



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Public Management Research Association | Newsletter

Volume 23 | Issue 2

Fall 2025

Inside

PMRA President's Letter	1
PMRA Membership, Renewal & Benefits	2
JPART Journal Update	4
PPMG Journal Update	7
2026 PMRA Awards Season	9
News of the Profession	12
2026 PMRC Conference	15
Who's Who - Volunteers by Committee	16
PMRA Board	17



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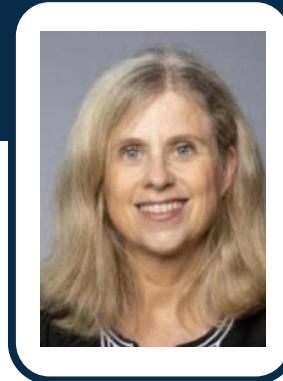
Public Management Research Association | Newsletter

Volume 23 | Issue 2

Fall 2025

PMRA President's Message

Lael Keiser



I am honored to serve as President of Public Management Research Association (PMRA), the premier association for advancing public management research. At a time when governments around the world face complex and rapidly evolving challenges, rigorous empirical research on public management has never been more essential. Our community plays a vital role in generating the knowledge, evidence, and insight that strengthen public institutions and improve the lives of the people they serve.

Fulfilling this mission requires more than strong journals and scholarly initiatives—though these remain at the core of our work. It also requires a vibrant community of scholars committed to the open exchange of ideas and to supporting one another's research. PMRA's success depends heavily on the dedication of our member-volunteers, whose time and expertise sustain our programs and ongoing initiatives to

expand both the quantity and the quality of research in our field.

This year, PMRA has taken an important step forward by improving how we engage members who are eager to contribute. We have broadened opportunities for service and invited wider participation in the essential work of the association. While each committee is chaired by a member of the Governing Board, we have expanded committee membership to include volunteers from across the association.

I was genuinely inspired by the number of members who expressed interest—many of you signed up through the QR code at Public Management Research Conference (PMRC) 2025 to volunteer for



Thank you all for your support of PMRA and our mission to enhance research in public management. I look forward to seeing you all in June at the PMRA conference at American University in Washington DC.

PMRA Membership, Renewal and Benefits

As we move into Fall / Winter 2025, PMRA remains a strong and growing community of scholars, practitioners, and students advancing public management research and practice. Your membership is an investment in both your professional development and the future of the field.

Your PMRA Member Benefits At A Glance

Through the PMRA Member Portal, members can:

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PMRA Membership, Benefits, and Renewal (cont.)

Additional benefits include PMRC conference registration discounts, eligibility for PMRA awards, and year-round networking and professional development opportunities.

PMRA Membership Calendar-Year Reminder

In 2025, PMRA fully transitioned to a calendar-year membership cycle (January 1–December 31), replacing the former rolling renewal system.

To further clarify, new members, and renewing members choosing to renew in December 2025 will have membership through December 31, 2026. The same applies to those who update or join in January or February 2026.

This change simplifies renewals, improves communication timing, and strengthens alignment across PMRA programs and benefits.

Check Your PMRA Membership Status

Members are encouraged to log into the PMRA Member Portal to confirm their renewal date (“Member Thru”),

update profiles, and ensure uninterrupted access to journals, communications, and conference discounts. Thank you for being an essential part of the PMRA community.

PMRA Membership Rates

PMRA offers three membership categories to support scholars, practitioners, retirees, and students across all stages of their careers. Current annual rates are:

- Full Membership: \$140 per year
- Retiree Membership: \$100 per year
- Student Membership: \$70 per year



JPART Journal Update

Ole Helby Petersen & Kim Sass Mikkelsen

Two years into our editorship of JPART, we are in the thick of it. The journal is running on all cylinders, and we are both grateful and excited to be part of that well-oiled machinery. In the past year, we have experienced a marked increase in the number of submissions to the journal. At present, the number of submissions to JPART is around 50% above the prior five-year average. As of November 1, 2025, we have received 750 submissions and expect to reach between 850 and 900 by the end of the year.

We are deeply appreciative of the many authors who send us their best work, the many reviewers who do their best work interrogating it, and the readers who continue to consume and use JPART papers to move the field of public management research forward. Not only would running the journal be impossible without you all – there would be no point in running it.

The large increase in submissions has meant that we have expanded our circle of associate editors.

Stephan Grimmelikhuijsen, Michael Siciliano, Gabriela Lotta, Seulki Lee, Nathan Favero, and our social media editor Ana-Maria Dimand continue to do excellent work with the journal. In 2025, we were joined by Aaron Deslatte, Elizabeth Linos, Rick Vogel, and Thad Calabrese. Thank you all for your service to JPART and to the field of public management research.

In our first two years, we have focused on one of our editorial priorities: qualitative work. To this end, we held a workshop excellently facilitated by Anne Mette Møller and Lianne de Visser. Along with Anne and Lianne, we have engaged qualitative methodologists in our field to begin crowdsourcing recommendations for writing up qualitative submissions for the journal. We are grateful to Merlijn van Hulst, Kate Albrecht, Valentina Mele, Jennifer Dodge, Seulki Lee, and Martin Bæk Carstensen for their input and recommendations.

Just as the previous editorial teams, we believe JPART is the home for the field's best research, regardless

JPART Journal Update (cont.)

Ole Helby Petersen & Kim Sass Mikkelsen

of the tools and techniques that research relies on. The purpose of providing recommendations is to help potential authors, not to control how qualitative work is conducted or reported, or to establish hard journal standards. In the coming months, we will continue working toward this goal, drawing on the knowledge and perspectives of the broader public administration research community. We hope these recommendations can play a small part in helping the best qualitative work find its way to the journal's pages.

Regardless of tools and techniques, the journal's core mission remains what it has always been: to advance public administration research and theory. We hope and believe that all manuscripts we publish make meaningful contributions in furtherance of this mission.

As part of our editorial role, we also wish to facilitate dialogue on how the field of public management research can make meaningful theoretical contributions. To that end, we – together with former JPART editors and other leading scholars in our field – will host a pre-conference workshop at PMRC 2026 focused on advancing theoretical contributions in public management research. The workshop is open to all researchers, both early-career and more experienced researchers, so keep an eye out for the workshop invitation at the PMRC 2026 website and join us for presentations, conversations, and debate on how to create meaningful theoretical contributions.

Two years into our editorial term, we continue to be impressed by the high quality and breadth of topics in public administration research. We also note that AI has made its way into the field and is likely part of the reason for the sharp increase in submissions, not only to JPART but to public administration journals more broadly. We see both good and bad examples of AI use – far



JPART Journal Update (cont.)

Ole Helby Petersen & Kim Sass Mikkelsen

more than we can summarize here. Some authors use AI to generate large amounts of text and references. This is unacceptable research practice, and we consistently act against such forms of fraudulent research behavior when we detect it. At other times, we see AI used for language polishing (e.g., grammar, punctuation, spelling), which helps create a more level playing field among native and non-native English speakers.

It remains each author team's responsibility to use AI responsibly. To all of you – authors, reviewers, readers, and associate editors – we thank you for the trust you place in us by allowing us to edit JPART. We remain dedicated to running the journal to the best of our abilities.

Ole Helby Petersen, Editor, Roskilde University

Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Co-Editor, Roskilde University



Ole Helby Peterson



Kim Sass Mikkelsen

PPMG Journal Update

Kimberley Isett & Jessica Sowa

**PPMG Continues to Grow
More Submissions, New
Features**

2025 has been yet another growth year for PPMG. Our original/new submissions are already up 16% (from 136 to 158) from last year with another month to go in the calendar year. While our submission rate is much lower than other journals, our editorial practices are much more in depth. Our commitment to the field and to PMRA is that we deliver high touch editing of every manuscript that makes it through the review process. What this means is that once a manuscript has been accepted by reviewers, there is often a round or two of additional revisions from us. This takes longer, but we are proud of the quality of pieces in the journal.

This year we introduced a new feature: Roundtables. These features are by invitation and center on a topic that has been identified as being ripe for in depth examination. We kicked off this series with Whetsell and Moore's led

Roundtable on "Perspectives on The Public", and it has been followed by Raaphorst's led Roundtable on "Equity and Equality in Street Level Public Service Delivery". We have about 9 more that are in production and we hope to publish 1 or 2 more per issue moving forward. We are excited to share these with you in the coming months/years. If you want to learn more about our editorial vision for these pieces, we published an overview in issue 8(3).



PPMG Journal Update (cont.)

Kimberley Isett & Jessica Sowa

PPMG At A Glance for 2025
(YTD)

- Original submissions: 158
- Revised submissions: 55
- Months with the highest numbers of submissions: May and July
- Average time to first decision: 38 days
- Immediate reject: 32%
- Number of acceptances: 26
- Acceptance rate: 18%

Jessica Sowa, Editor, University of Delaware

Kimberley Isett, Editor, University of Delaware



Jessica Sowa



Kimberley Isett

PMRA Awards

PMRA Opens the 2026 Awards Season

PMRA is pleased to open the 2026 Awards Season in advance of the PMRC that will take place at American University in Washington, at American University in Washington, D.C., June 4 to 6, 2026. PMRA's awards reflect the scholarly strength of our field and recognize the achievements that continue to shape the direction of public management research. This year's slate includes awards for early career excellence, lifetime contribution, journal publication, and doctoral student inclusion. All award recipients will be featured in the May conference edition of Management Matters and honored at the PMRC awards ceremony.



The Claudia Avellaneda Award

New for 2026, the Avellaneda Award honors the best article on the Global South published in JPART or PPMG. The first award covers articles published between 2021 and 2025 and includes a \$500 cash award. This triennial award elevates scholarship that expands the global reach of public management research and highlights work that strengthens understanding of governance and administrative systems in developing and emerging contexts.

2026 PMRA AWARDS SEASON

PMRA Awards (cont.)

H. George Frederickson Award

The H. George Frederickson Award honors a scholar whose career represents a significant contribution to the intellectual development of public management. The nomination window is January 1 through February 1. This award recognizes the full scope of a scholar's influence, including publications, mentoring, service to the profession, journal leadership, and contributions to conferences and field development. A commemorative plaque is presented to the winner along with an opportunity to accept the award at the PMRC Annual Conference.

Meier PMRC Travel Inclusion Awards

The Meier Awards support doctoral students who have been accepted to present at the 2026 PMRC and who expand the diversity of conference participation, broadly defined. Applications open January 15 and close February 10. Award amounts usually range from \$250 to \$1500 USD, depending on need and

available funds. Recipients are notified by March 15 so they can finalize their travel and, when necessary, plan for visa processing. The award enables presenters whose participation may otherwise be limited by financial constraints to join the PMRA community at the annual conference.

Best Dissertation Award

The Best Dissertation Award highlights outstanding doctoral work completed in 2025. Nominations open January 1 and close February 1. The award includes a \$750 USD award that can be used to support 2026 PMRC attendance plus a commemorative plaque. The award recognizes dissertations that demonstrate theoretical grounding, methodological rigor, and clear relevance to the study of public management.



2026 PMRA AWARDS SEASON

Journal Based Awards

PMRA will also recognize excellence in published scholarship through its journal based awards. These awards require no nominations. Committees review articles published in the 2025 volumes of JPART and PPMG, and finalists are confirmed by mid March. Awards are presented to the winners at the PMRC Annual Conference.

Awards Involvement

PMRA encourages members to nominate colleagues, support doctoral students, and help highlight the exceptional scholarship produced across our community. All nomination and application materials will be available at gopmra.org beginning January 1. Recipients will be recognized in Management Matters and at the 2026 PMRC in Washington, D.C.

Beryl Radin Award

Recognizes the best article published in JPART.

Camilla Stivers Award

Recognizes the best article published in PPMG.

Riccucci O'Leary Award

Recognizes the strongest article on diversity published in either JPART or PPMG. The award for 2026 includes \$500 USD.

News From PMRA Members

American University DPAP Faculty Updates

American University's School of Public Affairs (SPA) Interim Dean and Department of Public Administration and Policy (DPAP) Professor Alison Jacknowitz was elected as a Member of the NASPAA Executive Council (2025-2028).

DPAP welcomed Professor Eli Lee to campus this fall as an Assistant Professor. Professor Lee has a background in Behavioral Public Administration and Bureaucratic Politics.

DPAP Professor Khaldoun AbouAssi was promoted to Full Professor.

DPAP Professor Sheeling Neo received both the Academy of Management-Public and Nonprofit Division 2025 Best Dissertation Award and the Paul Volcker Junior Research Award.

DPAP Professor Sarah Souders received the Journal of Behavioral Public Administration's Best Paper Award for her paper: "Decreasing compliance costs using behavioral

interventions: An evaluation of lead testing in Chicago."

Updates From Former American University Students

Former DPAP postdoctoral fellow Rafi Najam began a position as Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

American University's Department of Public Administration and Policy PhD alumna Will Prince joined the Department of Political Science at the University of Southern Georgia as an Assistant Professor.

American University's Department of Public Administration and Policy PhD alumna Xiaoyang Xu joined the Department of Political Science at the University of South Carolina as an Assistant Professor.

American University's Department of Public Administration and Policy PhD alumnus Tianyu Chen joined Columbus State University as an Assistant Professor.

News From PMRA Members (cont.)

Updates From Former American University Students (cont.)

American University's Department of Public Administration and Policy PhD alumnus Victoria Hunter Gibney joined the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities as a Senior Research Analyst.

American University's Department of Public Administration and Policy PhD alumnus Victoria Hunter Gibney received honorable mention for the 2025 APPAM PhD Dissertation Award.

Scholarly Publications

Scholarly Publications - Vernise Estorcien (Indiana University Indianapolis), Assistant Professor in the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Indianapolis, published three peer-reviewed journal articles and one book chapter in 2025 addressing social equity, youth-police relationships, public budgeting, and civic integration.

Journal Articles

- Chen, C., Estorcien, V., & Neshkova, M. I. (2025). Advancing Social Equity in Public Budgeting: The Role of Minority Political Representation in Local Government. Public Administration.
- Estorcien, V., & Headley, A. M. (2025). Police-Youth Programs as Citizen-State Interactions: A Case Study of Police and Underrepresented Youth Perceptions. Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration, 3(2), 242-261.
- Estorcien, V., & Ganapati, S. (2025). Florida Police Youth Organizations: A Study of Administrative Structures. Justice Evaluation Journal.

Book Chapter

Paarlberg, A., Estorcien, V., & Herzog, P. S. (2025). Civic Integration of Displaced Youth: Immigrant Organizations and Police Athletic Leagues as Examples of Methods for Nonprofit Analyses.

News From PMRA Members (cont.)



New Faculty Appointment

Julie A. Beasley, Assistant Professor with the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill completed her Ph.D. with the Indiana University O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs and joined UNC in August 2025. Beasley's research focuses on human resource management in the public and nonprofit sectors, particularly workplace climate and performance, organizational leadership, and civic engagement.





MANAGEMENT MATTERS

PMRC 2026



PMRC 2026 will take place June 4, 5 and 6 in Washington D.C., hosted by the School of Public Affairs at American University.

The PMRC is the foremost gathering of public management experts in the world. The PMRC is sponsored by the PMRA which publishes JPART and PPMG.

[Register](#) today for PMRC 2026!

Learn more about [Sponsorship Opportunities](#)!



Key Dates

- Early Bird Registration: Until April 3, 2026
- Pre-Conference Registration Closes: May 23, 2026
- On-site Registration is June 4-6, 2026

PMRA Committee Volunteers

PMRA extends its sincere appreciation to the members who volunteered their time and talents in service to PMRA this year. Committee service is essential to the strength, continuity, and impact of our organization, and we are grateful for the dedication demonstrated by those who stepped forward to serve. PMRA's committees include: Awards, Finance, Membership, Conference, Nominations, Publications, and Advancement.

Thank You to the Following Committee Members!

Advancement

Tina Nabatchi
Rob Christensen

Awards

Sebawit Bishu
Lars Tummers
Ana Maria Dimand
Mirae Kim
Travis Ruddle
Yahong Zhang

Membership

Amanda Rutherford
Sharon Gilad
Mohsen Fatemi
Petra van den Bekerom
Gary Hollibaugh
Vernise Estorcien

Finance

Khaldoun AbouAssi
Jason Coupet
David Matkin
Trang Hoang
Jinhai Yu

Conference Site Selection Subcommittee

Bill Resh
Rahel Schomaker
Valentina Mele
Gabriella Lotta
Hongtao Yi

Conference Fact-Finding Subcommittee

George Krause
Hala Altamimi
James Wright
Ricardo Bello-Gomez

Publications

Asmus Olsen
Nathan Favero
Valentina Mele



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PMRA Executive Board Members



President
Lael Keiser

University of
Missouri

Term 2025-2027

University of
Missouri

Term 2025-2027

Term 2025-2027



Vice-President
Tina Nabatchi

Syracuse
University

Term 2025-2027

Syracuse
University

Term 2025-2027

Term 2025-2027



Treasurer
Khaldoun AbouAssi

American
University

Term 2025-2027

American
University
Term 2025-2027

Term 2025-2027



Past President
Robert Christensen

Brigham Young
University

Term 2023-2025

Brigham Young University
Term 2023-2025

Term 2023-2025

PMRA Board Members	
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Sebawit (Seba) Bishu, University of Washington

Jason Coupet, Georgia State University

Nathan Favero, American University

Sharon Gilad, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

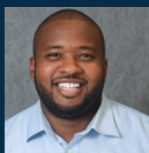
George Krause, University of Georgia

Asmus Leth Olsen, University of Copenhagen

William Resh, Georgia State University

Amanda Rutherford, Indiana University

Lars Tummers, Utrecht University



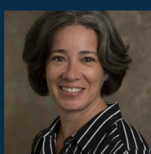
Ex officio Members

Kimberly Isett, University of Delaware

Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Roskilde University

Ole Helby Petersen, Roskilde University

Jessica Sowa, University of Delaware



Kellye Mazzoli, Association Manager

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