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## **Introduction to the Issue**

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The 2019 Midwest Public Affairs Conference (MPAC) takes place September 19-20, 2019. It will be held at the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis. The theme for this year's conference is *Less is More: A Themeless MPAC*. This concept (of "less is more"), in many ways, is applicable to the current landscape of public and nonprofit affairs.

Indeed, public and nonprofit management scholars have begun to explore the many ways in which less is often more. For example, there have been attempts to understand mechanisms of publicness in mental health treatment facilities (Merritt, Cordell, & Farnworth, 2017); and, there is also work measuring how fewer social networks can influence the public's philanthropic engagement with nonprofit organizations (Scharf, 2014). We, therefore, invite scholars, researchers, and practitioners to consider the ways in which this concept (of "less is more") could manifest itself in the public and nonprofit sectors.

An exciting aspect of MPAC this year is that it will be held concurrently with the Teaching Public Administration Conference (TPAC). Both, MPAC and TPAC will have a combined registration. Therefore, individuals may attend both at no additional cost. Combining these conferences should allow participants to explore, celebrate, and enhance the full diversity of public and nonprofit theory, praxis, and pedagogy as it relates to the concept of "less is more."

Similar to this year's MPAC theme, there is no particular theme that ties together the research articles in this issue of the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* (JPNA). However, each of the articles in this issue adds to our understanding of public and nonprofit affairs in meaningful ways. In particular, the first research article by Berlan, Shen, and Klay (2019) explores the history and evolution of the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration (SECoPA). In the article, the authors examine the extent to which SECoPA has remained true to its founding mission.

The next research article by Collins, Kim, and Tao (2019) focuses on the topic of citizen satisfaction. The article explores how quantity and quality of public service provision affect how satisfied citizens are with their public services. Using data from a pair of municipal surveys, the authors find that quality and quantity are indeed, both, significant antecedents to citizen satisfaction. This finding leads the authors to call for more nuanced conceptualizations of citizen satisfaction in the public sector.

Shaul Bar Nissim and Schmid (2019), in their research article *Rethinking the Social Welfare Regime: The Case of Public Policy Toward Israeli Philanthropists*, propose modifications to traditional social welfare regime typologies based on the nature of the relationship that exists between government and philanthropy in the context of shifting welfare regimes.

Denison, Yan, and Butler (2019), in their research article, use financial data for nonprofit organizations extracted from the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS) digitized files to examine the extent to which a reliance on different nonprofit revenue sources affects nonprofit revenue volatility and total revenue growth.

The last research article in the issue by Millesen and Carman (2019) uses data collected from 800 individuals serving as board members of 42 different performing arts nonprofits. In the study, they report on board member evaluations of their own individual participation as well as board member evaluations of the board's collective governance process.

Although each of the research articles in this issue of JPNA focuses on a different aspect of public and nonprofit affairs, collectively they all provide theoretical and practical guidance for those operating (whether research-wise, pedagogically, or practically) in these sectors.

The sole article in our Current Issues in Practice section for this issue provides insight into an important, though often overlooked, aspect of volunteer management: that is, the aging of volunteers. In this article, Russell, Heinlein Storti, and Handy (2019) present the results of a survey of volunteer administrators who share their organization's current policies and perspectives about volunteer retirement.

To close out the issue, Klatt (2019) provides a review of Paul A. Verkuil's (2017) book *Valuing Bureaucracy: The Case for Professional Government*.

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