

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
PARTHENOPE

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Call for Papers



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP (SIW)

26th May 2025

University of Naples “Parthenope”

Villa Doria D’Angri, Naples, Italy

“Public (dis)value accounting and accountability: a stakeholder theory perspective”

International Invited Speakers:

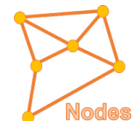
Prof. **R. Edward Freeman** (University of Virginia Darden School of Business, USA)

Prof. **James Guthrie** (Macquarie University, Australia)

Prof. **Patrick O’Sullivan** (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Conference Chair:

Prof. **Paolo Esposito** (University of Naples “Parthenope”, Italy)



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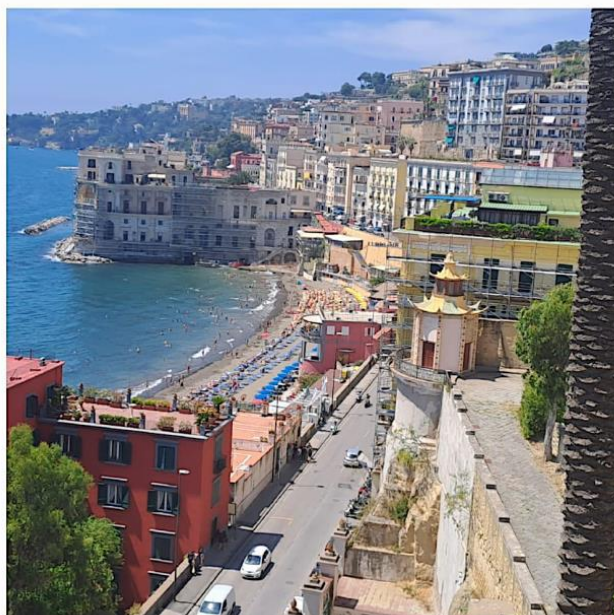
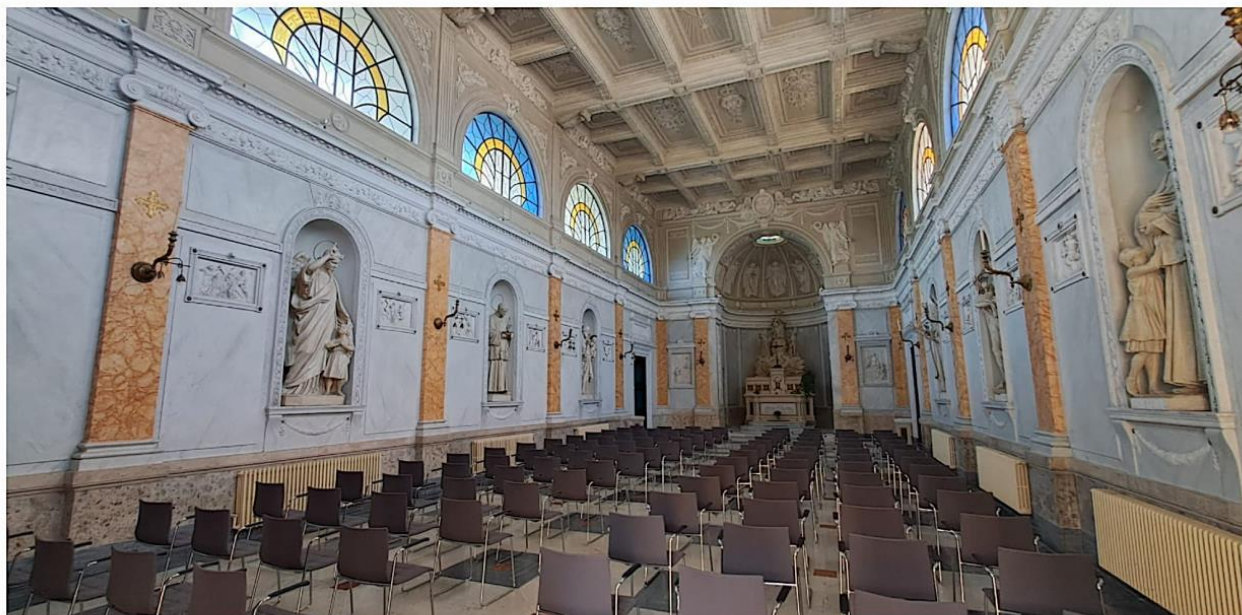
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Conference Venue

Villa Doria D'Angri, Naples, Italy





Public (dis)value accounting and accountability: a stakeholder theory perspective

Stakeholder theory encourages organisations to consider their internal and external stakeholders' needs and demands, this way presenting a more holistic and responsible framework to enable the maximization of value creation beyond that of mere financial performance (Donaldson & Preston, 1995; Freeman, 1984; Parmar et al., 2010).

Donaldson and Preston (1995) expanded on Freeman's work, arguing that effective stakeholder management can contribute to long-term competitive advantage. They identified three theoretical approaches to take stakeholders into account:

- i. Descriptive: organizations are entities comprising various stakeholder groups, each one pursuing their own interests.
- ii. Instrumental: considers stakeholder management as contributing to long-term performance results.
- iii. Normative: stakeholders are seen as an *end*, rather than as *means* to achieve performance results.

A literature review concluded that in spite of widespread adoption of stakeholder theory in studies on private companies, little attention has so far been paid to the public sector context, both in practice and theory (Sarturi et al., 2023). This is partly due to the origin of stakeholder theory, which challenges the traditional shareholder-centric view of firm by including other strategic stakeholders in the process of creating and distributing value (Freeman, 1984). Stakeholder theory, in fact, has the potential to support public sector managers and policymakers in dealing with ethical issues, while fostering trust, transparency and cooperation.

Being able to properly balance the interests of various stakeholders to ensure the long-term well-being of society can lead to public value creation (Bracci et al., 2021; Steccolini, 2019) as well as its destruction (Esposito & Ricci, 2015; Cui, & Osborne, 2023). This highlights the need for careful management of stakeholder relationships and accountability mechanisms to prevent actions that could potentially generate public (dis)value (Esposito & Ricci, 2014). Such conduct becomes even more crucial in a post-New Public Management (NPM) world, where public governance and the search for public value(s) present significant challenges to public sector organizations in terms of how they engage with their stakeholders (Bracci et al., 2021; Steccolini, 2019). In this context, Bryson et al. (2014) argue that, in democratic and cooperative governance, governments act as guarantors of public value(s), while



acknowledging that engaging with stakeholders is essential for the successful development and implementation of policies and strategies.

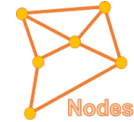
Accounting and accountability scholars have recently focused on how accounting can affect – and is affected by – a public value governance and strategy perspective, which considers the role of stakeholders in public policy and services (Bracci et al., 2019; Douglas & Overmans, 2020; Moore, 2014). Douglas and Overmans (2020) have proposed an alternative perspective in designing and managing the budgeting process in public sector organizations, finding in the collaboration with the relevant stakeholders a cornerstone of their framework. Other studies have found a positive relationship between the degree of citizen participation in the budgetary process and the degree of administrative accountability perceived (Handley & Howell-Moroney, 2010). Another topic deals with the relationship between stakeholders, strategy and performance measurement (Andersen et al., 2016; Johnsen, 2005).

Public value literature draws attention to what the general public put value on and the democratic process through which this is achieved (Meynhardt, 2019; Moore, 1995). In a similar way, value is also at the core of stakeholder theory, since it provides a model that makes it possible to view the creation and distribution of value from a more holistic perspective, considering what the stakeholders deem as worth achieving and creating (Parmar et al., 2010). Public value is transformed as stakeholders grapple with difficult social issues every time considerable tensions and controversy arise (Hartley et al., 2019).

Public sector managers can benefit in adopting stakeholder theory models to act upon a shared sense of value, while planning how they should engage with stakeholders in the decision-making process and how public value should be accounted for. It is about understanding the role of trust, reciprocity and fairness, and how accounting and accountability can improve the relationships existing between public sector organizations, public managers and their stakeholders to create more value, and make it visible at the same time.

In public sector research challenges remain in studying how to deal with public value, stakeholders, accounting and accountability. From these basic tenets, this Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal Special Issue calls for the submission of empirical and conceptual papers attempting to untangle the intricate relationships existing between accounting, accountability and public value from a stakeholder theory perspective. Potential themes of interest could be the following:

- How can public value be measured for different stakeholder groups?
- How can the creation, reduction and destruction of public value be measured?



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- How can accounting and accountability mediate between disputed public value(s) across stakeholders?
- What are the different coping policies for the recovery of diminished or destroyed public value?
- How can alternative reporting practices foster stakeholders' engagement?
- How does public sector management prioritize stakeholders when it comes to public value(s) identification, and how can accounting avoid trade-offs?
- How can accounting mediate – or exacerbate – those differences in value(s)?
- How can accounting support either the creation or the destruction of public value(s) from a stakeholder perspective?



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Author Guidelines

Before you submit, it's important you read and follow the guidelines below.

Full Papers (max 13.000 words) and/or extended abstracts (max 1.500 words) should be submitted to paolo.esposito@uniparthenope.it . This includes all text, for example, the structured abstract, references, all text in tables, and figures and appendices.

All submissions must include the format outlined below.

These four sub-headings and their accompanying explanations must always be included:

- Purpose
- Design/methodology/approach
- Findings
- Originality

The following three sub-headings are optional and can be included, if applicable:

- Research limitations/implications
- Practical implications
- Social implications

Submissions open: 01st March 2025

Submission deadline: 30th April2025



Publication Opportunities

A selection of the best conference papers will be considered for publication in the Special Issue entitled “Public (dis)value accounting and accountability: a stakeholder theory perspective” in *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*, published by Emerald.

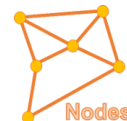
The Guest Editors are: Prof. Paolo Esposito, Prof. Robert Edward Freeman and Prof. Enrico Bracci.

The Journal is Scopus-indexed with 2023 CiteScore of 9.5, Scimago (Q1) in Accounting, 121 as H-Index and it has a significant Impact Factor over the last 5 years (2019-2023) of 5.7 according to Clarivate Analytics.

Please be informed that it does not guarantee the publication of papers submitted to the SIW in the collaborating journal.

Participants should submit the manuscript on their own, following the guidelines of the journal, with the editors of the collaborating journal making every effort to ensure a smooth and timely review process.





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“PUBLIC (DIS)VALUE ACCOUNTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY: A STAKEHOLDER THEORY PERSPECTIVE”

SIDREA International Workshop Programme

Villa Doria D'Angri, Naples, Italy

26th MAY 2025

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- 09.00 Registration and welcome coffee
 - 09.30 Welcome by Prof. *Antonio Garofalo*, Rector
Welcome by Prof. *Raffaele Fiorentino*, Head of Department
 - 09.45 Opening Remarks by Dr. *Costanzo Jannotti Pecci*, President of Confindustria Naples
 - 10.00 Opening Remarks by Dr. *Daria Perrotta*, State Accountant General
 - 10.15 Opening Remarks by Prof. *Claudio Teodori*, President of SIDREA (Società Italiana dei Docenti di Ragioneria e di Economia Aziendale)
Opening Remarks by Prof. *Paolo Esposito*
 - 10.30 Plenary session 1 by Prof. *Robert Edward Freeman*
 - 11.00 Coffee break
 - 11.30 Plenary session 2 by Prof. *James Guthrie*
 - 12.00 Plenary session 3 by Prof. *Patrick O'Sullivan*
 - 12.30 Presentation of Special Issue in Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal by Prof. *Paolo Esposito*, Prof. *Robert Edward Freeman* and Prof. *Enrico Bracci*
 - 13.00 Lunch
 - 15.00 Paper development interactive sessions
 - 17.00 Closing of the workshop

