

**Letter from the SICA Chair**  
**(The Series Moving Forward)**

It is my absolute honor to bring to you the June 2021 Occasional Paper Series (OPS) special issue on India. This is personally exciting for me on a couple levels. One, this is the first issue published since I took over as the SICA chair in April this year. And second, the focus of this issue is a region of the world which inhabits over 17% of the world population and a country I call home, too. The papers published in this special issue focus on guest labor, collaboration, food security and health in times of crisis.

I thank my predecessor and former chair, Dr. Kim Moloney, for resurrecting this series. I remember the several discussions we had when we wanted to reinstate OPS. I will admit I had my reservations about whether we would get enough submissions. Could we sustain a series like this, who would serve as the editor? How can we ensure we produce a quality publication? The questions in my mind were endless. Now that we have our 4<sup>th</sup> issue, I can unequivocally say that all of my fears were put to rest. The series has already proven to be a platform that is attracting diverse voices, often from scholars who have research and work in parts of the world that are not represented in mainstream public administration and policy discourse.

OPS is gaining a lot of traction, thanks to the tireless work by our editorial team. Under the leadership of Dr. Aroon Manoharan, we have now successfully published the first three issues. In addition to this special issue on India, we will soon publish our third special issue on Central and Eastern Europe.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our reviewers who are willing to work with our authors to ensure papers are rigorous and meet international standards of publishing (double-blind peer review).

Moving forward, I am excited to announce that Dr. Cristina Stanica, Assistant Teaching Professor,

School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University, will serve as the editor of the series since Dr. Manoharan is now the chair-elect of SICA and has additional responsibilities. Dr. Manoharan will continue to offer his assistance, but I am confident that the series will build on his fine work under the leadership of Dr. Stanica. We once again, thank Dr. Manoharan for his service and dedication to the series.

I encourage all our members to continue to spread the word about OPS and motivate rising scholars, students, and practitioners to submit their work. I also encourage SICA members to volunteer as reviewers. We welcome any feedback you may have to improve this series.

I would like to end by paying my tribute to two scholars of comparative public administration we lost in this past year, Dr. Garth N. Jones and Dr. Franklin Adorsu-Djentuh. The field of comparative public administration will forever remain indebted to the work by these excellent scholars and practitioners.

*--Meghna Sabharwal, Ph.D., SICA Chair and Professor  
and Department Head of Public and Nonprofit  
Management, University of Texas at Dallas*