**2021 Fall Conference**

March 27-29, 2022
Austin, Texas

The Power of Inclusion:
Incorporating Diverse
Voices in Public Policy
Analysis and Management

# Discussant Guidelines

Discussants play a critical role in determining the quality of audience participation in the session. Discussants should be aware of the above time limits. Please allow yourself at least two weeks to read the papers for the sessions and formulate comments tying the papers together before the conference. If the presenter(s) have not uploaded their paper(s) or sent them to you privately by March 11, 2022, please let the APPAM office know at conferencesupport@appam.org.

The bulk of the time in the session should be spent encouraging audience participation. Discussants should also keep the following in mind:

- Discussants are asked to make integrative comments rather than paper-by-paper critiques. In many cases, very specific or detailed critics can be shared with paper authors outside of the session. **See above grid for suggested discussant comment time limits.**
- If there are two discussants for a session, please contact the other discussant and determine how you will split the responsibility of reading/providing commentary for the papers in your session. Contact information can be found in Confex Speaker Center.
- Discussant remarks about each paper should deal with the major issues that enhance or undermine the paper's contributions, reserving minor issues for direct communication with the authors.
- Discussants are encouraged to help shape the audience participation in the session by identifying key points worthy of further analysis and discussion.
- Discussants should contribute to the policy focus of the session. To further this endeavor, here are some questions to consider and use for audience discussion:
    - Does the research inform policy in the most timely and useful way? If not, what could be to done to improve the contribution of research to policy?
    - Are methods used in the research and analysis properly aligned to the nature of current policy problems?
    - Do we need to rethink the roots of the policy problems we are researching? Are we missing research opportunities because we have become too comfortable with our research designs and communities?

- How can we use the expertise of those in public management, and those who study the political process, to inform our research?
- Are there emerging policy problems for which we are not producing useful research, but for which we could direct new research?
- Are there limitations of information, data and research designs that prevent their research from being used by policymakers?
- What common challenges have researchers encountered when studying the issue?
- How can we address these challenges in future research?