CfA: Administory Vol. 6 "Bureaucracy and Innovation"

ADMINISTORY is an Open Access online journal on the history of state and administration. Volume 6 is dedicated to the topic "Innovation". Today, innovation seems to have taken on the status that Niklas Luhmann ascribed to the concept of "reform" in 1971: it carries "in itself an impeccable standard and a critique of what exists as the bad world" (Luhmann 1971, 203). Since the 1990s, the concept of innovation has experienced a boom and has become a leading category of policy. In the context of administrations, it is often associated with deficits: In bureaucratic organisations, innovation is (almost) impossible; conversely, the goal of innovation is often called "de-bureaucratisation". Despite these critical assessments, administrations have repeatedly adapted to new requirements and have been, or are, the subject of numerous attempts at reform.

The historical investigation of innovation processes in administrations opens up interesting perspectives on innovation: On the one hand, it offers the opportunity to expand the concept of innovation beyond its restriction to scientific and technical novelties. On the other hand, it also challenges the distinction between "technical" and "social" innovations (Zapf 1989; Gillwald 2000). In turn, the question of innovations directs attention to changes in (cultural) technologies and media used by administrations and their relationship to changes in administrative practices.

We welcome contributions that deal with one of the following or other innovation-related questions:

a.   Changes in the design of administrations as interfaces with the population (counters, service areas)

b.   Technical infrastructure and administrative media (desks, typewriters, IT)

c.   Changes in the forms of management of administrative practices (human resources management, new public management)

d.   Administrative reforms (objectives, implementation)

ADMINISTORY sees itself as a platform to publish and discuss cutting-edge research on the history of administration. The journal, which appears once a year with double blind peer-review procedures, is interdisciplinary, transepochal and transnational as well as methodologically open. ADMINISTORY thus establishes itself as an interface between historical-cultural

research and the debates on state and administration in the social sciences, law and political sciences. Contributions are published in German or English.

The issue will be edited by: Peter Becker, Elisabeth Berger, Frits van der Meer and Thomas Rohringer. If you would like to propose an article for this volume, please submit an abstract (max. 2,500 characters) including a title and a short CV by July 1, 2020 at the latest: thomas.rohringer@lmu.de. The selected authors will be notified in August; the deadline for submission of articles (max. 10,000 words, including footnotes) is 1 January 2021. Subsequently, the contributions will be reviewed in a peer-review process which will decide whether the texts are accepted for publication. Publication date for accepted texts is end of 2021.

For further information on ADMINISTORY:

https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/adhi/adhi-overview.xml

Cited Works:

Gillwald, Katrin: Konzepte sozialer Innovation, WZB Discussion Paper, No. P 00-519, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Berlin 2000.

Luhmann, Niklas: Reform des öffentlichen Dienstes. Zum Problem ihrer Probleme, in: ders.: Politische Planung. Aufsätze zur Soziologie von Politik und Verwaltung, Frankfurt/Main 1971, 203–256.

Zapf, Wolfgang: Über soziale Innovationen, in: Soziale Welt 40/1, 1989, 170–183.

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