

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Symposium on “Neither Public nor Private: Mixed Forms of Service Delivery around the Globe”

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The research unit *Governments and Markets* (GiM-IREA) and the *Pasqual Maragall Chair for Economy and Territory*, both at Universitat de Barcelona, invite proposed contributions to a symposium on mixed forms of service delivery around the globe. To date, the extant literature on service delivery has largely focused on the classic “make or buy” choice, the decision by governments to deliver public goods and services directly with government employees or through a contract with some other entity. This research has produced important findings, but has narrowed the focus on two idealized choices that do not necessarily reflect the actual practice of service delivery at different levels of government and in different contexts. The planned symposium aims to build off of this foundational knowledge but push research in new directions to better understand the creation, operation, and performance of the wide range of mixed forms of service delivery, which combine public, private, nonprofit, and/or community resources. These mixed forms include, but are not limited to:

- Hybrid Organizational Forms - Public corporations, state owned enterprises and mixed public-private firms;
- Co-production across jurisdictions or between government and citizens
- Public-private/nonprofit partnerships

The purpose of the symposium is to draw on research in different contexts to improve our collective understanding of a variety of aspects of mixed forms of service delivery. We are particularly interested in papers that examine the factors that give rise to mixed forms of service delivery (e.g. economic and fiscal stress, regulatory flexibility, geography, management) and how these factors impact their design and operation. We are also interested in papers that explain the performance of mixed forms of service delivery relative to more conventional arrangements like contracted or direct service delivery. We request proposals for high-quality, theory-driven research papers. Both conceptual and empirical studies are welcome. Comparative studies across contexts are also welcome.

Paper proposals of no more than one page in length should be submitted to [catedramaragall@ub.edu](mailto:catedramaragall@ub.edu). Each proposal should include the following information: (1) author(s) name, title and institutional affiliation; and (2) paper title, research question, relevant theories, research design and methods, data and potential findings. Conceptual papers should be built on an explicit theoretical framework that includes well-specified conceptual definitions, key assumptions, a systematic causal logic, and hypotheses, if appropriate.

A limited number of proposals will be selected to participate in a workshop to be held on May 17-18, 2012 at the School of Economics, at the Universitat de Barcelona, in Barcelona, Spain. Deadline for sending proposals is January 31<sup>st</sup> 2012. Acceptance decisions will be made in the second half of February. Full papers will be due by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

See info updates in <http://www.ub.edu/graap/Workshop2012.htm>