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Editor's Note

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This issue marks our first as Editors-in-Chief of *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* (JPNA). We'd like to thank Deborah Carroll for her leadership of the journal and commitment to ensuring a smooth transition. We extend our appreciation to the Associate Editors, Section Editors, and Editorial Board members whose service concluded at the end of 2023: Davia Downey, Olha Krupa, Helen Yu, Jamie Levine Daniel, Nicole Elias, Seth Wright, Rajade Berry-James, Christine Martell, Tina Nabatchi, Ileana Steccolini, and Wie Yusuf. Deborah and her editorial team's impact will continue to be seen through the beginning of our tenure. All of the articles in this issue and several articles in the next issue (Volume 10, Issue 2) were shepherded through the review process by the previous editorial team.

We also thank the Midwest Public Affairs Conference board – publisher of JPNA – for entrusting us to serve the public and nonprofit affairs scholarly community in this shared role. We accept the responsibility that comes with the position and look forward to building on the excellent work of our predecessors. JPNA is growing and maturing as a respected outlet for scholarship on “the affairs and management of public and nonprofit organizations.” Manuscript submissions are up, the journal's CiteScore is climbing, and JPNA obtained its first Impact Factor last year.

We intend to continue this growth trajectory by maintaining and enhancing the quality of the journal and have established a few short-term goals towards these efforts. First, we will expand the size and breadth of the Editorial Board. Jesse Lecy, Rebecca Nesbit, Kirsten Kinzer, and Laurie Paarlberg are new additions to the board; more new members will be announced in subsequent notes as we work to identify emerging scholars to bring on to the board. Second, we will continue to introduce (and reintroduce) the journal to scholars via regional, national, and international conferences related to public and nonprofit affairs. Finally, we will focus on expanding manuscript submissions among scholars in our networks and through general and targeted calls for papers.

In the longer-term, as we continue to build the reputation and standing of the journal, we would like to see JPNA as the first target for public and nonprofit affairs scholars seeking to publish their research. Acknowledging the newness of the journal relative to others and the competitive landscape, we maintain one significant advantage over many peers: JPNA is completely open access with no fees for making your work available to scholars around the globe. So, bookmark our website (www.jpna.org), frequent the journal often to read online first articles, and send us your best work!

This issue offers six research articles, one new voices article, and a book review covering a variety of relevant and timely topics. Those articles are introduced below, starting with Dula and Hansen's (2024) contribution.

Checkout charity is the name given to the commonplace and ubiquitous practice of asking consumers to give charitable donations – e.g., round-up for charity – when paying for goods at a retail store. Dula and Hansen (2024) conduct a national survey of individuals to investigate the demographics and determinants of this type of impulse giving and analyze these phenomena through the social heuristics hypothesis. Their findings suggest the factors associated with checkout charity at the register may differ from traditional giving, with women, middle class individuals, and those who are married or divorced all more likely to give.

Nonprofits adopt and implement social media to boost stakeholder engagement and raise community awareness. Literature over the last two decades have focused on identifying the factors associated with social media adoption – e.g., mission, capacity, professionalization, etc. – and has primarily focused on nonprofit use of Facebook and Twitter. In this mixed-methods analysis, DeMasters et al. (2024) explore three related research questions: nonprofit use of TikTok, alignment of TikTok content with stated social media strategies, and the impact of this content on user engagement. Findings suggest nonprofits producing authentic, community-building content generate greater user engagement.

Interorganizational collaboration is commonplace across multiple policy areas as a means for overcoming organizational limitations to produce greater public good. Roberts (2024) conducts an in-depth case study of three refugee-serving nonprofit organizations with similar missions and goals that collaborate to provide services. Her findings illustrate the benefits to interorganizational collaboration for nonprofits with limited capacity and specifically for those entities providing refugee resettlement services. Results also highlight collaborative challenges facing these organizations.

While the work of many NGOs decolonizing their structures and processes has been in process for over 25 years, pressures to continue this work have reemerged with the rising focus of inequities not only in the global south but within the global north in light of the Black Lives Matter movement, the COVID-19 crisis, and the disparate impacts of the climate crisis. Cascant-Sempere's (2024) case study analysis of the UK NGO, ActionAid examines the progress it has made to date, as well as some of the headwinds it faces in continuing to decolonize their structures (where they have been more successful) and putting the needs of addressing poverty both internationally and in the UK on more equal footing (where they have been less successful). She normatively argues, that if NGOs are going to continue their decolonizing work, they need to seek out ways to tie their work to a global justice narrative, but that it will take time to build those alliances.

Fiscal federalism in the context of primary, secondary, and higher education touch on factors including financing, spending, intergovernmental coordination, decentralization of authority, and accountability. In their case study, Zamirbekkyzy, Saparova, and Bulakbay (2024) investigate education financing and interbudgetary relations in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The authors reviewed state regulations, long-term state planning documents, republican (i.e., federal) and local budgets, and scientific output to analyze the current state of education financing in Kazakhstan. They conclude with recommendations for practice, including improving interbudgetary relations to increase the efficient distribution of financial resources, enhancing opportunities for educational institutions to generate additional funds, and allowing for greater decentralization to account for regional variation.

Given the relative predominance of people of the various Christian traditions in both the US overall and among public administrations, we know relatively little about how an individual's faith impacts how they think about and engage in their public service work. Horne (2024) engages in primary data collection to explicitly explore how Christian public managers engage in faith-work integration. Using a constructivist grounded theory approach, Horne (2024) develops a model that lays out how a public manager perceives the religious liberty they have to express their faith in the workplace and how firmly they perceive a sacred/secular divide ought to be, impacts how they engage in faith-work integration. The findings from this research indicates that the ways that Christian public administrators integrate their faith and work lives are very consistent with public administration goals and values. This research also suggests some implications for practice; public administrators should receive training that help managers understand the legal boundaries of faith-work integration as well as normalize employees expressing their religion-based motivations within those boundaries.

Governments adopt the Open Government Partnership (OGP) process as a structured process to engage civil society voices in each stage of the policy process. Using in-depth case studies, Khutkyy & Carmichael (2024) examine the evolution of OGP principles in Canada and New Zealand in developing National Action Plans (NAP). While their comparative case studies find similar levels of public participation, involve – on a scale of no consultation, inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower – in voting for open government policy proposals, the levels of open government outcomes were very different. From their research, the authors surmise that the political culture of the government impacts how the cocreation processes are implemented and can lead to divergent outcomes across governments.

Finally, in her review of the book, *Understanding Nonprofit work: A Communication Perspective*, by Koschmann & Sanders (2020), Steimel (2024) describes the important insights achieved by taking a communication perspective on nonprofits and the mission-oriented work they engage in over the more traditional transmission perspective. Steimel's (2024) review of the book highlights the importance of relationships as fundamental to all nonprofit work, whether it be analyzing their leadership, management, and governance; navigating beyond the market/mission dichotomy of nonprofit work; and engaging in collaborative work within and across sectors and even internationally. She argues the communication perspective of the book challenges readers to consider how these relationships and interactions are what create nonprofits and the work that they do.

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