Boundary Spanners in Public Management and Governance
An Interdisciplinary Assessment

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Boundary spanning behavior is important for both public, non-profit and private organizations to 'survive': to stay relevant in relation to the environment, to innovate, to improve performance and to collaborate in an effective manner, especially in multi-organizational settings. Providing an assessment of factors influencing the work and effectiveness of boundary spanners, and discussing the impact of boundary spanners on different types of outcomes (collaboration, trust, organizational innovation), this book offers a coherent overview of the evolution of boundary spanning in an interactive governance context.

‘Because collaboration in public management and governance is likely on the rise more broadly (as planners and managers are increasingly faced with complex, interdisciplinary problems), van Meerkerk and Edelenbos’s book is an important and timely contribution. . . . The authors have organized the book in such a way that it will be of interest to a variety of audiences, including those looking to learn about boundary spanning, those interested in scholarly endeavours on the topic, and those individuals who may wish to employ effective boundary spanning activities.’
– Kimberly J. Coleman, Australian Journal of Public Administration (AJPA)

‘The forte of the book is in its substantial coverage of the literature on boundary spanning that has come before it. In considering the various aspects of a broad array of works, the authors have fused and mended main supportive concepts that help us to better understand boundary spanning as a coherent area of study and to chart a way forward for future research. . . . this book is easily recommended as a primary review of boundary spanning in the public space.’
– Christopher L. Atkinson, International Journal of Public Administration

‘This impressive, well-structured and readable book will appeal to both academic and policy/practitioner communities. It focuses on the role, behaviours and impact of a highly influential cadre of actors operating in theatres of collaboration – the boundary spanners. It situates them in the fields of public management and governance combining both interdisciplinary theoretical rigour with empirical insights from policy and practice.’
– Paul Williams, Australian National University

‘Individuals and organizations working in liminal spaces – “boundary spanners” – have often been speculated as occupying key, but often hidden, roles in public management and governance. While some work has been done on figures such as entrepreneurs and brokers, boundary-spanning and boundary spanners have heretofore not received detailed book length treatment. This volume undertakes this task, advancing our knowledge of these actors and their activities, both as they have operated historically and in their enhanced contemporary role in recent efforts to promote co-production and other kinds of collaborative governance arrangements’
– Michael Howlett, Simon Fraser University, Canada and National University of Singapore

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