

# Tom Overmans

## Biography

Tom Overmans (1979) is a public administration expert with extensive experience in practice and science. In his teaching and research, he connects theories from public management, public finance and psychology.

His current research is about the budgeting behavior of politicians. Why do politicians fail to invest in the topics they personally find most important, but instead invest in topics that have been in the news a lot, that are easy to understand or that they know others are investing in? Through experimental research, Tom studies the influence of unconscious thinking errors (cognitive biases) on financial decisions of local politicians and ways to combat those errors. For this research he received a Veni grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

A second research area focuses on the significance of Public Administration in tackling societal issues. With Marlies Honingh and Mirko Noordegraaf Tom edited the book *Maatschappelijke Bestuurskunde (Societal Public Administration)*. In the book, leading authors investigate how PA can better respond to the grand issues of our time. How can PA contribute to combatting issues related to climate, energy, healthcare, housing, equality, policy execution, and so on. He presented the book to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations during the 50th anniversary of the Dutch Association for Public Administration in March 2023.

Tom is a core teacher involved in bachelor's, master's and executive's modules in the fields of economics, public finance, public financial management, public performance, and societal impact.

Tom is an Executive Board Member of the Dutch Association for Public Administration (second term). He is part of the Executive Committee of the Public Service Accounting and Accountability Group, and member of various international research communities such as the International Research Society for Public Management, European Group of Public Administration and Public Management Research Association.

Areas of expertise:

Public Management

Behavioral Public Administration, in particular Behavioral Public Budgeting (microbudgeting)

Budget cuts, in particular: municipalities (doctoral research)

Financial management, in particular: budget, planning & control, accountability

Public sector economics, in particular market failure, government failure, collective choice, taxation