Introduction to the Issue

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In this new issue of the journal, we have six insightful Research Articles, a useful Community Issues in Practice piece, and a Book Review—all of which focus on various aspects of public and nonprofit affairs.

In the first Research Article, Lucio, Bruening, and Hand (2020) investigate the strategies and activities public housing residents engage in to produce consistent access to sufficient nutritious food needed to support a healthy life. That is, they investigate residents’ food security. Their findings reveal barriers and opportunities for leveraging communities to attenuate place-based disadvantages associated with low food security. These findings demonstrate a potential missed opportunity to engage in place-based solutions that use principles of coproduction to produce and maintain residents’ food security.

In the second Research Article, Header (2020) explores access to cardiac surgeons for coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) and heart valve surgery in California and New York. Results of the study show that for large metropolitan areas, access is rather similar for traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage beneficiaries. Limitations, however, exist for the latter. This is one of the first studies to analyze Medicare Advantage networks and interactions between provider networks and provider quality.

In the third Research Article, Wathen (2020) investigates how the institutional logics of leaders of grassroots social service nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Russia changed over time and how these changes related to changes in organizational mission, people served, professionalization, and interactions with the government. The findings show that, on the one hand, social welfare NGOs continued to provide services, increased their advocacy efforts, and professionalized their staff. Volunteer organizations, on the other hand, discontinued provision of social services turning instead to the recruitment and development of volunteers. The findings from this study illustrate how an interplay of factors at multiple levels can affect the expression of logics at the organizational level.

In the fourth Research Article, Minkowitz, Twumasi, Berrett, Chen, and Stewart (2020) provide a timely review of all contemporary nonprofit scholarship (n=972 articles) from three prominent nonprofit journals. The review documents the development of nonprofit research as presented in these journals over the last five years and offers recommendations for future research consideration.

In the fifth Research Article, Keegan (2020) uses data gathered from 60 first-person, open-ended interviews with refugees and nonprofit service providers to answer the questions: How do refugees being served by nonprofits express their perceptions of the services they receive to nonprofit service providers? To what extent do refugees feel that nonprofit service providers

are responsive to their needs? And, how do nonprofit staff and volunteers report responding to the needs of their refugee clients?

Finally, in the last Research Article, Andersson (2020) examines the influence previous experience plays as it relates to nonprofit organizational start-up success. The results from this analysis show no significant impact with regard to education or prior nonprofit management experience; however, prior start-up experience significantly enhances the likelihood of start-up success.

Our Community Issues in Practice piece, by Ito and Slatten (2020), focuses on a timely subject and synthesizes research on a specific set of guidelines developed by Independent Sector. Overall, the study provides a substantive review of key concepts and developments related to nonprofit ethics and accountability. The issue is completed with a book review by Reitano (2020), who provides a review of Andrew Kleine’s book City on the Line: How Baltimore Transformed its Budget to Beat the Great Recession and Deliver Outcomes.

References


