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Abstract

Where Have the Public Servants Gone? A Brief Meta-Ideological Understanding of Values at the Sudbury Taxation Centre

The adoption of a set of behaviours perhaps without an examination of the ideology that frames those behaviours is especially prevalent in the world of employment. The employee is expected to behave in a certain manner and, in most cases, the behaviours are determined as though each and every employee is acting as a representative of their employer.

One would expect the above situation to reflect employment anywhere, but becoming a member of the Public Service presents some very unique interactions with ideology that must be reconciled by the employee. At the most simplistic of levels, employees will simultaneously hold at least two roles, that of employee (public servant) and that of client (citizen). This duality presents its own sets of challenges. There is also some need for reconciliation between the role of the employee and the role of the public servant.

The paper explores some of the questions surrounding ideology including ideas brought to light by Althusser, Geertz, Bourdieu and Lamont contextualized around some of the prevalent values at the Sudbury Taxation Centre. The paper also explores the Tait Report on Public Service Values and Ethics from an ideological perspective.