

December 7, 2014

As the organizers of the Governance and Public Administration Track, we cordially invite you to contribute to the forthcoming 10<sup>th</sup> International Whitehead Conference on June 4-7, 2015 at Pomona College in Claremont, California. Alfred North Whitehead is recognized as the founder of process philosophy during the American Progressive Era. As a leading public administration scholar who has developed and kept *process-oriented theories* in play, your thoughts, your voice, and your passion are needed to make this conference a success!

The Governance and Public Administration Track plan harkens back to the early days of the “PA Theory Workshop,” *Dialogue*, and Minnowbrook. We are inspired by stories of how “the PA Theory Strike Force” and “Young Turks” refused stodgy academic constraints and demanded the opportunity for unrestricted conversation, discussion, and debate as the foundation of and inspiration for inquiry. This approach fits process thought perfectly and so an emergent method will be used to develop and workshop ideas together.

Attached please find a brief description of the conference and an explanation of the plan for our Track. *The dialogue, deliberation, and subsequent inquiry will not be the same without your engagement.* Your process-oriented scholarship has deeply influenced public administration theory and practice and should continue to do so through this conference and its fruits. We sincerely hope you will agree to participate!

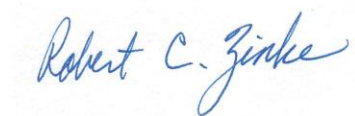
Many thanks for your kind and thoughtful consideration.



Margaret Stout



Jeannine Love



Robert Zinke

## 10<sup>th</sup> International Whitehead Conference Governance and Public Administration Track

As explained in the attached flyer, the conference will be held June 4-7, 2015 at Pomona College in Claremont, California to consider *Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization*. Participants will explore the manner in which process thought can help achieve this ambitious mission through a wide variety of disciplines and practices. Many sessions will be filmed to propagate process thought in the arenas under consideration, and many organizers will produce edited volumes related to their tracks.

Section X, *Reimagining and Reinventing Societies and Social Thought*, will begin with a plenary talk by political theorist William Connolly. Participants will then break out into Tracks. The *Governance and Public Administration* Track will convene for eight 90-minute sessions interspersed with other plenary activities throughout the three days of the conference. The ultimate purpose of this Track is to develop a shared process-oriented research agenda as well as both individual and collaborative inquiries that will **produce an edited volume** to be published by Process Century Press, an academic publisher operated by the Center for Process Studies (affiliated with the Claremont School of Theology and the Claremont Graduate University).

This is an invitation-only conference in terms of “presenting” as opposed to attending but please suggest any others who are using process thought in their scholarship and we will send an invitation to them immediately. As an alternative to panel sessions filled with paper presentations or pre-determined roundtable discussions, we have developed a plan for process-based collaborative work. Toward that end, we will pursue dialogue and deliberation that begins with very open-ended framing.

During breakout Session 1, a plenary panel will present an overview and history of process thought in public administration starting with the likes of Mary Follett and John Dewey and ending with contemporary scholars. Participants will then be invited to identify five key issues or big questions in governance that can be informed by process thought. Contributions to this discussion can be guided by papers or written briefs for those who need this sort of documentation for institutional support and recognition. If that is the case, please let us know what kind of formal letter of invitation or acceptance you require and we will supply it.

After the five issues/questions are identified by the group, we will ask for volunteers to facilitate or co-facilitate a dialogue on each of the topics chosen. One topic will be discussed in each of the following Sessions, 2-6, allowing everyone to participate. During these sessions, the facilitators will capture important ideas from the dialogue. Participants who aren’t keenly interested in the topic at hand are free to attend sessions in other Tracks either within Section X or otherwise, and are invited to bring back ideas they feel have implications for governance and public administration.

In Session 7, the group will reconvene as a whole to share the results of the facilitated sessions or other conference sessions attended, collecting all ideas that emerged. These results will be synthesized in Session 8, and the group will collaboratively formulate a research agenda and identify working groups or individuals that will produce chapters for an edited volume for publication with Process Century Press.