

*Behavioural and Policy Sciences Seminar Series  
(with support from Mr Chan Hon Pun)*

# COVID-19 in Public Management and Policy Research: Challenges and Prospects

**Professor M. Jae Moon**

**Yonsei University**

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021

Time: 2:30pm-3:30pm

Zoom: Please register by scanning  
the QR code or using the link  
below. Zoom details will be  
provided by email before the  
seminar.



<https://bit.ly/3tKoiAe>

Language: English



## Abstract

**M**y presentation aims to address various research challenges that COVID-19 has issued to scholars and practitioners of public management and policy. Governments have been greatly challenged and tested by COVID-19 which is arguably considered as a prototype of wicked policy problem which has been characterized as uncertain, complex, multiplicative, cross-boundary, and unstructured. In the course of mitigating COVID-19, governments have been making constant choices of different approaches (a centralized approach versus a decentralized approach; a soft-voluntary approach based on herd immunity vs. a hard-coercive approach like aggressive lockdowns vs. an agile-adaptive approach). Meanwhile, scholars of public management and policy are asked to revisit and redefine key public management and policy issues such as government and market, science and policy, administrative and social capacity, public leadership and citizen participation, policy instruments and instrument choices, local problems and global problems, and policy failure and organizational learning, heuristics and rational decisions, and agility and effectiveness. COVID 19 has also required scholars of public management and policy to pay more attention to alternative ways of handling risks and dangers in a society. Based on two contrasting alternative approaches of "anticipation" and "resilience" which are suggested by Wildavsky (1984) in his seminal book entitled "Search for Safety," the presentation discusses both challenges and prospects of future research in the area of public management and policy.

## Biography

**M**. Jae Moon is Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Underwood Distinguished Professor of the Department of Public Administration as well as Director of the Institute for Future Government at Yonsei University. He co-chaired the Infectious Disease Study Group of the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities, Social Sciences under the Prime Minister's Office. He is an elected Fellow of National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). He served as International Director of American Society for Public Administration and Vice President of Korean Association of Public Administration as well as the Korean Association of Policy Studies. He was selected as one of world's 100 most influential people in Digital Government 2018 and 2019 consecutively by Apolitical which is a London-based leading nonprofit organization. He also received Order of Service Merit-Red Stripe from the Government of the Republic of Korea for his contribution to the public sector innovations as well as Donald C. Stone Award from the American Society for Public Administration in 2020.

# All are welcome!

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