

Letter from the SICA Chair

It is my honor to introduce the first Special Issue of SICA's *Occasional Paper Series*. This Special Issue is edited by my friend (and former PhD classmate) Mohamed Alaa Abdel-Moneim, PhD. Mohamed and I sat next to each other during David H. Rosenbloom's infamously tough "Intellectual History of Public Administration" course at American University in Washington DC. It gives me joy to see Mohamed take part in SICA and to help our comparative, international, and development administration scholarship move forward.

Two milestones are celebrated with this Issue. It is the *Series'* first Special Issue. But it is also the *Series'* first issue focused exclusively upon papers accepted for SICA's 7th Annual Riggs Symposium in April 2020. While COVID-19 led to the cancelation of the conference, it did not hamper participants from continuing their research and sharing their outputs with the *Series* audience. This partnership between SICA's Riggs Symposium and SICA's *Series* will continue into the future.

This Special Issue has two Policy Briefs, one Research Ideas, and one Viewpoint. With articles focused on the necessity of comparative public administration within NASPAA accreditation (Manoharan and Carrizales, Policy Brief) as well as a conversation about pedagogy within our comparative administration classrooms (Bell, Viewpoint), the authors encourage our readers and our colleagues to engage in comparative administration teaching. The importance of that task is highlighted in both articles.

This Issue also contains a provocative article on institutionalized dowry in India (Soni, Policy Brief) that contextualize this event and offers policy recommendations for the future. This is followed by an article which uses grounded analytical theory (Meza and Pérez-Chiqués, Research Idea) to create a corruption consolidation framework that explains ongoing corruption in two Mexican municipalities despite ongoing anti-corruption institutional efforts.

Special thanks to Cristina Stanica, PhD for formatting this Issue as well as the *Series'* multiple reviewers who have kindly taken time out of their day to blind review each article.

As our *Series* continues to evolve, we continue to seek your comments. If you enjoyed reading this Issue, please let us know. If you have ideas for future issues or would like to submit your own article for consideration, please contact us.

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