

Abstracts

Finn Bruun

New Public Management

New Public Management has become a catchword in international debates about the public sector. Neither theoretical reasoning nor political recommendations allow it the status of a break through. It does, however, confront older administrative reasoning and practice. But it does not present adequate responses to the variations of national, administrative traditions.

Erling Rasmussen

Reforming the Public Sector in New Zealand

The public sector reforms in New Zealand have attracted international interest because of their coherent theoretical foundation, the innovative ideas applied and the extent of the reforms. The theoretical foundation of the reforms is discussed and the governing reform principles are outlined. While the permanent impact on public sector practices is stressed, the controversial nature of reforms is also emphasised. It is argued that the reform approach has significant problems which have surfaced in the debates of the health and employment relations reforms.

Stig Montin

New Public Management - the Swedish Way

Sweden is a decentralized welfare state in a process of change. Changes in organization and governance have been strongly influenced by the philosophy of New Public Management, but mainly focused on the internal organization. No real privatization have been made. Instead, the municipalities and the county councils responsibility of welfare politics have increased. At both state and local government level great efforts are being made in order to implement governance by objectives and governance by results. However, the evaluation function is poorly developed.

Thomas Pallesen

Health Care Reform in Denmark and Britain

The "New Public Management" public sector reforms provoke three questions: Are New Public Management reforms genuinely new? Have the reforms been implemented? Have the goal of the reforms been achieved? The record of the Danish and British health care reforms in the 1980s and 1990s suggests that the reforms only in part introduce new public administrative principles and only to some extent have been implemented. More importantly, the reforms have not contributed to increase the efficiency of the two countries health sector.

Henning Olsen

Linguistic sensitivity in Surveys

This article presents analytical results from a Danish project in basic research investigating language comprehension and memory as generators of measurement problems in political and sociological survey investigations. Danish respondents to survey questions depend crucially on the wording of the questions. The interplay between moderate transformations of questions or of contexts on the one hand and question and context sensitivity on the other is so overall complex that measurements in Danish survey investigations are only rarely *not* defective. That is especially the case with factual-episodic questions about spatio-temporal events and also with attitude questions.