

PA Theory Network 2014 Conference
May 15 – 18, 2014 Miami, FL

Call for Proposals

**Sects on the Beach: Challenging Capitalism, Hierarchies and
Other Belief Systems, and Devising Alternate Futures**

After years of privatizing, contracting out, tracking performance, and charging fees for public services, it remains unclear whether government is more efficient or effective. It also remains unclear whether the promises of neoliberalism, for instance improved wellbeing through competition, have truly borne fruit. Besides blind faith in market competition, is it possible to explain why we would want government to run like businesses, particularly in light of the global financial and investment failures that produced the Global Financial Crisis. Other belief systems contend that government ought to run like a household: such is implied when assuming budgets can and should be balanced and emphasizing a type personal/individual responsibility and accountability with moral overtones. What are the long-run implications of treating public goods like safety and education as commodities? What is gained and what is lost when we refer to citizens as “customers” and public service as “customer service”?

What are the alternatives to capitalism, free markets, and hierarchical structures? Is it possible that bureaucracy was conceptualized as a form of authority best suited to a capitalist state, and the tension between bureaucracy and democracy has been an ever-present dimension of Public Administration? Building upon the theme of PAT-Net 2013, “Governance and the Utopian Imagination”, this year’s call asks scholars and theorists more explicitly to move beyond imagination and into the realm of the possible.

Please submit a proposal of 250-300 words that describes the type of presentation (paper, panel, or roundtable discussion) by ~~December 10, 2013~~ to PATheory2014@gmail.com. Include names of all presenters, affiliations, and contact information. Acceptance notifications will be issued in January 2014. More information about the conference can be found at: <http://pa.fiu.edu/patnet2014/>.

*Extended to
January
21,
2014*