



## **Letter from the Editor**

I am pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of the SICA Occasional Paper Series. The goal of the Paper Series is to provide a forum for sharing and discussing varied perspectives on international and comparative issues that are becoming more pertinent and relevant in an increasingly globalized world. The public issues being faced today are increasingly global in nature and each issue has the potential for global impact. It is therefore important that public administrators and public policy makers develop international, comparative, and development perspectives as they address each issue. Such understandings will enable global actors to formulate and implement solutions that are feasible, sustainable, and lead to increased cooperation.

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

This first issue includes four papers from scholars located in the United States, Australia, and Egypt writing about topics as varied as NGOs, refugees, community-building, or digital government, administrative burden, and comparative education. The countries of study include Qatar, four Pacific Island states (Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands), Sweden, and the United States.

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 would like to thank 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 2020 – just in time for the 2020 ASPA conference in Anaheim California. If you wish to submit your paper for consideration in Volume 2, Issue 1 (April 2020) or Volume 2, Issue 2 (November 2020), now is the time. Please visit our website for further information: <https://aspasica.wordpress.com/occasional-paper-series/>

I look forward to receiving your submissions.

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