



Administrative Culture

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Call for papers

Non-Western Public Administration

The Ragnar Nurkse School of Innovation and Governance at Tallinn University of Technology and the journal *Administrative Culture* (formerly *Halduskultuur – Administrative Culture*) are hosting a small but high-level conference on Non-Western Public Administration on 25-26 April 2014 in Tallinn, Estonia.

Are there different paradigms of Public Administration (PA), rather than just one, and if yes, how might they look like and how might one judge their success? PA as a scholarly discipline generally assumes that there is one global PA, that good PA is just that in a successful form, and that modernization is bringing PA closer to it, but arguments are on the rise that all this is actually just Western PA – working well in the Western context, but not necessarily elsewhere. Thus, there might be other paradigms of PA as well – non-Western PA (NWPA) –, the most prominent ones today being the Confucian and the Islamic one, although the cohesiveness of the latter is much debated. This is not to say that there are no universal best PA practices, but the question is precisely about those that are only good PA in a specific context. The global-Western PA discourse and its practice being very strong, however, difference might today relate more to potentiality, legacy, and context. What makes this question especially relevant is that if modernization is not necessarily Westernization, countries which do not follow the global-Western model are not necessarily laggards but may rather pursue their own path towards good PA. In that case, policy recommendations (often linked to financial incentives) to move towards Western PA benchmarks might be not only misguided, but may turn out to be counterproductive.

This conference will also serve as a preparatory meeting both for the new NISPAcee panel and perhaps subsequent Working Group on “Islamic PA” and – tentatively – for a new IIAS Study Group on “Confucian PA”, which will be inaugurated at their organizations’ forthcoming annual conferences in May in Hungary and, if approved, in June in Morocco, respectively. Papers intended for those venues may already be discussed in Tallinn as well.

We are inviting papers which deal with both the theoretical and empirical questions of NWPA. Abstract proposals, no longer than 750 words, should be sent to Professor Wolfgang Drechsler at wolfgang.drechsler@ttu.ee. The deadline is 31 January 2014. Full papers are due 30 March 2014.

The papers presented (including those to be presented as well at the NISPAcee or IIAS conferences) will pass fast-track peer-review for a special issue of the journal *Administrative Culture*. The Journal is a fully peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal of administrative studies. *Administrative Culture* is abstracted, e.g., in Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, Scopus, Sociological Abstracts, Social Services Abstracts, PA@BABEL and EBSCO PA Abstracts. See www.halduskultuur.eu

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