

## Dhaka University Public Administration International Conference 2026

- **Conference Theme:**

Rethinking Public Administration in the Era of Global Crisis: Governance and Policy Response

- **Conference Sub-theme:**

**Governance Reform in Post-Uprising:** The post-uprising (e.g., July movement in Bangladesh, Gen Z Uprising in Nepal, etc.) has created a rare opportunity to address long-standing governance deficits and institutional weaknesses by bringing positive change in the governance system. This subtheme focuses on how the reform initiatives will work in a changing context in post-uprising, what challenges they might face in implementing them, how realistic the proposed reforms are, and why the reform initiatives will produce different outcomes this time than previous efforts.

**Bureaucratic Transformation in the Contemporary World:** This subtheme highlights the transformation of the bureaucratic system from a traditional structure to a more dynamic one, driven by technological advancements and changes in public service delivery, thereby enabling it to address contemporary problems. It encourages discussion about how the role of bureaucracy is being reconfigured in response to the changing needs and demands of citizens, as well as the challenges, such as resistance to change, capacity gaps, and the need for new skills within the public sector.

**Public Policy in the Era of Global Crisis:** This subtheme focuses on the policy responses to sudden major crises, including public health emergencies and wars. It highlights the policy adaptability and preparedness in those crucial situations. It invites deeper exploration of how the state and its public policies respond to the complex, high-stakes emergencies that test the limits of governance systems and how the public policies are acting or shifting the policy priorities to tackle the disruption caused by the pandemic and political, economic, humanitarian, and security challenges emerging from contemporary war.

**Democracy and Human Rights:** The subtheme highlights the relationship between the democratic system of government and the protection of human rights in today's changing global context. It encourages discussions about the challenges democracies face and the most significant factors that may undermine citizens' human rights. It focuses on issues affecting democratic practices and civil liberties.

**Higher Education Governance:** The subtheme focuses on the structures, policies, and practices that shape the management and performance of universities and tertiary education institutions in an increasingly complex and competitive global environment. It highlights how higher education governance shapes students' knowledge base and equips them to contribute intellectually to the changing global context. It addresses the governance structures, policy frameworks, and institutional dynamics of higher education systems.

**Digital Governance and Cyber Security:** This subtheme focuses on how technological advancement is transforming the patterns of governance and public service delivery, and also raises questions about the risks posed by cyber threats. It highlights both the challenges and opportunities associated with the digitalization of governance or e-governance. It also encourages discussion on cybersecurity and data protection in the age of digitalization, as well as a critical examination of implementation gaps, capacity problems, and digital divides in the context of developing countries.

**Culture, Religion, and Polarization in Society:** This subtheme explores the complex role of cultural and religious identities in shaping different opinions and ideologies. It addresses how identity politics, value systems, and ideological divisions contribute to polarization and affect social cohesion, democratic dialogue, and conflict management. It also highlights how cultural and religious identity can shape the policy debate and ultimately influence it.

**Migration Governance:** This subtheme focuses on the governance of migration in this interconnected world. It examines the role of government and the policy responses to labor migration, forced displacement, and refugee flows. It also addresses issues of integration, human rights, diaspora management, and the economic and social implications of migration for both origin and destination countries. This subtheme also covers internal migration, international migration, and the push and pull factors associated with them.

**Environment Governance, Climate Change, and Resilience Building:** This subtheme highlights how the government is working to conserve the environment while supporting development. It focuses on climate change policies, natural resource management, and environmental justice. It also invites discussions on disaster management by emphasising not only the development of short-term adaptability to cope with uncertainties, but also the development of long-term resilience and capabilities.

**Inclusive Governance: Gender, Youth, and Marginalized:** This subtheme focuses on the need for participative governance systems that are equitable and representative of diverse populations. It highlights symbolic participation and barriers to participation faced by women, youth, and marginalized communities, and highlights policy reform that promotes substantive participation, inclusion, empowerment, social justice, and equitable access to resources and decision-making processes for all communities.