

## **IRSPM 2019 - 'ReNewing Public Management for Stewardship, Innovation and Impact'.**

### **Panel 20: Public policy and public financial management in small island states**

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#### **Overview of panel**

Geographical isolation and relatively low populations can lead to challenges in achieving effective public policy impact and financial stewardship in small island states, particularly in those considered to be developing countries. Other common challenges often raised in existing literature include limited land and natural resources, vulnerability to severe weather events and climate change, restricted access to trade and private capital, and difficulty in attracting and retaining talented public servants.

Traditional approaches to building public policy and public financial management capacity and introducing lasting, effective reforms in small island developing states have arguably had limited success. Many continue to plan and implement public policy reforms, often with the assistance of international development partners, but also through peer learning and regional approaches. This panel will examine innovative approaches to public policy and stewardship, with a focus on impact for citizens in small island states.

#### **Participants and audience**

It is anticipated that this panel will be of interest to both academics and practitioners. Contributors and attendees are likely to include regional and international academics, government officials, international and multi-national development agencies, and regional think tanks. The New Zealand location makes it significantly more accessible, with regard to both time and money, to researchers and practitioners from nearby small island states than many other international conferences.

#### **Contribution to public management**

Combining public policy research with implementation knowledge and experience is intended to encourage debate of real-world public policy issues, challenges, and ideally, innovative yet practical solutions. Awareness of the conference and participation of both academics and practitioners will be actively encouraged through regional and international public policy and public finance networks.

#### **Potential papers**

We will welcome abstracts for papers on a variety of topics relevant to public policy and public finance in small island states. Potential topics may include:

- Cases studies – highlighting public policy and public finance successes and / or failures
- Innovation vs. simple good practice – are the basics just too hard?
- Collaborative regional approaches to reform and implementation – innovation or necessity?
- Citizen engagement – can governments genuinely engage in participatory policy and budget development processes in small island states?
- Managing finite resource wealth – are sovereign wealth funds the best solution?
- Foreign aid and recipient government reforms – how much does one drive the other?
- Economic diversification – how can government policy encourage investment and growth in non-traditional economic sectors?
- Trends in public policy innovation and impact – can worldwide trends such as behavioural economics be effective in small island states?
- The Blue Economy – just jargon or a genuine opportunity?