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**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**The International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) invites papers for the 2014 conference to be held in Ottawa, Canada - April 9-11**

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| **Panel # and Title:** *# B. 7 - The Governance of the Natural Environment: The Public Administration of Environmental Policy Reform* |
| **Chair(s):** Rodrigo Pizarro; Ana Lya Uriarte  Affiliation(s): University of Santiago of Chile; University of Chile  Email(s): rodrigo.pizarrogariazzo@usach.cl; uriarte2010@gmail.com |
| **Panel Description:** In response to increasing environmental challenges nation-states across the world have embarked on substantive environmental policy reform. Environmental policy has become widespread, with the relatively recent, and accelerated, diffusion and adoption of policies, organizations, and institutions to protect the environment (Frank et al, 2000). From the establishment of protected areas, to the creation of environmental ministries and the adoption of specific environmental legislation, most nations have made considerable strides in the formal protection of the environment.  Moreover, the growth in the foundation of environmental NGOs and their membership (Longhofer and Schofer, 2010; Brulle, 2000), and general public discourse on the environment suggests increasing concerns over environmental issues. Scientific concepts such as climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem services, are increasingly understood by citizens and used in public discourse. In sum we observe significant change in the regulation, social norms, and even cultural perceptions over the natural environment and its protection.  These changes raise important issues for public management. New policies and institutional structures not only regulate the natural environment but govern the relationship between private and public actors at the local, national, and global level. Moreover, these policies explicitly or implicitly, determine the public’s say in the governance of their local territory. Are nation-states responding to new environmental concerns? What are the new institutions that have been implemented to deal with environmental concerns? What are the implications of these reforms on governance structures and accountability? Are these new environmental institutions democratic? And in what way do they regulate the legitimate interests of different organizations and agents?  This panel proposes to explore these issues by using “cases” in environmental policy reform to discuss the public management issues raised in the protection of the natural environment. In particular we wish to explore the implications of environmental policy reform on governance, accountability, enforcement and democracy.  We especially want to encourage submissions from practioners who have implemented recent environmental reform, and evaluated their outcome. |
| **Guidelines for Proposal Submission:**  Proposals for papers should be about 500 words (plus references), and must be in English.  The proposal should clearly identify:   * the Panel, Special Interest Group or New Researchers Panel to which they are being submitted * the author(s) and their position, institutional affiliation and email * relevance to the panel topic * significance of the research (why it is distinctive and its contribution to the field); the research question(s) and method, theoretical/conceptual foundations for the research, and results to be reported.   The number of accepted proposals per person is limited to two papers (one of which is multi-authored) and one presentation.  Please click on Submit Your Paper on [irspm2014](http://www.irspm2014.com) to be guided through the submission process.  The deadline for paper proposals is **October 25th 2013.** You will be notified of the outcome of proposal submissions by **mid-November**.  It is expected that a paper is available in advance of the conference, and should be uploaded on the conference website by **March 15th 2014**.  **IRSPM2014 Theme:** **Intersections: Governance, Democracy, Accountability**  The changing relationships among the public, private and non-profit sectors are raising important issues for public management. Policy is increasingly ‘mashed-up,’ extending across multiple departments, relying on a diversity of agents for implementation and requiring new approaches to effective oversight. To varying degrees, both centralisation of executive powers and decentralisation of authorities are at play. Public management risks being hyper- politicised, just as citizens are demanding more meaningful engagement and utilising new channels to obtain it. These demands, in concert with financial constraints, have many worried about issues of democracy and accountability. At this crowded intersection, there are few easy answers, and the challenge for public management today is to formulate new ways to navigate these competing pressures.  IRSPM2014 explores the implications for public management of the evolving intersections of governance, democracy and accountability. |