

# MEPP

**Master of European Politics and Policies**

Member of *European Master in Public*

*Administration* network

Parkstraat 45 Box 3609 3000 Belgium



KATHOLIEKE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
LEUVEN

## TOPICS FOR DISSERTATIONS 2010-2011

### PUBLIC MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

*Prof. G. Bouckaert*

- Reforming financial / personnel/ organisation/ strategic/ ... management in the public sector: the case of the central/ intermediate/ local government in COUNTRY
- Linking quality, satisfaction and trust in (name of public service).
- Managing performance in (COUNTRY).
- Contracting for performance: the case of (name of specific service).

*Prof. M. Brans*

*The following issues concerning Policy-making in Europe can be dealt with:*

- Evaluation in the European Parliament: what role to play in evaluating European policies?
- Evaluation in the European Commission: a mapping exercise.
- European Think Tanks in Brussels: who are they, what do they stand for, what are their products and who are their (financial) masters?
- Regulatory impact analysis in the European Union
- Science policy in the European Union: an analysis of social sciences research.
- The European District in Brussels: an analysis of policy and public space.
- Analysis of old and new methods of public consultation and participation in European Union policy making
- Foresight in the European Union.
  - Analysis of developments and practices of foresight in the EU.
  - Current capacities and institutions for foresight practices in the EU.
  - The role of European institutions in initiating and promoting European foresight exercises.
  - Analysis of foresight practices in a specific European policy domain.
  - (comparative) Analysis of development and practices of foresight within one (or more) European member state(s).

*Prof. K. Verhoest / Dr. J. Matthijs*

*All issues can be studied dealing with public sector organization and related changes.*

Comparative studies on:

- Structure of core-government
- Autonomy and control of public agencies (promoter: J. Matthijs)
- Marketization of public services (promoter: J. Matthijs)
- Liberalization and privatization of public services
- The organization of government as a market regulator
- Government and policy networks: government as a network manager
- The influence of politico-administrative culture on the structure and control of public administration
- Public private partnerships
- Corporate governance in public enterprises

*Dr. W. Vandenabeele*

(Contact: [wouter.vandenabeele@soc.kuleuven.be](mailto:wouter.vandenabeele@soc.kuleuven.be))

**Motivation in the public sector: public service motivation.**

The motivation of staff has recently received a lot of scientific attention. More and more, motivation is considered to be a critical variable in a variety of HR processes within the public sector.

Public service motivation (PSM) refers to the reasons people might have to fight for the common welfare of society. PSM is also linked to job satisfaction, performance, commitment to the organization and many other forms of organizational behaviour. In addition, there are, of course, other, more classic aspects to motivation such as resistance, remuneration, working conditions or relationships on the work floor.

Within this theme not all answers have been found yet. There is a need to study what causes PSM and which factors can explain the presence or absence of PSM. Further more, there is the question to the consequences of PSM, both at the individual and organizational level and in what specific contexts it plays a role.

Dissertations would try to find answers to these questions within specific organisations or the implicit or explicit motivation policy of an organization in a broader context. In addition, there is also the possibility to link existing datasets with new ones (i.e. you own) and do comparative research on them.

## GUEST PROFESSORS

*Dr. Ana Maria Dobre*

(Max. 2 students)

(Contact: [anamaria.dobre@soc.kuleuven.be](mailto:anamaria.dobre@soc.kuleuven.be))

- European Cohesion Policy: from its historical development to current reforms
- The links between European Cohesion Policy and the Europe 2020 Strategy
- The future European Cohesion Policy: Proposals for post-2013 Cohesion Policy Reforms
- Regional development policy: case studies
- The Europeanisation of Member and Candidate countries in the field of territorial and regional governance
- (Comparative) Analysis of state traditions in Europe and beyond: from federalism, regionalism and multi-level governance to centralism

*Dr. Pieter Bouwen*

(Max. 2 students)

(Contact: [pieter.bouwen@soc.kuleuven.be](mailto:pieter.bouwen@soc.kuleuven.be))

- What can the " Bologna" process learn us about EU policy-making and EU integration? Notwithstanding the mainly intergovernmental nature of education policy, the Bologna process in European higher education has been driving forward a harmonisation process in higher education in Europe and beyond. What can this learn us about EU policy-making and EU integration? What can it learn us about the role of the Commission?
- Lessons from the crisis in the eurozone: strengthening economic governance of EMU. The economic and financial crisis has revealed a number of (institutional) weaknesses of economic policy-making in the eurozone and the EU in general. Without having relying on treaty change, the economic governance framework needs to be strengthened. How will the EU drive economic integration forward without treaty change? What are the politics behind this process? Can sufficient progress

*Dr. Yves Dejaeghere*

(Contact: [yves.dejaeghere@soc.kuleuven.be](mailto:yves.dejaeghere@soc.kuleuven.be))

Bringing Europe Home: The Role of Brussels-Based Foreign Journalists in Translating Europe to Home Audiences.

A handful of journalists in Brussels are the filters for what half a billion European Citizens get to hear on the EU in the media. ... How do they choose their subjects? Which institutions are mainly in the spotlight? What gets through the filter in their homeland? Are they themselves Euro-enthusiasts? What does their EU-network look like? A survey among journalists could bring answers to these questions.

Research group on the EU as an International Actor

*The research group on 'the EU as an International Actor' conducts research on four main topics.*

*First, on the dynamics of the interaction between the European Commission and the EU member states in external negotiations on first pillar issues (such as trade, or the environment).*

*Secondly, on the political economy of EU trade policy-making processes with a focus on Transatlantic trade relations and interest group activities in the context of the WTO, attention to US decision-making procedures in this area.*

*Third, on the foreign policy of the European Union. New concepts of foreign policy are: structural power and structural foreign policy.*

*Fourth, on multilevel governance and the interaction between international, European, national and regional levels of governance, interaction between public and private actors.*

*And finally, on the relations between the EU and Asia, European and Asian models of integration and cooperation.*

*Prof. S. Keukeleire*

*Issues related to dimensions of "structural foreign policy" of the EU (possible case-study: the EU's policy towards Kosovo):*

- 'Technical Assistance' - or the role of consultants and other private actors in the preparation and implementation of EU foreign policy.
- 'Good governance', administrative capacities and the neglect of the educational sector in the state-building policies of the EU.
- 'Good governance', administrative capacities and the neglect of the salary problematic in the state-building policies of the EU.
- 'Good governance', rule of law and the resolution of the salary problematic in the state-building policies of the EU, OSCE and UN.

*Issues related to the institutional and organisational changes in EU foreign policy since the Treaty of Lisbon:*

- An evaluation of the new European External Action Service (EEAS).
- An evaluation of the European Commission's DG Development after the creation of the EEAS
- An evaluation of the units in the EEAS that are responsible for the civilian-crisis management operations in the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)
- An evaluation of the first years of the European Defence Agency (EDA)
- An evaluation of the industrial and technological dimension of the CSDP after the Lisbon Treaty

*Prof. F. Govaerts*  
(Max. 3-5 students)

- The position of the EU's neutral member-states versus CFSP and ESDP : an assessment.
- The various methods used in Europe's integration process: an analysis (community-method; intergovernmental cooperation; open method of co-ordination; initiatives outside the EU framework integrated at a later stage; etc.).
- The 'permissive consensus' (Lindberg and Scheingold, 1970) re-examined.
- How does Switzerland survive in the middle of EU-land? Politics of 'cherry-picking'?
- Trade-unions and European integration.

*Prof. F. Delmartino*

(Please note: Due to retirement, the official promotorship will be taken by prof. Keukeleire)

(Max. 5 students)

- The process of constitutionalization in the EU ( 2000 - 2009)
- Analysis of the referenda on the Constitutional Treaty and the Treaty of Lisbon.
- Regional development policy : case studies
- The EU's communication policy in reaction to the democratic deficit
- Federal-type arrangements in the EU's policy- and decision-making process
- The presidency of the European Council: evaluation and prospects

*Prof. B. Kerremans*

*Students can choose a topic related to the course 'International Political economy'.*

### Research Group on Russia and Eurasia

*At the Institute for International and European Policy professor Malfliet leads a team of young scholars whose research projects deal with recent institutional, legal, social and political changes in Central Europe and the CIS countries. The research unit employs approaches from comparative politics, comparative law, international relations and area studies, and provides a forum for doctoral and postdoctoral studies. The current team gathers both Belgian scholars and researchers from Central and Eastern Europe conducting joint and individual research projects.*

*Prof. Dr. K. Malfliet*

*Students can choose a topic related to the course 'Russian Politics'.*

### Centre for Peace Research and Strategic Studies (CPRS)

*The Centre for Peace Research and Strategic Studies conducts research on conflict transformation, the prevention of violent conflicts, including the development of a methodology for Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (P-CIAS), sustainable peace building architecture and sustainable peace building leadership, democratic transition and peace building, and the political economy of conflicts.*

*Prof. A. Langer*

*Students can choose a topic related to the course 'Strategy and Global Security Analysis'.*