

Coproduction of Public Services

Coproduction is these days a major theme in public management. It stresses the active involvement of service users by stating that a public service cannot be successful if it is delivered to passive and unmotivated users. The idea of coproduction is launched in very distinctive policy domains. Think for example about citizens that co-design a service, citizens that participate in planning, citizens that participate in fundraising, parents that write a school play, citizens as members of a neighborhood watch team. This small selection of examples demonstrates that there is a wide variety of ways to contribute to the provision of public services.

Coproducing public services implies a major governance transformation both on the side of service providing organizations as well on the user side. As such it is of great importance to answer questions with regard to the factors determining how proper coproduction can come about in various sectors and which barriers and risks need to be addressed both on the side of service providing organizations and citizens. Here we should not only focus on technical issues, concepts, structures, management questions, but also look into sector specific dynamics, the human factor, human interactions, sociological and behavioral mechanisms.

This panel invites scholars to contribute to this debate either by bundling theoretic knowledge about active citizenship, co-governance and co-production or by empiric work testing the notions and assumptions underlying the motivations of citizens to co-produce, the co-production processes, organizational and management issues that come with co-production, and the effects and outcomes of co-production.

The panel could inform, and be informed by, similar existing initiatives like the 'seminar on co-production' (Budapest, November 2012), the SIG on Third Sector (IRSPM 2012) and panel session on third sector : co-production (IRSPM 2013), the SG on Public Governance of Societal Sectors (EGPA), the SG on Co-production (IIAS, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016), and earlier NIG panel sessions on co-production and participation (2013, 2014 and 2015). As such, the panel could be another opportunity to further establish the growing research community on co-production, acknowledging the position of co-production in the broader debates on New Public Governance, network governance, and the role of the third sector in the public domain.

The panel aims to inform the **NIG Colloquium on Coproduction of Public Services**. Aims are to open the discussion on coproduction of public services, and invite practitioners and scholars to jointly reflect on coproduction, and enhance collaborative learning by joining academic insights with real life experiences.

Session organizers

Prof. dr Taco Brandsen, Radboud University

Dr Marlies Honingh, Radboud University

Prof. dr Albert Meijer, Utrecht University

Dr Trui Steen, Catholic University Leuven

Dr Bram Verschuere, University of Ghent

Questions about this panel can be directed to Marlies Honingh, m.honingh@fm.ru.nl