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Introduction to the Issue

Lindsey M. McDougle – Rutgers University - Newark

Bruce D. McDonald, III – North Carolina State University

The 2018 Midwest Public Affairs Conference has come and gone; and, we are thrilled to announce that it was an overwhelming success! With a total of 115 attendees from 45 different institutions and agencies, we had 89 conference presentations that focused on the conference theme of *Adapting Public Service to an Age of Technological Change*. This year's conference was filled with presentations of innovative research, engaging speakers, and ample opportunities to connect with potential new collaborators.

We would like to encourage those who presented papers at the conference to consider submitting their best work to *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* (JPNA); and, even if you did not present a paper, we welcome your submissions. JPNA provides a rigorous open-source outlet for disseminating high quality research from diverse theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary backgrounds that address topics related to the affairs and management of public and nonprofit organizations—such as those that can be found in this new issue of the journal.

In this issue, we have four insightful *Research Articles* as well as a useful *Current Issues in Practice* piece—all of which focus on various aspects of public and nonprofit affairs. In the first *Research Article*, Reiter, Tzafrir, and Laor (2018) present results of their case study that relies on naturalistic qualitative inquiry and examines the importance of trust in successful collaborative relationships between public and nonprofit organizations in Israel. They find that focusing on trust as a multilevel concept is a key ingredient to success—even when such a focus threatens the very success of the collaboration itself.

In the second *Research Article*, Saitgalina, Bennet, Reina, and Coombs (2018) examine the relationship between nonprofit chief executive officer (CEO) compensation and performance in trade associations and professional societies. Specifically, they investigate how CEO compensation within these organizations affects organizational performance when CEOs are not only aware of the compensation of their peers, but are also able to influence their own compensation level.

In the third *Research Article*, Gonzalez-Gorman, Kwon, Bak, and Park (2018) examine the issue of why cities pursue both economic development and affordable housing—i.e., redistributive policies—simultaneously in spite of the challenge of balancing two contrasting goals. Using data obtained from the 2009 Economic Development survey conducted by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the authors find that city governments are more

likely to use affordable housing as a tool for economic development when certain conditions exist at both the state and the local level.

In the fourth *Research Article*, Velez (2018) studies a population of nonprofit organizations within the context of their subsector—allowing for a unique opportunity to examine forces that shape the subsector as opposed to the larger sector, more broadly. Specifically, using data from 168 semi-structured telephone interviews with representatives from 96 historic preservation nonprofits in 44 states in the six regions defined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Velez explores institutional and regional pressures shaping variation in the historic preservation subsector and develops typologies of professional approaches to preservation and capacity.

Our *Current Issues in Practice* piece, by McLeod, Gilmore, Daughtery, and Jones (2018) focuses on a timely subject and attempts to illustrate how a local nonprofit organization in Baltimore City, Maryland attempted to cognize, depict, and frame the perspectives of community stakeholders who were concerned about issues of structural racism in the city. Using qualitative data obtained from a “community conversation” (i.e., town hall forum) that was hosted by a local nonprofit organization, the authors demonstrate how locally-based nonprofits can, in partnership with local governments and communities, create healing and solution-focused initiatives to address complex and systemic social issues.

The issue is completed with two book reviews. The first, by Decker (2018), provides a review of Staci M. Zavattaro and Shannon K. Orr’s book *Reflections on Academic Lives: Identities, Struggles, and Triumphs in Graduate School and Beyond*. In the review, Decker discusses how the authors provide a glimpse into the “hidden world” of academia—which, undoubtedly will be useful knowledge for those in both public and nonprofit affairs related fields. The second, by Ford (2018), provides a review of *Can Governments Earn Our Trust?* by Donald F. Kettl. After acknowledging that the title of the book is a “loaded question,” Ford highlights Kettl’s arguments in support of an erosion of public trust in government institutions and describes a number of proposed solutions that Kettle offers to restore this trust.

We hope that you enjoy reading the articles in this issue, and we look forward to seeing everyone again (as well as some new faces) at the 2019 Midwest Public Affairs Conference, which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

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