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Letter from the OPS Editor

We are excited to present you with the first issue under the new Occasional Paper Series Editorial Board. It is a collection of research ideas papers leading us across countries and various aspects of public administration and policy, including coordinating policies and organizations, presenting the implications of skepticism of scientific evidence on human behavior and policymaking, using “nudging” as an organization's strategic tool, studying the impact of conditional cash transfers on poverty and inequality, and providing alternative approaches to funding public universities. Nicole Y. Wesley explores how distrust in scientific evidence affects various policy decisions, especially in fields where strong opinions tend to polarize the public. Namrta Sharma examines multiple aspects of the nudge theory and its implication in practice. Hugo B. Albergaria studies how programs such as Conditional Cash Transfers can alleviate poverty and improve education and health outcomes in different populations, especially among children. Dr. Zaato examines how public-private partnerships affect the financing of public universities in Ghana.

I would like to thank Dr. Kapucu for presenting his research during his residency as a Fullbright Scholar in Australia. He describes Australia’s experience with crisis and emergency planning, coordination, and management. Crisis and emergency management often require the involvement of multiple agencies at different governmental levels. As such, collaboration and coordination become the most important elements of efficient government policy implementation, community building, and urban resilience.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Cristina Stanica, the former Editor-in-Chief of the *Occasional Paper Series*. Her dedication to this journal’s quality, including establishing the double peer-review process and the constant search for excellence, inspires Dr. Pooja Paswan and me. We hope to continue with the same passion and dedication.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Aroon P. Manoharan, the current SICA chair, for his guidance and leadership. My special thanks to Samanta Varela and the rest of the *OPS* Editorial Board for helping me assemble this issue.

I invite you to stay engaged with the *Occasional Paper Series* and consider publishing your work. For more information, please follow the ongoing call for [papers](#).

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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 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, offering proper credit and acknowledgment. However, we have no explicit copyright policy. The Section on International and Comparative Administration (SICA)

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