P04 / Public Procurement: Humdrum Bureaucratic Beast or Vital Instrument for Social Change

Topic : PUBLIC PROBLEM AND AGENDA SETTING

Chair : Barbara Allen (School of Government, Victoria University)

Second Chair : Saul Schwartz (Carleton University)

Third Chair : Elizabeth Schwartz (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Public procurement is gaining increasing attention as an instrument for good governance and stability (Arrowsmith and Anderson, 2011; Hughes et al, 2018; Knight et al., 2007). It is used to increase economic efficiency, regulate service delivery relationships (PPPs), encourage sustainable environmental outcomes, expand open contracting to increase transparency, deliver social outcomes and create socially just supply chains.

The range of relevant issues is thus quite broad:

- Procurement agencies in different countries face different combinations of pressures. For example, in some countries, highly centralized austerity programs mandate reduced spending; in other countries, the emphasis is on encouraging innovative forms of cooperation among bidders to improve service delivery.
- Digitally-enabled marketplaces offer the opportunity for technology to break down barriers to better procurement, making government purchasing needs widely known and thus open to a wider array of potential bidders.
- Capability with respect to procurement is underdeveloped in how the public sector engages with the private and voluntary and community sectors.
- Theoretical treatment of these topics is multidisciplinary and ranges from agency theory and transactions cost theory, to regulatory theory, to social justice.

In sum, procurement policy and related activity has a significant impact on the public purse and on how effective governments can be at all levels.

The objective of this panel is to draw together scholars studying various aspects of public procurement, including procurement and trade, innovative methods of contracting, digitally enabled procurement, sustainability and procurement, participation by small and medium-sized enterprises, big data and procurement, and other related topics.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite researchers and graduate students to a multi-disciplinary panel about public procurement. We seek papers that address issues regarding the impacts and barriers to more effective procurement, and exciting developments associated with procurement policy. Empirical work and conceptual or theoretical work will be considered, including comparative studies.

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Session 1Understanding Public Procurement

Friday, June 28th 08:00 to 10:00 (MB 5.215)

Discussants

Elizabeth Schwartz (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Mapping Out Public Procurement Research: A 2010-2018 Descriptive Review of Theoretical, Empirical and Methodological Themes in the Field

Pierre-André Hudon (Université Laval)

Cesar Garzon (Ecole nationale d'administration publique ENAP)

Philippe Dumas

Citizen Contracting - Does Radical Decentralisation Improve Procurement Outcomes?

Abby Semple (University of London/PPA)

The Politics of Public Procurement: A Critical Analysis of Emerging Strategies in Europe

Andreas Öjehag (Karlstad University)

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Session 2Politics and Governance of Procurement

Friday, June 28th 10:30 to 12:30 (MB 5.215)

Discussants

Barbara Allen (School of Government, Victoria University)

Success and Failure in Canadian Defence Procurement: The Jet Fighters Cases

Philippe Dumas

Health system procurement as market intermediary: The innovation impacts of public procurement offices

Fiona Miller (University of Toronto)

Pascale Lehoux (Dept. of Health Management, Evaluation and Policy, University of Montreal)

Public Private Partnerships and Trade Agreements: Are we opening already open subnational markets?

Elizabeth Schwartz (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Saul Schwartz (Carleton University)

Barbara Allen (School of Government, Victoria University)

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Session 3Public Procurement as a Policy Tool

Friday, June 28th 14:00 to 16:00 (MB 5.215)

Discussants

Saul Schwartz (Carleton University)

Shaping Information Technology Markets Through Government Procurement: The Role of Private Actors

Nora von Ingersleben-Seip (University of Amsterdam)

Public procurement of innovation: The case of Galicia

Elvira Uyarra (university of manchester)

Kieron Flanagan

Procurement policy and SMEs - What does the evidence show?

Barbara Allen (School of Government, Victoria University)

Elizabeth Schwartz (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Saul Schwartz (Carleton University)

Public procurement policy, changes and political opportunity: the case of Brazil

Ciro Fernandes (National School of Public Administration)