



Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	ix
<i>List of tables</i>	x
<i>List of boxes</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
1 Research in Public Administration	1
1.1 <i>The unique features of research in Public Administration</i>	1
1.2 <i>Research in Public Administration and policy</i>	5
1.3 <i>Aim and outline of the rest of the book</i>	10
2 The research problem	12
2.1 <i>Choosing and formulating a research problem</i>	12
2.2 <i>The research aim</i>	15
2.3 <i>The research question</i>	17
3 Theoretical framework	24
3.1 <i>The empirical cycle</i>	24
3.2 <i>What is theory?</i>	28
3.3 <i>Philosophies of science</i>	30
3.4 <i>The role of theory in Public Administration research</i>	36
4 Operationalization	43
4.1 <i>Operationalization in three steps</i>	43
4.2 <i>Sampling</i>	45
4.3 <i>Reliability and validity</i>	48
4.4 <i>Validity and reliability: sources of interference</i>	51
5 Research design	54
5.1 <i>The different elements of the research design</i>	54
5.2 <i>Choosing a research strategy, method and technique</i>	57
6 The experiment	61
6.1 <i>The classic experiment</i>	61
6.2 <i>Experimental Public Administration research</i>	64
6.3 <i>Simulations and gaming</i>	66

CONTENTS

6.4	<i>Field and policy experiments</i>	68
6.5	<i>Reliability and validity in experiments</i>	70
6.6	<i>Observation</i>	71
7	<i>The survey</i>	75
7.1	<i>The survey: characteristics and types</i>	75
7.2	<i>The written questionnaire</i>	76
7.3	<i>The reliability and validity of questionnaires</i>	83
8	<i>The case study</i>	87
8.1	<i>Case study research</i>	87
8.2	<i>The selection of cases</i>	90
8.3	<i>The reliability and validity of case studies</i>	92
8.4	<i>The interview</i>	94
9	<i>Desk research</i>	103
9.1	<i>Using or re-using existing data</i>	103
9.2	<i>Three methods for gathering and analysing existing data</i>	109
10	<i>Analysing quantitative data</i>	120
10.1	<i>Quantitative data</i>	120
10.2	<i>Collecting and ordering the data</i>	121
10.3	<i>Analysis</i>	128
10.4	<i>Descriptive statistics</i>	128
10.5	<i>Inferential statistics</i>	130
10.6	<i>Reliability and validity when analysing quantitative data</i>	137
11	<i>Analysing qualitative data</i>	140
11.1	<i>Qualitative data</i>	140
11.2	<i>Collecting and ordering the data</i>	143
11.3	<i>Analysing the data</i>	145
11.4	<i>The reliability and validity of qualitative data analysis</i>	152
12	<i>Reporting results</i>	154
12.1	<i>Audiences</i>	154
12.2	<i>Reporting formats</i>	157
12.3	<i>The purpose of reporting research results</i>	160
12.4	<i>Writing down the results</i>	161
12.5	<i>Prescription</i>	165
	<i>Glossary</i>	170
	<i>Bibliography</i>	185