

Abstract

History of the Administrative Reforms in Brazil: Narratives, Theorizations and Representations

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The article intends to offer a modest contribution to the study of the history of administrative reforms accomplished in Brazil starting from the first half of the 20th century. More than to present a chronology of facts and a repertoire of projects, it recovers the narratives and the specialists' analyses of the theme to identify the different explanations for the successes and failures of the past and to establish a system of categories, useful to the understanding of the historical dynamics. Reports, narratives, theorizations, interpretations and ideologies are mixed. In any one of the cases, they constitute representations of the Brazilian administrative world, that is, they come as symbolic forms of a State in constant transformation.

Key words: historic dynamics, administrative reforms, State.

The Two Futures of Governing: Decentering and recentering processes in governing

B. Guy Peters

Reforms of the public sector have helped create a more efficient and effective public sector, but also have created a number of problems. Both the New Public Management and "governance" reforms have contributed to the contemporary problems in governing. These problems have been political to a great extent, reflecting the tendency to emphasize administrative rather than democratic values. Governments have begun to react to the real and perceived problems within the public sector by developing a number of "meat-governance" instruments that can help steer public organizations but which involve less direct command and control. This paper addresses the contemporary governance tasks of restoring political direction and policy coherence while at the same supporting the autonomy of public organizations, and the involvement of policy networks, in governing.

Key words: Governance, New Public Management, Steering, Public Administration, Metagovernance

The Public Budget Process and the Estimation of Costs of Products and Services in the Brazilian Public Sector

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From the point of view of the budget process in the Public Sector this paper deals with public services and products costs. The main objective is to show a model of analysis and estimation of public services costs that is compatible with the budget process in the Brazilian Public Sector, and so contributing to obtain its allocative and operational efficiency. The model of cost estimation showed in this paper is compatible with the managerial information systems of the Government and has a low operational cost, because it does not imply in significant changes of them and of the data registration process in the public accountancy. Finally, the public services costs estimation procedure proposed in this paper attends the Law on Fiscal Responsibility and complements it on the issue of services and products costs estimation in the Public Sector.

Key Words: Public Budget Process, Cost Estimation, Public Services.

Amazon Agreement of Science, Technology and Innovation in Health: an Experience of Regional Integration

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This article incorporates the experience of regional Amazon integration under the Amazon Agreement of Science, Technology and Innovation in Health. Recognizing the strategic importance of the region, with inestimable patrimony in socio and biodiversity, the Federal Government declared in 2003 that the Amazon is a priority to fight inequality and to foster socioeconomic development, articulating, since then, forum with Ministries and regional institutions, based upon the Program of Sustainable Development of the Amazon. Aiming at implementing actions to production of knowledge within the local reality and for the integration of applied and basic research, teaching and technology; cooperation with other regional institutions, national and international, is motivated. One of the actions resulted, in 2004, in formalizing the Multilateral Agreement of Technical-Scientific Cooperation in Health, with institutions from the Amazon. The proposal is based on the constitution of a research net, formation of human resources, technical cooperation with SUS managers, and international cooperation in health. The objective is to develop joint investigatory activities to acknowledge social-sanitary and epidemiological realities of the region, and to implement answers of the system of health, science, technology and innovation.

Key words: Amazon, cooperation nets, regional integration, science, technology and innovation in health

The Regulation of Public Services in the Sanitation Industry

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The article discusses the characteristics of the regulation of public services in the sanitation industry, presenting compared ways of providing adopted by France, England and Brazil – and how these countries discipline the private sector participation. While France follows a historical pattern of regulation marked by the role of local authorities, using contracts as an instrument par excellence of the service discipline, England introduced through ambitious privatisation process, regulatory framework in which agencies of the Central Government are the main actors. Even without a model defined, Brazil, through legal innovations, faces the challenges of attracting private investment for a sector under the presence of federative conflicts between states and municipalities about the ownership of these public services.

Key words: Sanitation; regulation; public services