

Call for Papers

Journal of Behavioral Public Administration Symposium

Motivation to Serve the Public Interest at Work

Guest co-editors:

Marc Esteve (University College London & ESADE Business School)
Arjen van Witteloostuijn (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam & University of Antwerp)
Andrew Whitford (University of Georgia)
Robert Christensen (Brigham Young University)
Bradley Wright (University of Georgia)

In a global context of rising disdain towards government and fiscal austerity, understanding how to motivate public employees is of central importance for effective public sector governance (Esteve et al., 2017). The scholarly attention given to public sector motivation appears to reflect this importance. It is at an all-time peak, with over 50 studies published annually in recent years (Ritz, Brewer and Neumann, 2016). Yet, as argued by Esteve and Schuster (2018), these studies have overwhelmingly focused solely on one form of work motivation in the public sector: public service motivation. The large literature on work motivation in general management suggests, however, that other forms of motivation can be equally important in the workplace (Pinder, 2015). Similarly, linking to the fundamental psychology of motivation has great potential (Slabbinck et al., 2018).

This symposium welcomes proposals addressing how to increase motivation to serve the public interest, using experimental designs. The overarching theme of the symposium is to discuss strategies to enhance motivation among individuals involved in the delivery of public services – working in the public, private, or not-for-profit sectors.

Potential topics for papers include any area of public administration and management. Research papers may provide insights into motivation research in areas such as:

- Specific examples of interventions to increase motivation among employees delivering public services;
- Studies empirically addressing the relation between motivation and work outcomes;
- Mediating and moderating factors between motivation and individual performance;
- The effect of nudges towards motivation in the public service;
- The role of the need for achievement, affiliation, and power.

As part of this call for papers, we will organize a small conference in Barcelona, hosted by ESADE Business School. Scholars interested in participating should submit an abstract to the guest-editors by January 10, 2019. The abstract should be about two pages long and contain a description of the problem addressed and the argument that will be advanced, as well as the methodology and sources of data to be used. If possible, the nature of the arguments and findings should be previewed. Information on acceptance will be given by late January, with the conference to be held on April 18th and 19th.

Timeline:

Proposal submission deadline: 10 January 2019.

Conference: 25 – 26 April 2019.

Submission Deadline of Final Manuscripts: 30 September 2019.

Please note that final manuscripts will be submitted by the guest co-editors to JBPA for double-blind peer review with final decisions regarding publication being made by JBPA editors. The submitted papers will need conform to JPBA's guidelines for paper submissions: <http://www.journal-bpa.org/index.php/jbpa/about/submissions>.

About JBPA:

Journal of Behavioral Public Administration (www.journal-bpa.org) is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary open access journal that focuses on behavioral and experimental research in public administration, broadly defined. The journal welcomes behavioral and experimental work that advances theory, applied research about nudge tactics or other practical reforms, replications of previous experimental work, and studies with null findings (provided they are well designed and sufficiently powered). Given its multidisciplinary orientation, *JBPA* welcomes articles from across the behavioral sciences, including economics, public policy, political science, psychology, sociology, law, communication, and even biology - provided they have relevance for public administration theory or practice.

JBPA encourages submissions of both basic scholarly and applied work conducted by academics or practitioners. Likewise, *JBPA's* readership includes not only behavioral scientists with an interest in public administration but also policy-makers and practitioners in the public and nonprofit sectors. Submission types include research articles, research letters, perspectives and practices, and research syntheses.

Research articles are up to *4,000 words*, excluding appendices.

Research letters are up to *2,000 words* in length, excluding appendices. They include applied trials (e.g., nudge tactics by government agencies), replications, or other empirical studies that can be presented in a more concise format.

Perspectives and practices are submissions that focus on theoretical perspectives on behavioral public administration, or that discuss practical issues involved in applying behavioral science in government or nonprofit settings. These submission are up to *4,000 words* in length.

Research syntheses are up to *8,000 words* and include meta-analyses or systematic reviews that seek to integrate and learn form a body of previous empirical work related to behavioral public administration.

References:

Esteve M., Schuster C., Albareda A., and Losada C. 2017. The Effects of Doing More with Less in the Public Sector: Evidence from a Large-Scale Survey. *Public Administration Review*, 77(4): 544-553.

Esteve, M. and Schuster, C. 2018. *Motivating Public Employees*. Book Manuscript in Preparation for Cambridge University Press' Elements Series.

Pinder C.C. 2015. *Work Motivation in Organizational Behavior*. Psychology Press, New York.

Ritz A., Brewer G.A., and Neumann O. 2016. Public Service Motivation: A Systematic Literature Review and Outlook. *Public Administration Review*, 76(3): 414-426.

Slabbinck H., van Witteloostuijn A., Vanderstraeten J., Hermans J., Dejardin M., Brassey J., and Ramdani D. 2018. The Added Value of Implicit Motives for Management Research: Development and First Validation of a Brief Implicit Association Test (BIAT) for the Measurement of Implicit Motives. *PLoS ONE* (forthcoming).