

# RESEARCH FORUM 2021-2022

Department of Political and Social Sciences

Thursday, February 3rd at 12pm

Room 40.035

Sala de graus A. Calsamiglia

Campus Ciutadella



**Dr. Tony Bertelli**

Pennsylvania State University &  
IBEI

*will present*

**Democracy from Public  
Administration**

## Abstract

How does representative government function when public administration can reshape democracy? The traditional narrative of public administration balances the accountability of managers, a problem of control, with the need for effective administration, a problem of capability. The discretion modern governments give to administrators allows them to make tradeoffs among democratic values. I challenge the traditional view with its argument that the democratic values of administration should complement the democratic values of the representative government within which they operate. Control, capability and value reinforcement can render public administration into democracy administered.

## Speaker's bio

Tony Bertelli is the Sherwin-Whitmore Professor of Public Policy and Political Science at the Pennsylvania State University, Senior Research Fellow at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, Senior Executive Editor of the Journal of Public Policy, and Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He studies the role of political institutions in shaping public policy outcomes and organizational structures and has been particularly interested in the relationship between public administration and democracy. *Democracy Administered: How Public Administration Shapes Representative Government* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) is his most ambitious work in that area, which is also the subject of an ERC Advanced Grant that began in January 2022.