

Call for abstracts
Workshop: 'Policy
scholars in the city'
Deadline: 15 April 2024



**Workshop title: 'Policy Scholars in the City'
The Policy Expertise in an African Comparative Perspective**

The African Public Policy Network (African-PPN) in collaboration with the Public Policy Hub (PPH) and the School for Public Management and Administration (SPMA), at the University of Pretoria (UP) will be hosting a workshop in 2024.

We hereby extend a call for abstracts to all interested people.

The African Public Policy Network (African-PPN) is excited to inaugurate its initiatives with a workshop titled "*Policy Scholars in the City*", co-hosted by the UP Public Policy Hub (PPH) and the School of Public Management and Administration (SPMA) in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) at the University of Pretoria (UP) in South Africa. African-PPN serves as an international platform for collaboration in research and teaching among African public policy scholars within Africa and across the globe. It aims to globalise African public policy studies and scholars, operating under the umbrella of the International Public Policy Association (IPPA) as both a regional network and an organised section.

African-PPN seeks to enrich the interdisciplinary and contextualised field of public policy studies in Africa by bringing together scholars from various social science sub-disciplines to collaborate on research and teaching across the continent and beyond. The PPH, at UP, endeavours to advance the adoption of sustainable, evidence-based public policies in Africa by facilitating collaboration between academic research and governmental policymaking. This collaboration aims to co-create transdisciplinary, policy-relevant research to achieve better development outcomes in Africa.

Through partnerships with the SPMA and the PPH, African-PPN aims to strengthen emerging initiatives that directly or indirectly support African governments in their pursuits towards achieving emergent and strategic plan objectives.

Additionally, they seek to enhance institutional and social collaboration for the economic and social development of Africa. This workshop aims to serve as a platform to further these goals and foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among scholars and policymakers.

The objectives of this workshop are threefold.

1. First, this workshop seeks to reinforce the visibility of public policy research in Africa by bringing together African public policy scholars from different social sciences backgrounds;
2. Second, it seeks to address the issues of participation in the policy-making process by interrogating the roles of African public policy scholars inside faculty programmes and governmental settings by answering the question of how public policy studies contribute to society and statemaking;
3. Third, using a comparative perspective, the workshop seeks to question in a comparative perspective how African public policy scholars use their technical, professional and cultural knowledge to provoke change, impact policy processes within governmental settings or international organisations, and enhance the implementation of adopted programmes or public policies.

As dedicated courses in public policy gain increasing prominence across higher education institutions, there remains a need for systematic exploration of how public policy research and teaching programmes are promoted in African universities. Through the pursuit of the aforementioned objectives, the inaugural workshop of the African-PPN, co-hosted by the PPH and the SPMA, will provide a platform to connect public administrators, political scientists with other social scientists, including economists, who have traditionally dominated in research within the African public policy landscape. The workshop also aims to enhance research, teaching, and publication collaboration through fostering partnerships for research, training, seminars, and workshops as diverse ways to promote the internationalisation of public policy studies and theories from an African perspective.

CALL FOR PAPERS / ABSTRACTS

This workshop will explore how African public policy scholars leverage their expertise in their unique context to contribute, influence, incite change, and transform the policy process across various contexts, including African public administrations, international and non-governmental organisations, municipalities, cities, governance structures, and communities. Recognising the interconnectedness and overlap between public policy knowledge and political and/or public administration practice within and outside of government, as well as the responsibility of academics to provide guidance and value to accumulated knowledge, we are particularly interested in papers that address the following questions:

1. What roles do African public policy scholars play within the policy process?
2. What insights do we have regarding African public policy scholars—young experts trained in universities—who transition into practical roles and apply their knowledge to advance public policy practice, contributing to the design, implementation and analysis of policy programmes?
3. How are the policy programmes of African states discussed within academic faculties at universities, and what funding and publication policies are in place to support these discussions?

4. Do training, teaching, and research programmes, along with the professional experiences of public policy scholars, contribute to the development of expertise and provide valuable insights for governmental advice?
5. What factors affect the relevance of public policy studies as a field of learning, research, and practice in African countries?
6. What do the responses to these inquiries reveal about the future prospects of public policy studies and public policy practice in Africa?

EXPECTED RESULTS

Through the examination and discussion of key aspects regarding the utilisation of public policy knowledge in political and social contexts within public universities, governmental settings, and community programmes, the papers presented at this workshop aim to consolidate fragmented efforts and interdisciplinary work. By doing so, they seek to provide a more holistic understanding of the current landscape of public policy study and practice in the African continent.

METHODOLOGY

Papers should analyse and discuss empirical experiences using rigorous research methods and/or theoretical frameworks, with a consistent emphasis on public policy case studies. Contributions may draw from diverse data sources, including qualitative and quantitative data derived from individual and collective experiences. The workshop will be organised in a hybrid format, accommodating both in-person and online presentations.

PARTICIPATION

Interested authors should send their abstracts and short bio to the coordinators of this workshop no later than **15 April 2024** at the following email mangae@outlook.fr; cc fn.monkam@up.ac.za; siphamandlaz@uj.ac.za; mireille.manga@iricuy2.com; adrino.mazenda@up.ac.za; africanpublicpolicynetwork@gmail.com.

Abstracts should be limited to **500 to 1000 words**. They should describe the field of scientific inquiry (the public domain described or studied in the paper), the research strategy (research design) and a tentative plan. The biography should not exceed **200 words**. **Original contributions will be gathered in an edited book.**

TIMELINE

Activities	Date
Deadline for receiving authors' potential contributions/abstracts	15 April 2024
Deadline for the reception of full papers	31 May 2024
Organisation, technical arrangements, communication, etc.	1 June 2024 - 30 August 2024
Workshop / Network's activities launch	September – October 2024