

## **A New Chapter for PPA!**

Over the past three decades *Public Policy and Administration (PPA)* has established itself as one of the leading outlets for international quality research in the study of public policy, management and administration and cognate sub-fields. *PPA* has a strong identity providing a forum for debate, and the editorial line has been extremely successful in attracting high quality papers from a wide cross-section of policy fields addressing a range of contemporary issues. A particular strength of the journal under McTavish and Johnston-Miller has been its commitment to UK-related public administration at multiple levels.

Given the sustained success of *PPA*, there is no need to take a new direction. Rather, we aim to build on the firm foundations already laid and expand in terms of both methods and jurisdictions represented in the articles. Taking methods first, since its inception *PPA* has become a key venue for qualitative, single country case studies. Of course this approach forms the bedrock of public administration scholarship, but we also aim to attract papers taking comparative or quantitative approaches. There are also the ethnographic and experimental turns in policy scholarship that represent real innovation in the field. Moreover, there is room for expansion into more critical and theoretical analyses.

In terms of jurisdiction, presently journal content has historically been weighted toward the UK. While this is a UK journal, some rebalancing through expansion into continental European, EU and US material would be welcome.

Part of widening *PPA*'s substantive focus involves widening its audience. Naturally, we will continue to work closely with the journal's 'home' organisation – the Joint University Council-Public Administration Committee (JUC-PAC). But, we also want to build closer ties nationally with the Political Studies Association's (PSA) – through its Public Policy and Administration Specialist Group – and the broader European community gathered around the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA). The ultimate goal here is that *PPA* becomes the premier outlet for UK and European public policy and administration scholars working with a variety of methods on a range of contemporary governance issues and sectors.

We will also seek to increase the relevance of *PPA* to practitioners, and to create a channel by which scholars can gauge the reaction of practitioners to their work. We will accomplish this by offering scope for practitioners to comment (by invitation) on selected papers.

Special issues are important for reviewing the 'state of the art' in a particular field. We aim to take advantage of the strong connections of the Oregon State University, Exeter and Northumbria team by encouraging panel organizers at major conferences such as PSA, EGPA and ASPA-EGPA Transatlantic Dialogues to develop proposals for special editions. We will also actively encourage PhD students to submit papers to *PPA* by working with PhD student panels at major conferences. This will help ensure that *PPA* supports the next generation of academic researchers.

We look forward to receiving your submissions!

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