
NPO-Management



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Das Management von Non-Profit-Organisationen (NPO), insbesondere des Dritten Sektors – neben Staat und Privatwirtschaft – wird zunehmend von der betriebswirtschaftlichen Forschung untersucht. In dieser Schriftenreihe werden wichtige Forschungs- und Diskussionsbeiträge zu diesen gemein- oder bedarfswirtschaftlichen Betrieben präsentiert, die von Verbänden, Vereinen, Stiftungen, öffentlichen Betrieben bis zu Großhaushalten reichen. Die Veröffentlichungen wenden sich gleichermaßen an Theoretiker und Praktiker.

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(Eds.)

Public Sector Management in a Globalized World

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Foreword

On 2 and 3 July 2015, the 15th International Symposium on Public Sector Management took place at the University of Hamburg, Germany. A group of international researchers from four continents came together to discuss the promises and challenges of “Public Sector Management in a Globalized World“.

Globalization has triggered rapid growth in trade, global financial transactions and cross-country ownership of economic assets. Its welfare impacts on today’s societies are controversially debated. A rising number of issues are too complex to be tackled solely at the national state’s level. The climate change, the sovereign debt crisis, the new generation of international terrorism, the euro crisis and the current refugee crisis demonstrate that joint public policies are necessary. The national context of governance is eroding. Globalization therefore affects the abilities of governments to act in the public interest, and there is a pressing need to reform the existing procedures of international decision-making.

As a consequence, the size, functions and *modi operandi* of the public sector in a globalized world are emerging topics in the academic discourse on public management. Hence, the presentations and discussions at the symposium put the focus on the consequences of various effects of globalization on public administrations and public enterprises. Findings from several countries (e.g. Austria, Botswana, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S.) were presented and linked to broader implications for the public sector and beyond.

The contributions to this volume document enhanced versions of the papers presented at the symposium. They reflect a broad range of topics, conceptual approaches and empirical settings. Since the authors have different disciplinary backgrounds within the social sciences, the volume at hand is decidedly interdisciplinary.

An excellent introduction to the symposium’s general topic is provided in Ian Macdonald’s paper. The author discusses two main questions: First, what exactly is the meaning of a globalized world? Second, in what manner and to what degree can public management operate within, and shape, a globalized world? He points out that globalization is an

ambiguous concept with a lot of heroic promises that create a globalization mystique.

The subsequent contributions mirror the variety of the aspects of public management in a globalized world. Since all contributions are preceded by a brief abstract, we refrain from giving further summaries here. However, there are some recurring topics that are mentioned in several papers:

An increasingly globalized environment has manifold effects on the autonomy and empowerment of government at different state levels in Europe and North America. The collaboration between different state levels has to be reformed, but this process is influenced by an inherent tension between an intended smoothly running global governance and reinforced local or nation-wide autonomy tendencies.

Furthermore, political decisions on the international level are increasingly criticized for being too far away from everybody's life. So, a call for strengthening direct citizen participation (e.g. within the context of a smart city project in London) seems to be justified. Citizen engagement and citizen participation make it possible to implement the principle of "thinking global and acting local", taking different cultural identities into account.

Public service providers (e.g. state-owned enterprises, electric utility companies, hospitals, universities) are challenged to actively position themselves in a globalized environment. Changes in funding procedures and structures, in the processes of service provision and in the use of new information technologies are triggered and require responses by public managers. Additionally, the organizations are under increasing pressure to demonstrate the public value they create and to improve their reporting. This includes not only the presentation of a holistic picture of their activities, but also the use of extended information for an improved decision-making.

Changing funding structures in times of tight budgets are also a challenge to universities in general and in particular to the organization of academic symposia. The 15th International Symposium on Public Sector Management and the present publication would not have been possible

without the financial support of Rödl & Partner, Cologne, SV Sparkassen Versicherung, Stuttgart, VKU Verband kommunaler Unternehmen, Berlin, and WILHELM TRUSTED ADVISORS, Zürich. We are very grateful for this support.

We are also indebted to the team of Rick Vogel and Silke Boenigk at University of Hamburg, the host of the symposium. Special thanks go to Julia Asseburg who did a wonderful job “behind the scenes” before, during and after the event. We would also like to thank all participants who contributed to the symposium with their presentations and with substantial discussions and comments. The articles published in this volume have benefited greatly from the feedback by peers at the symposium, as well as from friendly reviews afterwards.

The publication process was organized by René Andeßner and his team at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. We give thanks to Jeffrey Campbell, Michaela Gassner and Melanie Kiss for technical assistance and language edition. Likewise we thank the publishing house Springer Gabler for publishing this in-collection and for all kinds of support we received during the publication process.

Finally, we dedicate this book to Prof. H. Ian Macdonald and Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Peter Eichhorn. They initiated the symposium nearly 20 years ago and have remained its masterminds until this day.

René Andeßner, Dorothea Greiling & Rick Vogel

Content

Foreword	V
The Mythology of Public Sector Management in a Globalized World <i>H. Ian Macdonald</i>	1
University Funding in a Globalized World: A Step Back to the Roots? <i>René Andeßner, Dorothea Greiling</i>	15
Globalization and Public Administration: A Conceptual Framework <i>Sheila Bergeron-Barrows, David Barrows</i>	39
Federal States instead of National States <i>Peter Eichhorn</i>	51
Welfare-oriented Social Accounting <i>Diana Erma, Peter Friedrich</i>	59
Information and Communication Technology as a Driver for Institutional and Organisational Changes in Austrian Hospitals <i>Daniela Haugeneder</i>	95
Europeanization or New Public Governance? – Reinventing Italian intermediate institutions under pressure <i>Hiroko Kudo</i>	111

Public Value Performance: What Does It Mean to Create Value in the Public Sector? <i>Timo Meynhardt, Steven A. Brieger, Pepe Strathoff, Stefan Anderer, Anne Bäro, Carolin Hermann, Jana Kollat, Paul Neumann, Steffen Bartholomes, Peter Gomez</i>	135
Resilient Public Service Provision after the Global Financial Crisis: The Case of Botswana <i>Dorothy Mpabanga</i>	161
Missing the Big Picture on State-Owned Enterprises: Quality of Aggregate Holdings Reporting of Public Administrations and Reform Implications <i>Ulf Papenfuß, Lars Steinhauer, Benjamin Friedländer</i>	203
Historical Backgrounds about the Developmental Difference of Electric Utilities in Germany and Japan: Municipalization and Concession <i>Toru Sakurai</i>	227
Smart City Projects and Citizen Participation: The Case of London <i>Jurgen Willems, Joachim Van den Bergh, Stijn Viaene</i>	249
List of Editors and Authors	267