

SIG Panel Proposal

The Practice Panel (*SIG: Connecting Researchers and Practitioners for Improved Outcomes*)

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The Practice Panel's focus in Wellington in 2019 is on meeting the challenges of renewal, as the public sector moves beyond the paradigms of neo-liberalism, austerity and New Public Management that have characterised the past twenty years.

Trust in institutions has notably diminished in the recent past. We seek papers that consider “where to from here”, how to achieve renewal and rebuild stewardship through the collaboration of researchers and practitioners. The concept of renewal we are developing is not just a reaction to the current state of public management. We see it as an on-going process of adaptation and regeneration which rests on new and resilient configurations of institutions and relationships between the academy and practitioners, enabling different responses to the emergent challenges of the future. Both empirical and reflective papers are welcome. We particularly encourage papers that present the shared perspectives of researchers and practitioners. We seek insights into how those perspectives have developed and created impact.

Over the more than 10 years that this panel has existed, we have noted an increasing interest in and desire to create a space within which practitioners, academics and professionals can share ideas, reflect on their respective practice and co-create new ways of engaging with and learning from each other. The contribution of the SIG in general, through this panel and linked global dialogues, will be to continue to provide the platform for dialogue between public management researchers and practitioners, to support the development of innovative and impactful approaches to these questions.

Our panel takes the form of a facilitated dialogue where each paper contributes to and builds the discussion with everyone present engaging with the papers, the thinking and the challenges. The chairs are the discussants and facilitators. Contributions and discussions are consolidated and connected in a developing “storyboard” that allows synthesis and the development of cross-cutting insights over the three days of the panel.

We invite contributions which draw on practice and research relevant to these themes and which invite us to explore the spaces for critical reflection and thinking in this context... and perhaps some positive disruption.