



Seminar organized by the research group 'Public Administration & Management' in collaboration with Jean Monnet Center ACTORE

University of Antwerp De Meerminne – M.107 – Sint Jacobstraat 2 Antwerpen

20 March 2018 from 12.30 to 14.00

Please notify your attendance by 18 March to bjorn.kleizen@uantwerpen.be

Organizing for Societal Security and Crisis management: Building Governance capacity and legitimacy

**Prof. Per Lægreid
(University of Bergen)**

How do governments and societies build appropriate governance capacities and legitimacy to deal with terrorist attacks or natural disasters? In this seminar, Prof. dr. Per Lægreid will present the findings of an international research project entitled 'Organizing for Societal Security and Crisis management: Building Governance capacity'. Within the context of this project, Lægreid and his colleagues have investigated the role that governance capacity and governance legitimacy play in fostering well-functioning governmental crisis management systems.

Summary of the project:

The project studies governance capacity and governance legitimacy for societal security and crisis management. The overall research question is: What makes a well performing governmental crisis management system? A well performing administrative structure needs both organizational capacity and legitimacy. The project examines the organization and coordination of government apparatuses, and the public perceptions and attitudes toward societal security, safety and resilience. The trade-off between the capacity for resilience and for emergency preparedness and between societal security and individual rights are central. There is a need of unpacking the field of societal security and crisis management into different types of management situations and crises. There are significant variations across types of crises, for example between natural disasters and terrorism. What is considered exemplary and acceptable capacity and performance may vary. We explore why some cases are considered successful, while others are not, across different countries and cases.

The two sets of questions are examined through two interrelated research modules.

Module 1 analyses governance capacity, looking at the structure and performance of government authorities and instruments within the field. A main assumption is that organization and use of different governance tools will affect performance.

Module 2 considers governance legitimacy. It analyses trust in government arrangements for crisis management and societal security, and public assessment of the governments' performance.

Being based on collaboration within an international academic research network the project has a strong focus on internationalization and a comparative design, and includes data from six European countries: Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom.

For more information on the project, see here: <https://wpms.computing.uni.no/govcap/>



Bio of Prof. Per Lægneid

Dr. philos Per Lægneid (1949) is professor in public administration and organization theory at the University of Bergen since 1992. In his research, Lægneid has generally concerned himself with the study of public management and administration, and particularly the central administration, administrative reform, management policy and institutional change in a Norwegian, Nordic and European perspective. He has also been engaged with issues related to multi-level governance, and challenges concerning democratic governance and accountability and in particular NPM reforms in an international comparative perspective.

He is currently heading the research group on “Political organization and multi-level governance” at the Department of Administration and Organization Theory. He has served as research director and is currently a part time senior researcher at Stein Rokkan Centre. He has also been head of department and research leader at the Norwegian Research Centre in Organization and Management. He has been involved in several big research programs on administrative reforms and public administration in general in Norway such as the first and second Norwegian Power Study. In 2007 Lægneid was elected as a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letter.

He has run and been a key participant in several international research projects and programs such as a Nordic Comparative Project on Administrative Reforms and European Integration; The Comparative Public Organization Data Base for Research and Analysis (COBRA); COST - Comparative Research Into Current Trends in Public Sector Organizations (CRIPO), where he served as a vice-chair. He has also been involved in arranging several international workshops and conferences and is a very active participant in such networks.

Some information on the research group Public Administration and Management (PA&M)

The research group Public Administration and Management (PA&M) is a part of the Department of Political Sciences of the UA (Faculty of Social Sciences). The central research issue is how public administration systems cope with and integrate changing and partially conflicting (institutional) logics arising from their legal and political environment, administrative reform ideas and expanding interactions with private stakeholders. The research agenda of PA&M focusses on three research themes: (a) public administration and law, which studies the interaction between public law and administrative reforms; (b) public administration information and performance, which studies the use of performance information in decision making and management in public administration; (c) public administration and governance, which studies the governance and coordination of public tasks in complex multi-actor settings. The research group PA&M has about 20 members, with three professors, 4 post docs, two senior researchers and PhD's/researchers.

Some information on the JM Centre of Excellence ACTORE

ACTORE is the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the University of Antwerp. ACTORE stands for Antwerp Consortium on the Organization of Rulemaking and Multi-level Governance in Europe. ACTORE brings together scholars from law, public administration and political science with multidisciplinary expertise in multi-level and multi-actor organization of the EU. Two research groups are involved besides PA&M, being ACIM, the Antwerp Centre for Institutions and Multilevel Politics as well as Government and Law. <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/rg/actore/>