

Research Article

## Editorial: Continuity and change

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**A**t the start of the fourth year of the Journal of Behavioral Public Administration (JBPA), I would like to report to our readers, authors, reviewers, and editorial board members on the collective accomplishments of JBPA over the past year and our plans for the years ahead.

First of all, we have made changes to our editorial team. The founding editors (Kenneth Meier, Gregg Van Ryzin, and I) developed a plan for handing the reigns to the next cohort of editors in mid 2021. Unlike most other journals, JBPA is a full family enterprise where every aspect (from website design and hosting to manuscript production) is managed in-house. This makes for a unique editorial transition process since the new team needs to familiarize themselves with more than just academic editing. Hence, we first established the role of editor-in-chief in 2019 to reflect the administrative and editorial duties that are carried out by a single person. While we informally operated under such a model since the journal's inception, we chose to formalize it in 2019 to provide the new team with a clearer allocation of editorial responsibilities. Second, a group of new editors joined the team in the second half of 2020 (at various points) and started working alongside the founding editorial team. They will transition to run the journal in the second half of 2021 – Kenneth Meier and myself will step down at the end of May 2021. We are glad to welcome Ulrich Jensen (Arizona State University), Joanna Lahey (Texas A&M University), Dyana Mason (University of Oregon; joining in January 2021), and William Resh (University of Southern California). Gregg Van Ryzin left the editorship in 2020 (and now sits on the journal's newly established senior editorial board which will be transformed into the journal's governing body) when the first two new editors joined the team; we would like to thank him for his work and support for JBPA over the past years.

Last year was a successful one for JBPA. In 2020, we received a total of 93 submissions, or on average about 1.8 manuscripts per week. This is a significant increase over the last year. In 2019, we had about one manuscript submission per week (50 submissions in total), which means that we almost doubled the number of submissions received. Given this substantial increase in submissions and our continued commitment to publish the most rigorous behavioral public administration scholarship, we have decreased our acceptance rate to 33% and desk rejected about one out of four submissions. Overall, we are very pleased that more and more scholars within public administration and adjacent disciplines, as well as behavioral practitioners, regard JBPA as a premier outlet for their research.

The journal's average turnover from a manuscript's submission to acceptance for publication is about 160 days (compared to 170 days in 2019). This measure of turnaround includes time needed to revise and resubmit manuscripts and subsequent rounds of review. In addition, authors can also expect a decision of whether their manuscript will be sent out for review within one week. Our efficient turnover time would not be possible without the continued support and commitment of our editorial board and referee community – they are the backbone of the journal (I can also report that JBPA's turnaround of four weeks for peer reviews does not, in our experience, decrease the quality of referee reports).

During 2020, we had about 55,000 article downloads and abstract views (compared to about 29,000 in 2019). Our Communication Editors Asmus Olsen (University of Copenhagen) and Dominik Vogel (Hamburg University) deserve much praise for this achievement.

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In 2021, we will be publishing the final contributions to three compelling symposia (which are spread across 2020-2021) on Nonprofit Management, Transparency and Accountability, and Administrative Burden. We would like to thank our symposium guest-editors (in alphabetical order: Stephan Grimmelikhuijsen, Marcia Grimes, Pamela Herd, Mirae Kim, Kelly LeRoux, Dyana Mason, Donald Moynihan, Gregory Porumbescu) for their initiative, hard work, and continued support.

We also gratefully acknowledge the support to JBPA provided by Georgetown University's McCourt School Public Policy, the School of Public Affairs at American University, the City University of Hong Kong, and the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University-Newark. Because of our institutional partners, together with the voluntary labor of our dedicated editorial team, we continue to be able to publish JBPA without requiring authors to pay article processing charges or other publication fees. A special note of gratitude goes to our Associate Editor Nicolai (Nick) Petrovsky and Editorial Assistant Binzizi Dong (City University of Hong Kong), Transparency Editor Myoung Jin (MJ) Lee (Yonsei University), Editorial Assistant Ivan Lee (Rutgers University), and Copy Editor Anita Dhillon (American University). Without their commitment and hard work, we would not be able to run a journal production operation.

In closing, I would like to thank the entire JBPA editorial team, board of editors, authors, and reviewers for their continued support of this unique journal. The past four years (i.e., three years of journal operation and one year of planning) have been quite a journey. I am pleased that we managed to successfully build an open-access journal outside the corporate publishing business. Research is a public good that should be open to all – at as little cost as possible! This would not have been possible without the help of our academic community; it is their volunteer labor that makes this enterprise successful. I also know that the last year has put a lot of extraordinary strain on many of us and am hence especially appreciative for those who continue to support JBPA. Thank you!

PS: One final bit of advice to all authors: Always search-check your manuscript for “pubic” before submitting to JBPA.