

Symposium Proposal for Public Administration

greta.nasi@unibocconi.it

Unveiling the Dynamics of Digital Transformation in Public Administrations

Guest editors: Mila Gasco, Albert Meijer, Ines Mergel, Jae Moon, Greta Nasi

The adoption of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in public administrations has been a topic of discussion for decades, with recent attention. While often framed as a technological challenge, the practical reality for public managers involves significant institutional, organizational, and personnel development efforts. Agile digital transformation, characterized by flexible and iterative methodologies, offers a promising approach to navigating this complexity.

In this context, user engagement is crucial for the success of digital initiatives, extending beyond mere participation to encompass collaborative co-production. However, the academic understanding of the relationship between co-production and digital transformation still needs to be improved. Despite recognizing the importance of digital transformation, there is still a need to understand its actual processes, including the use of agile approaches. This symposium aims to explore the intricate dynamics of digital transformation within public administrations, focusing on organizational, service, performance, and collaboration dimensions.

Key questions to be addressed include the preconditions for successful transformation, how public managers balance traditional routines with agile practices, and how outcomes can be transferred into existing administrative frameworks. The symposium seeks to bridge these gaps through theoretical foundations and empirical evidence, welcoming diverse research methodologies and theoretical perspectives. Topics of interest include the evolution of ICT adoption, challenges faced by public managers, critical preconditions for successful transformation, methodologies defining agile digital transformation, user engagement, organizational arrangements facilitating transformation, and navigating traditional routines alongside agile practices. Through this comprehensive exploration, the symposium aims to contribute to a nuanced understanding of digital transformation, agile methodologies, and organizational change in the public sector, fostering both theoretical advancements and practical insights.

Timeline

Deadline for abstract proposals (about 1000 words, excluding references): September 1st, 2024

Feedback from guest editors: September 30th, 2024

Submission of full paper through PA system for peer-review: January 31st, 2025

Subject to the process of peer review, accepted papers will be published online as they are accepted, and the issue is planned to be published in the third quarter of 2026.

Abstracts: Abstracts should be about 1000 words, excluding references, and include the scope, methodology, preliminary findings, and contributions the manuscript makes. The deadline for abstract submission is September 1st, 2024. The format of research papers needs to comply with the styles of Public Administration. Abstract proposals and the first paper draft should be in MS Word format and submitted to Greta Nasi (greta.nasi@unibocconi.it) by email. The final submission of revised papers should be made directly to the online submission system.