



## PhD course in Public Administration (10 ECTS)

# “Accounting for Time: Public Bureaucracies in a Changing Environment”

*Funded by the Norwegian Research Council SAMEVAL project “ADM-IN-TIME: Longitudinal perspectives on local, central and supranational public bureaucracies”*

**15-21 June 2023**

**Venue:**

[Department of Government](#)  
[Christies gate 17, 5007 Bergen](#)  
[Seminar Room C17.112](#)  
[Ulike Pihls hus](#)  
[Seminar Room 4B \(20/06 only\)](#)

**Course Responsible**

[Prof. Zuzana Murdoch](#)

**Lecturers** (hyperlinked to their homepages)

[Prof. Chris Ansell, University of California, Berkeley](#)

[Prof. Benny Geys, BI Norwegian Business School](#)

[Prof. Klaus Goetz, LMU Munich](#)

[Prof. Muiris MacCarthaigh, Queens University Belfast](#)

[Prof. Jan Wynen, University of Antwerp](#)

### Topic and objectives

Issues of time, temporality and temporal dynamics are central to any form of organizational life. In a public sector environment, they are omnipresent when deciding on policy priorities (e.g., when and in what order to engage in certain actions), during policy programme development and implementation (e.g., budget cycles, setting up time budgets and horizons) as well as when dealing with turbulent environments due to major economic, health or terror-related crisis events (e.g., response speed, sequence, and length). Individual members of public sector organizations also evolve over time through processes of learning and socialization when they integrate in new teams or face changes within their organizational environment (such as leadership shifts or departmental mergers). While such distinctly temporal dimensions of organizational life have been studied extensively for private-sector organizations in the sociological and management literatures, accounting for ‘time’ and ‘what happens over time’ has only recently become a significant topic of academic research in public



administration and governance (e.g., Goetz, 2009, 2014; Ansell et al., 2021, 2022; Murdoch et al., 2021).

This course has three main goals. It aims to *i*) deepen students' theoretical and conceptual knowledge of time and temporal dynamics in public sector settings, *ii*) develop their understanding of the role of temporal dynamics and environmental turbulence for public management and governance (including 'robust' governance), as well as *iii*) strengthen their methodological toolbox to study temporal dynamics at the individual and organizational levels. To achieve these three aims, an important and unique feature of the course lies in its combination of *both* substantive *and* methodological modules, which will offer students thorough and comprehensive insights into the issues that arise from – and during – the study of public bureaucracies in a changing environment.

The course starts by providing an in-depth theoretical discussion of the concepts of time and temporality: What is the meaning of time as a concept, and how do people, organizations and even whole societies act with regard to time? What time rules and temporal practices characterise public sector organizations and contemporary forms of governance? How can we think about temporal dynamics and understand what happens over time? Next, the course turns to a number of empirical applications. The first of these relates to the role of temporal dynamics and environmental turbulence for public sector governance, which covers questions on whether, when and how major disruptive events call for new governance solutions, new forms of public administration leadership, and/or new forms public service delivery. The second empirical application moves attention to the organizational level and concentrates on the life cycle of public organizations. Key questions here include what affects the creation, reform and death of public sector organizations, and how these determinants differ across time, space and level of government.

Finally, the course delves into methodological tools and research designs that are vital to the study of temporal dynamics in Public Administration research. Existing public administration scholarship continues to rely mainly on cross-sectional research designs (i.e. comparing multiple staff members or public agencies at one point in time). However, careful empirical scrutiny of the dynamic aspects of public bureaucracies – and the civil servants working within them – requires research designs that account for temporal developments. Using a hands-on approach, the course examines the strengths, pitfalls, technical characteristics and data requirements of several novel tools that have in recent years become available to public administration researchers.

### **Course contents**

- Time and public administration
- Public Organisations in Time: Evolution, Revolution and Resilience
- Public governance in turbulent times
- Methods for longitudinal Public Administration research

### **Learning outcomes**

After successfully completing this course, doctoral students should be able to:



- critically reflect on the concept of time and its various forms and roles within public organizations in a changing environment
- identify, discuss and value the role(s) of time for public sector governance, including environmental turbulence and robust governance.
- outline, develop and implement methodological strategies and research designs aimed at capturing temporal dynamics.

### Teaching methods

Instruction will comprise:

- Lectures; either physical at campus and/or at zoom.
- Presentations and discussions of research papers by students.
- Individual feedback on each students' research paper.

### Assessment

Examination for this course consists of two parts:

- Presentation and discussion of a research paper during on the seminar presentations.
- Hand-in of an individual research paper **Monday 21 August 2023** (5000 words +/- 10%).

Participation in all lectures and seminar presentations is mandatory.

### Eligibility

Students that register for this course should be enrolled in a PhD-programme. Exceptions for students enrolled for a master's degree programme will be considered *if capacity allows*, though PhD students will be given priority.

The course is open to an international audience. Maximum 15 students will be admitted.

### Language of instruction

English

### Organizing institution

Department of Government, University of Bergen, Norway.

### Application deadline: Sunday 30 April 2023

Applications for the course should be submitted *via email* to [zuzana.murdoch@uib.no](mailto:zuzana.murdoch@uib.no). Applicants must submit their CV along with a brief statement (250-400 word) that describes how temporality and temporal dynamics are relevant to – and will be addressed within – their own doctoral research. Admittance to the course is based in part on this statement.

Decisions about course admittance will be communicated by Monday 15 May 2023.

### Registration deadline: Wednesday 31 May 2023

Correspondence: Prof. Zuzana Murdoch: [zuzana.murdoch@uib.no](mailto:zuzana.murdoch@uib.no)



## Day-to-day programme

### Thursday 15 June 2023

Location: Christies gate 17; Seminar Room C17.112

09.00-09.15: Introduction to the course

Prof. Zuzana Murdoch

09.15-11.45: Module I: “*Multiple times and synchronisation in public administration*”

Lecturer: Prof. Klaus Goetz (Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich)

11:45-12.00: coffee & cake break

12.00-13.00: Paper presentations by PhD students (2 presentations)

12.30-13.00: Santiago Quintero Suarez (King’s College London)

13.00-13.30: Kiflie Worku Angaw (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

### Friday 16 June 2023

Location: Christies gate 17 Seminarrom 17.112

09.15-11.45: Module II: “*Public Organisations in Time: Evolution, Revolution and Resilience*”

Lecturer: Prof. Muiris MacCarthaigh (Queens University Belfast)

11:45-12.00: coffee & cake break

12.00-13.00: Paper presentations by PhD students (2 presentations)

12.30-13.00: Joël Bühler (University of Barcelona)

13.00-13.30: Oscar Nowlan (LSE)

### Sunday 18 June 2023

Social event – PhD Course Dinner on top of Ulriken

### Monday 19 June 2023

Location: Christies gate 17 Seminarrom 17.112

09.15-11.45: Module III: “*Robust Governance in Turbulent Times*”

Lecturer: Prof. Chris Ansell (University of California, Berkeley)

11:45-12.00: coffee & cake break

12.00-13.00: Paper presentations by PhD students (2 presentations)

12.30-13.00: Rógvi Olavson (University of the Faroe Islands)

13.00-13.30: Egna Sidumo (Chr. Michelsen Institute, University of Bergen)

### Tuesday 20 June 2023

Location: Ulrike Pihls hus Seminarrom 4B

09.15-11.45: Module IV: “*Tools to Study Temporal Dynamics in Public Administration Research*”



Lecturer: Prof. Jan Wynen (University of Antwerp)

Lecturer: Prof. Benny Geys (BI Norwegian Business School)

11:45-12:00: coffee & cake break

12.00-13.00: Paper presentations by PhD students (2 presentations)

12.30-13.00: Betina Slagnes (University of Oslo)

13.00-13.30: Petra Bayerová (Comenius University of Bratislava)

### **Wednesday 21 June 2023**

Location: Christies gate 17 Seminarrom 17.112

09.15-13.00: *Paper presentations by PhD students* (6 presentations)

09.15-09.45: Bjørn Mo Forum (University of Oslo)

09.45-10.15: Malul Azam (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

10.15-10.45: Malte Reske (Central European University Vienna)

#### **Break**

11.00-11.30: Nastassia Harbuzova (Tallinn University of Technology)

11.30-12.00: Vibeke Kroken (University of Bergen)

12.00-12.30: Guilherme Lira (Corvinus University of Budapest)

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### **Reading List: (PRELIMINARY)**

#### **Module I: “Multiple Times and Synchronisation in Public Administration”**

##### **Essential readings:**

Goetz, K.H. (2014). Time and Power in the European Commission. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 80 (3): 577-596.

Goetz, K. H. and Meyer-Sahling, J. H. (2009). Political Time in the EU: Dimensions, Perspectives, Theories. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 16 (2): 180-201.

Goetz, K. H. et al. (2022) Money and Time: Budgeting and Resourcing in International Public Administrations, in C. Knill et al. (eds) *International Public Administrations in Global Public Policy*, London: Routledge, Ch. 9.

Howlett, M. (2021). Temporality and the Analysis of Policy Processes, in K. H. Goetz (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Time and Politics*, online first.

##### **Recommended readings:**

Howlett, M. and Goetz, K.H. (2014). Introduction: Time, Temporality and Timescapes in Administration and Policy. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 80 (3), 477-492.

Patz, R. and K. H. Goetz (2019). Managing Money and Discord in the UN: Budgeting and Bureaucracy. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapters 1 and 2; pp1-59.



Patz, R., Thorvaldsdottir, S. and K. H. Goetz (2022). Accountability and Affective Styles in Administrative Reporting: The Case of UNRWA, 1951-2020. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 32 (1), 111-129.

**Module II: “Public Organisations in Time: Evolution, Revolution and Resilience”**

**Essential readings:**

Boin, A. Kuipers, S. and Steenbergen, M (2010) The life and death of public organizations: A question of institutional design? *Governance* 23(3): 385–410 <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-0491.2010.01487.x>

Hardiman, A. and Scott, C. (2010) Governance as Polity: An institutional approach to the evolution of state functions in Ireland. *Public administration*, 88(1): 170-189. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9299.2009.01794.x>

Lim, J.Y. (2021). The evolution of research on organizational termination. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 87(1): 191–207. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020852319852663>

MacCarthaigh, M. and Roness, P.G. (2012) Analyzing Longitudinal Continuity and Change in Public Sector Organizations, *International Journal of Public Administration*, 35(12): 773-782, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01900692.2012.715567>

Sieberer, U., Meyer, T., Bäck, H., Ceron, A., Falcó-Gimeno, A., Guinaudeau, I., . . . Persson, T. (2019). The Political Dynamics of Portfolio Design in European Democracies. *British Journal of Political Science*, 51(2): 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123419000346>

**Recommended readings:**

Carroll, B.J.; Bertels, J.; Froio, C.; Kuipers, S.; Schulze-Gabrechten, L. and Viallet-Thévenin, S. (2020) Between life and death: Organizational change in central state bureaucracies in cross-national comparison. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*. 88 (4): 943-59. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020852320964558>

Hardiman, N., MacCarthaigh, M. and Scott, C. 2023. *The Irish State Administration Database*. <http://www.isad.ie>.

Hardiman, N. & Scott, C. (2012) Ordering Things: The Irish State Administration Database, *Irish Political Studies*, 27(1): 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07907184.2012.636179>

Hernes, V. (2021) Policy preferences and ministerial structures: Immigrant integration governance in Western Europe, 1997–2017. *Governance*. 34(1): 127– 146. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12481>.

Irish State Administration database (ISAD, [www.isad.ie](http://www.isad.ie)) provides a century of data on the Irish state administration.

MacCarthaigh, M. (2014), Agency Termination In Ireland: Culls And Bonfires, Or Life After Death? *Public Administration*, 92(4): 1017-37. [Doi.Org/10.1111/Padm.12093](https://doi.org/10.1111/Padm.12093).



Wynen, J., Verhoest, K., Kleizen, B. (2017). More reforms, less innovation? The impact of structural reform histories on innovation-oriented cultures in public organizations. *Public Management Review*, 19(8): 1142-1164. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14719037.2016.1266021>

### **Module III: “Robust Governance in Turbulent Times”**

#### **Essential readings:**

Ansell, C., E. Sørensen, J. Torfing and J. Trondal (2023). “*Robust Governance in Turbulent Times*”. Cambridge University Press. Manuscript app. 30 000 words (will be made available)

#### **Recommended readings:**

Ansell, C., Sørensen, E., & Torfing, J. (2022). Public administration and politics meet turbulence: The search for robust governance responses. *Public Administration*. (Introduction to a special issue).

Ansell, C., & Trondal, J. (2018). Governing turbulence: An organizational-institutional agenda. *Perspectives on public management and governance*, 1(1), 43-57.

### **Module IV: “Tools to Study Temporal Dynamics in Public Administration Research”**

#### **Essential readings:**

Geys, B. (2023). Fancy Seeing You Here... Again: A Method to Extract Individual-Level Panel Data from Repeated Cross-Sectional Surveys. (will be made available)

Bertelli, Anthony M., Dyana P. Mason, Jennifer M. Connolly, David A. Gastwirth (2015), Measuring Agency Attributes with Attitudes Across Time: A Method and Examples Using Large-Scale Federal Surveys, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 25(2): 513–544, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/mut040>.

Stritch, J.M. (2017). Minding the time: A critical look at longitudinal design and data analysis in quantitative public management research. *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, 37(2), 219-244.

Wynen, J, Verhoest, K, Kleizen, B. Are public organizations suffering from repetitive change injury? A panel study of the damaging effect of intense reform sequences. *Governance*. 2019; 32: 695– 713

#### **Recommended readings:**

Geys, B., Connolly, S., Kassim, H., & Murdoch, Z. (2020). Follow the Leader? Leader Succession and Staff Attitudes in Public Sector Organizations. *Public Administration Review*, 80(4), 555-564.

Wynen, J, Kleizen, B, Verhoest, K, Læg Reid, P, Rolland, V. Keeping a watchful eye in times of turmoil? How repeated structural reform leads to more attention to political signals. *Public Admin.* 2020; 98: 570– 590. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padm.12653>.