



# Multi-Level Governance: The Missing Linkages (Critical Perspectives on International Public Sector Management)

By Edoardo Ongaro

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Multi-Level Governance (MLG) is a highly influential, supple and ductile framework for interpreting governance in complex polities. Yet, criticisms have been aimed at its allegedly overly 'descriptive', rather than explanatory, power. This volume argues that progress in both the study and the practice of MLG may derive from developing linkages with disciplines, perspectives and issues that have so far not been explored in connection to MLG. By discussing cases ranging from nuclear power policy to environmental policy in both the Western world and in Eastern Asia, and by engaging different theoretical perspectives and issues of practical significance, such as legitimacy in public decisions or the management of risk in multi-level settings, the book proposes ways forward for advancing the understanding of MLG - a framework of reference in the analysis of contemporary governance. The book will provide scholars and students in the fields of public administration, public policy and political science with key concepts for the analysis of contemporary governance issues, and will be a source of ideas for practitioners and policy-makers engaged in making public decisions in complex polities.

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## **Multi-Level Governance: The Missing Linkages (Critical Perspectives on International Public Sector Management) By Edoardo Ongaro Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #11024593 in Books
- Published on: 2015-07-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.33" h x 1.35" w x 6.01" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 376 pages



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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

The volume brings together academics of the first rank in political science, public policy analysis and public management to systematically revisit the concept of multi-level governance. The collection constitutes an exciting invitation to engage in an intellectual dialogue between sub-disciplinary fields and geographical areas about how to tackle urgent problems of interdependence, coordination, capacity building, and managing organizational change across territorial levels and political arenas. An excellent read for all who are interested in theory advancement as well as for those who are seeking to advance administrative arrangements at subnational, national and international levels in view to improve policy outputs. --Michael W. Bauer, Jean Monnet Professor of Comparative Public Administration and Policy Analysis and Member of the German Research Institute of Public Administration German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer, Germany

Europe and its institutions have several challenges ahead: the development of Multi-Level Governance can provide crucial answers to the needs for aligned public policies, better delivery, and the building of a shared vision and trustful relations for Europe, based on the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality, and partnership. This impressive book is one of the first systemic attempts to bring into the MLG literature a whole range of theories and models that may provide ways forward to the understanding and usage of MLG. The publication is an important step forward to deepen cross fertilization between the academia and political and societal actors. It comes at the right time and offers genuine guidelines for better and more responsive governance in the European Union and abroad. --Luc Van den Brande, former president of the EU Committee of the Regions, initiator of the White Paper on Multi-Level Governance and rapporteur

Scholars of politics, economics, and public management explore challenges to understanding multi-level governance, and to using the concept as a framework for analyzing processes and policy. Among the topics are whether the Commission can still not manage Europe, European Union agencies and the European multi-level administrative system, a comparative analysis of the European telecom sector and the European patent system, new spaces of interactions and multiple accountability in English sub-national governance, and politics and political strategies in multi-level systems. The 13 studies are from an October 2013 seminar at Newcastle Upon Tyne. --Annotation ©2015 Ringgold Inc. Portland, OR (protoview.com)

#### **About the Author**

Edoardo Ongaro - Northumbria University, UK

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