Letter from the Editor

The second publication of the Occasional Paper Series’ Volume 4 represents a special issue on Latin American government and governance challenges during and after COVID-19. The issue includes manuscripts that responded to our call for reflecting upon the challenges faced by Latin American countries in managing post-pandemic recovery. The pandemic exposed significant government weaknesses in managing the crisis and its socio-economic consequences, all within a context dominated by political polarization, social unrest, and economic instability.

To fulfill its goal of encouraging dialogue over public administration and policy issues and solutions in Latin American contexts and beyond, the issue features eleven manuscripts in the form of reflections, policy briefs, research ideas, and practitioner perspectives. The issue sheds light on timely and promising new approaches to build theory, research, and compare practices across different levels of government and covers the following topics: the value of studying Latin American subnational governments, transparency and public trust in Mexico and Brazil, ethnoracial inequalities and the power dynamics of racialization, the use of Armed Forces in COVID-19 emergency responses in Argentina and Mexico, COVID-19 and “the New Tragedy of the Commons,” Peru’s transition towards remote work, the role of metaorganizations in global governance, methodological localism in COVID-19 vaccine implementation in Mexico, social protection and the role of information in Latin America and the Caribbean, transportation, mobility, and groupthink, and evidence-based strategic planning in the City of Palmira, Colombia.

Each manuscript concludes with recommendations, lessons, and takeaways for several promising areas of comparative public administration and policy research. These include adjusting theoretical models in public administration while considering an intersectional approach, and proposing recommendations to inform and improve public decision-making.

I would like to express my gratitude to the guest editor, Manlio F. Castillo, Associate Professor at CIDE, for spreading the word about this issue, bringing more reviewers on board, and assisting with the Spanish translation. Thank you to Shahnir Upoma, SICA secretary, for aiding with translation and assisting with editorial work. I am grateful to Meghna Sabharwal, SICA Chair, for the ongoing support of all paper series endeavors and for proposing new initiatives that extend their scope. Lastly, thank you to all reviewers and the series committee for their thoughtful and timely feedback on submissions. I strongly believe in the value of continuing conversations around the future of the Occasional Paper Series. Thank you to all SICA members who have voted on re-naming the series.

Please keep following our website and Twitter account for more updates. The following special issue on “Global Food Insecurity” will be published in late summer 2022. There is also an open call for papers. If you wish to submit your paper for consideration, now is the time. The paper series invites submissions under the following formats: Policy Briefs, Practitioner Perspectives, Research Ideas, Case Studies, and Reflections.
Happy reading!

Sincerely,

-- Cristina M. Stănică, Ph.D., Assistant Teaching Professor, Northeastern University; Editor-in-Chief, Occasional Papers Series

Note:

The Section on International and Comparative Administration of the American Society for Public Administration is concerned with promoting research and communication of public administration with an international and comparative focus. The Occasional Paper Series was created to contribute to the public interest by disseminating the intellectual and professional work of the section’s members and opening it up (both through online and open access) to the global community of actors interested in comparative public administration and governance. The papers in the series are available for download free of charge. They can be used and referenced as any other academic reference, with offering proper credit and acknowledgment. However, we have no explicit copyright policy.

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