

One year in the game ... and *Welcome!* to the new co-editor

Lisa Hohensinn¹ & Jurgen Willems¹

¹ WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Department of Management, Institute for Public Management & Governance

Abstract

In this Editorial, Jurgen Willems welcomes Lisa Hohensinn as the new co-editor for Public Management and Governance Review (PMGR). Together they discuss the first reactions since the launch of the journal, future plans, and ambitions. They also reflect on intriguing topics that are currently or will increasingly be on the minds of practitioners and researchers in the field of public management and governance.

Key words

Welcome, public management, public governance, new developments, interview, from the classroom

A welcoming interview

Jurgen Willems (JW): Hi Lisa, welcome on board in this endeavor that we call Public Management and Governance (PMGR). The journal is now running for about a year, and the first articles have been available open access. We received quite a bit of good reactions from authors as well as readers. In the read-and-download statistics, we can also see that people have found their way to our first set of articles. By the way: Congratulations to Caitlin McMullin for the most read and downloaded article in the first year of PMGR[1]!

In the first edition, you also contributed as an author[2]. Which reactions did you receive and what do you consider the benefit for authors to write for Public Management and Governance Review?

Lisa Hohensinn (LH): Thank you for the warm welcome, Jurgen. One of the key advantages I see in PMGR is its unique ability to bridge research and practice. It allows us to share research findings and their implications directly with practitioners working in public management and governance on a daily basis. This opens a valuable dialogue and ensures that the latest academic insights are accessible and relevant to those in the field.

But the journal offers even more than that. For example, we've also published a data report that not only describes but also provides access to a new dataset[3]. This dataset can be a useful resource in teaching or serve as a foundation for speeches, lectures, and other public engagements. In this way, PMGR goes beyond the scope of traditional academic publications by actively facilitating knowledge transfer.

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A further great illustration of this is indeed the article by Caitlin McMullin on co-production[1]. Drawing on interviews that she conducted across several countries, she offers recommendations for practitioners on when and how co-production can be implemented meaningfully, benefiting both service providers and users. It's a perfect example of how research can inform and improve practice.

JW: In the meantime, we decided that you join as the co-editor for the journal. I am very happy with that. You have been involved in the board of other—more traditional—journals too. PMGR aims to focus on a complementary need in the scientific and practitioner literatures. What do you consider the most important strengths of Public Management and Governance Review, and whereto could it evolve in the years to come?

LH: It's a great pleasure to join as a co-editor of PMGR. With this journal, we aim to stimulate a meaningful dialogue between researchers and stakeholders. One of our key goals is to strengthen the interaction between practitioners and researchers. This exchange is mutually beneficial. Researchers gain by focusing on practically relevant issues and fulfilling their third mission of societal impact, while practitioners increasingly value evidence-based approaches to management and policy development. Collaborations with universities enable them to develop, test, and evaluate innovative ideas in public management and governance. It's becoming increasingly clear that researchers and practitioners can and should learn from each other. PMGR plays a vital role in building these bridges by publishing practically relevant research in open access format, making it easily available to a broader audience.

Looking ahead, we also envision the journal evolving into a true forum for two-way communication. That means creating space for practitioners to contribute, for instance, by sharing insights on how the implementation of a new management concept or technology is progressing, or by highlighting the real-world challenges they currently face in areas such as digital government, information disclosure, or inter-organizational collaboration.

JW: In terms of content, Public Management and Governance Review does not want to limit to particular topics. In the end, we aim to bring any relevant insights from academia—emerging or consolidated insights—to a broad audience of practitioners with public impact. What do you see as topics, challenges, and promising evolutions on which future articles could focus.

LH: In general, I believe the journal's audience is most interested in insights about the pressing challenges. For example, "*How to manage high levels of public debt?*" or "*How to address the growing shortage of skilled labor?*". At the same time, PMGR also has a responsibility to look ahead and provide guidance on concepts, approaches, and strategies that can help practitioners prepare for future challenges in public management and governance. Take technology as an example. While not all public organizations are adopting AI on a large scale (yet), I believe it's important to start thinking about the future of work and how technological advancements may transform work environments. The journal can play a valuable role here by fostering forward-looking discussions that help practitioners anticipate and adapt to change.

JW: For the moment, Public Management and Governance Review has three sections: Articles, Data Reports, and Editorials. Would there be room for another section, and why?

LH: The journal already offers a strong and diverse selection of sections. Nevertheless, in my view, there is indeed room for an additional section that is dedicated to bridge the gap between practice and academia, with a particular focus on teaching. This can be any kind of teaching, including teaching in executive programs, Master and Bachelor teaching, but also PhD training, and life-long learning. Being able to bridge scientific and pragmatic insights is a valuable competence, and the university classroom is a great place to start with developing these skills.



Concretely, this new section—*From the Classroom*—will contain case studies, tutorials, teaching scripts, classroom games, and other similar contributions. This section will provide a space for authors to combine theoretical frameworks with practical insights, and how they can be used to train managers of today and tomorrow. For example, case studies will not only offer valuable lessons for practitioners, but they will also serve as useful teaching materials in university classrooms. By showcasing how public management and governance concepts play out in practice, students can learn from valuable experiences from others.

Table 1: Overview of sections in Public Management and Governance Review.

	Editorials	Editors—or guest editors of special issues—provide their view on new topics, new developments in the field, and new initiatives.
	Articles	Articles are the core section of PMGR. The goal of <i>Articles</i> is to provide thoughtful recommendations for practitioners , based on scientific insights, data, experience, and research projects. While methodological elements are important and indeed need sufficient clarification, it should be supportive for the recommendations made, rather than having recommendations as a mere stylistic addition at the end of the discussion section—as it is often the case in traditional scientific journals[4].
	Data Reports	Data Reports give an accessible insight into data sets that are relevant for decision making in the area of public management and governance. With these data reports, authors make descriptive and/or analytic findings accessible in graphs, summaries, and descriptions. It can regard authors' own (new) data sets and/or reports on publicly available data sets.
	From the Classroom	This newly introduced section provides a platform for materials and insights that focus on teaching competencies for bridging between practice and academia. Concrete contributions are—among others—case studies, tutorials, teaching scripts, classroom games

The colors of the logos indicate the different sections in Public Management and Governance Review. The position of the letters varies for each article, as in the end: *No article is or should be the same*. The logo of the journal is based on a painting by Lisa Sauberer. Lisa's original painting is striking, bold, ebullient, and inspiring. Not coincidentally, these are also the elements that describe the ambitions of this journal.

JW: Thanks a lot, Lisa, for these ideas, insights and ... for joining the editors' team! I look very much forward to working with you. With you on board, we'll be able to publish many more interesting and impactful articles, from our institute and university, but also invited articles from engaged scholars and practitioners. The PMGR future is bright!



LH: Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute to this important endeavor. I'm truly excited to be part of PMGR that not only promotes high-quality research but also actively supports dialogue between academia and practice.

Authors bio

Lisa Hohensinn is associate professor in the Institute for Public Management and Governance, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria. She received her habilitation degree in business administration from WU Vienna and her doctoral degree in business administration from Johannes Kepler University Linz. She has been a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, as well as a visiting scholar at Suffolk University Boston and at the University of Mannheim. Her research interests include digital government, government openness and transparency, public trust in the political-administrative system, and comparative public management. Lisa Hohensinn is co-editor of *Public Management and Governance Review*.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0349-9965>

Jurgen Willems is professor for Public Management & Governance at the WU Vienna University of Economics and Business. He is also the Academic Director of two Executive MBA programs, focused on Life Sciences and Health Care Management at the WU Executive Academy. His teaching covers various management topics, including Organizational Behavior, Management & Digital Transformation, and Public and Nonprofit Governance. Jurgen Willems has been a visiting scholar at the University of Southern Denmark, the American University in Washington, l'Université de La Réunion, the University of Missouri, and the University of Texas at Austin. His research covers a variety of topics on citizen-state and citizen-society interactions.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4439-3948>

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