

Making use of an enduring public administration myth

Making use of an enduring public administration myth: Refusal, subjective identification and the public interest

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Abstract

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to examine the concept of the public interest. The central question is whether the public interest is a usable concept in a time of social and political change. A historical overview of the public interest is provided. Two researchers are highlighted: David John Farmer and O.C. McSwite. The paper concludes by proposing the refusal of subjective identification with the public interest.

Design/methodology/approach

Discourse theory and Lacanian psychoanalysis are discussed in this paper. The emphasis in both approaches is to examine ethical challenges in politics and administration through new epistemological lenses. A further use of these research strategies is to identify existing institutional practices and situate administrative decision-making within those practices.

Findings

The findings in this paper indicate that while institutional resistance is useful, it can also be co-opted or result in retribution. In both cases, power is asserted and maintained by those who hold institutional power. David John Farmer's work on anti-administration and O.C. McSwite's work on administrative refusal are effective strategies to address the abuse of institutional power.

Originality/value

This paper introduces the concept of subjective identification to the literature of public administration. Subjective identification offers administrators a new approach to the ethical dilemmas they face in the workplace.

Keywords

Public interest Lacan Discourse theory Public administration Institutional power

Citation

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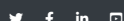
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Today, public administration is already very different from what it used to be forty, thirty, and even twenty or ten years ago. In the coming years it is going to be even more different. This paper is based on a previous work by the author (Vigoda, 2002). ethos of public administration. It is also suggested that such interdisciplinary ideas, tools, and methods can help to overcome social problems and create effective remedies for the new type of state maladies. Interdisciplinarity is also translated into is cooperation, collaboration, and a share of information and knowledge. These aspects conjoin with questions of policy making and policy evaluation, as well as with managerial, economic, and organizational contents, better to illuminate public systems. Making use of an enduring public administration myth: refusal, subjective identification and the public interest. Purpose – The purpose of this paper is to examine the concept of the public interest. The central question is whether the public interest is a usable concept in a time of social and political change. A historical overview of the public more. A further use of these research strategies is to identify existing institutional practices and situate administrative decision-making within those practices. Findings – The findings in this paper indicate that while institutional resistance is useful, it can also be co-opted or result in retribution. In both cases, power is asserted and maintained by those who hold institutional power. Public administration is like any other administration which is carried out in public interest. Lets understand the different aspects of public administration in detail. [Read More](#). Nature & Scope of Public Administration. Public administration is one of the most important aspect of bureaucracies across the globe. The model suggests use of businesslike ideas and management models from the private sector. [Read More](#). Approaches to Public Administration. There are many approaches to public administration. Lets discuss about the reason behind the requirement of many approaches of public administration. [Read More](#). Lets understand in detail about administrative decision making. [Read More](#). Personnel Administration.