

Contemporary Cases: Policy, Privatization and Networks

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This second issue, of the fifteenth volume of the *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, continues to bring together a collection of articles that review polices and cases underscoring the need for continued research in the area of social policy and management throughout the United States. The issue's contributors provide contemporary analyses of public management and social policies in areas ranging from policy entrepreneurship to privatization. The issue brings together for general articles, a new section with a case review and two book reviews to complete the fifteenth volume of *JPMSP*.

In the opening article, "Reaching No Fear: Policy Entrepreneurship in New Policy Strategies for Public Sector Accountability," co-authors Pamela Ransom and Judith J. Kirchoff examine the concept of the "policy entrepreneur" as it applies to events leading up to passage of legislation designed to increase Congressional oversight of federal agencies in employee civil rights. The review of such policies highlights efforts to achieve work environments free from harassment, hostility, whistleblower retaliation, and other unfair administrative actions.

Anna A. Amirkhanyan looks at the impacts of privatization in the next article, "Rejecting Privatization: Case Study Analysis of Local Government Decision-making." More specifically, Amirkhanyan reviews the large number of privatization initiatives in the field of nursing home care and attempts to understand the determinants and the process of these initiatives utilizing qualitative research.

In the third article, "Collaborative Management of Interorganizational Intersectoral (ISIO) Cause-Based Networks: The Case of Firm Participation in Voluntary Environmental Sustainability Programs," Danielle M. Varda and Jo A. Arney, take a look at the network ties among multi-sectoral organizations and develop a conceptual framework by which they empirically measure and assess intersectoral ties that may successfully enable ISIO cause-based networks. By reviewing networks among environmental sustainability programs they address an area of critical importance for public managers and social policy.

The final article, “Stress and Collateral Consequences for Registered Sex Offenders,” Richard Tewksbury and Elizabeth Ehrhardt Mustaine analyze the effects of sex offender registries on registered sex offenders and review the variety of social, economic and familial collateral consequences. Their research assesses the experiences of consequences in a sample of 209 registered sex offenders in Oklahoma and Kansas.

In a new section for *JPMSP*, Case Reviews allow for focused case studies of social policies and public management. “Privatization and Human Resources Management: Some Equity Challenges,” by Joan E. Pynes focuses on how privatizing services in the City of Tampa led to the reduction of municipal workforces raising issues of the value of lower cost services. This collision between privatization and layoffs raises concerns of social equity and social representation.

The issue concludes with two reviews of books about social and political issues and inequalities. *America’s Social Health: Putting Social Issues Back on the Public Agenda*, reviewed by Caroline McMahon, lends itself to public sector scholars and practitioners looking to further their understanding of social issues in America. Finally, Christopher E.S. Warburton reviews *Polarized America*, which focuses on the impact economic variables have had on the polarization of American politics.

We would like to 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.