

IRSPM Newsletter

December 2023

Dear Colleagues,

As the year draws to a close, I am happy to extend my warmest wishes to each of you. The festive season is a time of reflection and renewal, and I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the vibrant community we are nurturing together.

Our society is continuously evolving, being a place where we share knowledge, develop new ideas, but also nurture a new generation of public management scholars, and encourage deeper connections among our members. Together, we can explore new frontiers, embrace diverse perspectives, and forge stronger bonds in our shared pursuit of advancing the field of public management.

As we embark on this journey, your insights, expertise, and enthusiasm are an important source of inspiration. Let us carry forward the spirit of unity and curiosity into the coming year, continuing to making our society an increasingly dynamic and inclusive community.

Looking ahead, I am looking forward to our Annual Conference in the beautiful city of Tampere, Finland, next year, which will – again – offer a rich platform for collaboration, learning, and inspiration.

May this period bring you joy, peace, and an opportunity to recharge. Wishing you a delightful festive season and a happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Neana Steccolini

IRSPM President

At a glance

- [IRSPM Conference 2024 – Registration open](#)
- [Meet the IRSPM Conference Manager](#)
- [A view from the South](#)
- [IRSPM Special Interest Groups' Events and Activities](#)
- [Meet the responsible for IRSPM's continuity and adaptivity](#)
- [Awards and Prizes](#)

IRSPM Conference 2024 – Registration open



The registration for the IRSPM Conference 2024 in **Tampere, Finland** on the theme “**Hybrid futures for public governance and management**” is now open - contribute to a vibrant discussion, knowledge building, and idea exchange in total of **47 panels!**

You can benefit from the **early bird registration fee** until **29 February 2024** (midnight CET) – keep in mind that the rate for full IRSPM members only applies with your **membership number**, that you will have **received via e-mail** on 18 December 2023.

You can check and update your membership status anytime via the IRSPM member area: <https://members.irspm.org>

IRSPM is devoted to supporting emerging scholars – in addition to our well-established New Researcher’s Panel, IRSPM will offer **two PhD courses** during, as well as in advance of the conference. Registration to the PhD courses is organized via the general conference registration form.

- PhD course ***“Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) using R”*** on **18-20 April 2024** costs **500 EUR** (max. 20 participants)
- PhD course ***“Network and Collaborative Governance: Theories, Methods and Practices”*** on **13-15 April 2024**

We are looking forward to seeing you in Tampere!

[Find out more](#)

Meet the IRSPM Conference Manager



As the architect of the society’s conference strategy, the **Conference Manager** plays a key role in orchestrating both virtual and physical editions of IRSPM’s Annual Conferences. This dynamic position involves a blend of strategic planning and hands-on management, ensuring each conference is not only a reflection of our high standards, but also a platform for advancing the field of public management.

Dr. Lode De Waele (1986), IRSPM Conference Manager since 2023, studied business administration and obtained his PhD at the faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Antwerp (Belgium). He started his PhD in 2013, after being employed in the public sector for several years as an accountant, cabinet member, and senior consultant.

His main research interests are hybrid organizations and integrity among public sector employees. From 2020 to July 2021, he has been enrolled as an advisor on Fiscal policies and Budget at the Federal Parliament of Belgium. From August 2021 - 2022, he has been employed as a lecturer and researcher at the department of Organization Studies at Tilburg University (the Netherlands). Since October 2022, he has been appointed as Assistant Professor at Utrecht University School of Governance, where he joined the department of Strategic HRM. Given his professional background, bridging theory and practice and ensuring impact are central objectives in his work.

Sanja Korac (S) interviewed Lode De Waele (L) in summer 2023, shortly after him taking office. **The interview is exclusive to the Members' Newsletter.**

A view from the South: Increasing IRSPM's footprint on the African Continent



In this issue, we bring you a unique view on public management issues on the African continent, and insights into the opportunities to increase IRSPM's footprint on the African Continent, offered by IRSPM's **VP Africa, Greg Davids**. Greg works at the University of the Western Cape situated in Cape Town South Africa. Cape Town is a coastal city at the southern tip of the African continent. He is based at the School of Government and currently holds the position of Deputy Dean for Learning and Teaching within the Economic and Management Sciences Faculty. His work experience encompasses both the public as well as the private sector (more specifically, the financial sector).

Greg entered academia in 1993. His research interests are policy formulation, implementation, and how organizations function, with a particular focus on governance. In his quest to understand governance, he served on various boards in different sectors over the years. For instance, besides serving on a hospital board, Greg chaired a non-governmental organization (NGO), served on State own Entities (SOE) such as the Nuclear board of South Africa (NECSA), the Overberg Water Board, and The Catholic Welfare Organization. He purposely chose this path in order to assess the applicability of theory in practice, to understand governance in practice, and to explore whether there are common elements of governance in various sectors.

Greg consulted the public sector and provided expert input in different strategic workshops, e.g. the Small business Development of South Africa (SEDA) or the South African Local Government association (SALGA) of Northern Cape. He contributed to different capacity development programs for Labor unions, e.g. the Police Labour Union (POPCRUI) or Mining workers. Greg's academic journey includes a degree in development studies, the Program for Management development (Harvard Business School), and studies at the Institute of Public Administration in France.

Sanja Korac (S) spoke to Greg Davids (G) in autumn 2023 about his role as VP Africa and his perspective on IRSPM's impact on the African continent. **The interview is exclusive to the Members' Newsletter.**

Recent IRSPM Special Interest Groups' Events and Activities

Special Interest Group (SIG) Complexity and Network Governance

- Edward Elgar recently published the volume *'A Modern Guide to Networks'* edited by co-chairs **Robyn Keast** and **Joris Voets** with Jack W. Meek and **Christine Flynn**, who serves also as a linking pin to the **SIG Practice panel**. Many contributions to this volume are co-authored by scholars that have presented their work at the SIG panel at IRSPM conferences over the years.
- Together with **Christine Flynn** and **John Diamond** of the **SIG Practice panel**, **Robyn Keast** will chair a panel at **PMRC 2024** in Seattle titled *'Bridging Theory to Practice and Practice to Theory: Learning from Challenges and Successes of Academics and Seattle Practitioners'*
- In the days leading up to the 2024 IRSPM conference, co-chairs **Erik-Hans Klijn** and **Joris Voets** will join forces with **Jenny Lewis** and Rianne Warsen to give another PhD-course on network governance for the Netherlands Institute of Governance (NIG). More info at <https://www.nigovernance.nl/course-schedule/>

Special Interest Group (SIG) Accounting & Accountability

- The **Journal of Management and Governance** invites submissions for its Special Issue on *"Governance Challenges in Public Value Co-creation: the Interplay among Actors, Values and Results"*. Referring to the evolution of the public sector towards public value co-creation, this special issue aims at contributing to its theoretical definition, especially focusing on its governance dimension. Contributions can focus on the different typologies of phases constitutive of co-creation processes. Closing date for submission: **30th December 2024**.

Guest Editors: **Hiroko Kudo** (Chuo University, Tokyo), **Manuela S. Macinati** (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart), **Marta Marsilio** (University of Milan), **Tobias Polzer** (Vienna University of Economics and Business), **Pasquale Ruggiero** (University of Siena and University of Brighton), **Silvia Testarmata** (Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta). The Guest Editors welcome enquiries in advance of submission and declarations of interest; enquiries can be sent to Guest Editor **Manuela S. Macinati**, manuela.macinati@unicatt.it

See the **full Call for Papers**: <https://accountingandaccountabilityirspm.wordpress.com/calls-for-papers/>

- **Enrico Bracci**, **Gustaf Kastberg**, and **Salvatore Russo** co-edit the *"Public Value Accounting: Current and Future Issues"*, published in the **Emerald Series on Public Service Accounting and Accountability**. The SIG Accounting & Accountability invites researchers to contribute theoretical, and empirical studies, providing a base for future developments in public value accounting and accountability studies. The editors look for contributions providing: a reference point with the latest theoretical and practical advancements in public value accounting and accountability; real case examples of how public value accounting and accountability can be made operable, representing an alternative paradigm for public managers and politicians; and a guide for future public value research in the accounting and accountability field (find out more by clicking on the button below).

[Find out more](#)

Special Interest Group (SIG) Governing and Managing Hybridity

- **Giuseppe Grossi** and **Jarmo Vakkuri** co-edited the *[‘Handbook of Accounting and Public Governance - Exploring Hybridizations’](#)*, published by Edward Elgar, forthcoming in spring 2024.
- **Philip Karré**, together with Brian Holland, was guest editor of a Special Issue of the International Journal of Public Sector Management (IJPSM) on *[“Social Enterprises and Public Organizations: Allies or Adversaries?”](#)*
- Daniela Argento, **Giuseppe Grossi**, Marieke van Genugten, Anna Thomasson are guest editors for the Special Issue in International Journal of Public Sector Management *[“Governance and accountability \(Gover-nability\) of multiple values of municipal corporations”](#)*,
- **Jan-Erik Johanson**, **Jarmo Vakkuri**, **Adina Dudau**, and David Mills are guest editors for the special issue in Australian Journal of Public Administration on ***‘Hybridity and Public Management’*** (find out more by clicking on the button below)

[Find out more](#)

Meet the responsible for IRSPM’s continuity and adaptivity



As the meticulous maestro behind the scenes, the IRSPM **Secretary** plays a pivotal role at IRSPM. Tasked with the crucial responsibility of diligent review and guardianship of our constitution, since 2023, **Deborah Agostino** ensures that our foundation remains strong and responsive to evolving demands. With a keen eye for detail, she documents all annual meetings and Executive Board sessions, ensuring every decision and discussion is preserved for posterity. Beyond these core duties, Deborah ensures that all elections or membership of the Executive Board are held on time and according to the correct procedure. She is also the versatile orchestrator of various tasks assigned by the President and the Executive Board, ensuring smooth sailing and operational efficiency.

In essence, she is the linchpin that holds our society together, steering us towards a future of growth and success. Deborah Agostino is Associate Professor in Accounting Finance and Control at Politecnico di Milano – School of Management where she got her PhD in 2012. Deborah’s research interests are the implications of digital technologies on accounting and accountability in public services delivery, with a particular interest in cultural services and state museums. She studies the implications of social media on accounting and accountability in public services and now increasingly addresses artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation processes.

Sanja Korac (S) got together with Deborah Agostino (D) to chat about her ideas for the role and pressing issues for the future. **The interview is exclusive to the Members’ Newsletter.**

Awards and Prizes



The call for the **IRSPM Rosemary O'Leary Award 2024** is open until **15 January 2024**.

This prize was first awarded in 2019 and was established to recognize 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.

Nominations close on Monday 15 January 2024 midday CET and should be sent to awards@irspm.org.

[Read more](#)

A glance at the next issue:

- Get more insights into the activities of IRSPM's Special Interest Groups
- Learn about the strategic development of the society