

Contents

| | |
|---|------|
| <i>List of contributors</i> | viii |
| <i>Preface: Context – a missing link?</i> | xv |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | xxi |

PART I FRAMING AND UNDERSTANDING

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Context in the context – missing the missing links in the field of public administration | 3 |
| <i>Turo Virtanen</i> | |
| 2. Contexts: forms of agency and action | 22 |
| <i>John Clarke</i> | |
| 3. Constituting context? | 35 |
| <i>Janet Newman</i> | |
| 4. The intransigent context: glimpses at the history of a problem | 44 |
| <i>Fabio Rugge</i> | |
| 5. Three visions of context as history | 55 |
| <i>Mark Bevir and Rod Rhodes</i> | |
| 6. Numbers in context: applying Frege's principles to public administration | 74 |
| <i>Geert Bouckaert</i> | |
| • First link | 88 |
| <i>Christopher Pollitt</i> | |

PART II PUTTING CONTEXT INTO THEORY (AND THEORY INTO CONTEXT)

| | |
|---|-----|
| 7. Institutions in context, and as context | 101 |
| <i>B. Guy Peters</i> | |
| 8. Can cultural theory give us a handle on the difference context makes to management by numbers? | 115 |
| <i>Christopher Hood</i> | |
| 9. Context, theory and rationality: an uneasy relationship? | 124 |
| <i>Jon Pierre</i> | |

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 10. | Contexts and administrative reforms: a transformative approach | 131 |
| | <i>Tom Christensen and Per Lægveid</i> | |
| 11. | Context in public policy: implications of complexity theory | 157 |
| | <i>Tony Bovaird</i> | |
| 12. | The service-dominant context of public services: a suitable case for treatment? | 178 |
| | <i>Stephen P. Osborne, Greta Nasi and Zoe Radnor</i> | |
| 13. | Explaining contextual influences on the dynamics of public management reforms: reflections on some ways forward | 192 |
| | <i>Edoardo Ongaro</i> | |
| • | Second link | 208 |
| | <i>Christopher Pollitt</i> | |

PART III EMPIRICAL APPLICATIONS

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 14. | What we know so far and how to proceed: contextual variables in NPM reform research | 219 |
| | <i>Isabella Proeller</i> | |
| • | Third link | 228 |
| | <i>Christopher Pollitt</i> | |
| 15. | Context in governance networks: complex interactions between macro, meso and micro. A theoretical exploration and some empirical evidence on the impact of context factors in Taiwan, Spain and the Netherlands | 233 |
| | <i>Erik-Hans Klijn, Vicenta Sierra, Tamyko Ysa, Evan M. Berman, Jurian Edelenbos and Don-yun Chen</i> | |
| 16. | Seeing context where there's no "there" there: the EU/USA financial crises and the missing state | 258 |
| | <i>Richard Stillman</i> | |
| 17. | The context of public administration from a neo-institutionalist point of view: an analysis with Finland as the case | 278 |
| | <i>Pertti Ahonen</i> | |
| 18. | The uses and abuses of historical context: a case study in the 'mutualisation' of public services | 319 |
| | <i>Johnston Birchall</i> | |
| 19. | Context and accountability: factors shaping performance audit | 334 |
| | <i>Jeremy Lonsdale</i> | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 20. The role and significance of context in comparing country systems <i>John Halligan</i> | 356 |
| 21. Hospitals and the dynamics of multiple contexts <i>Christopher Pollitt</i> | 374 |
| • Fourth link <i>Christopher Pollitt</i> | 407 |
| PART IV REFLECTIONS | |
| 22. Context: what kind of missing link? <i>Christopher Pollitt</i> | 415 |
| <i>Index</i> | 423 |