

Continuity and Change in Public Policy and Management

Christopher Pollitt, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium and **Geert Bouckaert**, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and European Group for Public Administration, Belgium

'This lucid, vivid and intelligent book on "continuity and change" in policy and management by Pollitt and Bouckaert follows in the footsteps of Pollitt's previous book on the issue of time, a vital but often neglected issue. In the present book the focus is on comparisons: Britain and Belgium, hospitals and police, national and local, and comparison over time. Again conceptually rich, this book makes you think. The best a book can do.'

– Walter Kickert, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

'Students working on case studies often complain that theory comes in the way of the actual story. This study provides an inspiring example of the opposite. While the authors indeed strongly draw on their extensive theoretical knowledge, this is done in such an elegant and subtle way that this book becomes a real pleasure to read. It is a welcome reminder that excellent research is not only methodologically sound and theoretically relevant, but can also be genuinely interesting and simply fun to read.'

– Jeroen Maesschalck, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

'This ambitious analysis of public policy and management ranges over time, across two fields (hospitals and police), two contrasting country systems (Belgium and the United Kingdom) and levels of government. Using a grounded approach to address the complexities and subtleties of different layers and rates of change, the study provides a pioneering and profound analysis that few current books in public management and policy can equal. The concluding chapters on theories of change and doctrines of comparison (essentially methodology) provide masterly reflections on policy and management, and theoretical insights for further examination.'

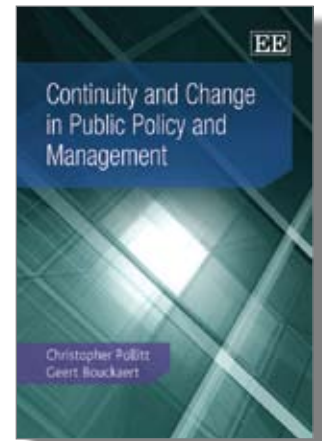
– John Halligan, University of Canberra, Australia

Continuity and Change in Public Policy and Management offers a major reconsideration of patterns in long-term policymaking and organizational change. Christopher Pollitt and Geert Bouckaert use international and inter-sectoral comparison to challenge some currently fashionable models of policymaking.

Combining theory development, international comparison and original case study analysis, two of Europe's leading public policy and management scholars apply and develop some of the main models of policy change and offer a revealing long-term view of policy developments since 1965. Drawing on an extensive programme of elite interviews and documentary analysis they provide an integrated treatment of national and local policymaking in two major public services – hospital care and the police – in England and Belgium. This timely book addresses the 'paradigm wars' in public policy, arguing for a nuanced intermediate position that challenges the orthodox and the post-modernists alike.

Contents: Preface 1. Theory and Method in Comparative Studies of Organizational Change 2. National Reforms: The Belgian and English Regimes 3. National Reforms: Hospitals 4. National Reforms: Police 5. National Reforms: Intersectoral Comparison 6. What Happened Locally? Hospitals 7. What Happened Locally? Police 8. Reflections on Theories of Change 9. Reflections on Doctrines of Comparison Appendix: The Brighton–Leuven Project References Index

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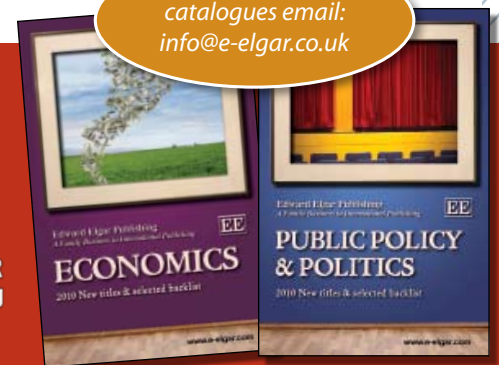
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