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Andrew Whitford
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Robert Christensen
Brigham Young University

# PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITIES

Public-Private Partnerships and Non-Market Infrastructure Development Around the World

Anthony Michael Bertelli

Pennsylvania State University and Institut Barcelona
d'Estudis Internacionals

Eleanor Florence Woodhouse
University College London

Michele Castiglioni
European University Institute

Paolo Belardinelli
London School of Economics and Political Science





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#### **Partnership Communities**

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Anthony Michael Bertelli Pennsylvania State University and Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals

> Eleanor Florence Woodhouse University College London

Michele Castiglioni European University Institute

Paolo Belardinelli London School of Economics and Political Science

Author for correspondence: Anthony Michael Bertelli, bertelli@psu.edu

**Abstract:** We undertake the first quantitative and broadly comparative study of the structure and performance of public-private partnership communities: networked firms that partner with governments to build infrastructure. Our study addresses several important research questions. How connected are the members of partnership communities? How can we understand the quality of the projects a community undertakes? How do political institutions shape their structure and performance? After defining partnership communities as networked communities of private firms that form the consortia that enter into long-term contractual arrangements with governments, we show how they are affected by government demand for partners. We then provide an overview of those factors that predict success in financing projects. Finally, we focus on the political economy of partnership communities. We develop and test theoretical predictions about how national institutions shape partnership communities and the quality of projects. We also investigate voters' preferences over alternative arrangements of infrastructure delivery before drawing out implications for research and practice.

**Keywords:** infrastructure development, infrastructure finance, political economy, public administration, public–private partnerships

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