

## **Introduction to the Issue**

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Transitions are inevitable. They are part of a continuous process of invention and exploration.

Within the public and nonprofit sectors, specifically, research has focused on myriad types of transitions. For instance, there have been studies of inter-sector workforce transitions (e.g., Stein, 2012), board and executive transitions (e.g., Allison, 2002), and economic conditions within the context of transitioning economies (e.g., Jurajda, 2003), to name but a few types.

The research articles in this issue of *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* (JPNA), both, directly and indirectly add to the literature on transitions within the public and nonprofit sectors. In particular, the first article by Cooper, Knotts, and Bourne (2018) focuses on transitions in municipal government structures. In the article, the authors examine the case of the unsuccessful 2013 single-issue referendum in Columbia, South Carolina; and, they address why, despite support from key players, the city chose not to adopt a strong-mayor form of government. Ultimately, through this case study, we are able to gain greater insight into at least one reason why transitions in government structure at the municipal level may not succeed.

The next article by Maher, Park, and An (2018) is not a direct exploration of transitions per se, but more an indirect look at transitioning ideas about how cities can, and should, generate revenue. Specifically, the authors explore when and how municipalities receive Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs)—particularly in light of economic and demographic circumstances, institutional constraints, and public demands.

The idea of transitions also shows up in the third article of this issue by Albrecht (2018). In the article, Albrecht uses a phenomenological approach to examine the institutional logics of partner organizations and offers an integrated framework for how these logics translate into accountability structures in a nonprofit—public partnership (NPPP). On the surface, it may not be apparent of the transitions within this research. However, upon reading you should begin to see how transitioning from an autonomous organizational entity to an organizational participant within the context of a larger partnership requires a shift in organizational logics.

Next, in the article by Lee (2018), we see how transitioning ideas about the role of government can affect the content and quality of training programs in the civil service. Finally, in the article by Nelson (2018), we learn about why young people transition into the nonprofit workforce. Specifically, Nelson (2018) examines the experiences (whether school- or work-related) that young nonprofit employees have prior to their entry into the nonprofit sector.

The sole book review in this issue is by Kim (2018); and, although not explicitly dealing with transitions, it offers insights into understanding how policymakers and policy-analysts can work to bridge the academic–practitioner divide. Essentially the book provides insight into how two parties can transition from one "state of knowing" to another.

In continuing with this theme of transitions, we at JPNA are also undergoing a transition, as this issue marks the end of the tenure of our co-editor-in-chief, Bruce McDonald.

Under Bruce's leadership, JPNA has achieved a number of successes: JPNA is now indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), SCOPUS, Cabell's International Directory, and EconLit. The journal has also joined the Committee on Publication Ethics as a full member, readership is up, our social media presence has grown, submissions are at an all-time high, the quality of manuscripts has increased, and our pool of reviewers is ever expanding.

By all accounts, Bruce has been a tremendous asset to JPNA and his presence as part of the journal's editorial team will be greatly missed. Bruce has allowed the journal to reach new heights; and, for that we are incredibly thankful.

However, as indicated at the outset, transitions are inevitable; and, each editorial transition provides opportunities both to reflect on the success of the past and to anticipate the future. As a result of the excellent foundation that Bruce has laid, we are excited to build upon his success; and, we thank Bruce for his service and for facilitating a smooth editorial transition!

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