**WASS Peer Review Report 2009-2014**

**Public Administration and Policy (PAP)**

**Group Leader: Prof. Dr. Ir. C.J.A.M. Termeer**

**Research input tenured staff in 2014: 2.32 FTE / 6 people**

**Score Research quality: 1**

**Relevance to society: 1**

**Viability: 1**

***Motivations for scores:***

**Research quality**

The quality of the research is excellent and reflects the effort the group has made to improve

both the number of publications and the quality of journals to which they submit papers. Of

particular note has been the rapid progress in the productivity trend. However, the balance

between quality and quantity needs to be carefully considered to consolidate this positive

trend and increase the scientific impact of the group - and especially of individuals within the

group.

The group’s positive trajectory is well supported by a coherent and cogent analytical

framework (“changing governance—governing change”) that sits nicely between strong

theoretical contributions and positions the group well to have strong societal impact. The

group is consistently and homogenously good at publishing and writing grants and a young

and upcoming faculty bodes well for the group’s future.

The panel noted that, in addition to making valuable contributions to environmental social

science, the group is also engaged productively with the core disciplines of political science

and public administration. Another positive aspect of research productivity is the group’s

initiative and capacity to collaborate with other units within WASS. The group is financially

sound and two recent NWO grant awards just outside the reporting period will increase the

group’s ability to procure grants to support this positive trend and future growth.

**Relevance to society**

The group has been active in disseminating its work among practitioners and professional

organisations both through the media and by cultivating long-term networks that have

critically enhanced their capacity to influence societal processes, particularly agenda setting.

In one outstanding example, it has directly developed policy arrangements, processes and

decisions that have become part of the Dutch Delta management plan. Concretely, the

paragraph the group developed in collaboration with its policy networks - and which was

included in the Delta Plan - changed the way the funding schemes of the programme worked

by allowing financing under the rubric of water safety to go outside of the water system to

other sectors that have a bearing in the management of the Delta.

The overall evaluation is that the PAP research group makes an excellent contribution to

society.

**Viability**

The group is excellently equipped for the future both in terms of human and financial capital.

Staff are clearly influential in environmental governance studies and have great potential to

build on this success to further strengthen their engagement with other WASS groups and

the core disciples of political science and public administration. While the group is small it

seems to be well prepared to grow organically as their financial resources increase.

**Recommendations:**

The group’s positive trajectory in terms of research quality can be further strengthened

through increasing its emphasis on quality over quantity. The group has been cautious in its

growth strategy, and while this has worked so far, PAP is relatively small and should think

carefully about how growing might create a critical mass that will allow the group not only to

continue but further increase its scientific and practical effectiveness.