



**EGPA/IIAS**

European Group  
for Public Administration

**2021**

**Annual Conference of the**

***European Group for Public  
Administration***

***7-10 September 2021***

***PhD Symposium***

***7 September 2021***

***Permanent Study Group XX:***

***Welfare State Governance and Professionalism***

***Call-for-Papers***

## EGPA Permanent Study Group XX on Welfare State Governance and Professionalism

### *Welfare society in an uncertain environment*

The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging our welfare systems with unprecedented uncertainty. Uncertain is how welfare systems should respond to the disease: Which treatments are effective? How to allocate resources? How to protect vulnerable groups? How to protect professionals providing services and treatment? Finally, yet importantly, how to organize and deliver welfare state services for the non-infected parts of the society? How to organize and manage services that help to cope with the effects of school closures and the shutdown of the public and economic life?

However, Covid-19-induced uncertainty shapes not only the presence of welfare service delivery. Uncertain is also the future of the welfare state since the pandemic has determined a breakdown of the previous economic systems and thus the funding of the welfare state. While the Covid-19 pandemic is a societal experience of not knowing, of ambivalence and objections, one consequence of the global disease seems to be certain: The pandemic, and the political and societal responses to this pandemic, have contributed to a steep increase in inequality in terms of wealth, employment and health. Welfare state services are needed to mitigate these effects, and innovative social services are crucial since new fragile groups have become visible during the crisis.

The future is characterized by uncertainty rather than risk as it was in the past. 'Risk' means that a probability can be related to different scenarios. 'Uncertainty' means that scenarios cannot be related to a probability. Previous welfare systems and welfare society models were based on probabilistic forecast (population demography, illnesses, chronicity, public expenditure trends). Professionals, policy makers, and managers of welfare state service providers are used to decide under risk conditions but are not used to and fear uncertainty situations.

In the this year's PSG XX annual meeting, we encourage to consider the role of uncertainty in professional social service delivery, and we invite to reflect what can be learnt from this situation of uncertainty for the future of welfare state governance and professionalism. Insights on a broad spectrum of themes are welcomed, including, but not restricted to:

- What are the limits of recent approaches to manage risk and uncertainty in professional social service delivery?
- What are the pillars of post-Covid-19 welfare state governance and professionalism? How should future professional social service delivery be organized and managed?
- What does professionalism in a post-Covid-19 society mean? Are new professional profiles necessary? How should we prepare and qualify professionals to cope with uncertainty? Are lifelong learning programs addressed to welfare professionals?
- What are sustainable frameworks for future welfare systems? How can we create synergies among public and self-help programs, not-for-profit third sector, CSR policies and benefit corporations? How can intergeneration alliances be supported and strengthened both in workplace and on the societal level?

- What is the role of (digital) welfare technologies in post-Covid-19 welfare state governance and professionalism?

In our PSG, we welcome different types of papers that explore these themes in a conceptual, theoretical, empirical, analytical, explanatory or prescriptive way.

The deadline for paper proposals is **April 30, 2021**. Please submit your paper proposal (of max. 400 words) via the 2021 Conference Management System at <https://www.conftool.org/egpa-conference2021> . The deadline for the selection of the accepted papers by the co-chairs is May 25, 2021. Full papers of the accepted proposals are due by August 10, 2021.

## Practicalities

### *Important dates:*

- ✓ Deadline for submission of Abstracts: April 30, 2021
- ✓ Deadline for notification to the authors: no later than May 25, 2021
- ✓ Deadline for online submission of full papers: August 10, 2021
- ✓ EGPA 2021 Conference: September 7-10, 2021

EGPA 2021 Conference Website: <https://www.egpa-conference2021.org/>

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## Chairs of the Permanent Study Group XX:

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