



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

University of Antwerp De Meerminne – M.103 – Sint Jacobstraat 2 Antwerpen

27 January 2017 from 12.30 to 14.00 – please notify your attendance to bjorn.kleizen@uantwerpen.be

'Never waste a crisis': Reforming Irish public administration in a time of austerity With Dr. Muiris MacCarthaigh (Queens University Belfast)

In this seminar, Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh from Queen's University Belfast will discuss how the Irish government reacted to the severe economic and budgetary problems that were caused by the Global Financial Crisis of 2008-2009 and the involvement of the IMF/EU/ECB Troika. More specifically, his focus will be on how the Irish government reformed its public sector and managed the severe cutbacks they needed to do, and the effects of this.

He will present the findings of a 2-year Research Fellowship examining the work of an Irish government Ministry created in 2011 in the context of an external loan programme from the IMF/EU/ECB Troika, with a remit to address the state's financial crisis and also engage in wide-ranging or 'whole' of-government' reforms. His research is informed by extensive interviews with the officials charged with developing and implementing the reform programme and speaks to several literatures including those on public sector reform trajectories, cutback management, organisational redesign, and political-administrative relationships. He will also draw on his other research on the Irish state.

Bio of Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh

Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh is Lecturer in Politics and Public Administration at Queen's University Belfast and President of the Political Studies Association of Ireland. His current research interests relate to the politics and practice of state retrenchment and administrative reform. His recent publications concern the topics of state agency governance, shared services, local government reform, and the Irish experience of public sector reform in a time of crisis, and have appeared in *Governance*, *Public Administration*, *Public Administration Review* and the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*.

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 currently 23 members (full-time or part-time), with three professors and 20 researchers, of which 17 paid and three voluntary (15 phd's, 4 post docs and one senior researcher)

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/>