



Postmodern Public Policy (Suny Series in Public Policy)

Hugh T. Miller

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Confronts the challenge presented to traditional public policy by postmodern thought.

Postmodern Public Policy introduces new ways of investigating the urgent difficulties confronting the public sector. The second half of the twentieth century saw approaches to public administration, public policy, and public management dominated by technical-instrumental thought that aspired to neutrality, objectivity, and managerialism. This form of social science has contributed to a public sector where policy debates have been reduced to "bumper-sticker" slogans, a citizenry largely alienated and distant from government, and analysis that ignores history and context and eschews the lived experiences of actual people. Hugh T. Miller brings together the latest thinking from epistemology, evolutionary theory, and discourse theory in an accessible and useful manner to emphasize how a postmodern approach offers the possibility of well-considered, pragmatic solutions grounded in political pluralism and social interaction between public service professionals and community members.

"Unique in its approach, not only because it offers a coherent postmodernist argument for public policy, but also because it is an innovative synthesis of seemingly disparate theories of 'memetics' and postmodernism. Miller offers a fresh perspective of the public policy process." -- Göktug Morçöl, coeditor of New Sciences for Public Administration and Policy: Connections and Reflections "A different, even subversive, way of thinking about public policy. Full of insights, unexpected ramifications, and new connections about wellknown material. An important and substantial work." -- R. McGreggor Cawley, coeditor of A Wolf in the Garden: The Land Rights Movement and the New Environmental Debate



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