



2023 Public Administration Theory Network Annual Conference

THE GREAT RENEWAL OF THEORY, PRAXIS, AND PEDAGOGY

Hosted by the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University
Portland, Oregon | June 8-11, 2023



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Public Administration Theory Network (PAT-Net) was founded as a space for theoretical development of the field, and it has undergone substantial reinvention multiple times since its inception. At times, the field has also been lamented for lacking a theoretical, unifying thread. Amid the intersecting crises of the past several years, few venues have provided an opportunity to stop, reflect, share, and explore the underlying ontological perspectives inherent in public administration. Our goal in 2023 is to come together, both in person and virtually, to answer that call.

PAT-Net 2023 aims to revive these discussions in an open, honest, brave, and inspiring way. A wave of cultural, political, social, and economic shifts has contributed to a fragmentation in the intellectual direction of the Network. We ask - where should our energy be? How do we decolonize

epistemologies, knowledge systems, and western-centric approaches to theory building? Are critical theories the only path forward? What other lenses are needed, such as those from the Global South and indigenous systems of truth and theorizing? Do we desire a plurality of perspectives, or is there need for a particular ontological orientation? How can we expand understanding by building and borrowing from non-PA fields such as sociology, history, anthropology, political science, Latinx studies, Africana studies, South Asian studies, LGBTQ+, and gender studies? And how do academic institutions – specifically the Network – advance theoretical rigor, while also promoting *praxis*?

Our hosts at the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University offer an ideal landscape to gather and collectively reimagine the intersection of these challenging trends and opportunities for renewal. Despite a longstanding history of white supremacy in Oregon, Portland is renowned for its liberal leanings and has long been lauded for its progressive approaches to governance in areas such as planning and transportation. Yet, there is skepticism about how liberal Portland really is and how progressive its policies really are as its leaders are dogged by competing claims of who benefits. Many of the City's residents most at risk of harm continue to be marginalized from the City's governance processes and policy priorities. Further, questions linger about the effectiveness of the City's approach to governance and its policies. All of which has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and resurgence of racial justice movements.

We encourage all to join us for PAT-Net 2023. Let us embrace the opportunity to rethink theory collaboratively and collectively. In addition to engaging at the Portland State University campus, we will provide time for reflection and revitalization through the lens of local issues, texts, and in the diverse natural, artistic, recreational, and other inspiring public spaces afforded by the City.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The conference will include options for those seeking to present traditional papers and roundtable discussions, with both in-person and virtual options. We welcome proposals from theorists, scholars, practitioners, students, activists, and more. The committee especially encourages students, junior scholars, and scholars of Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQ+ communities, and international presenters to apply. There are three conference tracks to choose from:

1. **Theory:** sessions on theory development, building, and exploration
2. **Praxis:** sessions on engaging, applying, and testing theory in practice
3. **Pedagogy:** sessions on incorporating theory and praxis in teaching and learning

Panel Proposals

Panels are composed of 3-4 papers that are pre-arranged to address a common issue or theme. To ensure time for discussion, the preferred panel includes 3 papers and a discussant, or 4 papers and a moderator. Panel proposals should include:

- Title and a brief description of the panel and its relationship to the conference theme, not to exceed 150 words in length.
- An abstract of each participant's proposed paper, not to exceed 150 words in length and including title, participant's name, organizational affiliation, and e-mail address.
- Names, organizational affiliations, and e-mail addresses for the convener and moderator/discussant.
- Indicate Format: In-Person or Virtual
- Indicate Track: Theory, Praxis, or Pedagogy

Individual Paper Proposals

Individual paper proposals should include:

- Title of paper
- Name(s) of author(s), organizational affiliation(s) and e-mail address(es).
- An abstract not to exceed 150 words in length, which describes the substance of the paper and relation to the conference theme.
- Indicate Format: In-Person or Virtual
- Indicate Track: Theory, Praxis, or Pedagogy

Roundtable Discussions

Roundtables create provocative, interactive discussions between presenters and audience participants. Roundtables are arranged around a common theme or topic. They are composed of presenters who facilitate sessions, which are intended to be generative and engage the audience more than traditional paper presentations. Proposals should include:

- Title and a brief description of the roundtable and its relationship to the conference theme, not to exceed 150 words in length
- Names, organizational affiliations, and e-mail addresses for the conveners.
- Indicate Format: In-Person or Virtual
- Indicate Track: Theory, Praxis, or Pedagogy

How to Submit: Please upload your proposals at: <https://forms.gle/BhK2LCwyzXSmuiZ98>

Key Dates and Deadline: The deadline for submission is January 15, 2023, at 11:59pm (Central). Notifications of acceptance will be sent in February 2023. We intend to provide the program schedule in March to allow participants ample time to coordinate travel plans and join us in Portland.

Please direct any questions to the Program Committee Co-Chairs:

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