Public Management and Governance Track

Track Chairs:

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In the current context, Public Service Organizations (PSOs) are undergoing substantial transformations in organizational culture, design, processes, and technology usage to be future-ready. The advent of information technology and digitalization has instigated significant transformations (Dunleavy et al., 2005), ushering in a new era of collaborative approaches aimed at fostering innovation and transformation in public services (e.g., Osborne, 2010; Sørensen and Torfing, 2011). This multifaceted transformation necessitates consideration of diverse motivations, enablers, and barriers across cultures, societies, and organizations. The adoption and implementation of new technologies, policies, and practices have given rise to fiscal, ideological, and ethical challenges for public administrations, service providers, managers, and front-line personnel. Ongoing debates surround issues such as data privacy, cybersecurity, and the impacts of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.

Achieving this transformation at various levels and over the long term is crucial, particularly in the face of the evolving global landscape shaped by technological, economic, and moral imperatives, alongside ecological concerns. However, seizing opportunities to reimagine public governance arrangements and innovate public services will require overcoming numerous challenges. Political short-termism, competing priorities, reduced funding, cost-of-living crises, political extremism, and civil unrest are among the impediments to new developments in the public sector and, arguably, the sustainability of existing public sector models.

The Public Management and Governance (PMG) track aims to facilitate discussions on achieving transformation for the greater good amid these contemporary complexities. The track will explore how technological advancements, including digitization, hybrid work models, and the promises of the metaverse, can enhance and enable public services. It will delve into how these transformations can strengthen public service ecosystems while addressing associated risks and challenges.

We invite the submission of full papers and developmental papers that contribute to advancing interdisciplinary discussions around the role of public management and governance in achieving transformation for the greater good. The track encompasses broad themes such as innovation, digitalization, sustainability, disruptive technologies, artificial intelligence, and related domains. Diverse

perspectives, research settings, country contexts, methodologies, and conceptual, as well as empirical works, are welcomed.

Topics include but not limited to:

- New models of service design and delivery in the public sector including those that prioritize collaboration, innovation, and citizen engagement.
- Digital transformation of the public sector and the application of disruptive technologies
- Public value creation in digital and net zero transformation projects
- Sustainable public sector supply chains
- The circular economy
- Citizen science
- Public service hybridity and governance in hybrid organizational settings, including public enterprises and public-private arrangements
- Transformational (public) leadership and the role of public leaders in bringing together and/or dealing with different actors' expectations and values
- Strategic decision-making in public services organisations including governmental or third sector organisations
- Policy interventions and financing measures to support the transformation to net zero