

CADERNOS GESTÃO PÚBLICA E CIDADANIA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Open government: paths to transparency, open data, participation, collaboration, and accountability

Guest editors

Alex Bruno F. M. do Nascimento (Federal University of Campina Grande, Graduate Program in Administration – PPGA/UFCG, Brazil)

Diana Cruz Rodrigues (University of Amazon, Graduate Program in Administration – PPAD/Unama, Brazil)

Gabriela de Breláz (Federal University of São Paulo – Unifesp, Brazil)

Luiz Filipe Goldfeder Reinecke (University of the State of Santa Catarina, Department of Public Governance – Cesfi/Udesc, Brazil)

Thiago Ferreira Dias (Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Graduate Program in Public Management – PPGP/UFRN, Brazil)

Submissions have been extended until April 1st, 2024

Since the end of the 1970s worldwide and in Brazil since the 1990s, public administrations have undergone transformations in administrative practices and interactions between the state and society. By incorporating principles of democratic accountability and citizen participation, new institutional practices have been initiated to enhance the efficiency and economy of public actions. In Brazil, this approach is commonly called “managerialism” (Bresser-Pereira, 1996).

Furthermore, a movement aimed at enhancing the delivery of public services emerged, focusing on expanding and strengthening the interactive relationship between the state and society to improve the performance of public administrations. This movement is known as “new public governance” (Osborne, 2006).

Interactive actions encompass a range of mechanisms, including transparency, social accountability, and the institutionalization of public policies – coproduction is a significant aspect of this (Ostrom, 1996; Pestoff, 2006). In this context, there is a growing demand for the expansion of open data initiatives, transparency, citizen participation, and collaboration with governments to enhance public administration’s performance and improve the population’s quality of life.

Transparency and the accessibility of public data are core principles of good governance. They are crucial in bolstering democracy and facilitating more effective social accountability mechanisms to fight corruption. Beyond merely making information available, these measures empower citizens to understand the actions of governments, policies, decisions, and overall expenditures, fostering accountability. Kucera et al. (2013) regard this shift toward open government data as a significant catalyst for open government policies.

CADERNOS GESTÃO PÚBLICA E CIDADANIA

Thus, the concept of “open government” emerges, bringing together coordinated initiatives and policies to improve public administration and its relationship with society.

According to Tai (2021) and Pinho and Silva (2019), the last decade has witnessed a significant surge in academic studies on Open Government. However, Tai (2021) highlights persistent research gaps that hinder a comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon and the advancement of existing practices. How is the concept established in the literature? How is it being used and implemented? What results and impacts can be attributed to these initiatives? According to Piotrowski et al. (2022), other questions can be added, such as: What is the role of international organizations in this process? How can these be used in some cases in an opportunistic and “window dressing” way?

In general, open government initiatives propose a new culture of public administration that values transparency and access to information as fundamental human rights. They also advocate for the reusability of public sector information (open data), the reinforcement of citizen participation, and the promotion of collaborative spaces for co-creating and co-producing public value (Ramírez-Alujas, 2012). It is worth noting that the success of the open model as a management approach hinges on public managers perceiving citizen participation as beneficial for public administration. This, in turn, involves relinquishing, distributing, delegating, and sharing power with citizens (Calderón & Lorenzo, 2010).

Hence, there is mounting pressure on governments to unveil the “black boxes” and share public information, allowing citizens to analyze it for more effective engagement in the public sphere. The citizen is no longer perceived as a mere customer but rather as a social actor endowed with political and social rights, assuming the role of a co-producer of public actions. Consequently, we are transcending the realm of open data and electronic government tools to champion Open Government. As Calderón and Lorenzó (2010, p. 31) assert, the ultimate objective is to engage in democratic governance, adopting social co-responsibility when elaborating and implementing policies.

Therefore, this call for papers (CFP) seeks articles that critically examine the progress and constraints of open government practices, encompassing both international examples and specific cases in Brazil. Authors are encouraged to assess the impacts of legislations such as the Brazilian Freedom of Information Law (Law 12527, 2011) (Angelico, 2023; Oliveira et al., 2022; Raupp, 2022), the General Data Protection Law (13709/2018), and the involvement of national and local entities in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) (Brelàz et al., 2021; Oliveira & Ckagnazaroff, 2023).

Providing government data in a reusable format represents what the literature calls “open data,” which is a fundamental component of open government, closely linked with principles of participation, accountability, and technology principles. In open governments, public officials commit to ensuring transparency by sharing information about their activities, public budgets, and data related to public administration in a broader sense. In addition, they endeavor to establish participatory and collaborative processes and assume responsibility for public actions that go beyond financial matters. Therefore, the availability of open data encompasses accessibility, machine-readability, and the provision of data in free computational formats.

Another topic welcome in this CFP refers to the analysis of big data or large public datasets. Thanks

CADERNOS GESTÃO PÚBLICA E CIDADANIA

to technological advancements, data analysis has evolved so researchers can work with big data, uncover patterns, identify trends, and discover previously unknown correlations. It also empowers them to build more precise machine-learning models, ultimately contributing to the formulation of more efficient and effective public policies.

Hence, we encourage submissions that harness data science to analyze open data, as they enrich the foundation for government decision-making and citizen participation. We also welcome critical studies that delve into the risks, constraints, and disparities associated with data science applications in the context of open government data.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that technological advancements should not exacerbate social exclusion. The tools used to disseminate open data must be accessible, user-friendly, and comprehensible to the entire population. As such, we welcome submissions that explore the intersection of digital inclusion with transparency and open data initiatives. These contributions should bring empirical experiences and theoretical reflections into the discussion to mitigate socio-digital inequalities.

Embracing the open government approach is instrumental in bolstering democracy. Governments can enhance their accountability and responsibility mechanisms concerning the allocation of public resources while also fostering citizen participation in the decision-making process. When information is open and easily accessible, the public can more effectively exercise its role in social accountability. Additionally, oversight institutions can better monitor government actions, potentially curbing corruption and promoting efficiency practices within the public sector.

Moreover, initiatives that engage citizens in government decision-making are crucial in advancing open government. These initiatives enable citizens to provide contributions, suggestions, and well-founded criticisms, fostering increased trust in public institutions and encouraging active participation in shaping public policies.

As a suggestion but without exhausting the possibilities, we recommend sending articles that deal with the central theme and its relationships with the following subtopics:

- Concepts and theoretical principles related to open government.
- The impact of open government on public transparency.
- The role of politics and bureaucracy in introducing and implementing open government policies in public administration.
- The relationship between the state and society: citizen participation and coproduction.
- Addressing socio-digital inequalities and proposing solutions to mitigate them.
- Critical examinations of legislation regulating open government.
- Experiences with open data in the public sector at various government levels, including their limitations and potential.
- Experiences with digital transformations and critical reflections within the context of public administration.
- The significance of open government within the framework and experiences of smart cities.
- Case studies of open government initiatives at the national and international levels.

CADERNOS GESTÃO PÚBLICA E CIDADANIA

- Impact assessments of open government policies.
- The use of information technologies for implementing open government.
- Issues related to information security and the protection of public data.
- Ensuring the quality and accessibility of public data.
- Exploration of supervised and unsupervised machine learning models applied to open data.
- Critical reflections, analyses, and insights derived from big data.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Theoretical or theoretical-empirical articles will be accepted, observing the general formatting and other guidelines in the “Articles” section of the CGPC Author Guidelines, available at <https://periodicos.fgv.br/cgpc/autor>.

Submitted papers must not have been published, accepted for publication, or be under consideration for publication in another journal. Suitable works will be submitted to the peer review process. If you have any questions about this CFP, send a message to Alex Bruno F. M. do Nascimento, alexbruno.fmn@gmail.com.

Complete information about this CFP and the journal is available at <https://periodicos.fgv.br/cgpc/about/submissions>. If you have any questions about these formats, please contact cadernosgpc-redacao@fgv.br

ABOUT CADERNOS GESTÃO PÚBLICA E CIDADANIA (CGPC):

CGPC is an open-access journal published exclusively online. Paper submissions, double-blind review, and publication are conducted through Open Journal Systems (OJS). CGPC does not charge an APC (Article Processing Charge).

REFERENCES

- Angelico, F. (2023). *Open government data as an anticorruption intervention in global cities: Do local-level accountability actors actually use data* (PhD dissertation, Fundação Getúlio Vargas and University of Lugano).
- Brelàz, G., Crantschaninov, T. I., & Bellix, L. (2021). Open government partnership na cidade de São Paulo e o programa São Paulo Aberta: Desafios na difusão e institucionalização de uma política global. *Cadernos EBAPE.BR*, 19(1), 123-137. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1679-395120200023>
- Bresser-Pereira, L. C. (1996). Da administração pública burocrática à gerencial. *Revista do Serviço Público*, 47, 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.21874/rsp.v47i1.702>
- Calderón, C., & Lorenzo, S. (2010). *Open government*. Editora Algon Editores/MMX.
- Kucera, J. C., D., Chlapek, & Necasky, M. (2013). *Open government data catalogs: Current approaches and quality perspective*. International Conference in Electronic Government and the Information Systems

CADERNOS GESTÃO PÚBLICA E CIDADANIA

Perspective EGOVIS/EDEM. Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg.

- Lei n. 12.527*, November 18, 2011 (2011). Regula o acesso a informações previsto no inciso XXXIII do art. 5º, no inciso II do § 3º do art. 37 e no § 2º do art. 216 da Constituição Federal; altera a Lei n. 8.112, de 11 de dezembro de 1990; revoga a Lei n. 11.111, de 5 de maio de 2005, e dispositivos da Lei n. 8.159, de 8 de janeiro de 1991; e dá outras providências [Provides on freedom of information as stated in the item XXXIII of Article 5, item II of the Paragraph 3 of Article 37, and Paragraph 2 of Article 216 of the Brazilian Federal Constitution. Changes law 8112 of December 11, 1990; revokes law 11111 of May 5, 2005, and provisions of law 8159 of January 8, 1991, and offers other provisions]. Diário Oficial [da] República Federativa do Brasil [Official Gazzette of Brazil], Brasília, DF. http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/ato2011-2014/2011/lei/112527.htm
- Lei n. 13.709*, August 14 2018 (2018). Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados Pessoais [General Data Protection Law] (LGPD). (As per law 13.853, enacted in 2019). https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/ato2015-2018/2018/lei/113709.htm
- Oliveira, T. M. de, Júnior, Rodrigues, K. F., Xavier, F. L. S., Caldeira, D. M., & Canales, L. M. (2022). Dez anos da Lei de Acesso à Informação no Brasil: Trajetórias, avanços e desafios. *Revista da CGU*, 14(25), 1-4. <https://doi.org/10.36428/revistadacgu.v14i25.522>
- Oliveira, D., & Ckagnazaroff, I. B. (2023). Governo aberto na cidade de São Paulo: Uma análise de políticas públicas abertas. *Revista de Administração Contemporânea*, 27(2). <https://doi.org/10.1590/1982-7849rac2022210279.por>
- Osborne, S. P. (2006). The new public governance. *Public Management Review*, 8, 377-387. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14719030600853022>
- Ostrom, E. (1996). Crossing the great divide: Coproduction, synergy, and development. *World Development*, 24, 1073-1087. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X\(96\)00023-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X(96)00023-X)
- Pestoff, V. (2006). Citizens and coproduction of welfare services. *Public Management Review*, 8, 503-519. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14719030601022882>
- Pinho, M. D. C., & Silva, M. P. A. (2019, Maio-Agosto). Governo aberto e dados abertos governamentais: Um mapeamento e sistematização da produção acadêmica. *Comunicação & Inovação*, 20(43), 3-25. <https://doi.org/10.13037/ci.vol20n43.5711>
- Piotrowski, S., Berliner, D., & Ingrams, A. (2022). *The power of partnership in open government: Reconsidering multistakeholder governance reform (information policy)*. The MIT Press.
- Ramírez-Alujas, Á. (2012). Gobierno abierto es la respuesta: ¿Cuál era la pregunta? *Revista Más Poder Local*, 12 (Especial Redes Sociales y Gobernanza), 14-22. <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=4013852>
- Raupp, F. M. A. (2022). Transparência passiva nos maiores municípios brasileiros passados dez anos da Lei de Acesso à Informação. *Revista da CGU*, 14(25), 20-32. <https://doi.org/10.36428/revistadacgu.v14i25.484>

CADERNOS GESTÃO PÚBLICA E CIDADANIA

Tai, K.-T. (2021). Open government research over a decade: A systematic review. *Government Information Quarterly*, 38(2), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2021.101566>