

# BAM 2025 CONFERENCE

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## Public Management and Governance Track

### Track Chairs:

- Dr Kate Broadhurst, Loughborough University
- Dr Steve Parker, The Open University

In the context of a global landscape characterised by heightened connectivity, dynamic mobility, and increasing complexity, the field of public management and governance faces unprecedented challenges and opportunities.

This track invites papers that explore the evolving role of public management and public services in navigating and shaping the diverse and intersecting 'borders' that impact public services and systems. 'Border' can be interpreted in multiple ways; from working across international borders to navigating the benefits and challenges of multi-level governance frameworks through to exploring inter-and intra - organisational and work-life boundaries. Across all these interpretations, public sector institutions and their leaders are increasingly tasked with managing and facilitating cross border practices, both literal and metaphorical, amid ongoing social, political, and economic flux.

The track encourages the submission of full and developmental paper submissions that examine the interplay between public management, governance and 'border-crossing', particularly as they relate to themes of equity, inclusivity, and adaptability in the public sector.

We are interested in theoretical, conceptual and empirical research and relevant papers might address questions such as:

- How can public management respond effectively to the challenge of cross border working?
- How are public policies evolving to better support individuals, organisations, regions and communities as they cross economic, social, or digital borders?
- How can public sector organisations navigate the internal borders within their own institutions working between different levels of governance, departments, or professional groups?
- What governance structures enable or hinder hybridity and fluidity of movement across borders?
- How can public organisations adapt their management approaches to support border-crossing populations, such as refugees or remote workforces, while balancing regulatory requirements and social responsibilities?

- How do borderland regions manage the impact of national and transnational border policies on local communities?

In alignment with the broader conference theme, we also welcome contributions that examine the evolving work-life boundaries of public sector employees. Given the widespread shift towards hybrid and remote work, papers could address the effects of flexible working arrangements on public sector productivity, employee well-being, and the sustainability of public service delivery. How do public sector leaders manage these new "virtual borders," and what governance models best support a balanced, effective workforce amid this shift?

This track aims to foster a nuanced discussion on how the public sector can lead, support, and regulate within a world defined by constant boundary-crossing. We look forward to papers that offer critical insights, propose innovative governance models, and bring fresh perspectives on public management's role in a border-crossing era.