Doctoral Student Workshops: Educating for PA Leadership

Roundtable Discussion: A Proposal for future Teaching Public Administration Conferences

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Discussion

• Purpose
• Background
• The JUC Process
• The Workshops
• The APSA Doctoral Workshops
• Proposal for TPAC 2020
• Your Comments and Recommendations
Purpose:

• To Provide Doctoral Students An Opportunity to:
  • Present early stage research, progress in fieldwork or a developed paper outlining emergent findings
  • Receive formal feedback from professors in a friendly & non-threatening environment
  • Receive informal feedback from other participants
  • Establish professional career connections with faculty and practitioners attending the conference
Background:

• In 2014 and 2018 our Teaching Public Administration Conference was held in conjunction with The Joint University Council (UK) Public Administration Committee Conference

• JUC Sponsored Doctoral Workshops:
  • In 2014 - 14 Doctoral Students Participated – 2 US
    • A Best Paper Award was Presented
  • In 2018 – 16 Doctoral Students Participated – 2 US
In 2014 our 2 US were:

- Clare FitzGerald (MPA) and Mary Hano (MPH) from North Carolina State University
- Paper: Stories from the Fire: An initial look at institutional responses to operationally engaged residents on wildfires of the Western United States
- Received the Richard Chapman Prize for the Best Paper
Background 2018 Conference

• In 2018 our US students were:
  • Kaitlyn Alvarez Noli, Urban Planning and Public Policy
    • Towards Environmental Justice: Collaboration Among Agricultural Health Stakeholders in Ventura County
  • Dolores Kuchina-Musina, Old Dominion University
    • Buying Innovation: An Examination of Public Private Partnerships and Contracting Out Innovation
The Process (JUC)

• The workshops were scheduled the day prior to the conference

• The call for papers
  • A 500 word abstract for a paper relating to your PhD (this could be a summary of your PhD project or of one of your chapters or related research) 90 days prior
  • Selected participants forward a full paper of 6-8,000 word 30 days prior to the conference for circulation

• Attendance at the workshop is free and will include dinner on the evening after the workshop. Acceptance also brings with it free registration for the JUC Annual Conference.
The Workshops

• Four sessions were held:
  • Two faculty members chaired all the sessions
  • Abstracts were furnished to all session attendees
  • Each session was 75 minutes – Students had 15 minutes to present
  • Those attending had 15 minute for Q & A

• A conference sponsored doctoral student dinner followed

• Students were also invited to present at the general conference
JUC Guidance (Mike Rowe)

• The secret to the workshops is to keep them relaxed, friendly and constructive.

• We ask participants to submit something in writing - It doesn't have to be a paper specifically for the workshop. It might be a draft thesis chapter or some preliminary analysis.

• They don't have to put in work that distracts them from their research etc.
JUC Guidance (Mike Rowe)

• There is no standard form for feedback. We haven't provided written feedback, unless asked for.
• It tends to come from the discussion in the workshop and in discussions afterwards.
• Keeping them together, if possible, for dinner afterwards is important, because that is where some of the more developmental discussions will arise.
• The stress on relaxed, friendly and constructive. I have no doubt you will carry that off!!!
APSA Doctoral Workshops

• APSA Conducts Doctoral Workshops
• A similar application process – with a focus on the dissertation
• Each student participant shares a draft of a dissertation chapter, and all participants will read each other’s work and prepare feedback.
• Faculty and students will discuss the drafts and suggest potential ways to improve research design, theory development, and writing style
APSA Doctoral Workshops

• The workshops also address general professional development issues.
• The desired outcome
  • Students will leave the workshop with directed revisions to strengthen both their theoretical and methodological approaches to dissertations and future studies.
  • The workshops create a stronger relationship with their peers and others working in their same field.
  • It creates a networking and mentoring space as well.
Your Comments & Recommendations

• What has been your experience with Doctoral Workshops?
• Should SPAE conduct a doctoral workshop prior to the 2020 TPAC?
• What specific recommendations do you have for:
  • Marketing
  • Criteria
  • Review and Feedback to Students
  • Financial support
In Closing: Visit: www.spaeaspa.org