PMRC pre-conference workshop

Behavioral Science in Government
Nudging Outward and Inward to Bridge the Academic-Practitioner Divide

Co-Organizers

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The purpose of the workshop is to bring together a group of applied behavioral public administration scholars and practitioners to share the latest research and innovations in the application of behavioral interventions within government agencies. A second goal is to discuss and share strategies for finding (practitioner and academic) partners for applied behavioral science research. With the proposed workshop, we aim to also increase the capacity of public administration and management scholars who seek to enter the field of applied behavioral public administration.

We will have a group of behavioral public administration scholars and practitioners share their applied work on behavioural-informed trials within, or in partnership with, government agencies. Therefore, this workshop will provide the unique opportunity to diffuse knowledge and innovations in applied scholarship, and discuss their particular strength and weaknesses, with the aim of building an applied behavioral science community within public administration and management.

This workshop is aimed at any public administration and management scholar who plans to conduct behavioral-informed trials within, or in partnership with, government agencies. At the same time, we are open to, and explicitly invite, practitioners with an interested in behavioral insights to participate in the workshop.

Format of the workshop

The format of the workshop will include presentations of applied trials (15 minutes per presenter), with substantial time for questions and feedback from the audience (again, 15 minutes per presenter).

We will hold a total of three panels in the afternoon of June 11 so that participants can arrive in Chapel Hill on the 11th before noon. The first two panels will include presentations from a diverse set of scholars and practitioners.

The final panel will include a facilitated roundtable discussion, involving the organizers and a diverse set of discussants about using behavioral science to close the academic-practitioner divide in public administration and management research, including discussions about how scholars seeking to partner with government agencies can go about.

Workshop program
June 11 2019

Workshop start and introductions

12.30pm – 12.45pm

PANEL 1: *Nudging Outward*

12.45pm – 2.15pm

Panel presenters:
- Kelly LeRoux (University of Illinois at Chicago)
  Increasing Voter Turnout Among Underrepresented Groups: Does the Message Matter?
- Elana Safran (Office of Evaluation Sciences, GSA)
  Communicating Program Eligibility: A Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Field Experiment
- Ivan Lee (Rutgers University)
  Does source credibility matter for point-of-decision prompts? A quasi-experimental field study to increase stair use

PANEL 2: *Nudging Inward*

2.30pm -- 4.30pm

Panel presenters:
- Michael Hallsworth (Behavioral Insights Team)
  Nudging Public Officials in Practice
- Rekha Balu (MDRC/ Office of Evaluation Sciences, GSA)
  Changing public servant practices: learnings from multiple studies.
- Syon Bhanot (Swarthmore College)
  Testing Effects of Loss-Framing and Checklists: Evidence from a Field Experiment on Wellness Program Participation in Philadelphia
- Michael Siciliano (University of Illinois at Chicago)
  A Field Experiment on the Impact of Beneficiary Contact on Federal Employee Perceptions of Prosocial Impact and Social Worth

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: *Bridging the academic-practitioner divide*

4.45pm – 6.00pm

Moderated by Anjali Chainani (City of Philadelphia)

Discussion participants:
- Shannon Delaney (Durham i-team)
- Don Moynihan (Georgetown University)
- Randolph Lyon (National Academy of Public Administration)
- Peter Morrissey (Volcker Alliance)
- Elana Safran (Office of Evaluation Sciences, GSA)
- Richard Walker (City University of Hong Kong/ PMRA vice-president) *(pending availability)*