

Black Swans Public Administration and Informatics

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Abstract : Black Swan Theories (BSTs) have existed since the 2nd Century BC. However, problematisation in the interdisciplinary field of Public Administration and Informatics (PA&I) about the impact of Black Swans as rare events in Society is a more recent phenomenon but with a growing, although dispersed, body of research literature. This paper offers a synopsis of core issues and questions raised in PA&I literature about the impacts of rare events in Society, the need for knowledge accumulation and explainability processes about rare events and asks what could help explain the occurrence, severity, heterogeneity, overall impact of Black Swans and the challenges they represent to established scientific methods. The second part of the paper considers how the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) could assist researchers in better explaining rare events in PA&I. However, the research shows that whilst AI use at the start of knowledge accumulation and explainability processes about rare events is beneficial it is also fraught with challenges discussed herein. The paper concludes with recommendations for future research.

Keywords : black swans, public administration, AI, informatics

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