



# An Analysis of the Institutional Design of the Maltese Public Administration 1989-2019

## Project brief

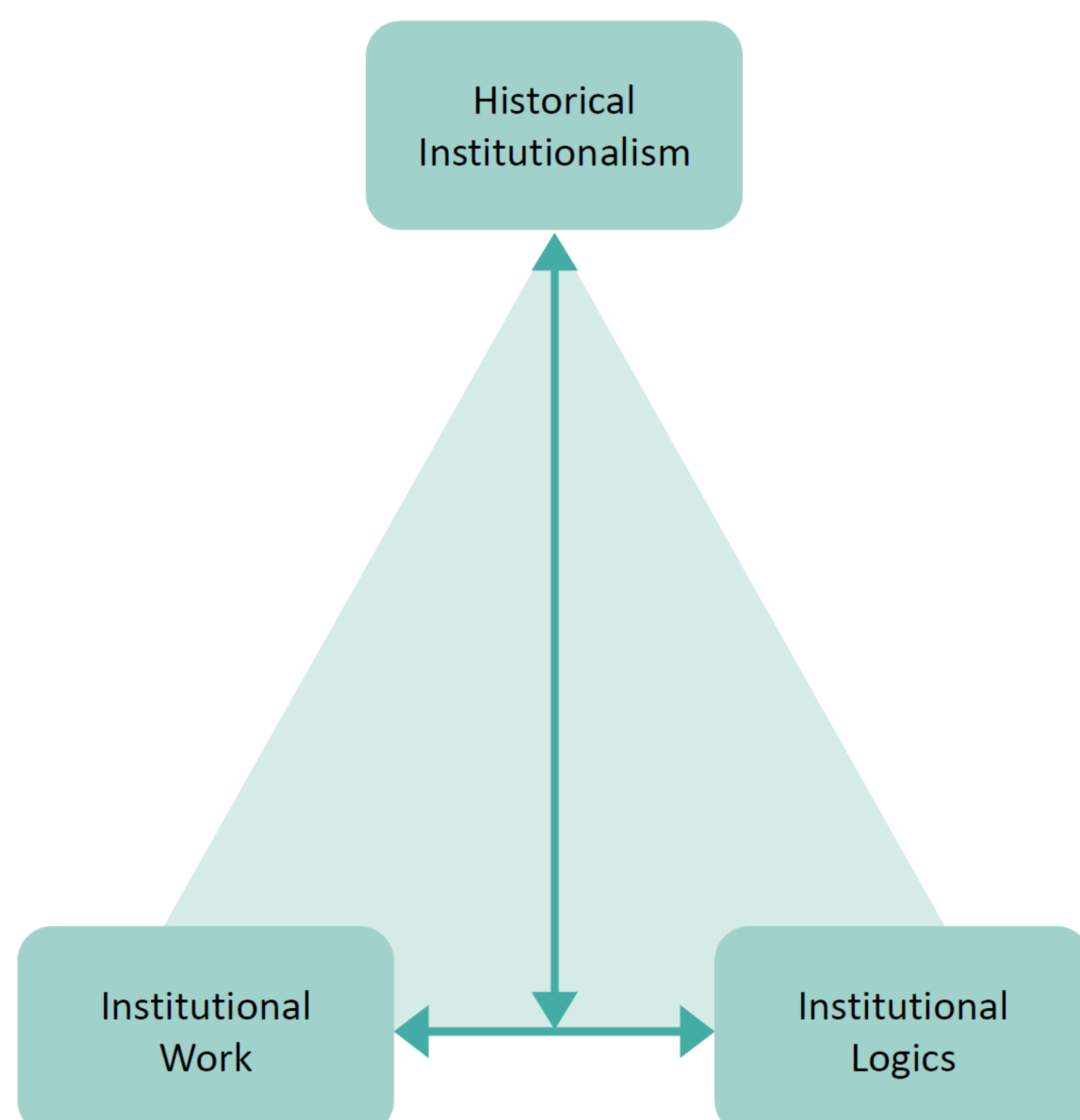
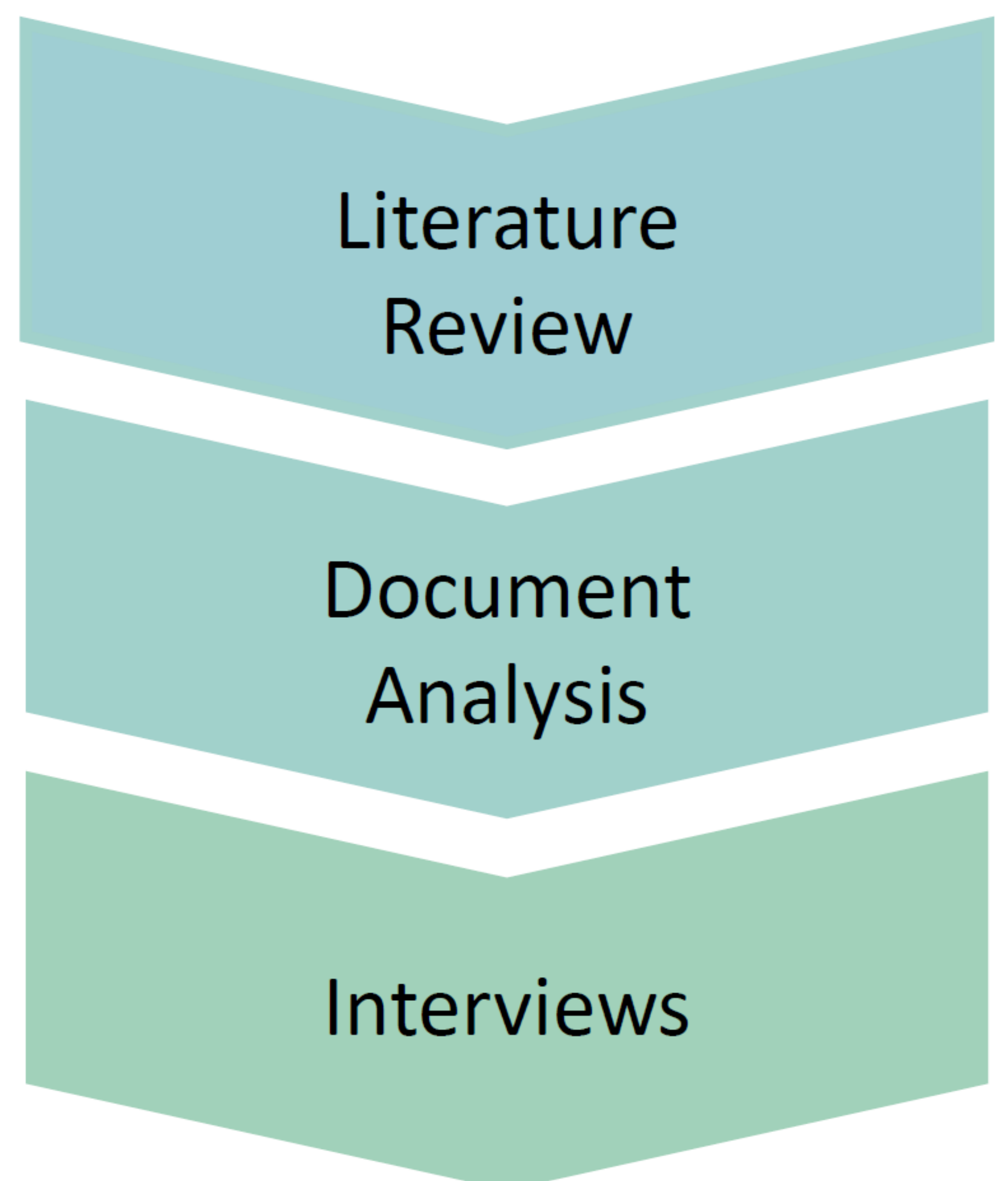
This study investigates institutional design within the public administration of a small state, applying the theory of historical institutionalism. It aims to identify internal and external factors shaping institutional frameworks at a macro level and categorise key influencing events. Focusing on the Maltese Public Administration, it explores developments following the 1989 PSRC Report, the 2009 Public Administration Act, and its 2019 re-enactment. By doing so, the study addresses a gap in literature on macro-level institutional design from a historical institutionalist perspective.

## Methodology

Literature review of relevant academic literature to identify key issues in institutional design at a macro level for public administrations within a small state.

Content Analysis – key documents including the PSRC Report, the Public Administration Act, Strategy Documents, Directives issued by principal Permanent Secretaries, relevant biographies and memoirs.

Thematic Analysis – interviews with key figures (in the administrative and technical spheres) such as former and current Principal Permanent Secretaries / Permanent Secretaries, staff identified (in documents above) who played a significant role in developments.



## Results & conclusions

The research combines two theoretical frameworks to fill existing gaps in institutional design studies. The theory of Institutional Work explains how individuals shape institutions from within, while Institutional Logics explores the cultural and symbolic dimensions influencing institutional development. Together, these frameworks provide a deeper understanding of the Maltese Public Administration's evolution and demonstrate how historical, structural, and cultural factors interact. The findings contribute significantly to the broader field of public policy and institutional theory.