

## Academic profile for Åge Johnsen, Dr. Oecon., Professor of Public Policy

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**Public policy** is concerned about the public and its problems and is the study of what governments do, why they do it, and what difference government action and inaction makes. The public policy orientation is multi-disciplinary, multi-method and problem-focused. Public policy is concerned with mapping the contextuality of the policy process, analysing the policy options and evaluate the policy outcomes. The goal of public policy is to integrate knowledge to analyse public choices and decision making in order to contribute to a democratic society.

**My disciplinary background** is public administration, management and organization theory. I have an undergraduate degree (*DH-kandidat*) in Public Administration from Agder University College (1987), graduate degree (*Siviløkonom*) in General Business Administration from Bodø Graduate School of Business (1989), a post graduate degree (*Siviløkonom/Høyere Avdelings Eksamen*) in Administrative Sciences (1996) and a Doctoral degree (*Dr.Oecon.*) (2000) from the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration in Bergen.

**Professional and academic experience:** I have previously worked as Researcher at Agder Research, Kristiansand; Research Fellow at the Institute of Organization and Strategy, Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, Bergen; Lecturer and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Business, Public Administration and Social Work, Oslo University College; and Senior Research Fellow at the School of Management, The University of Edinburgh. I have also been a Young Visiting Scholar in the EU programme Accounting Research in Reforms of European Health Care Systems (AREHCAS) at the Institute for Public Sector Accounting Research (IPSAR), The University of Edinburgh; and Affiliated Visiting Scholar at the Scandinavian Consortium for Organizational Research (SCANCOR), Stanford University.

I have conducted a large number of research and development projects for different institutions including municipalities, counties, Norwegian Association of Local Authorities, Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry, Norwegian Ministry of Education, Norwegian Ministry of Local Authorities and Regional Development, Norwegian Research Council, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK), and Economic and Social Research Council (UK). I regularly give seminars for governmental departments and agencies, and serve as advisor for the Norwegian Research Council. I am reviewer for academic journals and publishers within public administration, public sector accounting and management; and I am member of the Editorial Board of *Financial Accountability & Management* and *Kommunal Ekonomi och Politik*.

**Lecturing:** I am currently giving a course in Public Sector Accounting, Budgeting and Performance Management for a Bachelor Programme in Public Management; and courses on Governance and Public Sector Reforms, Public Sector Strategy, and Performance Management in the Public Sector for a Master Programme in Public Management.

**My research interests** are public sector reforms, performance management in the public sector, audit and control in political institutions, contracting out municipal services, the political economy of municipal amalgamations, democratic accountability and evaluation.

### **Selected publications**

- Johnsen, Åge (2008). Performance information and educational policy-making. In Wouter van Dooren and Steven Van de Walle (eds.), *Utilising Public Sector Performance Information: Public Sector Information in Bureaucracy, Politics and Society*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Ezzamel, Mahmoud, Noel Hyndman, Åge Johnsen and Irvine Lapsley (eds.) (2008). *Accounting in Politics: Devolution and Democratic Accountability*. London: Routledge.
- Helden, G. Jan van, Åge Johnsen and Jarmo Vakkuri (2008). Distinctive research patterns on public sector performance measurement of public administration and accounting disciplines. *Public Management Review*, 10(5): 641–651.
- Askim, Jostein, Åge Johnsen and Knut Andreas Christophersen (2008). Factors behind organizational learning from benchmarking: Experiences from Norwegian municipal benchmarking networks. *Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory*, 18(2): 297–320.
- Johnsen, Åge (2007). *Resultatstyring i offentlig sektor: Konkurransen uten marked*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget.
- Johnsen, Åge and Jarmo Vakkuri (2006). Is there a Nordic perspective on performance measurement? *Financial Accountability & Management*, 22(3): 291–308.
- Johnsen, Åge (2005). What does 25 years of experience tell us about the state of performance measurement in public policy and management? *Public Money & Management*, 25(1): 9–17.
- Johnsen, Åge, Pentti Meklin, Lasse Oulasvirta and Jarmo Vakkuri (2004). Governance structures and contracting out municipal auditing in Finland and Norway. *Financial Accountability & Management*, 20(4): 445–477.
- Johnsen, Åge, Karl Robertsen and Dag Yngvar Åsland (2004). Contracting out municipal auditing: Conceptual framework and assessment. *Evaluation*, 10(3): 305–326.
- Ezzamel, Mahmoud, Noel Hyndman, Åge Johnsen, Irvine Lapsley and June Pallot (2004). Has devolution increased democratic accountability? *Public Money & Management*, 24(3): 145–152.
- Helden, G. Jan van and Åge Johnsen (2002). A comparative analysis of the development of performance-based management systems in Dutch and Norwegian local government. *International Public Management Journal*, 5(1): 75–95.
- Johnsen, Åge, Pentti Meklin, Lasse Oulasvirta and Jarmo Vakkuri (2001). Performance auditing in local government: An exploratory study of perceived efficiency of municipal value for money auditing in Finland and Norway. *The European Accounting Review*, 10(3): 583–599.
- Johnsen, Åge (2001). Balanced scorecard: Theoretical perspectives and public management implications. *Managerial Auditing Journal*, 16(6): 319–330.
- Johnsen, Åge (1999). Implementation mode and local government performance measurement: A Norwegian experience. *Financial Accountability & Management*, 15(1): 41–66.

### **Work in progress (as of January 2009)**

- Ezzamel, Mahmoud, Noel Hyndman, Åge Johnsen and Irvine Lapsley. Accounting, devolution and democratic accountability in the UK: A case of different impacts in different settings.
- Helden, G. Jan van, Åge Johnsen and Jarmo Vakkuri. Understanding public sector performance management: The life cycle approach.
- Johnsen, Åge. Performance information and public policy: Why do bad results get all attention?
- Johnsen, Åge. Resultatstyringens mytologi: Hvorfor mål- og resultatstyring i offentlig sektor er utbredt i praksis til tross for mye kritikk i teorien
- Johnsen, Åge. Er hard eller myk styring best for offentlig sektor?