

Call for Expressions of Interest | *Public Administration and the Rule of Law: How Good Courts Create Good Governance*

Edited volume (Palgrave Macmillan)

1. Book Overview

This edited volume by Palgrave Macmillan is guided by a central research question: **how, and through which mechanisms, does judicial quality operate as a precondition for administrative capacity, rationality, and democratic resilience.**

While the Rule of Law, judicial review, and court performance have been extensively studied in isolation, their *systemic and functional effects on public administration* remain theoretically fragmented and empirically underexplored. The book addresses this gap by examining courts not merely as guarantors of legality, but as **structural actors shaping administrative behaviour, policy implementation, and governance quality.**

The volume advances a structured analytical framework identifying the causal mechanisms through which judicial quality influences administrative performance and governance quality. Judicial quality is understood broadly to encompass dimensions such as independence, impartiality, efficiency, quality of reasoning, and institutional authority.

Adopting a **comparative and interdisciplinary approach**, the volume brings together contributions from constitutional law, administrative law, judicial studies, and governance research to show *how good courts can produce good administration.*

2. Structure of the Book

The volume is organized into three analytically progressive parts:

Part I – Foundations: Governance and the Separation of Powers

- Judicial quality
- Rule of Law and public administration
- Separation of powers and judicial control

Part II – Mechanisms: How Good Courts Produce Good Administration

- Judicial review and administrative rationalisation
- Legal certainty and predictability
- Judicial remedies, enforcement, and administrative compliance

Part III – Comparative Analysis by Clusters

- Northern Europe
- Southern Europe
- Central Europe
- Beyond Europe
- Democratic backsliding and political capture

The comparative clusters are designed to capture variation across administrative traditions, judicial architectures, and levels of institutional capacity, enabling both within- and cross-cluster analysis.

The book concludes with a synthetic chapter proposing a **conceptual model of judicial-administrative interaction**, linking judicial quality to administrative capacity and democratic resilience.

3. Editorial Team

The volume is edited by **Luísa Neto** (Faculty of Law, University of Porto / President of the National Portuguese Institute of Administration [Maria Luísa Alves da Silva Neto Teixeira Botelho \(A016-506B-FD4C\) | CIÊNCIAVITAE | Conselho Diretivo - INA, I. P.](#)), together with a team of editors (**Anabela Leão, Ana Rita Babo, Catarina Santos Botelho, Inês Neves, Juliana Ferraz Coutinho**) affiliated with leading Portuguese and international academic institutions, and active in the fields of constitutional law, administrative law, fundamental rights, and governance studies.

4. Expression of Interest – What We Invite

Researchers and practitioners interested in contributing are invited to submit an **Expression of Interest**, indicating:

- **Author name(s) and institutional affiliation(s)**
- **Contact email**
- **The part and chapter/theme of the book** to which they intend to contribute
- A **300-word abstract**, clearly outlining:
 - the research question or central argument;
 - the theoretical and/or empirical approach;
 - the comparative, jurisdictional, or thematic focus.

Abstracts should explicitly position their contribution in relation to the volume's core analytical focus on the mechanisms linking courts, administrative behaviour, and governance quality.

Contributions are expected to engage substantively with the book's core question, while **offering original perspectives, alternative analytical routes, or critical insights**. Comparative, interdisciplinary, and empirically informed proposals are particularly welcome. Submissions from a wide range of jurisdictions and methodological traditions, including beyond European contexts, are strongly encouraged.

Expressions of Interest should be submitted in a single Word or PDF document.

5. Key Themes (Indicative, Not Exhaustive)

- Judicial quality beyond efficiency: independence, legitimacy, trust, and reasoning
- Courts as drivers of administrative rationalisation and policy coherence
- Legal certainty, predictability, and administrative behaviour

- Judicial remedies, compliance, and enforcement capacity
- Courts and public administration under conditions of crisis, emergency, or democratic backsliding
- Comparative patterns across legal cultures and constitutional traditions
- Alternative conceptualisations of the “good administration–good courts” nexus

6. Timeline

- **Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest: 24 May 2026** sent to courtsgovernance@gmail.com
- All submissions will be assessed by the editorial team on the basis of relevance, originality, and coherence with the volume’s conceptual framework. Accepted chapters will be subject to editorial review and may undergo a peer review process in line with the publisher’s standards. **Selection and feedback by the editorial team: July 2026**
- **Workshop with selected contributors: September 2026** (exact date to be confirmed following selection)

A collaborative online workshop will be held in September 2026, bringing together selected contributors to discuss draft ideas, theoretical coherence, and comparative strategies.

- **Deadline for full chapter manuscripts: 28 March 2027**

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