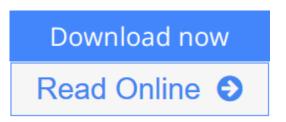


Organization Theory and the Public Sector: Instrument, Culture and Myth

By Tom Christensen, Per Lægreid, Paul G. Roness, Kjell Arne Røvik



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Public sector organizations are fundamentally different to their private sector counterparts. They are multi-functional, follow a political leadership, and the majority do not operate in an external market. In an era of rapid reform, reorganization and modernization of the public sector, this book offers a timely and illuminating introduction to the public sector organization that recognizes its unique values, interests, knowledge and power-base.

Drawing on both instrumental and institutional perspectives within organization theory, as well as democratic theory and empirical studies of decision-making, this text addresses five central aspects of the public sector organization:

- goals and values
- leadership and steering
- reform and change
- effects and implications
- understanding and design.

This volume challenges conventional economic analysis of the public sector, arguing instead for a democratic-political approach and a new, prescriptive organization theory. A rich resource of both theory and practice, *Organization*

Theory for the Public Sector: Instrument, Culture and Myth is essential reading for anybody studying the public sector.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Tom Christensen is Professor of Public Administration and Organization Theory at the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, Norway. His main research interests include national, central and comparative public administration and reform.

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