

Editor's Introduction: Collaboration, Advocacy, and Accountability in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors

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In this new issue of *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, we offer a collection of *Research Articles* focused on collaborative governance, advocacy, accountability, and communications within the public and nonprofit sectors. Our *Social Equity* article offers an historical analysis of constitutional values and social justice with a focus on messaging for public service professionals. In addition, we offer a *Book Review* of important recent work focusing on research methods for nonprofits and voluntary action.

First, through the use of visual imagery, Dolamore et al. (2022) analyze the content of messaging conveyed through social media images by police foundations in the United States. By focusing on police foundations created to support local police departments, the authors collected Facebook banner images and demographic data over a period of two years. Through both inductive and deductive coding processes focusing on first impressions, images of police, and images of police activity, the authors reveal some expected and surprising findings. Ultimately, the authors provide practical advice for public service organizations adopting strategic communication plans that utilize visual curation for important messaging.

Recognizing the unique communication and governance challenges of hybrid, dual-mission social mission organizations, Kolodinsky et al. (2022) use institutional theory to examine the legitimacy of social enterprises. Through their comprehensive framework applying context-specific accountability mechanisms, the authors illustrate how social enterprises can strengthen perceptions of organizational legitimacy and performance, thereby strengthening their relationships with stakeholders. In doing so, the authors offer important findings related to improving legitimacy perceptions of social enterprises in different institutional contexts.

Amid the current environment of elevated fuel costs, Kagan (2022) offers a timely analysis of the advocacy activities of environmental nonprofits engaged in hydraulic fracturing policy debates. Extending our knowledge of nonprofit advocacy beyond 501(c)(3) service providers and 501(c)(4) advocacy organizations, the author utilizes both qualitative comparative analysis and quantitative statistical analysis to explore the types of advocacy activities these nonprofits use to influence policy. Overall, the author finds that these types of nonprofits actively participate in advocacy and are relatively effective at doing so, while also revealing new advocacy tactics than has been established by prior research.

Further focusing on the connection between the nonprofit and government sectors, Ji et al. (2022) examine a variety of nonprofit organizations and how they influence local governments' hazard mitigation efforts within the context of disaster management. Through

quantitative analysis of three main categories of nonprofits, the authors find that counties with more nonprofits dedicated to improving the community's social welfare are more likely to adopt hazard mitigation projects; however, counties with more nonprofits focused on select constituents are less likely to develop such projects. Overall, these findings reveal important distinctions in the types of nonprofits associated with local government disaster response efforts and activities.

Our final research article offers a variety of perspectives of power and its role in understanding collaborative governance. Specifically, Hafer et al. (2022) analyzed the content of articles recently published in the top 48 public administration journals to determine how such research views the concept of power. The authors find that extant research conceptualizes power from functional and critical perspectives, which is somewhat limiting our understanding of power dynamics and potential imbalances. As such, the authors also suggest greater attention be paid to social construction and pragmatic definitions of power. In doing so, the authors offer helpful practical advice for public administrators to better understand the power dynamics in collaborative governance efforts.

In this issue's *Social Equity* section, Trochmann and Guy (2022) offer an historical analysis of American constitutional values and democratic beliefs and how they mark the progression toward social equity. By recognizing the current political climate of divisiveness, the authors emphasize the importance of messaging from public service professionals that is relevant for the challenges of today in order to bring about necessary social change. Specifically, the authors contend that meanings drive narratives that justify administrative action. As such, it is imperative for public administration leaders to infuse the concepts of freedom, liberty, equality, and justice into the national narrative in such way that brings about shifts in policy and practice to advance social justice.

In his *Book Review of Researching Voluntary Action: Innovations and Challenges*, edited by Dean and Hogg (2022), Meyer (2022) evaluates an important contribution to advancing research in the area of nonprofit organizations and voluntary action. Meyer (2022) describes the content of the book's 15 chapters and its emphasis on first-person narratives that each contributing author provides to help explain their respective research method and how it can be applied through real-world examples. In addition, Meyer (2022) offers some critical suggestions that might aid in the development of future editions of the book and its use for doctoral level classes in research methods.

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