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## Ethics and New Public Management

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This study aims to explore the relation between a businesslike approach to government – more commonly referred to as ‘New Public Management’ or NPM – and ethics and integrity.

Based on available publications, this study empirically tests the suggested influences of NPM on integrity. The theoretical assumption that the introduction of New Public Management leads automatically to integrity problems and even corruption has to be nuanced based on the outcomes of this study. Most surprising is the outcome that ‘Performance Measurement’ – as an important characteristic of NPM – contributes in a positive way to the level of integrity in an organization.

The anticipated theoretical relevance of this study is threefold. First, it describes, and makes available for further research, the hitherto virtually uncultivated terrain of the relationship between ethics and a businesslike approach to government. Second, it develops, at least partly, an effective instrument for measuring the level of businesslike approach in a public organization. Third, it empirically tests, for the first time, the relation between NPM and ethics. The study results provide a new approach toward the relationship between a businesslike approach to government and integrity in the public sector. That is, they suggest that paying specific attention to ethical issues when implementing businesslike methods in government may increase chances of success.

Emile Kolthoff is director of the Dutch Office of Local Government Ethics (Bureau Integriteit) and a Fellow with the Research Group on Integrity of Governance at the VU University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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*The Research School researches public safety. Two sub sectors, namely ‘Basics of safety and social cohesion’ and ‘Maintenance of law and order and new strategies of crime prevention’, receive special attention. Another objective for the Research School is to educate researchers who can do both fundamental scientific as well as empirical applied research in the field of public safety.*

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Empirical Research into the Effects of  
Businesslike Government on Ethics and Integrity

Emile Kolthoff

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