

## ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

### Toward A Discursive Comparative Public Management: Study of Privatization in the US, UK And Russia

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This dissertation discusses the methodology of comparative public management and argues for a discursive approach in the study of comparative and development public administration. As an application of methodological discussion, a discursive approach is employed to study the prevalence of different mechanisms of privatization in the US, UK and Russia. Based on the results of the study, a theory explaining why different countries choose different strategies of privatization is outlined.

To achieve a relatively thorough analysis of the conceptual foundations of the field, the study explores the development of comparative and 'non-comparative' public administration and parallels between the two, as well as influences of other social science disciplines such as policy analysis, organization studies, business management, and economics. The dissertation also discusses in detail the comparative method, and methods of reconciling different narratives and frameworks in the study of public management. Based on insights drawn from these sources, a research methodology adapting Fischer's logic of policy deliberation is suggested for comparative public management.

After discussing a theory of privatization in the light of the proposed methodology, privatization in three countries--the US, UK and Russia--is examined in detail. Based on this analysis, the dissertation concludes that the choice of a particular privatization mechanism is usually decided by the priority of the privatization goal that such an option does maximize. This goal, in turn, is determined by the dominant discourse in which the topic of privatization is debated in society. The dissertation argues that methodological lessons from the discursive comparative analysis of privatization should be extended to cover a much wider scope both in comparative and 'non-comparative' public management and administration.