



## Smothered by Risk – Prospects for the Public Sector

Do you feel overwhelmed by the domination of risk management jargon and frameworks that have come to dominate the public sector discourse for the last few years? How can you get past the plethora of risk assessment, management and communication demands that now structure the tasks of public officials? This seminar challenges you to take the risk paradigm and turn it on its head to make it work for you in your day-to-day public sector schedule.

### Learning Objectives

- Overview of the theoretical underpinnings of the risk society thesis;
- Significance of different disciplinary perspectives on risk;
- Management tools to equip you with practical ways of using risk analysis to implement innovative, useful strategies for dealing with modern public sector requirements.

### Principles

It overviews the theoretical underpinnings of the risk society thesis and explains the significance of different disciplinary perspectives on risk and why there are so many definitions of risk and why some practitioners can't yet work sensibly with each other about the topic. Lastly, the seminar provides some management tools to equip you with practical ways of using risk analysis to implement innovative, useful strategies for dealing with modern public sector requirements of community engagement, policy analysis and political interface.

### Format

This workshop is intended to operate as a masterclass where participants inject their own questions and experiences into the session. Discussion will be fluid, with key theory points being injected at appropriate junctures. An overview of the recent literature and findings from experts on risk analysis will be incorporated into the presentation to ensure a balance of practitioner-led problem-solving and application of the latest theoretical ideas in the field.

### Instructor Bio

Dr Catherine Althaus is Assistant Professor and Graduate Adviser, Certificate Programs, in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada where she teaches postgraduate courses in public sector leadership, managing complex policy issues and public sector evaluation. Catherine is author of *Calculating Political Risk* (Earthscan and UNSW Press, 2008) and co-author (with Glyn Davis and Peter Bridgman) of the 4th edition of the *The Australian Policy Handbook*, Allen and Unwin, 2007). She has worked as a policy officer in the Queensland Treasury Department and Queensland Office of the Cabinet and continues to work in a consulting capacity with a variety of clients across the public and private sectors in Australia and Canada.

### Workshop Details

**Date:** Spring 2012 TBD

**Time:** 9:00-4:00

**Location:** On-campus, specific location TBD

**Cost:** \$575.00

**Instructor:** Catherine Althaus-Kaefer

