



Public Policy and Global Affairs Seminar Series

*The Public Policy and Global Affairs invites you to the following
Seminar on:*

**“Politicization, Bureaucratic Legalism,
and Public Sector Innovation”**

By Dr Kohei Suzuki

Date: Monday, 23 April 2018

Time: 11.00am to 12.00pm

Venue: Meeting Room 6 (HSS-04-95)

Abstract

There has been a growing scholarly interest in public sector innovation. Previous studies have identified various institutional, organizational, and individual factors that promote innovation in public organizations (De Vries, Bekkers, and Tummers 2015). However, it has been overlooked how the type of bureaucracy—and the type of bureaucrats—affect innovation. We argue that innovation requires both a competitive job market for public managers (i.e., with low politicization and also low bureaucratic legalism) that provides the extrinsic motivation for innovation, as well as individual characteristics. Using two unique large comparative datasets on public bureaucracies and public managers—the COCOPS Top Executive Survey (Hammerschmid 2015) and the QoG (Quality of Government) Expert Survey (Dahlström et al. 2015)—we find support for our three hypotheses. First, public sector managers working in administrations where professional careers highly depend on the merits and capabilities of the candidates show more pro-innovative attitudes toward innovation than those working in more politicized administrations. Second, public managers in “closed” bureaucracies exhibit less pro-innovative attitudes than those in “open” bureaucracies.

About the Speaker

Kohei Suzuki is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Quality of Government Institute, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. His research stands at the nexus of public management, organizational behavior, and public policy with a focus on comparative public management and administration. In particular, he examines how bureaucratic structures and administrative reforms affect policy outcomes, organizational behavior, and broader societal outcomes. His research focuses both on comparative studies of advanced democracies as well as sub-national studies of Japanese municipalities. His work has been published or accepted for publication at *Public Management Review*, *Public Money & Management*, and *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration*. His article on government spending cuts and volunteering in Japanese local governments won the *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration* Best Article Prize for 2017.

~ All are welcome to attend ~