

Behavioral Science in Government

Nudging Outward and Inward to Bridge the Academic-Practitioner Divide

Public Management Research Conference

Pre-conference workshop

Co-Organizers

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The purpose of the workshop is to bring together a group of applied behavioral public administration scholars and practitioners to share the latest research and innovations in the application of behavioral interventions within government agencies. A second goal is to discuss and share strategies for finding (practitioner and academic) partners for applied behavioral science research. With the proposed workshop, we aim to also increase the capacity of public administration and management scholars who seek to enter the field of applied behavioral public administration.

We will have a group of behavioral public administration scholars and practitioners share their applied work on behavioural-informed trials within, or in partnership with, government agencies. Therefore, this workshop will provide the unique opportunity to diffuse knowledge and innovations in applied scholarship, and discuss their particular strength and weaknesses, with the aim of building an applied behavioral science community within public administration and management.

This workshop is aimed at any public administration and management scholar who plans to conduct behavioral-informed trials within, or in partnership with, government agencies. At the same time, we are open to, and explicitly invite, practitioners with an interested in behavioral insights to participate in the workshop.

Format of the workshop

The format of the workshop will include presentations of applied trials (15 minutes per presenter), with substantial time for questions and feedback from the audience (again, 15 minutes per presenter).

We will hold a total of three panels in the afternoon of June 11 so that participants can arrive in Chapel Hill on the 11th before noon. The first two panels will include four substantial presentations from a diverse set of scholars and practitioners.

The final panel will include a facilitated roundtable discussion, involving the organizers and a diverse set of discussants about using behavioral science to close the academic-practitioner divide in public administration and management research, including discussions about how scholars seeking to partner with government agencies can go about.

Workshop program

PANEL 1: Nudging Outward: Using behavioral science to improve resident-state interactions

12.30pm – 2.30pm

Panel presenters:

- Rekha Balu (MDRC/ Office of Evaluation Sciences)
- Ivan Lee (Rutgers University)
- Kelly LeRoux (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- Tba.

PANEL 2: Nudging Inward: Using behavioral science to improve internal government functions

3.00pm -- 5.00pm

Panel presenters:

- Michael Hallsworth (Behavioral Insights Team)
- Andrea Headley (University of California Berkeley)
- Syon Bhanot (Swarthmore College)
- Michael Siciliano (University of Illinois at Chicago)

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Closing the academic-practitioner divide

5.20pm – 6.30pm

Moderated by Anjali Chainani (City of Philadelphia)

Discussion participants:

- Randolph Lyon (National Academy of Public Administration)
- Shelley Metzenbaum
- Tom Ross (Volcker Alliance)
- Richard Walker (City University of Hong Kong)
- Tba local government representative
- Tba federal government representative

Points for discussion during roundtable:

- Finding suitable research partners (academic and practitioner);
- Co-designing the research (academic and practitioner);
- Discussing the value add of experiments for policy-makers;
- Building capacity in the public sector for applied science;
- Publication in academic journals but also in other user-friendly formats;
- Sharing results even if they are null and why this is important;
- The importance of developing pre-analysis plans.