



# Unseating Newton and Reaping a Paradigm: Einstein in Philippine Public Administration

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## Abstract

The focus of this study on Einstein's Theory of Relativity [hereafter, Einstein's Theory] is crucial since several scholars thought that Sciences and Social Sciences are distant bodies of knowledge without common ground. It was late for some scholars of Public Administration to attribute the state problems to the mechanistic management paradigm of Newtonian physics. In response, scholars catapulted the post Newtonian sciences into the level of acceptable paradigms in Public Administration. Consequently, Einstein's theory introduced to management disciplines the concepts of systems uncertainty and consciousness. Such has enriched the course of knowledge building in the field along discourse theory and constructivism --- in the language of energy field. This study offers a single case study tracing how Einstein's theory was introduced to the curriculum and has gradually grown into a school of administrative thought in the Philippines. It puts foremost consideration to the experience of the University of the Philippines Diliman National College of Public Administration and Governance, being the mother unit of and the lead authority in the fields of study and practice of Public Administration in the Philippines. Data are gathered from the program curriculum, review of pertinent literature suggested as course readings, and interview with faculty members and/or students who subscribe to Einstein's theory. One finding shows that the influence of the new sciences and post modernism in the Philippines is instrumental to the incorporation of Einstein's theory in the curriculum. The emphasis of Einstein's theory is on building collective consciousness and relationship among governance actors, transcending the boundaries of state administration. Such deemphasizes top down decision making and linear trajectory of systems change, and encourages a more communitarian, if not decentralist, approach to governance. In the field of research, there have been attempts to utilize the concept of energy field to analyze the administrative and governance parameters being investigated by Filipino scholars. Some faculty members have consciously and not influenced students to build their studies along the established advocacy of Einstein's theory.

## Keywords

Einstein, Theory of Relativity, Newtonian Mechanics, Public Administration, Philippines, Post-Modernism