

TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR

What is Public Administration and Why Does It Matter? Understanding the Constitutional Sources of Legitimacy, Accountability, and Conflict in Policy Implementation

Friday, January 20, 2017
3:00pm to 4:30pm

Please join us in Schwada Building (SCOB) room 101 

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Today's public administration is characterized by a growing number of government partnerships with private businesses and contractors. Public agencies contract with private businesses to provide transportation, health care, education, prisons, security, and many other goods and services. Public-private arrangements are so ubiquitous that we rarely think twice about them. However, most private sector employees who participate in public-private partnerships recognize notable differences working with government agencies as opposed to working with other private sector entities. Why is this?

When working with public organizations, private firms become an important part of public administration and governance. At the same time, these firms become a part of a complex institutional environment. This environment is characterized by competing and conflicting sources of legitimacy and accountability, as well as the inherent conflicts found in a Madisonian system of government. This talk will provide students with the broader governance context they will encounter when working with public organizations. In the presentation, Dr. Stritch will provide an overview of the U.S. administrative state and the values found in the U.S. Constitution that guide administrative actions. Second, he will discuss the different constitutional sources of accountability. Third, he will discuss the inherent conflicts among the constitutional values. Finally, Dr. Stritch concludes with some discussion of what this means for those students interested in working for public agencies and those in private business.

Justin M. Stritch is an Assistant Professor of Public Management in the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University. He is a Senior Research Affiliate at the Center for Organization Research and Design (CORD) and is a Fellow at SFI-The Danish National Centre for Social Research. His research focuses on work motivation, public management, employee decision-making, and employee performance.



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