

## Editorial

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Behavioral approaches to public administration research and practice have grown rapidly over recent years. On the one hand, academic public administration has witnessed a steep rise in the use of behavioral science to reshape theory, redesign public services and improve administrative practices. On the other hand, governments and nonprofit organizations have increasingly applied behavioral insights to improve administrative work practices, facilitate access to public information and services, and improve outcomes. Thus, a critical mass of both academic and applied work now exists to justify a journal that reports and reflects on these important trends in the field.

We are pleased to launch the *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* (JBPA), an open-access, international, peer-reviewed and multidisciplinary journal with a distinct focus on behavioral science research and its relevance to public administration, broadly defined. We aim to develop JBPA into a premier outlet for behavioral research conducted within public administration settings that will be on-par in terms of scholarly rigor with the best journals in the field. We envision JBPA as a two-way-street at the intersection of the behavioral sciences and public administration open to any behavioral scientist with an interest in studying human behavior in public administration.

We will publish research articles, shorter research letters, perspectives and practices, and research syntheses on a range of substantive topics that reflect the application of behavioral science to questions of either theoretical or practical relevance to the field of public administration. The journal welcomes behavioral work that advances theory,

applied research about nudge tactics or other practical reforms, replications of previous experimental work, and even studies with null findings (provided they are sufficiently powered). Given its multidisciplinary orientation, JBPA welcomes articles from across the behavioral sciences, including economics, public policy, political science, psychology, sociology, public health, education, law and even biology, provided they have relevance for public administration theory or practice. We encourage submissions of both basic scholarly and applied work conducted by academics or practitioners.

### Journal Format

#### *Open Access without Fees*

JBPA has been established outside the corporate publishing industry as a truly open access and non-profit journal. We are not charging any article processing charges like many prominent open access journals do. Instead, all associated costs for running the journal are jointly covered by Rutgers University's School of Public Affairs and Administration (Center for Experimental and Behavioral Public Administration) and Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government and Public Service.

#### *Different Types of Submissions*

We encourage different types of submissions, including *research articles*, *research letters*, *perspectives and practices*, and *research syntheses*. The first three types will have a word length that is considerably shorter than conventionally used in public administration journals, following common practices in the behavioral sciences. Author guidelines for manuscript submissions can be found here:

<http://journal-bpa.org/index.php/jbpa/about/submissions>

**Research articles** are up to 4,000 words, excluding appendices.

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**Research letters** are up to 2,000 words in length, excluding appendices. They include applied trials (e.g., nudge tactics by government agencies), replications, or other empirical studies that can be presented in a more concise format.

**Perspectives and practices** are submissions that focus on theoretical perspectives on behavioral public administration, or that discuss important practical issues involved in applying behavioral science in government or nonprofit settings. These submissions are up to 4,000 words in length.

**Research syntheses** are up to 8,000 words and include meta-analyses or systematic reviews that seek to integrate and learn from a body of previous empirical work related to behavioral public administration.

#### *Research Transparency and Openness*

*JBPA* supports open and transparent scientific research. The journal subscribes to the Center for Open Science's Transparency and Openness Promotion Guidelines, specifically level 1 (Nosek et al., 2015). Following these guidelines, *JBPA* encourages (but does not require) authors to provide open access to their data, to make their study materials available (such as interview protocols, survey questionnaires, experimental manipulations, etc.), and to pre-register their study design and analysis plan. To encourage transparency and openness, *JBPA* will provide an Open Data Badge, an Open Materials Badge, and a Preregistered Badge that will be displayed on the front page of articles in *JBPA* that follow these practices.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our Transparency Editors, Myoung Jin Lee and Lars Tummers, who developed *JBPA*'s transparency and openness policy and will be assisting the journal and its authors in this important area of research practice and communication.

#### **Editorial board**

We have assembled a distinguished and diverse editorial board comprised of some of the top scholars from public administration and the behavioral sciences. They include (in alphabetical order): Simon Calmar Andersen, Lotte Bøgh Andersen, John Antonakis, Kevin Arceneaux, Arnold Bakker, Martin

Bækgaard, John Baron, Stuart Bretschneider, Uteeyo Dasgupta, Robert Dur, Marc Esteve, Mary Feeney, Stephan Grimmelikhuijsen, Sharon Gilad, Carolyn Heinrich, Leonie Huddy, Oliver James, Peter John, Kelly LeRoux, David Rand, M. Jae Moon, Donald P. Moynihan, Diana Mutz, Asbjørn Sonne Nørgaard, Michael Sanders, Betsy Sinclair, Kevin Smith, Raanan Sulitzeau-Kenan, Justin Stritch, Markus Tepe, Kees van de Bos, Arjen van Witelooostuijn, Eran Vigoda-Gadot, Andrew B. Whitford, Bradley Wright, and Richard M. Walker. This highly capable group will not only help provide careful reviews of manuscripts submitted to *JBPA* but also advise us on the overall direction of the journal.

We also would like to acknowledge and thank our Communications Editors, Asmus Olsen and Dominik Vogel, who will help *JPBA* have an active presence on social media so that the work published in the journal reaches a wide audience. We acknowledge and thank our International Editor, Claudia Avellaneda, who will help *JPBA* connect with communities of scholars and practitioners from around the globe.

#### **Way forward**

It is with great excitement that we publish the inaugural issue of *JBPA*. Based on a series of invited, peer-reviewed contributions, *JBPA*'s inaugural issue reflects the broad scope of a behavioral approach to public administration. We are grateful to authors for submitting their best scholarship to the journal. As of now, we are planning to publish issues on rolling basis with the aim of publishing four issues per year in the next two years. We are also committed to publishing a limited number of thematic symposia in the next years and are open to proposals from scholars working at the intersection of the behavioral sciences and public administration scholarship.

We are looking forward to your submissions!

## References

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