

Letter from the Editor

I am pleased to introduce the second issue of the SICA *Occasional Paper Series*. The goal of the Paper Series is to provide a forum for exchanging and discussing various perspectives on international and comparative issues that are becoming more crucial and pertinent in an increasingly globalized world. The issues being faced by the governments today are becoming cross-national and have scope for global implications. There is an immediate need for public administrators and public policy makers to develop international and comparative perspectives to gain a better understanding of such public problems, and formulate sustainable solutions for global impact.

This second issue includes five papers focussed on topics as varied as civil service reform and lateral entry system in a career bureaucracy; workforce diversity in public sector; participatory deliberative democracy for peacebuilding; policy diffusion through sister cities partnerships; and Higher Ed policies for better digital access and learning. The countries of study include El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Iran, United States, and cities in several nations across the world.

Each article emphasizes the value of comparative public administration, its relationship with development administration, and what is gained by an internationalization of our public administration and public policy research agenda. We hope you learn as much for our first authors in this reinvigorated *Series* as I did.

I would like to express my gratitude to Kim Moloney, SICA Chair, for her guidance on relaunching the *Occasional Paper Series*. I am thankful to Cristina Stanica for her assistance with this second issue of the *Occasional Paper Series*. I

would like to appreciate the reviewers for their insightful feedback and comments on the papers. I would also like to thank the OPS committee members and the SICA board members for their support.

The next issue of OPS will be published in April 2021 – just in time for the 2021 ASPA conference. If you wish to submit your paper for consideration, now is the time. Please visit our website for further information:

<https://aspasica.wordpress.com/occasional-paper-series/>

The Paper Series invites submissions under any of the following formats: Policy Briefs, Practitioner Perspectives, Research Ideas, and Reflections.

I look forward to receiving your submissions.

-- Aroon Manoharan, Ph.D., Associate Professor,
University of Massachusetts at Boston; Editor-in-Chief,
Occasional Papers Series.