

BAM 2026
CONFERENCE



Public Management and Governance Track

Thriving Together: Impact, Innovation, and Inclusion in Public Management and Governance

Public management and governance sit at the heart of how societies *thrive together*. In a period defined by social fragmentation, technological disruption, and fiscal constraint, the public sector plays a critical role in fostering collective wellbeing, innovation, and inclusion. This track invites contributions that explore how public institutions, partnerships, and governance systems can create positive impact and support thriving communities through inclusive, collaborative, and innovative approaches.

Building on the 2026 BAM Conference theme of *Thriving Together: Impact, Innovation, and Inclusion in Business and Management* this track examines what it means to “thrive together” in the context of public service and governance. We encourage submissions that critically and creatively engage with the following questions:

- How can public organisations and leaders drive **inclusive innovation** to enhance citizen wellbeing, social equity, and trust in public institutions?
- What governance arrangements best enable **collaboration and co-production** across sectors, professions, and communities?

- How can impact be understood and measured in the context of **public value, democratic legitimacy**, and long-term societal outcomes?
- In what ways can public managers balance **efficiency, inclusion, and innovation** amid digital transformation, austerity, and environmental challenges?
- How are partnerships across public, private, and voluntary sectors reshaping the **boundaries of accountability and governance**?
- What new forms of leadership and organisational culture are emerging to support **thriving, resilient public service systems**?
- How are **artificial intelligence (AI) and digitisation** reshaping public management practices, service design, accountability, and citizen engagement—and what governance challenges and ethical dilemmas do these technologies create?
- How can the **future of work** in public services be designed to promote employee wellbeing, inclusion, and performance particularly for **public sector workers** navigating hybrid work, automation, and changing citizen expectations?

We welcome theoretical, conceptual, and empirical contributions that advance understanding of how public management and governance can contribute to collective flourishing. Comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives are particularly encouraged, as are papers addressing the challenges of implementing equality, diversity, inclusivity, and respect (EDIR) within public institutions.

This track provides a forum for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to explore how the public sector can act as a catalyst for shared prosperity by working *with* rather than *for* communities, fostering innovation that serves the public good, and ensuring that no one is left behind as we seek to thrive together.