

Foreword

Throughout the world, public sector management has undergone dramatic changes since the 1980ies and at the same time universities have been the object of broad reform processes, in the face of a strong pressure to introduce `managerial` governance systems to keep up with the various challenges and the growing competition in the higher education sector. These developments in general have been identified as the post-bureaucratic paradigm of public management (O'Flynn 2007) and have brought different ways of financing and new management methods with them as well as a change of governance structures, patterns of responsibility and modes of control, which are often seen as essential elements to improve the management and decision-making of public organizations and to increase their efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and transparency.

The 10th York-Mannheim Symposium in 2007 was held at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt and ventured into, as Ian MacDonald put it, a somewhat more distant territory with the topic: *The University as a Business?* This book contains the conference proceedings of this symposium and reflects recent academic progress subsequent to the venue discussions, offering updated interesting and also competing perspectives from leading social science and public management scholars, with respect to the role of universities within society, to the strategic challenges higher education organizations are facing, and to the suitability of `new` managerial concepts in order to deal with them.

Paolo Rondo-Brovetto/Iris Saliterer