

Panel 2:

Panel proposal NIG Conference Nijmegen, Track: Public Management

Panel title: Public professionals and their (new) connections: professional controls, administrative leadership & networks

Note: This panel is part of the NIG-Colloquium ‘Reframing public professionalism’

Chairs:

Prof. dr Mirko Noordegraaf (UU), prof. dr Bram Steijn (EUR), dr Karin Geuijen (UU), dr Lars Tummers (EUR), dr Scott Douglas (UU)

Public professionals, such as judges, doctors and teachers, face demands for more quality and results along with a need for more efficiency and accountability. To survive this gathering storm, professionals must do more than fallback on traditional routines. This panel reviews the various forces working on public professionals and combines broad observations on societal dynamics with concrete analyses of the way professionals work. The panel creates a comprehensive understanding of the reconfigurations currently taking place and the effects these changes will have.

The panel focuses on three themes, which both capture the traditional debates, but also reconfigure and broaden the debate of professionals in new interesting directions.

- *Theme 1: Professionals and control*
In which way do professionals handle organizational, financial and professional controls, such as increased performance management, quality controls imposed by governments or professional associations, and the impact of mass media? How do professionals cope with these additional pressures? How can organization satisfy the different demands at the same time?
- *Theme 2: Professionals and leadership*
How can professionals best be managed? What is the relationship between professionals and leadership? In which way can professionals manage tensions between entrepreneurialism and political sensitivity in administrative organizations? How can professionals themselves develop into leaders?
- *Theme 3: Professionals and cooperation*
Professionals face complex problems which they need to deal with in cooperation with colleagues within as well as outside of their organization. Cooperative professional relationships will be characterized by different professional norms, information positions and power inequalities. In which way are professionals able to become boundary spanners between organizations in order to implement innovations and improve impact?

This NIG panel track welcomes papers that discuss the above themes on public professionals. We do not only focus on traditional professionals (such as physicians, judges

or scientists), but also welcome papers about ‘semi’, ‘proto’ or ‘quasi’ professionals (such as public managers, welfare workers, social workers, nurses and teachers). We welcome papers that come from a wide range of disciplines, including both empirical and theoretical contributions. This NIG panel track will be used to further develop a joint research program on the topic of professionals in public domains, including international publication opportunities, such as special issues in international journals and edited volumes.

Next to this, this panel is explicitly linked to various international panels at academic conferences, such as the IRSPM and EGPA.

Abstracts:

Abstracts can be sent to Mirthe de Kok (M.J.deKok@uu.nl) before the deadline set by the NIG conference.