Title:
Dividing government and designing public service organisations.

Chair/s:
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Panel description:
Governments use a variety of organisational forms to divide their operations into smaller administrative units and organisations: ministries, departments, agencies, companies, etc. In some cases, these are simply to make the size or breadth of any given unit more manageable. Elsewhere, governments are seeking to create some sense of independence or 'arms-length' by creating a separate entity. Some organisations have been created as checks on others. Others were created to give greater prominence to a particular issue.

This panel seeks explore agencification and other theories for the division of government functions, including contingent theories in reference to Wilson's typology of bureaucratic organisations. Papers should explore theory or evidence relevant to the design, management, and control of organisations. Example questions may include:
- On what basis should public service organisations be divided?
- Have administrative divisions demonstrated the intended benefits?
- Do arms-length bodies offer performance advantages/disadvantages?
- Are there advantages to relatively small or large organisations, or few versus many?
- How can governments work effectively across these administrative boundaries?
- Are there alternatives to the division of government into discrete organisations, as a way to manage size/breadth of functions, independence, and prominence/priority?