



Explaining the role of public values in SDIs: The need for further research

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1. Research Focus

- Topics
 - Public Governance → organizational structures & values
 - Spatial Data Infrastructures
 - E-government
- Level:
 - Belgian federal administration
 - Flemish regional administration
 - European / United Nations
- FLEXPUB – Geospatial e-service strategy

2. Public values in administrations

“One can only speculate as to why the topic ‘public values’ ebbs and flows in the academic collective conscience. [...]

Perhaps it is simply a rationale judgement that public policy without public values adds up to little more than government mechanics.”

Bozeman (2009)

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2. Key argument

- Public values steer policy makers and public administrations
- e-Government and SDIs change societies and public administrations
- But there is
 - a focus on a limited number of public values in practice
 - a lack of attention for public values in research on e-government and SDIs
- Leading to a 'value poverty'

2. Public values in administrations

Line of reasoning:

Public values steer (at least partially) policy makers & public administrations



Various public values:

competition – alignment – rise and fall of values

Duty oriented	Service oriented	Socially oriented
Responsibility to the citizen	Service to the citizen in his/her different roles	Inclusiveness
Responsibility to the elected politicians of the day	Respect for the individual	Justice
Proper use of public funds	Responsiveness	Fairness
Compliance with the law	Effectiveness	Equality of treatment and access
Efficient use of public funds	Efficiency	Respect for the citizen
Integrity and honesty	Transparency	Due process
Facilitating the democratic will		Protecting citizens from exploitation
Accountability to government		Protecting citizen security
Economy/parsimony		Accountability to the public
Rectitude		Consulting the citizen
		Impartiality

2. A few conclusions on public values

- Widely discussed in PA
- Established research field
- Key point: commonly shared values are crucial for
 - a public administration and its policy
 - solid cooperation between actors and institutions



Those public values are translated into policy actions

But: also the other way round – actions influence values

3. Linking public values to SDIs and e-government

But currently, there are two key challenges:

→ public values & e-government / geospatial policy

→ PA public values research & e-government /
geospatial research

Let's have a look at

(3. I.) public administration &

(3. II.) literature!

3. I. The Dutch Case – Rathenau Research

Finding: digitalization poses serious challenges to traditionally important public values!

Focus: Efficiency, effectiveness, privacy and security

- Important public values under pressure
 - Equal treatment
 - Autonomy
 - Human dignity
- Governance approach to tackle challenges

3. I. PSI Regulation & INSPIRE Directive

- Focus on recitals → policy motivation value analysis
- PSI Regulation (2003 / 2013)

Duty oriented	Service oriented	Socially oriented
13 references	9 references	5 references

→ 9 references to economic stimulation

- INSPIRE Directive (2007)

Duty oriented	Service oriented	Sociale oriented
18 references	18 references	5 references

→ 'third parties': economic & societal stimulation

3. II. Systematic e-Government literature review

- Focus: ‘e-government’ / ‘e-service(s) / ‘public value(s)’
- Databases: Web of Science / JSTOR
- Results: 53 papers → 29 papers finally selected
- Conclusions:
 - Limited attention for public values
 - Mostly no definition provided
 - Often disconnected research approaches

4. Future SDI Research

→ **Result:**

- E-government leads to a changing balance of public values
- Examples learn that duty oriented and service oriented values are more present than socially oriented values
- Certain public values (i.e. socially oriented values) are undermined by digitalisation

→ **Challenge:**

- How to deal with this evolution?
- How to ensure that basic values remain respected?

→ **Solution: Governance**

4. Future SDI Research

But: what is governance in this situation?

An interactive system of actors with assigned roles and tasks that is capable of dealing with the changing balance between public values, thereby preserving the fundamental values.

So, we advice that future SDI Research focuses on

- Governance & Public values
- Connections to other policy fields which it affects with a certain value logic

Thank you for your
attention.

Questions?
Comments?

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