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Globalization, Economic Determinant Analysis and Corporate Psychopaths in Public Agencies

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Editor's Introduction

Executive Decision Making, Globalization, Economic Determinant Analysis and Corporate Psychopaths in Public Agencies

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The *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy* begins its twenty-fourth volume with articles that explore issues regarding executive decision making, globalization, and corporate psychopaths in public organizations. The volume starts with a discussion on executive discretion in decision making and ends with an exploration of global homelessness in a post-recession world. The five articles presented in the volume continue the journal's proud tradition of coverage of topics that are both theoretically and practically relevant in our increasingly complex 21st-Century world.

The first article, "The Logic of Uncertainty and Executive Discretion in Decision Making: The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Ebola Response," by Abraham David Benavides, Laura Keyes, David A. McEntire, and Erin K. Carlson expounds on the lessons to be learned from the use of administrative discretion by high-level bureaucrats at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. Utilizing survey research methods and the extant public administration literature on decision making and discretion, the study finds that executive-level discretion inspired the creation of a new policy during the highly complex Ebola crisis in the area. While the study's major finding cannot be generalized to other authorities, it offers us the value of understanding executive discretion in both decision making and crisis management.

In the second article, "Corporate Psychopaths in Public Agencies?," Lee Hanson and David L. Baker focus on psychopathic public leaders to draw attention to toxic and destructive leadership, leader personality disorder, and dark triad/tetrad of psychopathic, narcissistic, Machiavellian, and sadistic personalities. Employing a brief scenario, the analysis demonstrates how the term "corporate psychopath" may be deployed by some employees without clinical expertise as a catchall descriptor for any one of the four dark types in leadership role. The article concludes that both practitioners and researchers should be aware that dark personalities include some portions of executives, managers, and supervisors in public organizations, as in corporate leadership. They recommend that rules and

procedures be developed for hiring them in pertinent positions where their toxic, albeit destructive tendencies, can be curbed.

The third article: "Economic Determinant Analysis of Student Academic Performance in Mississippi Public Schools," by Debra Monroe-Lax and Jae-Young Ko uses both bivariate analyses and multiple regression models to examine the relationship between economic determinants and academic performance indicators of public school students. The results show that students' academic performance indicators were statistically significant with weak to moderate effects on each of the identified economic variables, except unemployment rate in the bivariate analysis, while unemployment rate and median household income in the multiple regression models were not significant. In fact, the multiple regression models reveal that poverty in the school district is the best predictor of student performance in educational outcome. The study concludes by suggesting that whereas student performance is associated with the school learning environment, living in low-income families within high poverty school districts with a decreasing property tax-base is crucial in explaining variations in students' academic performance.

Kimberly Collins in the fourth article titled "Globalization, Democracy, and Public Space: The Case of the U.S.-Mexican Border Region," provides a theoretical overview of public space, democracy, bureaucracy, namely the Department of Homeland Security. Collins postulates that democracy is limited in the border region with the use of the public space and functioning of the bureaucracy, and suggests that a more democratic system needs to be developed in order to improve lives, increase trust in government and, of course, improve domestic and economic security.

In the fifth article, "Global Homelessness in a Post-Recession World," Jay Bainbridge and Tony J. Carrizales deploy data from the twenty most-populated OECD member nations to examine the economic impact of recession on trends in homelessness from 2005-2014. The study's hypothesis of a relationship between housing crisis/recession and street homelessness was not empirically supported; rather it was muted and mediated by other variables such as policies, culture, demographics, and migration. Nonetheless, Bainbridge and Carrizales conclude that municipal and national policies could be a game changer in creating opportunities to address persistent problems of street homelessness not only in the United States but in the other OECD countries covered by the study.

In conclusion, I will like to thank all the authors and *JPMSP*'s dedicated reviewers for making this edition and volume of the *Journal* a success. I appreciate Nicholas Alozie, Jesse Chanley, and Kathy Thomas for their willingness not only to join the editorial team but also for their commitment to serve in facilitating our review process up to the publication stage. The opinions and thought provoking questions raised in the articles presented in this volume will help our readers to, as always, deepen their understanding of issues pertaining to executive decision making, globalization, student academic performance in public schools, and management of in public agencies.