



Call for Papers: Exploring Current Themes, Future Trends, and Challenges in Scandinavian Public Management

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Scandinavian Journal of Public Administration (SJPA) invites you to contribute to a dynamic and forward-thinking discussion on the contemporary issues that Scandinavian public organizations are facing. In an era of rapid change and complexity, these organizations are navigating a myriad of challenges while harnessing innovative strategies to shape their futures. Global political instability, increasing risks of pandemics, global migration, social and environmental (un)sustainability, and fiscal declines are only a few large wide-spread obstacles that the public sector faces and needs to handle.

The Scandinavian context offers a unique perspective given its long tradition of inclusion, political stability, and (progressive) use of managerial techniques. This special issue targets issues of such grand obstacles as described above and invites contributions of conceptual or empirical character that specifically deals with coping strategies and (progressive) managerial tactics under times of uncertainty and economic and fiscal turmoil, to explore the multifaceted landscape of public management in this region. We encourage scholars from different traditions and disciplines to submit papers to this special issue, and especially welcome heterogeneity in terms of theoretical approaches and perspectives. Some examples of questions that may be of interest are:

- **Managerial issues:** The impacts of neoliberal economic thinking and general trust in performance measurements and output controls (generally under the NPM umbrella) has been challenged by concepts such as post-NPM, new public governance, public values, and trust-based leadership. In what way have these concepts become materialized in public organizations, and to what extent can they 'survive' the coming times of uncertainty?
- **Accounting and fiscal issues:** In times of increasing economic and fiscal pressure, public organizations are hard pressed to deliver public services of a timely and high standard to its citizens. In what way are local and national authorities adapting to the new standards of living and in what way is this affecting society?
- **Organizational issues:** How can organizational elements and innovations be used to cope with global challenges affecting local and national authorities? How are public organizations adapting to increasing demands of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, and are 'modern' public organizations fit to work with important topics such as inclusion and equality when they are simultaneously pressured from global crises?

In addition to empirical studies employing qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methodologies, we also welcome conceptual papers and interdisciplinary approaches to address these themes. Authors are encouraged to provide insights that can inform policy and practice, making this call relevant not only to academia but also to policymakers, administrators, and practitioners.

We invite researchers, scholars, and practitioners from across the globe to share their expertise and contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by public organizations in Scandinavia. A special issue workshop is scheduled to take place in conjunction with the Nordic Academy of Management (NFF) 2024 conference, which will be held from August 15 to 17, 2024, at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. This workshop will be an important platform for constructive dialogue around potential contributions and topics relevant to the special issue. Participation in the workshop does not guarantee publication in the special issue nor does it exclude non-participants from submitting contributions to the special issue at a later stage.

Important Dates


Abstract Submission Deadline for the Workshop: 1 February 2024


Full Paper Submission Deadline for the Workshop: 26 May 2024


Article Submission Deadline to the Special Issue: 31 December 2024

Expected Publication of Special Issue: December 2025

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Please submit your contributions to <https://publicera.kb.se/sjpa/about/submissions>

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