



Seminar Series 2014-15

Learning and catalytic dialogue in decision-making: The case of the Finnish Government

Professor Risto Harisalo, University of Tampere
Professor Jari Stenvall, University of Tampere

Monday 13th April 2015, 1230-1400

Room 432, School of Education, St. Andrews Building, 11 Eldon Street, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G3 6NH

The speakers will concentrate on how catalytic debate uncovers problems in the conclusions and recommendations that inform policy, with a focus on catalytic dialogue: forging of solutions beyond original issues and conflicts.

The speakers are especially going to focus on catalytic dialogue within policy-making at the government level. They will talk about the hindrances and obstacles that cause problems in learning and thinking together in political decision-making. Obstacles of this kind include power games between political actors, weak political leadership, and unpredictable policy-making. One challenge for dialogue in policy-making is that many countries have moved from closed to open societal systems. This means that civil society should be a part of the dialogue in policy-making, including at the government level. The speakers concentrate on their experiences in their work for the Finnish government.

Risto Harisalo is Professor Emeritus in Administrative Science at the University of Tampere with a focus on the following research areas: creative problem-solving and innovation, organizational renewal, decision-making.

Jari Stenvall is the Professor of Administrative Sciences at the University of Tampere. He has acted as a permanent expert for a Finnish parliamentary committee tasked to find solutions ensuring that government operations are functional, efficient, and strategic based on parliamentary principles. He has acted as the leader of an evaluation team to appraise the Finnish government reform processes, influencing those focused on municipalities. These reforms have been among the key issues of the Finnish government.

All are welcome, but a reservation is essential. Please RSVP to cradall@gla.ac.uk to book your place.