

Integration, Mediation, Equity, and Attrition: Social Policy across America

Tony Carrizales
Editor-in-Chief

This fifteenth volume of the *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy* brings together a collection of articles that highlight the range of social policies impacting communities throughout the United States today. The issue's contributors provide contemporary analyses of public management and social policies in areas ranging from female attrition in the military to social and immigrant integration in local communities.

In the opening article, "Social Capital and Social Integration: The Case of the Barrio in San Antonio, Texas," co-authors Vega, Firestone, Harris, and Martinez examine the relationship of social capital among racial/ethnic groups, highlighting how socially integrated individuals reflect a higher degree of social capital. Moreover, they study the extent to which social capital impacts community participation.

Christine Thurlow Brenner similarly looks at community integration in the next article, "Structures and Strategies of Immigrant Integration: Evidence from Local Governments in the New Latino Destinations of the United States." Brenner focuses on Latino immigrants and local government initiatives and examines ways in which local governments in the U.S. are designing immigrant integration strategies for the new destinations of Latino communities. She concludes with a model of immigrant integration and typology of policies that recognize reactive and proactive roles of local officials and Latinos.

In the third article, "The Multifaceted Nature of White Female Attrition in the Military," G. L. A. Harris, takes a look at the military's recruitment and retention challenges—critical amid current U.S. presence in Iraq and Afghanistan. Specifically, Harris explores the policies and practices that contribute to the military's low retention among white females. The study employs agency theory to help explain the extent to which white females in the military exercise their career options.

In the fourth article, "Regulation of Child Custody Mediation: A Patchwork Quilt," Patrice M. Mareschal and Joel P. Rudin, analyze the degree to which states respond to child custody mediation. They ask whether states should mandate that divorcing parents attempt mediation of child custody disputes. They also explore standards set for education and training of child custody mediators.

The final article, “An Examination of Social Equity and its Dimensional Emphasis in the Public Administration Journal Literature” presents a consideration of the concept of social equity in public administration literature. LaShawn D. Moore and John C. Morris use a typology of items, recipients, and process to review public administration content, finding that all three aspects of the typology are represented through the literature, with process issues the most prominent.

This issue concludes with two reviews of books about social inequalities. First, Brenda L. H. Marina asks whether we can overcome racism in a review of Derald Wing Sue’s *Overcoming Our Racism: The Journey to Liberation*. Then, Helisse Levine examines gender inequality in public administration leadership in light of Felbinger and Haynes’ *Profiles of Outstanding Women in Public Administration*.

JPMSP has undergone several changes since the beginning of this volume. With Byron Price’s new responsibilities at the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University, I have assumed the role of editor-in-chief. Andrew I. E. Ewoh will now serve as managing editor responsible for manuscripts and Leila Sadeghi as managing editor of communications. In addition, Anthony Sisneros will now serve as case study editor and Maria J. D’Agostino as book review editor.

We would like to thank our outgoing board members, especially Byron Price for his work as editor-in-chief and his ongoing support of *JPMSP*. We also offer sincere thanks to our committed editorial board, reviewers, and staff for their continued work. Lastly, we would like to thank our contributors for considering *JPMSP* as an outlet for their research.