Measuring Accountability in Public Governance Regimes

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Title Information

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Government accountability is generally accepted to be an essential feature of modern democratic society; while others might turn a blind eye to corruption and wrongdoing, those who value accountability would instead shine a bright light on it.

In this context, it is common to hear claims of accountability 'deficit' (a particular mechanism or area is lacking in accountability) and 'overload' (a particular mechanism or area over-delivers on accountability). Despite the frequency of references to these concepts, their precise content remains undeveloped. This book offers an explanation, as well as a framework for future exploration, of these concepts.

It highlights the difficulty of defining a benchmark that might be used to measure the amount of accountability in a particular situation, and also the challenge of mapping out accountability mechanisms as a system. While difficult, if accountability is indeed a foundational concept underpinning our system of government, there is merit in meeting these challenges head-on.



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Key Features

- Provides an easy entry point for readers new to the accountability literature to come to grips with current debates and theories without the need for specialised disciplinary knowledge
- Highlights for readers the gap in the existing accountability literature and offers a framework that can be built on in future work in this area
- Provides interesting real-life examples of the potential operation of an accountability deficit and overload framework

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Reviews

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