the city is a living testament to evolution. And as you submit your abstracts (by the 23rd of October!), we invite you to immerse in the myriad experiences Tampere offers.

This year, the IRSPM family grows stronger. While many familiar faces like Eva Thomann, Lihua Yang, Greg Davids, and others have graciously continued their term, fresh perspectives from Annette Quayle, Rosemary O'Leary, Deborah Agostino, Barbara Zyzak, and Elke Loeffler have joined the board.

The year 2023 also marks the inception of two new Special Interest Groups (SIGs). One such dynamic initiative is the SIG on Civil society and community self-organizations. The convenors beckon you to explore this initiative further. This issue brings you also a special spotlight on Barbara Zyzak, our newly elected New Researchers Coordinator. She is all set to craft a robust foundation for our new generation of researchers.

Awards and honors hold a special place at IRSPM. The call for the IRSPM Routledge lifetime achievement award 2024 is open, and we eagerly await your nominations until 16 November 2023.

There are also some upcoming workshops and events by IRSPM's SIGs, from the Annual Workshop by the SIG Accounting and Accountability at the University of Bologna to the 2-day event organized by the SIG Design-led approaches at Linköping University. Both promise insightful discourses and invigorating dialogues.

Let us keep alive the spirit of collaboration, learning, and hope. The vigor of Tampere awaits, and we are eager to welcome you, share insights, and collectively envision a future that reimagines public governance.

Kind regards,

Neana Steccolini

IRSPM President

At a glance

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IRSPM Conference 2024 - Tampere



Photo: Business Tampere

We are looking forward to welcoming you to **Tampere, Finland** for our next **Annual Conference** themed **“Hybrid futures for public governance and management”**. A total of **xx 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.

Nestled between two sparkling lakes, Näsijärvi and Pyhäjärvi, Tampere is Finland's third-largest city and is often referred to as the "Manchester of Finland" due to its rich industrial past.

As the birthplace of the Finnish labor movement, Tampere boasts a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. While the city's old factories and red brick buildings stand as a testament to its industrial heritage, they have found new life today, housing an array of museums, restaurants, and galleries. Tampere's cultural scene thrives with its theaters, festivals, and the famed Särkänniemi amusement park. The city's culinary delights range from traditional Finnish cuisine to international gourmet dishes. Whether you are walking along the shores of its lakes, exploring its historic streets, or enjoying a concert at Tampere Hall, the largest concert and congress center in the Nordic countries, Tampere offers a delightful mix of the old and the new. **Abstract Submission is open until 23 October 2023!**

[Find out more](#)

New IRSPM Board Members



With great pleasure, we introduce this year's newly elected members of our board of directors. These dedicated individuals bring a wealth of experience and expertise to their respective roles, and we are thrilled to have them as part of our society's leadership. From the 14 positions open for nominations, eight had current members eligible for another term. We're delighted to share that **Eva Thomann** (VP Western Europe), **Lihua Yang** (VP Asia), **Greg Davids** (VP Africa), **Peter Kruyen** (Membership Development Manager), **Adina Dudau** (PMR Board Link), and **Helen Sullivan** (At Large Member) have

graciously accepted to serve another term. **Mariafrancesca Sicilia** (Election Secretary) and **André Carlos Busanelli de Aquino** (Secretary) opted to step down, and we deeply appreciate their contributions during their tenure. However, we are pleased to announce the appointment of **Annette Quayle** as the VP for Australia/New Zealand, **Rosemary O'Leary** as the VP for North America, and **Deborah Agostino** as the Secretary.

The positions of New Researchers Coordinator and one At Large Member saw a healthy competition with multiple nominations. After a well-organised ballot, we welcome **Barbara Zyzak** as the New Researchers Coordinator, and **Elke Loeffler** as At Large Member.

Regrettably, we did not receive nominations for the roles of Conference Manager, Treasurer, and Election Secretary. However, in our commitment to ensure smooth operations, the board has co-opted **Kristina Weissmueller** as an Interim Treasurer and **Lode De Waele** as an Interim Conference Manager. In the upcoming terms, the duties formerly held by the Election Secretary will now be integrated under the role of the Secretary.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all outgoing, continuing, and incoming board members for their commitment to the advancement of IRSPM. A huge thank you to our members for their participation in the election process!

Meet IRSPM's new Special Interest Group (SIG) Civil society and community self-organizations



In 2023, two new Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have launched their activities at IRSPM. In this dialogue, we are delighted to introduce you to one of them – the **SIG Civil society and community self-organizations**. As public management research and practice navigate through the complex challenges of our modern world, from unpredictable natural events to economic uncertainties, it's evident that the traditional ways of managing public services warrant rethinking.

IRSPM's **SIG Civil society and community self-organizations**, a product of forward-thinking and collaborative spirit, is not just a response

to these challenges but an answer to the evolving nature of public organizations. The SIG is championing the cause of fostering ties between public entities, the larger civil society, and indispensable community organizations like voluntary and social enterprises. The questions that the SIG seeks to address are not trivial. They touch the very essence of how we perceive and achieve public value in collaboration, how governments can become more inclusive, and the multifaceted challenges faced by community entities.

Seven esteemed IRSPM members and dear colleagues are the convenors of the SIG: **Kelly Hall, Richard Hazenberg, Malika Igalla, Jose Nederhand, Madeline Powell, Sanna Turnas, and Edwina Zhu**. Read more on their background [here](#). The SIG convenors (C) were interviewed by Sanja Korac (S).

(the interview is exclusive to the Members' Newsletter)

[Find out more](#)

Meet the IRSPM's New Researchers Coordinator



We are excited to introduce you to **Barbara Zyzak**, this year's newly elected New Researchers Coordinator at IRSPM. Currently an Associate Professor in Public Policy and Administration at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Barbara completed a Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Agder in 2020. Her academic work delves into public management, the intricacies of modern organizational forms, and the digital transformation of public services. Reflecting on the early stages of their career, Barbara mentions how IRSPM played a role in her academic journey. With an intent to contribute, she now looks forward to assisting the upcoming generation of public management researchers.

In her new role, Barbara will manage several tasks tailored for young scholars within IRSPM. This includes coordinating paper submissions, chairing panels, and setting up meetings with journal editors during the IRSPM conference. Furthermore, Barbara is currently working on the introduction of PhD courses for young researchers in collaboration with other board members and SIG leaders.

Sanja Korac (S) has met Barbara Zyzak (B) virtually and chatted about her new role and her ambitions for the next years.

(the interview is exclusive to the Members' Newsletter)

Awards and Prizes



The call for the **IRSPM Routledge lifetime achievement award 2024** is open until **16 November 2023**.

The **Routledge lifetime achievement award** is dedicated to recognizing an exceptional scholar who has consistently and significantly advanced the field of public management research over the course of their career. The recipient of this award will be determined by the IRSPM board, based on their exceptional academic accomplishments, unwavering commitment to the community, and significant contributions to the mission and activities of IRSPM.

The award was first introduced in 2007 and is generously sponsored by Routledge. Please note that current IRSPM board members are not eligible for nomination. Submissions from all genders, ethnicities and nationalities are encouraged. Celebrate excellence by nominating someone deserving of this award! Kindly reach out to awards@irspm.org.

[Read more](#)

Events



The **SIG Accounting and Accountability** hosts its **Annual Workshop**, and this year, for the first time an **Early Career Colloquium**. The event with the theme “*From risk to deep uncertainty in Public Administration and Services*” will take place on **30 November and 1 December 2023** at the **University of Bologna**. The event will explore topics like managing deep and systemic risks, the role of inter-organizational collaboration, and the importance of transparent risk communication. Launching this year, the Early Career Colloquium will be a dedicated platform for budding researchers to present their work, interact with seasoned academics, and foster collaborations.

More information and registration: <https://eventi.unibo.it/workshop-psaag>

The **SIG Design-led approaches** organises a 2-day event at Linköping University on 7 and 8 December 2023 for SIG members and other scholars and practitioners interested in design-led approaches to government and public management. The event is co-hosted by **Jakob Trischler** CTF, Karlstad university and **Katarina Wetter-Edman** and **Stefan Holmlid**, Linköping University and will take place at **Linköping University**. For questions please contact: katarina.wetter-edman@liu.se

Find out more

In memoriam Siobhan O’Sullivan



As we draw this edition of our newsletter to a close, we take a somber moment to remember and honor Siobhan O’Sullivan, whose contributions to the public management field, and to IRSPM more specifically, have left an indelible mark.

IRSPM members and friends will be aware of the passing of Associate **Professor Siobhan O’Sullivan** on **17th June, 2023**. Siobhan was known to many in the IRSPM community for her bubbly personality, excellent research on welfare systems, and tireless advocacy for those who are disadvantaged in different ways.

Her passion and service were exemplary and she paved the way for new researchers in public management, political science, and animal welfare studies. She worked at the University of Melbourne and the University of New South Wales, both in Australia and was heavily involved in advocacy work across her multiple interests.

The welfare to work research team - Jenny M Lewis, Mark Considine, Michael McGann, Phuc Nguyen and Sarah Ball – want to share this obituary for her, published in the **Australian Journal of Public Administration**: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-8500.12594>

A glance at the next issue:

- Meet Annette Quayle (VP for Australia/New Zealand) and Rosemary O'Leary (VP for North America)
- Meet the SIG Agile and digital transformation of the public sector
- Learn about public management hot topics in South America, Africa and Asia