

Letter from the SICA Chair

It is my great pleasure to introduce the second issue of SICA's reinvigorated *Occasional Paper Series*. This issue continues SICA's mission to encourage academics and practitioners to engage international, comparative, and development administration. As noted by Robert Dahl in 1947, comparative administration studies are necessary for our discipline to avoid the creation of a "hollow" administrative science (8). Our *Series* helps encourage a non-hollow administrative science.

Following in this tradition, this issue offers two Research Ideas, one Viewpoint, and two Practitioner Perspectives. Each are more than case studies on policy diffusion within Sister Cities International, workforce diversity in the Iranian public sector, hiring schemes in India, deliberative democracy in Guatemala and El Salvador, or digital education in the US. They also engage administrative spaces and/or countries infrequently explored by scholars of public administration. Each article emphasizes the importance of lesson-drawing not just for the cases themselves but also our broader public administration discipline. Each are snapshots into what is possible when SICA and its members push the boundaries of US- and/or OECD-focused public administration.

Our efforts to expand our *Series* received a boost in 2020 when SICA's Board chose to expand the number of *Occasional Paper Series* committee members (see: <http://www.sica-aspa.org/committees/>). This strategic decision expanded the capacity of this *Series* to reach more academics, students, and practitioners from around the world. Like in the *Series'* inaugural year, the 2020-2021 *Series* Committee is chaired by

Aroon Manoharan. Aroon's phenomenal efforts to launch our *Series* last year, to get our *Series* from a moribund status to its reconceptualization, its launch, its solicitation of authors, and its review processes was not easy. In recognition of Aroon's leadership, it was my pleasure as SICA Chair to award Aroon our 2020 Col Award for Section Service. It is well-deserved. As we look forward to our next issues, I feel confident that Aroon's continued leadership and our expanded team will ensure our *Series'* contribution to academic and practitioner discussions.

Sincerely,

--Kim Moloney, Ph.D., SICA Chair and Senior Lecturer,
Murdoch University, Perth Australia