



From the PMRA President

Dear PMRA Members:

Should PMRA conference sites be chosen based on the policies of the government in which prospective hosts are located? Several years ago, the Public Management Research Association Board of Directors voted to move the location of the Public Management Research Conference from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Government. The move was driven by new legislation in North Carolina, "HB2", which mandated that sex-specific bathrooms be used only by those whose birth certificate indicated that sex. HB2 eventually expired and UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Government was able to host the conference in 2019. (Notably, the 2018 international PMRC location was in Singapore which, at the time, criminalized sex between men. Singapore's parliament has since repealed that law).

These events in the PMRA's history raise questions about whether conference site selection should be based on the policies of the government in which the site host resides. There is no doubt that policy-based site selection speaks volumes to those PMRA members whose lives are dramatically affected, psychologically or physically, by those policies, but not all people residing in those locations are on board with government policy. Indeed,

some actively work to change policies that some would view as automatic disqualifiers for site selection. To move a conference based on the host government's policy is to disempower those voices that are desperately needed to combat legal bias and discrimination.

Having said that, when we choose conference sites based on government policy, we are assuming that PMRA members are all on the same page politically. How does one make the determination that a potential site is problematic politically? Whose political values does one use to guide that decision making?

There are no easy answers to this question. Rather, this is a conversation starter. What is your perspective on PMRC site selection? Email us at pmra@ku.edu or ldd@unc.edu. I hope we can engage in thoughtful, civil, and compassionate conversation around this issue.

May your research be fruitful,

Leisha DeHart Davis
PMRA President
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Editor's Note: This year, our featured essays in *Management Matters* focus on scholarly issues and questions from outside the United States and Europe. Thanks to Professors Avellaneda and Bello-Gomez for their essay below.

Claudia N. Avellaneda is the O'Neill Professor and Fischer Faculty Fellow at the O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington, and a residential fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University.

Ricardo A. Bello-Gomez is an assistant professor of public administration in the Department of Political Science at Texas Tech University. He is an incoming assistant professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University in Newark, starting in the fall of 2023.

Latin America: An Opportunity for Globalizing Public Administration Theory

The Latin American region offers a fruitful ground to test and expand public administration theory for several reasons. First, experiences of Latin American countries with military (e.g., Argentina), authoritarian (e.g., Brazil), populist (e.g., Venezuela, Nicaragua), communist (e.g., Cuba), and bureaucratic-authoritarian (e.g., Chile) regimes allow public administration scholars to test the generalizability of theories developed in consolidated democratic settings. Second, while the third wave of democratization brought democracy to several countries (e.g., Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay), democracy is far from being homogeneously consolidated in the region (Diamond, 1999). According to Polity IV, only Chile, Uruguay, and Costa Rica score 10, the maximum measure of democracy, as do Canada and the United States. No country in the region relies on a two-party system. Multi-party systems characterize the region with three parties at the lowest level (e.g., Chile) and more than 15 parties at the highest level (e.g., Colombia and Brazil). These distinguishing characteristics should influence citizens, politicians, and bureaucratic incentives and behavior. Understanding how, when, and why these distinguishing characteristics directly and/or indirectly influence government performance should be of interest to public administration scholars.

Latin America also provides several opportunities for contrasting public administration theories due to its institutional and socio-economic characteristics. For instance, Latin America has the highest rates worldwide of inequality in terms of income, wealth, and opportunities (Ferreira and Schoch, 2020). While trends were improving in the last few years, the pandemic resulted in millions of vulnerable Latin Americans going back into poverty, thus worsening inequality across the region (Acevedo et al., 2021). Social unrest and low

levels of trust in government might be associated with the justified perception that governments do not deliver public goods effectively and, when they do, they do it unequally. Indeed, inequality, along with drug trafficking, gangs, and poor rule of law, also have contributed to characteristically high rates of violence in a region referred as "the murder capital of the world" (Wall Street Journal, 2018). Finally, governments at all levels in Latin America are under a constant threat of takeover due to institutional weaknesses and pervasive corruption (Brinks, Levitsky & Murillo, 2019).

Subnational governments in Latin America also are a fertile ground to advance theory in public administration mainly for two reasons. First, in the last 40 years, the region experienced the most dramatic rise in decentralization and subnational autonomy worldwide. Thus, scholars have used Latin American cases to expand theories of intergovernmental relations in areas such as metropolitan governance (Meza et al. 2019) and the executive and organizational drivers of intergovernmental cooperation (Bello-Gomez and Avellaneda 2021, and Bello-Gomez 2021). Second, Latin American countries exhibit deep territorial differences in the capacity of governments to implement policy and provide services across the territory (Luna and Soifer, 2017). These features have allowed scholars to explore differences in local government capacity, depending on executive and personnel qualifications (Avellaneda 2009a, 2009b, Avellaneda 2023), complexity of provided services (de la Riva-Agüero 2022), and its interaction with the presence of the central government across the country (Bello-Gomez 2020).

If the public administration field wants to seriously commit to considering the effect of heterogeneous capacity and environmental complexity and turbulence on public

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performance, Latin America certainly offers a set of relevant contexts for study. Many scholars in the Global North certainly have shown an interest in incorporating the region in the global discussions of public administration research. However, this effort will remain incomplete if they fail to consider a direct dialogue with scholars and practitioners working on the ground in Latin America. Even for academics born and raised in the region but now working abroad, including authors of this article, working with the public administration community in Latin America brings enormous benefits in terms of context knowledge, data collection, professional connections, and insights from first-hand experience.

PMRA's role in embracing the Latin American region has started. In February 2023, PMRA sponsored the first writing workshop targeting junior scholars from the Global South.

As co-organizers of this workshop, we saw firsthand how this scholastic encounter empowered the 26 attendees. About 10 editors from several public administration and political science journals accepted PMRA's invitation to guide and mentor the junior scholars during the workshop. University Los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia) hosted the well-organized event, and CIDE (Mexico) also contributed. Latin American scholars working in U.S. universities co-organized the event. This kind of initiative should be offered regularly. PMRA's investment in the Latin American region, and the Global South in general, not only communicates fairness but also inclusiveness. With exchange rates favoring the U.S. dollar, scholastic events can be carried out with relatively prudent budgets in the region. We look forward to reading more research generated out of the region and to attending more academic events in Latin American countries.

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Public Management Research Conference 2023

[PMRC 2023](#) will take place **June 27-30** in Utrecht, The Netherlands, hosted by the Utrecht School of Governance (USG).

The Public Management Research Conference (PMRC) is the foremost gathering of public management experts in the world. The PMRC is sponsored by the Public Management Research Association (PMRA) which publishes the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (JPART) as well as Perspectives on Public Management and Governance (PPMG).

[You can find all the information you need to plan your trip and participate in the conference at the conference website \(https://pmrc2023.com/\).](https://pmrc2023.com/)

A good place to start is with the frequently asked questions (FAQs). You can also find information about Utrecht and accommodation options. There is a provisional program for the conference itself and a selection of pre-conference workshops which can be selected during registration.

Key Dates

- Regular registration: **May 10, 2023**
- Full paper submission: **June 10, 2023**
- Pre-conference workshops: **June 27, 2023**
- Conference: **June 27-30, 2023**

Social Equity in Action

The KU School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) in partnership with the National Academy of Public Administration's Standing Panel on Social Equity in Governance and the Mid-America Regional Council will host the Social Equity Leadership Conference (SELC) at the Westin Crown Center hotel in Kansas City, Missouri **June 12-14, 2023**.

This year's theme is Social Equity in Action. A goal of the planning committee is to have at least one academician paired with one practitioner on each panel. This reflects the commitment of the SELC committee to give participants the tools to put social equity policies into practice in their communities long after the conference concludes.

Specifically, topics for the three-day event will be centered on five themes – urgent equity challenges, generational shifts, sophisticated data and technology, political context, and tools for sustained organizational efforts.

A cornerstone of the event will be a keynote address by columnist and opinion writer Leonard Pitts. This is the first of the H. George Frederickson Social Equity Lecture Series to honor the late KU Stene Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

For more information on the SELC Conference, please visit the conference website at <https://jayhawkglobal.ku.edu/selc-conference/sponsorship>. If you have questions about SELC or you are interested in becoming a conference sponsor, please contact Alex Terwilliger, Associate Director at alex.terwilliger@ku.edu.

Professional News

Recent & Forthcoming Publications

Daniel Berliner, Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science, **Alex Ingrams**, Assistant Professor in the Institute of Public Administration, Leiden University, and **Suzanne Piotrowski**, Professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University–Newark have published *The Power of Partnership in Open Government: Reconsidering Multistakeholder Governance Reform* (2022) with MIT Press.

Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia, Professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University–Newark has published *Violent America: The Dynamics of Identity Politics in a Multiracial Society* (2023) with Cornell University Press.

Stephan Grimmelikhuijsen, Associate Professor at Utrecht University School of Governance, **Albert Meijer**, Professor of Public Innovation at Utrecht University, and **Gregory Porumbescu**, Associate Professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University–Newark have published *Government Transparency: State of the Art and New Perspectives* (2022) with Cambridge University Press.

Comings, Goings, New Positions & Promotions

Benjamin Clark, Associate Professor of Public Administration, has been named Director of the School of Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon effective July 1, 2023.

Ashlee Frandell has joined the faculty in the School of Public Affairs and Leadership at the University of Nevada–Las Vegas as an Assistant Professor.

Sebastian Jilke, Associate Professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, has been awarded the designation Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor.

Jihye Jung has been appointed Assistant Professor at Hainan University–Arizona State University International Tourism College (HAITC)

Jiahuan Lu, Associate Professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University–Newark, has been named an Associate Editor of *Public Performance & Management Review*.

Pablo Sanabria-Pulido has been appointed Associate Professor with tenure at the School of Public Administration at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Additionally, he has been named associate editor for the *International Journal of Public Administration (IJPA)*.

Danbi Seo has joined the School of Community Resources and Development at the Arizona State University as an Assistant Professor.

Pengju Zhang, Assistant Professor at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University–Newark, was named an Associate Editor (for outreach) at *Public Performance & Management Review*.

Thanks to Our Board Members

Remember to Vote

PMRA will be holding elections for several open Board positions later this spring.

We thank all of our Board Members for their service and contribution to PMRA's success.

Officers

Leisha DeHart-Davis, University of North Carolina, President

Rob Christensen, Brigham Young University, Vice-President

Rosemary O'Leary, University of Kansas, Treasurer and Co-Director of the Secretariat

Richard Walker, City University of Hong Kong, Past-President

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Sonia Ospina, New York University

Ellen Rubin, SUNY Albany

Craig Thomas, University of Washington

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

A Survey from PMRA

The Board of Directors of the Public Management Research Association (PMRA) is interested in the input of PMRA's members and affiliates as it makes immediate and long-term decisions on behalf of the Association. For that reason, PMRA has launched a membership survey that covers members' engagement and satisfaction with PMRA, as well as recommendations to the Board. Results from the survey will be shared during PMRC 2023.

Please check your inbox for an email from PMRA. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. If you have any questions, please email the co-chairs of PMRA Membership Committee, Prof. Khaldoun AbouAssi (abouassi@american.edu) or Prof. Tina Nabatchi (tnabatch@syr.edu).

Thanks from PMRA!

Kevin Campbell

The Public Management Research Association thanks PhD Candidate Kevin Campbell for his countless contributions as Co-Director of the PMRA Secretariat for the last 3 years. Kevin came to PMRA with years of experience in local government management and PMRA benefitted immensely from his professional expertise. Kevin was the editor and publisher of our Friday announcements, our website, and our newsletter, Management Matters, our website, and our Facebook page. He managed all our social media. He ably performed special studies for the PMRA leadership, staffed board meetings, reorganized our electronic files and is writing a handbook for his successor. Most importantly, Kevin served as the eyes and ears of PMRA helping to serve members and solve problems. Kevin leaves big shoes to fill and will be missed. Kevin, we are grateful for your many contributions to PMRA and wish you well as you defend your dissertation and move forward to the next chapter of your professional career.

University of Kansas PhD student Mohsen Fatemi will succeed Kevin.

Rosemary O'Leary

The Public Management Research Association thanks Edwin O. Stene Distinguished Professor Emerita Rosemary O'Leary for her 10 years of service to PMRA. Rosemary served as a PMRA board member, vice president, president, past president, and then co-director of the PMRA Secretariat. She and Professor Heather Getha-Taylor were instrumental in building the PMRA endowments and ensuring that they are professionally managed by an investment firm. Rosemary and Heather also professionalized the day-to-day bill paying and accounting functions of PMRA. Rosemary also served as the informal institutional memory of PMRA, answering questions from new officers and board members when asked. Rosemary, we are grateful for your decade of service to PMRA and wish you well as you kayak into the sunset.

Rosemary will be succeeded by University of Kansas Professor Zach Mohr.



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

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