

COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

EsadeGov

COLLABQUAL



Enhancing the Quality of Our Public Services: Assessing the Effects of Organisational Forms in Public Services Quality

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:



Marc Esteve



Tamyko Ysa Figueras

PERIOD:

September 2021 – August 2024

FUNDING BODY:

MICINN-MCIU

REFERENCE:

PID2020-116103GB-I00

RESEARCH TEAM:

Monica Reig Majoral

SUMMARY:

The key objective of this research project is to analyze the effects of the different forms of collaboration across sectors on the costs and quality of public services. The study specifically examines the costs and the performance of public services implemented via six different governance forms: Public Organization, Public Agency, Public Corporation, Mixed Public Corporation with Minority Public Ownership, Mixed Public Corporation with Majority Public Ownership, and Externalization. This goes along with a more general interest in public administration and management analyzing public service quality.

The project seeks to identify and test a model that predicts service quality under different organizational forms. It applies a visible impact-oriented strategy by delivering implementation schemes for organizations engaged in cross-sector collaborations for public sector delivery, whether they are from the public, private or non-profit sector.

By focusing on the determinants of public service’s quality, this research project makes a new contribution to the management of different organizational arrangements for policy delivery, to the implementation of public services. By doing so, it fills an important research gap as it is the first study that collects empirical evidence on the effects that different institutional forms have on the quality of public services, building on existing literature that has only considered efficiency and service costs.

ODELMAEBD



Optimal design of Evaluation and Labor Market Access Exams under Behavioral Differences. A Gender Perspective

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:



Pedro
Rey Biel

PERIOD:

June 2020 – May 2023

FUNDING BODY:

MICINN-MCIU

REFERENCE:

PID2019-107108GB-I00

SUMMARY:

The project aims to study fairness and efficiency in the design of standardized multiple-choice tests, which are used to qualify the best students and to select workers in the labour market. It will analyze the performance of participants in multiple choice exams (school exams, incentivized experiments, PISA and MIR exams). The team will study gender differences in performance depending on some of the characteristics of these multiple-choice tests.

Our main hypothesis is that observed gender differences in behavioral traits such as risk aversion and attitude towards competition, make apparently neutral exams end up discriminating against women due to some ad hoc and unintended exam design choices.

As a sample of the most ambitious study we are proposing, the project will draw on data from the last 40 years of the MIR exam, which assign public positions to medical doctors. Crossing these data with social security and job market data, we will be able to estimate the cost that incorrectly designed exams may have had over the professional path of doctors in Spain.

The main objective of the project is to advance in the optimal design of mechanisms that allow individuals to be evaluated objectively, without possible subjective biases coming from both the evaluator and the possible performance of the individuals evaluated. In addition, we want to study the effects that the design of different evaluation tests in the school stage, as well as in job selection, have on insertion and discrimination in the labor market.

Definition of key elements to promote urban strategies that allow moving from traditional city models to 'Sustainable and Smart Cities'

AMICS DEL PAÍS

SOCIETAT ECONÒMICA BARCELONESA
D'AMICS DEL PAÍS -1822-

PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:



Francesc
Pardo

PERIOD:

August 2019 – December 2019

FUNDING BODY:

SEBAP

SUMMARY:

A research mobility grant awarded to carry out a research work on the key elements that a city has to develop in order to become smart from a perspective of social, environmental and economic sustainability, especially in the fields of energy efficiency and electric mobility. The study focused on the cities of London and Bristol.

EsadeGov-Center
for Public
Governance

Beatriu de Pinos Postdoctoral Grant – Dr. Giovanni Gruni

beatriu
depinós bp'

 Agència
de Gestió
d'Ajuts
Universitaris
i de Recerca

**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Giovanni
Gruni

SUMMARY:

A postdoctoral grant awarded to Dr. Giovanni Gruni to carry out the research project entitled, "The planetary boundaries of European Union free trade agreements: making free trade fit for climate change".

PERIOD:

January 2019 – April 2021

FUNDING BODY:

AGAUR-Generalitat de Catalunya

REFERENCE:

2017 BP 00257

Predicting Collaboration Success: An empirical approach on the performance determinants of cross-sector collaborations



**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Averill
Brewer

PERIOD:

October 2018 – September 2022

FUNDING BODY:

MICINN-MCIU

REFERENCE:

BES-2017-080164

SUMMARY:

3-year Doctoral Scholarship “Formación Personal Investigador-FPI” awarded to Averill Brewer to carry out the research line *Predicting Collaboration Success: An empirical approach on the performance determinants of cross-sector collaborations*, within the framework of the research project COLLABDET (CSO2016-80823-P)

Behavior and Incentives: Theory and Laboratory and Field Experiments



**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Pedro
Rey Biel

PERIOD:

May 2018 – October 2020

FUNDING BODY:

MICINN-MINECO

REFERENCE:

RyC-2014-15711

SUMMARY:

5-year Postdoctoral Research Scholarship “Ramon y Cajal -RyC” awarded to Pedro Rey to carry out the research line *Behavior and Incentives: Theory and Laboratory and Field Experiments*.

Data research on the closure of La Model



**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Francisco
Longo Martínez

PERIOD:

January 2018 – January 2018

FUNDING BODY:

Generalitat de Catalunya – Departament de
Justícia

REFERENCE:

JU-2017-1370

RESEARCH TEAM:

Marc Esteve, Frances Pardo

SUMMARY:

On March 7 2017, pre-trial detainees stopped entering the Model, the iconic prison located in the Eixample Esquerra district of Barcelona. This represented the beginning of the process of closing the prison, which continued with the transfer of the inmates during May the same year.

As the closure of this prison became a reality, this case study captures the work undertaken by the Department of Justice and allowed us to document the successes achieved during the process of closing the prison in order to exemplify the management of the political environment, strategic and operational goals to achieve public value.

Grup de Recerca en Lideratge i Innovació a la Gestió Pública (GLIGP)



**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Angel
Saz

PERIOD:

January 2017 – September 2021

FUNDING BODY:

AGAUR

REFERENCE:

2017 SGR 1556

RESEARCH TEAM:

Tamyko Ysa Figueras, Marc Esteve Laporta,
Manuel Férez Fernández, Francesc Pardo Bosch,
Carlos Losada Marrodán, Francisco Longo
Martinez, Marie Vandendriessche, Monica Reig
Majoral, Manuel Peiró Posadas, Sahar Awan,
Benard Ngoye, Josep Maria Catot Rueda,
Hyeayoon Jung, Carles Cervera

SUMMARY:

The aim of these grants from the Catalan Government is to promote the activities of research groups that allow to strengthen the scientific, economic and social impact of research, as well as promote its international projection.

COLLABdet



Predicting collaboration success: an empirical approach on the performance determinants of cross-sector collaborations

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:



Tamyko
Ysa Figueras

PERIOD:

December 2016 – December 2020

FUNDING BODY:

MICINN-MINECO

REFERENCE:

CSO2016-80823-P

RESEARCH TEAM:

Carlos Losada, Manuel F rez, Francisco Longo,
Marc Esteve,  ngel Saz

SUMMARY:

By focusing on the determinants of collaboration performance, this research project makes a new contribution to the management of interorganisational collaborations and, more broadly, to the implementation of public services. This research project seeks to identify and test a model that predicts collaboration performance. It applies a visible impact-oriented strategy by delivering implementation schemes for organisations engaged in interorganisational collaborations for public sector delivery. The research question is: What are the conditions under which cross-sector collaborations achieve the desired outputs and outcomes?

MySmartLife



Smart Transition of EU cities towards a new concept of smart Life and Economy

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:



Tamyko
Ysa Figueras

PERIOD:

December 2016 – November 2021

FUNDING BODY:

EU H2020

REFERENCE:

GA 731297

RESEARCH TEAM:

Jordi Vinaixa

SUMMARY:

The mySMARTLife project aimed at the development of an Urban Transformation Strategy to support cities in the definition of transition models, as a suitable path to reach high level of excellence in its development process, addressing the main city challenges and progressing to the smart people and smart economy concepts. The main instrument to achieve this very ambitious strategy was the definition of the Advanced Urban Planning, consisting of an integrated approach of the planned city interventions on the basis of a rigorous impact assessment, an active citizen engagement in the decision-making process and a structured business approach, from the city business model perspective, to the economic framework for big companies and local SMEs and Start-Ups. Esade worked in the definition of the Urban Transformation Strategy, the advanced urban planning, innovation in business models, analysis of the results, supporting to companies in the implementation of the solutions.

More info:

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/731297>

REPLICATE



REnaissance of PLaces with Innovative Citizenship And Technology

**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Tamyko
Ysa Figueras

PERIOD:

February 2016 – January 2021

FUNDING BODY:

EU H2020

REFERENCE:

GA 691735

RESEARCH TEAM:

Jordi Vinaixa, Francesc Pardo, Carles Cervera

SUMMARY:

The main objective of the REPLICATE project was the development and validation in three lighthouse cities (San Sebastián - Spain, Florence – Italy and Bristol – UK) of a comprehensive and sustainable City Business Model to enhance the transition process to a smart city in the areas of the energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and ICT/Infrastructure. This will accelerate the deployment of innovative technologies, organizational and economic solutions to significantly increase resource and energy efficiency improve the sustainability of urban transport and drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas. The project aimed to increase the quality of life for citizens across Europe by demonstrating the impact of innovative technologies used to co-create smart city services with citizens, and prove the optimal process for replicating successes within cities and across cities.

Esade led work on the development of Business Models that were tested through large scale demonstrators at the three cities are approached with an integrated planning through a co-productive vision, involving citizens and cities' stakeholders, providing integrated viable solutions to existing challenges in urban areas and to procure sustainable services. Sustainability of the solutions was fostered in three areas: economic and environmental and finally, fostering transparency in the public management.

More info:

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/691735>

L'ocupació pública en context de crisi econòmica: estudi comparatiu de l'evolució de l'ocupació pública a Catalunya, Espanya i l'Unió Europea



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:



Francisco Longo Martínez

PERIOD:

September 2015 – May 2016

FUNDING BODY:

AGAUR

REFERENCE:

2014 EAPC

RESEARCH TEAM:

Tamyko Ysa, Milà Gasco, Manuel Ferez, Esther Sanchez, Susana Salvador

SUMMARY:

This research paper presents the effects of the Great Recession on the public employment system in Catalonia. Based on quantitative data (extracted from official sources) and qualitative data (based on in-depth interviews with professional experts), we present the main measures taken to deal with the crisis and its effects on Catalan public employment. The measures analyzed refer to the remuneration of public employees, the freezing of the public offer, working conditions and the flexibility of public employment. The research work shows how these measures have affected the number and profile of public employees as well as their remuneration. On the other hand, three trends or dysfunctionalities are highlighted that must be addressed in order to maintain quality public employment capable of facing current challenges. These trends are: the aging, demotivation and temporary nature of public employees.

Innovació tecnològica i govern electrònic col·laboratiu: La gestió dels beneficis i dels riscos dels projectes d'intercanvi d'informació a Catalunya



**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Milagros Gascó
Hernandez

PERIOD:

July 2014 – April 2015

FUNDING BODY:

AGAUR

REFERENCE:

2013 EAPC 00020

SUMMARY:

This research project built on the research group's previous studies to contribute to the strengthening the theoretical body of electronic government and, at the same time, being able to offer solutions practices to the problems of current public management, especially linked to the implementation and development of electronic government. For this reason, the general objective of this research has been advance in the analysis and management of the variables that are key in the development of interoperability processes in Catalan public administrations. Specifically, the study has pursued the following specific objectives:

- Validate and quantitatively test the model of critical success factors for interoperability
- Enrich this model by exploring the interrelationships between variables.
- Contrast the Catalan model of interoperability with other existing models at State level, Spanish and other countries.
- Identify good management practices that serve as a reference for administrations and to public decision-makers to implement processes more efficiently.

RARHA: Reducing Alcohol Related Harm



**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Adrià
Albareda

PERIOD:

July 2014 – November 2016

FUNDING BODY:

EU FP7

RESEARCH TEAM:

Adrià Albareda

SUMMARY:

The researchers of the IGDP-Esade conducted the external evaluation of RARHA project. The aim of this external evaluation is to assess the process, the outputs and the outcomes produced by RARHA throughout its implementation. The methods used were mixed, including surveys, in-depth interviews and participant observation. The external evaluation provided a comprehensive assessment of the project during its implementation, which also allowed participants to correct the limitations detected and boost the strengths to produce the most valuable outputs and outcomes.

More info:

<https://www.rarha.eu/>

Avoiding Fraud in Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: a comparative Study on the correct observance and implementation of the public procurement EU regulations by managing and contracting authorities



**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Manuel
Férez

PERIOD:

April 2014 – March 2015

FUNDING BODY:

“Hercule II Programme – Training in the area of the
fight against fraud (OLAF: European –antifraud
Office)

REFERENCE:

OLAF/2013/D5/096

SUMMARY:

This study was part of the project undertaken by Esade researchers in collaboration with various experts on the subject within the scope of the “HERCULE II Programme – Training, Seminars and Conferences”. Each action is focused on protecting the financial interests of the European Union. The project’s main objective was to detect and reduce irregularities in the management and implementation (execution) of structural funds —specifically, the ERDF— in the public procurement procedure, using data from various sources and 4 specific regions as a sample. The findings were published in a final report, which can be found in the link below.

More info: [https://itemsweb.esade.edu/research/ Documents/OLAF/Final_Report_ENG.pdf](https://itemsweb.esade.edu/research/Documents/OLAF/Final_Report_ENG.pdf)

Xarxes socials, transparència i govern obert a Catalunya



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:



Tamyko
Ysa Figueras

PERIOD:

May 2013 – June 2014

FUNDING BODY:

AGAUR

REFERENCE:

2013 DEMOC 00040

SUMMARY:

This research has aimed at assessing the social media strategy of Catalan public administrations in their attempt to be more transparent and accountable and, therefore, to enhance their legitimacy. By means of qualitative and quantitative methods, our research has aimed at answering four specific questions: 1) which are the relationships between the concepts of transparency, accountability, and legitimacy in Catalan public administrations?, 2) which is the technological strategy implemented by Catalan public administrations in order to be more open and transparent and what role do social media play in this strategy?, 3) how is social media impact assessed?, and 4) which are the critical success factors of social media initiatives that pursue transparency?

Generally speaking, the research has concluded that, given the fact that there are differences between the local governments and the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, social media are used ad hoc by public administrations. Most of the time they aim at giving information from a communication perspective (push strategy) and, therefore, without really taking into account the links between information provision,

transparency, accountability, legitimacy, and good government/good governance. Despite this way of proceeding, social media use is very positively evaluated, which might imply that public administrations will keep having social media accounts, at least, while the perception that they do not cost money remains.

LIPSE



Learning from Innovation in Public Sector Environments

**PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR:**



Tamyko
Ysa Figueras

PERIOD:

February 2013 – June 2016

FUNDING BODY:

EU FP7

REFERENCE:

320090

RESEARCH TEAM:

Ángel Saz, Mila Gascó

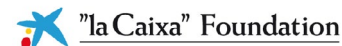
SUMMARY:

The EU-funded LIPSE (Learning from innovation in public sector environments) project looked at new ideas and ways of thinking to meet the growing demand for public services. Overall, the goal was to identify policy areas where European governments could be enabling more social innovation and analyse why there might still be some barriers to this, from administrative to cultural ones. By studying social innovation and processes in 11 EU Member States and several policy sectors, project partners identified drivers and barriers to successful innovation in the public sector. Research focused on seven policy sectors that are relevant to the EU: social security/welfare services; (mental) health services; sustainable public services; public utilities; (electronic) procurement; information society/information and communication technologies (teleworking); and urban/rural planning for regeneration. They also took into consideration the role of regional and local authorities.

More info:

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/320090>

POLICONSTRAINTS



Why research is not translating into evidence-based policy making?

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:



Pedro
Rey Biel

FUNDING BODY:

Fundació La Caixa (Recerca Social La Caixa 2021)

REFERENCE:

SR21-00165

SUMMARY:

Despite the empirical revolution in social research in the last two decades, this does not seem to be fully reflected in a systematic use of research when deciding, implementing and evaluating public policies. We aim to understand the factors stopping the adoption of evidence-based policies.

The research team will use Randomized Control Trials (RCT). Our treatment group will be a subset of municipalities whose representatives will be informed of a rigorous piece of scientific evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of an uncontroversial and costless strategy to boost local economies, while a similar randomly chosen control group will not receive this information.

We expect our project to be a keystone in understanding and overcoming the challenges we are facing towards the adoption and evaluation of evidence-based policies. Spain spends 1.25% of its GDP on Research and Development. The project will provide for the first time, a unique experimental dataset isolating the different factors that may explain why scientific evidence is seldom translated into policy, and it will allow us to measure, in a controlled environment, their relative importance.

More info: <https://fundacionlacaixa.org/documents/10280/1781539/SR21-00165-pedro-rey.pdf>

