



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Public Management Research Association | Newsletter

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Fall 2024

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PMRA President & Association Manager's Letter

Robert Christensen
Kellye Mazzoli



Dear PMRA Friends,

As we conclude another year of innovative research, creative collaborations, and transformative conversations, I am doubly grateful for the unique and vital role of Public Management Research Association (PMRA) in shaping the future of public management and governance. The world political stage is fraught. In many places, the role of professional public service has been called (further) into question. But I remain hopeful. We have answers to that fundamental question: Is professional public administration an indispensable dimension of human flourishing? Resoundingly, YES. PMRA members the world over have studied, evidenced, and communicated the vital role of professional public service. Thanks to each of you, our mission remains vibrant, relevant, and transformative.

As we look forward to 2025, our challenges are accompanied by opportunities. PMRA's publications, **PPMG** and **JPART**, are increasingly valuable and respected spaces to share scholarly voices that can inform

practice and rise above the din of partisanship. PMRA's Public Management Research Conference (PMRC) will be hosted at Seoul National University (SNU) in June. Our hosts are already busy at work preparing for our arrival. SNU/Seoul will be an excellent venue to collaborate and execute our myriad lines of research focused on improving public management and governance.

I'm also looking forward to 2025 and beyond because of the progress that PMRA has made in 2024. Our board, our executive committee, and Kellye Mazzoli have worked tirelessly on our behalf.

In the remainder of this letter, Kellye will outline a few of the highlights:

PMRA President & Association Manager's Letter

From the Desk of the PMRA Association Manager

As we close out an eventful year for PMRA, I am thrilled to share some exciting updates and reflections with all of you. In this issue, the story Zach Mohr, our Secretariat, shares about the evolution of our website reminds us of the importance of collaboration, adaptability, and thoughtful planning. This spirit of resilience and innovation has been at the heart of PMRA's efforts over the past year.

Building a Stronger Foundation

The challenges we faced with our previous website presented an opportunity for growth. Thanks to the exceptional work of Mohsen Fatemi and the support of our Executive Committee, we transitioned to a temporary platform that met the immediate needs of our members. Now, I am excited to announce that our fully integrated membership website will officially launch on **January 4, 2025!** This platform will feature updated membership management tools, improved communication capabilities, and a seamless user experience tailored to the evolving needs of our association. Beyond the website, PMRA took critical steps this year to strengthen its organizational structure. A comprehensive update to our bylaws, led by the PMRA Board, ensures that our framework remains robust and responsive. These changes reflect

PMRA's dedication to transparency, inclusivity, and positioning the association for long-term success.

Membership Improvements

As part of our efforts to further streamline and simplify the membership process, PMRA will be transitioning to a **calendar-year membership structure** starting in 2025. Instead of memberships renewing on a rolling basis, all memberships will now run from **January 1 to December 31**. Here's what you need to know:

- **New and Existing Members:** If you joined **July 1, 2024, or later**, your membership will automatically extend through the end of **2025**.
- **Current Members:** If you joined **before July 1, 2024**, you will be asked to renew your membership on **January 1, 2025**.

This transition is a significant step forward for PMRA and its members. By aligning all memberships to a consistent calendar year, we can:

- Simplify the renewal process for members and administrators.
- Enhance our ability to deliver timely, targeted communications and benefits.
- Foster a more cohesive member experience with synchronized timelines for events, benefits, and participation opportunities.

PMRA President & Association Manager's Letter

Award Nominations Open Soon

With the launch of the new website, PMRA will also open nominations for its **2025**

PMRA Awards:

- **H. George Frederickson Award:** Recognizing lifetime achievement and contributions to public management research.
- **Best Dissertation Award:** Celebrating outstanding doctoral research in public management.
- **Meier Travel Inclusion Award:** Supporting scholars from underrepresented groups to attend the PMRC.

Additionally, the **PMRA Journal Contribution Awards** will be selected by their respective committees to honor exceptional contributions to **JPART** and **PPMG**. These awards highlight the groundbreaking work being done in our field, showcasing the impact of innovative research published in our journals.

Celebrating a Year of Collaboration

The **2024 Public Management Research Conference (PMRC)** in Seattle was a standout success, thanks to the incredible efforts of the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance and co-chairs Professors Rachel Fyall and Craig Thomas. With over **530 attendees from 38 countries** and innovative session formats like lightning

talks and percolators, the conference provided a dynamic platform for sharing ideas and fostering collaboration. Fun fact: attendees joined us from as far as Vietnam, Qatar, and Israel, highlighting the truly global impact of PMRA.

A Heartfelt Thank You

PMRA's accomplishments and continued growth would not be possible without the incredible dedication of our members who serve in committee and subcommittee roles. You are the backbone of this organization, and your hard work ensures PMRA's mission continues to thrive. To our Board members, thank you for your thoughtful leadership, your commitment to listening, and your tireless efforts between meetings to make this organization stronger.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Executive Team. Meeting multiple times each month, this team monitors operations and works collaboratively to identify opportunities for improvement and innovation. Your passion and vision keep PMRA moving forward.

Stay Connected

As we prepare for these exciting changes, I encourage you to:

- Mark your calendars for the **January 1 website launch** and explore its new features.

PMRA President & Association Manager's Letter

- Submit nominations for the **2025 PMRA Awards** to celebrate the incredible work of our community.
- Participate in our **2025 Board Member elections** to help shape PMRA's future.
- Read the latest research in **JPART** and **PPMG**, showcasing innovative contributions to public management.
- Join us at the **2025 PMRC in Seoul**, where we will continue advancing the field of public management research together.

Together, we are building a stronger, more connected PMRA, and I am honored to be part of this journey with you. Thank you for your continued support and engagement as we move boldly into 2025.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for making PMRA a place of opportunity and hope. I look forward to seeing many of you in Seoul next June and continuing this important work together.

Warm regards,

Rob Christensen
President, Public Management Research Association

Kellye Mazzoli
Association Manager, Public Management Research Association

2023 Meier Travel Inclusion Award Recipients, Seattle



A Short Note on Plans, Planning, and RIP Old PMRA Website

Zach Mohr



Whenever the topic of planning or strategic plans comes up, I am always reminded of the story that George Frederickson liked to tell about emergency planning when he was the President at Eastern Washington University. He would tell the story of the plan that the University put together in the 1970s for how the University would respond to a nuclear war. Of course, that did not happen, and we are all grateful for it. However, on March 27, 1980 Mt. St. Helens erupted and covered most of Washington State, and especially eastern Washington, with ash.¹

In George's telling, the ash was over 4 feet tall across the entire campus,² and they knew immediately what to do. They knew immediately what to do because they had recently planned for how to handle operations in the situation of a nuclear war and likely nuclear fallout on campus. They had a plan for clearing the campus using ground crews and student groups like the ROTC. So, that is exactly what they did when Mt. St. Helens covered the campus in

ash. George's point was always that often the value of planning is the planning and not just the plan. Often you will use the plan or part of the plan to achieve something else – maybe. You will almost certainly connect ideas and people that have vision and drive for the organization or the topic that the plan is meant to address. To George the value of a strategic plan wasn't about the plan but the planning.

Recently, PMRA had a similar situation. In September of 2023, we were notified by the University of Kansas that the web server that has hosted the PMRA website since 2004 (see figure below for the first instance of pmranet.org saved on the [Wayback Machine](#)) was going to be shut down by the end of the academic year. Since neither Rob, Lael, or Zach were web experts by any stretch of the imagination, we started making a plan which included the usual

1. This was because of predominantly westerly winds at that time. An Eastern Washington geology professor made a neat video on Mt. St. Helens and volcanos for the 40th anniversary that is fun to watch if you like volcanoes and want to learn more about Mt. St. Helens. <https://youtu.be/5y1b7Y4eGkA?si=lk7Cma-h2L4YEkoe>

2. I always wondered about this. Did it really get under the trees in the same amount that it got out in the open? Was it really four feet high? Did it drift like snow? I looked for pictures on the web, but didn't find any EWU. Oh well, it doesn't matter, these details didn't matter to a great storyteller like George.

A Short Note on Plans, Planning, and RIP Old PMRA Website

starting point on these matters: who is the youngest person that might have some experience with this? So, we asked Mohsen, the brilliant student Secretariat, to look into it and see what he thought. Meanwhile, the Executive Committee began making plans to do an overhaul of the website and that included getting advice from the PMRA Manager that we had not hired at this point.

Mohsen’s thoughtful plan for the time being. Of course, things always take a little longer than you expect with these transitions and so the website was not going to be able to be transitioned off the KU server until the end of this year. We had just begun the transition to the new website when a hacker came and hacked the PMRA website trying to impersonate a government official. It was

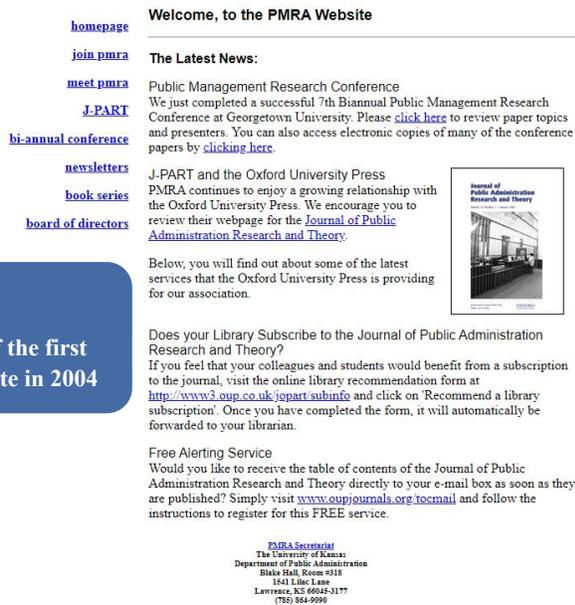


Figure 1
Homepage of the first PMRA website in 2004

Mohsen surprised us when he returned with a fully functioning prototype of a new PMRA website hosted on Google Sites, which was not only significantly more polished and user-friendly than the existing website (see Fig. 2 for the pmranet.org website in September 2023) but also addressed a longstanding challenge: the steep learning curve for students responsible for maintaining the site. Recognizing that



Figure 2
Homepage of the PMRA website in August 2023

sort of funny that anyone might try to use PMRA in this way, but the immediate result was that KU simply shut down the server. After several tests, they determined that there was no way to prevent a similar attack on the current server and so they backed up the website for us and turned off our website. We had to scramble for a solution and the only easy one was to pull Mohsen’s plan for a new Google- hosted site off the

A Short Note on Plans, Planning, and RIP Old PMRA Website

shelf. From my perspective, he got it set up in an unbelievably short amount of time and he has continued to make improvements. If you haven't done it recently, I would really encourage you to look at how nice [PMRA's current website](#) looks now.)

In December and January, we will make another migration to an integrated website and membership management site. This will give us much more of an ability to communicate with our members, our board, and committees in ways that we have never been able when we were using the 20 year old website. This was a direct product of bringing Kellye into the mix and her understanding of managing a virtual organization and current organizational needs. We have discussed this transition with the Board and several members have made valuable contributions. Somewhere George is smiling down on PMRA and its plans for this new website.

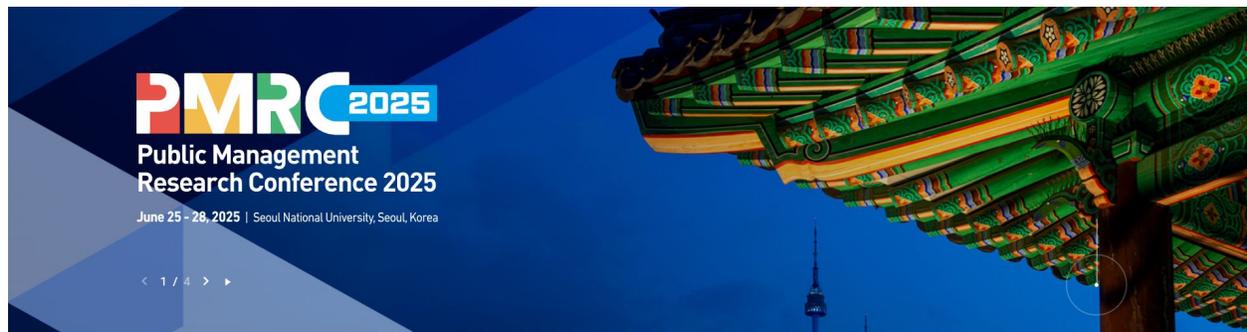
Warm regards,

Zach Mohr
Secretariat, Public Management Research Association
zmohr@ku.edu

Somewhere George is smiling down on PMRA and its plans for this new website.



Public Management Research Conference 2025



[PMRC 2025](#) will take place **June 25-28** in Seoul, hosted by the Graduate School of Public Administration (GSPA) at the Seoul National University (SNU).

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](#).

For questions, please email pmrc@uw.edu.



Key Dates

- Proposal Submission (Extended): **December 16, 2024**
- Notifications of proposal acceptance or rejection, **January 31, 2025**
- Early-bird registration deadline: **March 25, 2025**
- Conference: **June 25-28, 2025**

Updates from PPMG

Kimberly Isett
Jessica Sowa

As we enter our third year as co-editors of *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance* (PPMG), we are excited to let the PMRA members know that submissions have increased each year and are on track to reach a high by the end of 2024. As PPMG is a conceptual and theoretical journal, we work directly with authors—throughout the peer review process and at final submission—to give in-depth feedback to assist in bringing these important contributions to the public management knowledge base.

New this year will be a number of roundtables on foundational issues in public management. These roundtables bring together established and rising scholars to reflect on a major issue in public management—what do we know and where do we hope the field will go. Our goal for these roundtables will be to generate dialogue and inspire new conceptual and empirical work in public management. We also envision these roundtables as essential reading for PhD students entering our field to keep up to date on the debates that remain salient for our field. There are several currently in development on topics such as equity in front-line work, developing a



theory of the pragmatic public, less visible dimensions of diversity, and the current state of public finance. These should begin appearing in print in early 2025—so keep an eye out for these and more to come.

If authors have questions on possible manuscripts and their fit for PPMG, we encourage you to reach out to us. In addition, we will continue to support the development of conceptual articles in the field through webinars and guest speaking opportunities. One such opportunity will take place in early 2025 for the New Researchers Special Interest Group of International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM). We are always interested in other ways to get the message out about why conceptual work is critical for our field. Please let us know if there are opportunities for similar events that you would like us to support. We remain excited to serve PMRA in our capacity as editors and look forward to a robust discussion on the importance of conceptual work at the 2025 PMRC Conference in Seoul.

News of the Profession

Khaldoun AbouAssi, Provost Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University, has been named a Senior International Fellow of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at the American University of Beirut.

Lael Keiser, Professor and Director of the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, received the 2024 Gaus Award from the American Political Science Association. The Gaus Award is presented annually to honor a lifetime of exemplary scholarship in the joint tradition of political science and public administration. She delivered the Gaus Lecture titled “Democracy and Bureaucracy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” at the September APSA conference.

Rachel Krause, Professor, School of Public Affairs and Administration, University of Kansas, has received the 2024 World Citizen Prize in Environmental Performance from the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.

Huafang Li, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, along with co-author **Chengxin Xu**, has won the 2024 Best Paper Award from the American Society for Public Administration’s Section

Awards & Achievements

on Nonprofits for their paper, “Resource Publicness Matters in Organizational Perceptions,” published in *Public Administration Review* (2022, 82(2): 338–53).

<https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13369>.

Kenneth J. Meier, Distinguished Scholar in Residence, School of Public Affairs, American University, has received the Sexuality & Politics Lasting Contribution Award from the Sexuality and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association for his article with **Donald P. Haider-Markel** (University of Kansas), “The Politics of Gay Rights: Expanding the Scope of Conflict,” published in *Journal of Politics* (1996, 58(2): 332–49).

William Resh, University of Southern California, along with **Yongjin Ahn** (Korea University Sejong), **Keunyoung Lee** (USC), and **Weijie Wang** (Mizzou), has been awarded the 2024 Herbert Kaufman Best Paper Award by the American Political Science Association's Public Administration Section.

News of the Profession

Tewelde Gebresslase Haile, PhD in Public Policy, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, has recently completed a PhD with the dissertation titled *"Impact of Public Policy on Alleviating Social Vulnerability in Ethiopia"* from the Department of Humanities and Social Science. Tewelde has also advanced their academic career by being promoted to an Assistant Professorship position in Public Policy.

Zach Mohr (University of Kansas), **Martha Kropf** (UNC Charlotte), **Mary Jo McGowan** (UNC Charlotte), and **JoEllen Pope** published their book *A Republic if You Can Afford It: How Much Does it Cost to Administer Elections?* with Cambridge University Press and it is available online for free until December 30, 2024
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009339452>

Kimberly Nelson and **Whitney Afonso**, School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, published their book *Municipal Corruption: From Policies to People* with Routledge earlier this year.

Jaclyn Piatak (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) and **Jessica Sowa** (University of Delaware) published their book *Volunteer Management: A Strategic*

Recent & Forthcoming Publications

Approach with Routledge, available October 2024.

Evelyn Rodriguez-Plesa, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, North Carolina Central University, has an upcoming publication titled "Representative Bureaucracy and Local Government Contracting: Examining Supplier Diversity Programs," in *Public Administration Review* (2024, 1–16).
<https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13867>.

Nargess Rahnama, Lecturer and Adjunct Professor at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, has successfully defended her PhD thesis titled "Designing a Social-Cognitive Model of the Formation of Employees' 'Entitlement' Phenomenon in Public Organizations." Her research focuses on a context-oriented approach to conceptualizing entitlement at work, leading to the development of "Hegemonic Entitlement" as a substantive theory. This study provides insights into the nature of entitlement within Iranian public organizations and extends beyond traditional theory-based approaches in social psychology.

News of the Profession

Shaoming Cheng, Full Professor and Chair, Florida International University - Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, has been promoted to Full Professor and continues to serve as Chair of the Department of Public Policy & Administration.

Brandyn Churchill, Assistant Professor, American University School of Public Affairs, has joined the Department of Public Administration and Policy.

Nicolle Darnall, Professor and Arlene R. and Robert P. Kogod Eminent Scholar Chair in Sustainability, American University School of Public Affairs, has joined the campus in a joint appointment with the Department of Public Administration and Policy (DPAP) and the Kogod School of Business.

Minjung Kim, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University, has started a new position as an assistant professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School.

Alexander Kroll, Full Professor, Florida International University - Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, has been promoted to Full Professor and continues to serve as the Ph.D. Program

Career Updates & Advancements

Director in the Department of Public Policy & Administration.

Huafang Li, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh in September 2024.

Jordan Matsudaira, Professor, American University School of Public Affairs, has joined the Department of Public Administration and Policy. In October, Professor Matsudaira launched the Postsecondary Equity & Economics Research (PEER) Center, which aims to advance efforts to bridge the academic and policymaking worlds.

Rafiuddin Najam, Postdoctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity, American University School of Public Affairs, has joined the campus this fall.

Sheeling Neo, Assistant Professor, American University School of Public Affairs, has joined the campus this fall.

News of the Profession

Milena Neshkova, Full Professor, Florida International University - Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, has been promoted to Full Professor and continues to serve as Director of the Master of Arts in Global Affairs program in the Department of Public Policy & Administration.

William Resh, University of Southern California, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation of Greater Los Angeles.

Pablo Sanabria-Pulido, Professor of Public Management and Policy, Universidad EAFIT, Colombia, has been appointed to the rank of full professor at the School of Finance, Economics, and Government. Universidad EAFIT, located in Medellín, is one of Latin America's leading universities, renowned for the city's innovative urban development and public policy initiatives.

Jaclyn Piatak, Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, has been promoted to full Professor. She teaches in the Gerald G. Fox MPA program.

Kathy Quick, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota, has been named the Gross Family Chair in Public and

Career Updates & Advancements

Nonprofit Management at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She has also begun a joint appointment as a statewide specialist in leadership and civic engagement with Extension at the University of Minnesota.

Jiwon Suh, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Arlington, has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure, effective September 2024. Additionally, Jiwon Suh will take on new roles as Director of the Urban Nonprofit Management Certificate program.



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

PMRA Executive Board Members



President
Robert Christensen
Brigham Young University



Vice-President
Lael Keiser
University of Missouri



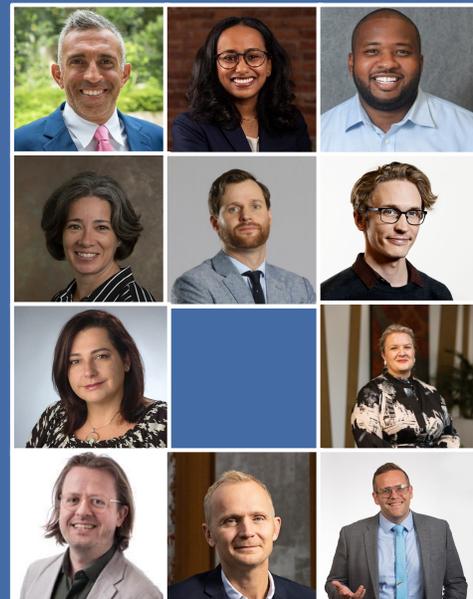
Director of the Secretariat and Treasurer
Zachary Mohr
University of Kansas



Past President
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Ole Helby Petersen, Roskilde University
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MANAGEMENT MATTERS

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