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Nonprofit Organizations, Quality of Life and Emigration Policies

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The Journal of Public Management and Social Policy concludes its twentieth volume by gathering a collection of articles that examine pertinent issues on nonprofit organizations (NPOs), quality of life, market driven performance reforms in public education, and emigration policies. It begins with a discussion on how NPOs deal with their institutional capacity problems while managing with less due to budgetary constraints. The issue concludes with topics on international emigration policies and recommendations for what nonprofits can do during challenging economic times. These topics represent the types of issues that have been and will continue to be the focus of JPMSP. Overall, the issue collates six articles in the second issue of this twentieth volume of JPMSP.

The first article, “Perceptions of Collaborations and Service Integration as Strategic Alternatives: An Examination of Social Service Nonprofit Organizations in the late 1990s,” by Jennifer Wade-Berg and Vanessa Robinson-Dooley deploys a survey data to explore the utilization of collaboration and service integration techniques by NPOs in building their organizational capacity and in generating new resources or maintaining existing ones. Since these techniques are not easily implemented simultaneously without sustainable cost-benefit considerations, Wade-Berg and Robinson-Dooley caution that they may not be appropriate for most NPOs looking for ways to overcome recession.

In the second article, “Are States with Larger than Average Black Populations Really the Worst Places to Live in the USA? A Spatial Equilibrium Approach to Ranking Quality of Life,” Maury Granger and Gregory Price find that “if one takes seriously the economic theory of why people choose to live in a particular location, Gulf states with a larger than average Black populations are among the best places to live.” This finding suggests that regional planners and public policymakers alike should consider increasing public investments in education and infrastructure in the area for sustainability reasons.

The third article, “Speak No Evil: Do Zambian Religious Leaders Practice a ‘Conspiracy of Silence’ Regarding HIV/AIDS?” by Corliss Lentz and Sarmistha Majumdar, uses a survey data to determine whether there are variation between Christians and Muslims on their religious preaching on closely related topics such as HIV/AIDS. Lentz and Majumdar not only discover that the conspiracy of silence is a myth, they contend that both dominant religious leaders in Zambia “do preach on difficult cultural issues to encourage a healthy lifestyle” among citizens regardless of their religious affiliations.

In the fourth article, “Performance Management and Citizen Induced Financial Sanctions Incentive in Education: Is There Public Support,” Barbara Patrick uses a national opinion survey to examine different levels of support for school funding sanctions and
teacher performance pay. The study findings indicate “that support among targeted demographic groups failed to show promise for reforms at the grassroots level.” Since Patrick’s data were collected in 2008, she recommends that future research should be conducted to ascertain whether there are variations in citizen perceptions of performance reforms in education.

The fifth article, “How and Why Emigration Matters: Examining the Emergence of New ‘Emigration Regimes’ and its Impact on Public Administration in Kyrgyzstan” by Ariane d’Appollonia and Jyldyz Kasymova, examines the implementation of several regulatory administrative reforms emigration in Kyrgyzstan. While several short-term negative effects of emigration on the social fabric of the citizens were uncovered, the authors delineated suggestions to be deployed by future research in exploring the long-term effect of current emigration policy.

In the final article, Hillary Knepper, Maria D ‘Agostino and Helisse Levine explore the issue of reliance on volunteers by NPOs to enhance their missions in “Volunteer Management Practices during Challenging Economic Times.” On the basis of the ailing economy and, of course, limited resources, they contend that managers of NPOs will continually rely on volunteers to accomplishing their missions.

In sum, I would like to thank our committed editorial board, reviewers, and staff for their continued work. My final gratitude goes to our contributors for considering JPMSP as an outlet for their scholarly work.