



**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***

***PhD Symposium for Doctoral Students and  
Junior Researchers - 7 September 2021***

***Call-for-Papers***

## EGPA PhD Symposium

### *Mission Statement of EGPA's PhD Project: Why participate?*

EGPA's PhD symposium provides an ideal opportunity for young researchers to immerse themselves in an international and interdisciplinary research community. The symposium is right for you, if you are a doctoral student or junior researcher pursuing research in the broadly defined fields of public administration and public management. You'll be part of an engaged community of your peers and experienced scholars who will share their insights on doing research and also on building an academic and/or professional career.

In particular, as a participant of the symposium you will have a chance,

- 1) ... to improve your research skills and to strengthen your background in theoretical and methodological approaches;
- 2) ... to present and test your ideas and research approaches in a "risk-free", yet high-caliber academic setting;
- 3) ... to broaden your academic horizon by putting your research in a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective;
- 4) ... to develop your own publication and resume-building strategies by way of dialogue with established researchers and academics;
- 5) ... to build an international network of young and engaged scholars in the field as a base for future collaborative projects;
- 6) ... to win the EGPA PhD Best Paper Award 2021.

### **Format and Organization of the 2021 EGPA PhD symposium: What is on offer?**

At the heart of the symposium lies the *discussion of your papers in small groups*. The composition of the discussion groups will reflect the plurality of disciplinary and methodological approaches in the European public administration / management community. Each group will be convened by an established expert in the field.

We will dedicate ample time for in-depth discussion of each contribution. Your presentations, however, are not so much meant to be "conventional" paper presentations as critical reflections on your own research. Based on individual contributions, we will engage in interactive sessions that will give specific feedback and address your questions. In order to facilitate learning from each other, a discussant will be assigned to each presenter. It flows from this that completed papers will be circulated among group participants well ahead of our meeting in Brussels.

Our workshop content will be driven by your current research interests. To keep discussion groups small and focused, three *thematic tracks* – running in parallel and being chaired by individual co-conveners – will be formed based on the responses from participants and covering the breadth of our disciplines and fields of expertise in the broad academic community of public administration, management, and policy. It flows from this that our call invites proposals from a rich variety of research

areas and approaches – provided your proposal reflects upon the theoretical base of your research design and discusses your methodological approach.

The symposium is open only to invited and *active participants*. Each accepted participant is expected to deliver a paper, present it during the symposium and act as discussant of another paper. The time frame for each paper will be as follows: presentation by author: 15 to 20 minutes, comments by discussant: 10 to 15 minutes, open debate and reply by author: 15 minutes. Both the presentations and the subsequent feedbacks and discussions are expected to contribute to the improvement of papers and to improve their chance of future publication.

In addition to thematic tracks that run parallel to each other, a joint plenary session revolving around key questions of publication strategies and how to get published is on offer.

The symposium is also a forum designed to promote professional networking with other workshop participants as well as members of the European public administration / management research community more generally.

## Certificates and Best Paper Award

Upon completion of the symposium, all participants will receive a certificate. In addition, the conveners of the symposium will consider the most innovative and rigorous papers for the 2021 EGPA PhD Award.

## Submission of abstracts and evaluation process: How to apply?

Selection of participants will be based on the review of the complete application package. Please submit **one single document** including the following information:

1. **Personal details:**
  - a. Name of applicant;
  - b. Institutional affiliation (university/department);
  - c. Name(s) of supervisor(s) of doctoral work;
  - d. Area and topic of the dissertation or PhD project;
  - e. Year in which you started your doctoral work;
  - f. Affiliation with a PhD school or program (if applicable).
2. **Paper abstract (1,000 words max.):** Please provide details of your proposed paper: title, underlying problems, clear research questions, research design and methodological orientation, relevant theories and theoretical/analytical approaches, first hypotheses and propositions, expected findings and results, problems and challenges the author may face in the research.
3. **Letter of motivation (300 words max.):** What do you want to get out of this symposium? How advanced is your project? How will your contribution benefit other participants? How is your proposed paper related to your PhD project?

When submitting your abstract, please make sure you qualify as the single author of the proposed

paper. Abstracts will be judged against the following criteria: a) originality; b) theoretical foundations; c) rigor and appropriateness of methodology; d) potential contribution to advancing the relevant fields of public administration and management.

The symposium is open to all PhD students and junior researchers who wish to get involved in the international public administration and management research community hosted by EGPA.

The deadline for submission of your complete application package is **May 15, 2021 (only as online submission directly through the EGPA 2021 Conference Management System at: <https://www.conftool.org/egpa-conference2021/>**

## Practicalities: What you need to know

### *Important dates:*

- ✓ Deadline for online submission of complete application materials: May 15, 2021
- ✓ Nomination of accepted papers and notification of participants: May 31, 2021
- ✓ Deadline for online submission of full papers: August 10, 2021
- ✓ Assignment of discussants: August 17, 2021
- ✓ PhD symposium: 7 September 2021.

### *Venue of the symposium:*

The EGPA PhD Symposium will be held on September 7, 2021 in hybrid or virtual mode depending on the public health regulations. For this event, EGPA has teamed up with Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). The PhD Symposium is an integral part of the annual EGPA conference, which is scheduled from 7-10 September at the same venue, if hybrid mode is an option.

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, the organizers will monitor the situation and the PhD Symposium can be turned into a virtual mode. The selected candidates will be informed accordingly.

### *Participation fee:*

A special participation fee will be charged for the symposium. In addition, participants will have privileged access to the EGPA conference. The combined fee for both events will be also available (as well as a reduced fee for the EGPA conference alone for PhD students). All fees are exclusive of accommodation. The rates will be available on the Conference website.

### *Conference Website:*

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

Please note that only applicants with an **accepted paper** for presentation can register for the symposium.

*Contact details of chair and conveners:*

A team of established faculty members will serve as conveners of discussion groups and sessions. Also, we will commission additional experts to contribute to the program of the symposium.

- Bert George, Professor of Public Management (University of Ghent), e-mail: [bert.george@ugent.be](mailto:bert.george@ugent.be) (co-convener)
- Karen Johnston, Professor of Organisational Studies (University of Portsmouth), e-mail: [karen.johnston@port.ac.uk](mailto:karen.johnston@port.ac.uk) (co-convener)
- Eckhard Schroeter, Professor of Public Administration (German University of the Police, Münster), e-mail: [eckhard.schroeter@dhpol.de](mailto:eckhard.schroeter@dhpol.de) (chair)

Please refer all academic questions about your participation in the symposium directly to the chair of the symposium.

EGPA contact person : Dr. Fabienne Maron  
E-mail : [f.maron@iias-iiisa.org](mailto:f.maron@iias-iiisa.org)