

Call for Proposals

Mini-Conference on Methodological Pluralism in Public Management Research

Proposals Due: November 30, 2022

Conference Dates: May 18-19, 2023, University of Indiana-Bloomington

All are invited to submit a proposal to a research conference exhibiting the use of rigorous methods in the field of public management. Scholars within and outside the field of public management have pointed to concerns regarding the inability of research in the field to establish causal identification (James, Jilke, and Van Ryzin 2017). Others have cautioned the field not to focus on an overly narrow set of questions suited to examination using only those methods that offer heightened confidence in causal inference (Pollit 2016). Many, like ourselves, see merit in both arguments and recommend methodological pluralism without a lack of methodological rigor (Zhu, Witko, and Meier 2019).

The purpose of this mini-conference is to expose students and faculty in and beyond the field of public management to the range sophisticated methodologies used in the field. In particular, we hope to foster the learning of promising doctoral students by showcasing a range of questions and methodological approaches that adhere to a set of shared principles regarding carefully executed research. Papers and presentations may cover a variety of empirical contexts and engage empirical strategies that include but are not limited to experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational, Bayesian, qualitative, and additional approaches to addressing important theoretical questions in the field.

Please send a one page proposal and brief author biographies to Amanda Rutherford (aruther@indiana.edu) and Nathan Favero (favero@american.edu) by November 30, 2022. Notification regarding selection for inclusion in the conference will be conveyed by January 15, 2023. Contributors will be expected to develop their proposals into full papers to present at the conference on May 18-19, 2023 at Indiana University-Bloomington. The costs of travel, lodging, and meals during the conference will be covered for at least one author of each paper