

Scandinavian Journal of Public Administration Special Issue

Projectified Politics – the Role of Temporary Organisations in the Public Sector

Guest Editors, Karl Löfgren, Roskilde University, Stefan Sjöblom, University of Helsinki and Sebastian Godenhjelm, University of Helsinki

An important, although still very much neglected, feature of current governance systems is the proliferation of projects, and other temporary forms of organising public organisation activities. Some voices have argued that the project as such has become a post-bureaucratic symbol of adaptability and contingency considered to be a superior way of reacting to unanticipated and irregular situations. However, not only projects, but many other novel forms of organising public policy demonstrate this temporality. Programs, networks, partnerships, local action groups, and contractual forms of cooperation operate within more or less limited time frames. Consequently, politics is becoming increasingly 'projectified'. Although the tendency has attracted some interest from both researchers and practitioners, the phenomenon as such is still notably overlooked among students of public sector organisations.

On one hand the proliferation of temporary organisations reflects the increasing demand for hyper-rational responses to social problems. They make it seemingly possible to mobilise the appropriate competencies and expertise on an as-needed or just-in-time basis. On the other hand such logic, whilst attractive, ignores the friction of coordination and continuity caused by long-term objectives. In this call for paper to this special issue we wish to draw the attention to the fundamental question of the changing time scales of politics, and to the need for more systematic analyses of temporary organisations as means for achieving long-term outcomes and sustainable solutions.

Examples of research questions to be addressed in the Special Issue are:

- What are the key features of temporary organisations as means for pursuing change in the public sector?
- What are the differences between institutional contexts, policy fields and administrative levels?
- How does a projectified environment affect the work processes and the individual roles of the civil servants?
- What are the main mechanisms for coordination between temporary organisations and permanent structures?
- What are the consequences for democratic procedures and democratic accountability?

We welcome empirical, as well as theoretical and conceptual articles related to these questions. A letter of interest in participating in the Special Issue and an **abstract of the proposed article should be sent to the guest editors by March 1st 2012**. All papers will be subject to regular double-blind peer review. **Dead-line for submission of full paper: June 30 2012**.

submit your manuscript to sjpa@gu.se

Contacts for further information or any issues with respect to the special issue:

Karl Löfgren, Associate Professor in Public organisation and governance, Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University, Denmark; klof@ruc.dk

Stefan Sjöblom, Professor in Local Administration. Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki, Finland; ssjblom@mappi.helsinki.fi

Sebastian Godenhjelm, Researcher, PhD student at the Institution for Political and Economic studies. University of Helsinki, Finland; sebastian.godenhjelm@helsinki.fi

