

Special Conference Issue
Public Management Research Conference



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Public Management Research Association | Newsletter

Volume 23 | Issue 1

Spring 2025

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PMRA President's Letter | 2025 Awards

Robert Christensen



Dear PMRA Friends,

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Seoul for our Public Management Research Conference. Our hosts, Seoul National University, have been working hard to host us. Thank you to our present, past and future conference hosts. You facilitate a gathering for us that is essential to our professional association.

While present political and economic circumstances are tumultuous and even acrimonious, I am proud to be part of a professional organization with a fixed and steady mission that is pursued in an environment of mutual respect and improvement. So I'll begin my last letter as PMRA's president as I did my first one two years ago, by underscoring that PMRA's mission is to *"improve public governance by advancing research on public organizations, strengthening links among interdisciplinary scholars, and furthering professional and*

academic opportunities in public management."

There are three active calls in our mission: **advancing** research, **strengthening** human links and **furthering** opportunity. These three invitations remind me of Rohini Nilekani's observation that *"We cannot be mere consumers of good governance, we must be participants; we must be co-creators."* **Advancing** research, **strengthening** human links and **furthering** opportunity are each ways that we can co-create good governance. I have seen our PMRA members, editors and leaders actively take up these three critical invitations. Thank you.

PMRA President's Letter | 2025 Awards

I am pleased to share that our next leaders of PMRA are model proponents of PMRA's mission. Lael Keiser will be our next PMRA President. Tina Nabatchi will serve as PMRA's Vice

President/President-elect. Khaldoun AbouAssi will serve as our inaugural Treasurer. Nathan Favero, Sharon Gilad, George Krause, Amanda Rutherford and Lars Tummers will serve as new PMRA Board members. Join me in thanking each of these remarkable individuals for their willingness to lead and serve. I'm pleased to share that Kellye Mazzoli continues on as PMRA Association Manager.

We also owe special thanks to those who are concluding their terms. Khaldoun AbouAssi, Sebastian Jilke, Kim Isett, Tina Nabatchi and Janine O'Flynn are each rolling off the Board after remarkable service. Zach Mohr is concluding his term as faculty Secretariat-Treasurer and we owe special thanks to him, to Mohsen Fatemi (who will gratefully continue on) and to Kansas University for their institutional support of PMRA. KU has supported PMRA for over 20 years. Thank you.

I am also pleased to announce the recipients of PMRA's awards. These deserving individuals will be formally recognized at the business meeting in Seoul.

Camilla Stivers Award winners are Gabriela Spanghero Lotta, Iana Alves de Lima, Mariana Costa Silveira, Michelle Fernandez, João Paschoal Pedote, and Olívia Landi Corrales Guaranha for their article, "The procedural politicking tug of war: Law-Versus-Management disputes in contexts of democratic backsliding." *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, 7(1-2), 2024, pp. 13-26. We also recognize Sharon Gilad, Michael Freedman, and Pazit Ben-Nun Bloom for their article, "Citizens' Communication Styles in Written Public Encounters." *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, 7(3), 2024, pp. 75-88

Beryl Radin Award winners are Jessica Lasky-Fink and Elizabeth Linos for their article, "Improving delivery of the social safety net: The role of stigma." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 34(2), 270-283.

PMRA President's Letter

Meier Travel Award winners are Emily Mee, Marjorie De La Cruz, Courtney Hahm, Nancy Wu, Sina Jangjoo and Tzu-An Chiang.

Best Dissertation Award winner is Lianne Visser for her dissertation, "Customized Interactions: How Street-Level Practitioners, Managers, and Policymakers Accomplish and Challenge the Provision of Customized Social Services." Radboud University.

Riccucci-O'Leary Award winners Ryan Lofaro and Alka Sapat for their article "Deservingness, humanness, and representation through lived experience: analyzing first responders' attitudes." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 34(4), 2024, pp. 563-581.

Finally, we're particularly pleased to announce that our 2025

Fredrickson Award winner is Richard Walker. **Congratulations** to Professor Walker and to all of our award winners.

It has been a pleasure serving as PMRA's president. I'm confident in our association's future and mission. I offer special thanks here to my family and friends (if you're still reading this you're my friend 😊) and co-leader/servants on PMRA's Board and Executive Committee. They/you have supported me in so many ways. Whether in Seoul, in other gatherings or online, let's support each more. Let's continue to co-create good governance.

Warmly,

Rob Christensen

Beryl Radin: In Memoriam

Anna Amirkhanyan

The way I first “met” Beryl Radin is not that uncommon for academia: as an editor of *JPART*, she rejected my paper back in 2003. As a doctoral student at Syracuse University, I teamed up with two other students and wrote a paper for a course. Naturally, we decided that *JPART*, our field’s leading journal, was the most fitting place for it. We received Beryl’s rejection letter in the mail, along with some good advice on how to turn the paper into a real article, which we did.

I finally met Beryl in person in 2005 at a “new faculty” orientation – we had both joined American University’s School of Public Affairs. I was a newly minted PhD, and she was an accomplished scholar, teacher, and public servant who had recently moved to the nation’s capital. By then, she had authored over 100 articles and 10 books in policy analysis and public management, including *Beyond Machiavelli* and *The Accountable Juggler* – books I would later frequently use in my own research and teaching. She had served as a



president of APPAM and a managing editor of *JPART*; she was a NAPA fellow and had a PMRA best paper award established in her honor. Soon after, she would receive the 2009 George Frederickson and 2012 John Gaus awards. I confess I was initially intimidated by her, but she quickly made me feel at ease, and we soon became friends.



Beryl Radin: In Memoriam

At public events, Beryl introduced herself as a “pracademic” – a person who wore different hats and moved back and forth between the worlds of academia and practice. One of her practitioner jobs involved serving as a special advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and this experience inspired some of her writing in subsequent years. Beryl’s policy analysis always engaged with the historical, political, and institutional contexts of public policies. She was deeply concerned about the many actors involved in policy formulation and implementation, their visions of the problem, their assumptions, data limitations, and other constraints. While delving into the details of public policies, she never lost sight of the broader questions.

Beryl probably was not a linear thinker. She saw individual decisions, stakeholders, and processes not through neatly stacked and precisely measured variables, but as they existed in the dynamic and often messy world. Her reaction to studies that neglected the broader political or historic context of public policies was almost merciless – she urged

people to look beyond significance tests and to acknowledge the world behind them. One common piece of advice she shared with quantitative researchers – which I often used – was to incorporate qualitative vignettes that told the story of how and why policy decisions were made. Beryl was a strong voice against the ivory towers of our field, proudly wearing her “practitioner” hat and encouraging others to seek similar experiences.

A member of the “Silent Generation,” Beryl was anything but silent. Her departure from Aberdeen, SD, described in her memoir, was just the first step in what she called a “restless” search for her place and voice. As one of the pioneering female figures at the intersection of public administration and policy, she had a unique perspective on institutions and change, and her work pushed the boundaries both in the field and in the workplace. About 20 years ago, we attended a faculty meeting to discuss two outstanding job candidates. While many attendees favored one candidate, who happened to be a woman, some hesitated, assuming she would be unlikely to move and would decline

Beryl Radin: In Memoriam

our offer. Pursuing this option meant we would risk losing the second excellent candidate, a man, who seemed eager to accept. As some leaned towards the safer option, Beryl stood up and passionately argued, “We should extend the offer to the best candidate and let her decide what she wants to do. We should not decide for her.” The faculty ultimately voted in support of the top candidate, and to me, this was a formative experience that underscored the importance of empowering other women to make their own decisions.

Beryl’s presence in my department was also impactful in more subtle ways. As a young woman in academia, and the same age as my students, I resorted to wearing formal suits during my first year of teaching—hoping to signal expertise and commitment. Beryl’s preference for bright clothes (especially purple) and large ethnic jewelry not only suited her beautifully but also encouraged me to relax my own dress code. (Over time, my style evolved into t-shirts, jeans and a pair of HOKAs—none of which seems to matter to my current Gen Z students).

When someone asked me what Beryl was like, my response was that she was someone with a rare and genuine curiosity about people around her. She seemed especially drawn to immigrants and world travelers. I understood the roots of this curiosity after reading her memoir, *Leaving South Dakota: A Memoir of a Jewish Feminist Academic*.



Beryl Radin: In Memoriam

Beryl was a world traveler herself, a rare American who ventured to India, Russia, Israel, Australia, and dozens of other developed and developing countries where she didn't just teach and learn about public policy, but also immersed herself in the cultures, customs, and aesthetics of these places.

Beryl was curious about my Armenian heritage, and her friendship always reflected that curiosity and knowledge. When an older friend of hers was downsizing, she insisted on taking me to her friend's home to "inherit" the Armenian ceramics purchased in Jerusalem half a century ago. (These plates lead me to start of my own collection of Armenian ceramics, handcrafted in the Armenian quarter of Jerusalem).

On another occasion, she invited me to join her on a visit to a friend who had spent years living in Azerbaijan, a country Armenia has been at war with. Beryl was eager to observe us sharing our thoughts and experiences.

Beryl was passionate about books, performing arts (especially music, ballet, and theater), rugs, textiles,

and so much more. Together, we visited the National Textile Museum, the Kennedy Center, and, of course, the National Zoo. (Every friend of Beryl's knew that, as their kids grew up, it was their turn to "take Beryl to the Zoo" — a tradition my children gladly took part in).

Beryl built her academic career in a world with few women and even fewer academics. It is safe to say that it wasn't easy for a woman in that environment. She earned her stripes through hard work and determination. She came from a generation that responded to feedback requests with the most detailed, thoughtful and constructive criticism, and did so within hours (a turnaround time as remarkable as the speed of her intricate embroidery, which she generously gifted to many friends).

I'm not surprised that, over the years, Beryl became increasingly frustrated with structures, rules, people, and organizations. When she wanted things done differently and better, she engaged in heated debates with colleagues— and I was no exception. Beryl was direct and often asked uncomfortable questions.

Beryl Radin: In Memoriam

When she was on conference panels, it wasn't unusual for her to make suggestions to the facilitators on how to manage the discussion or what questions to ask. Once, she asked me why I had failed to reference her research in a recent paper of mine. While it was an honest oversight, her question taught me to be more intentional about recognizing the work of others in my scholarship. Beryl was fiercely independent, and when the COVID-19 pandemic began, she did not retreat. She found a way to join conference panels via Zoom, and she kept writing.

One of Beryl's last emails to me ended with: *"I really wish we have seen each other more recently. What do you think?"* As everyone who knew her would guess, this was not a polite formality. I will always remember Professor Beryl A. Radin not only as a gifted scholar, dedicated teacher, engaged colleague, and trailblazer in academia, but also as someone who truly wanted to know what others thought.

Anna Amirkhanyan

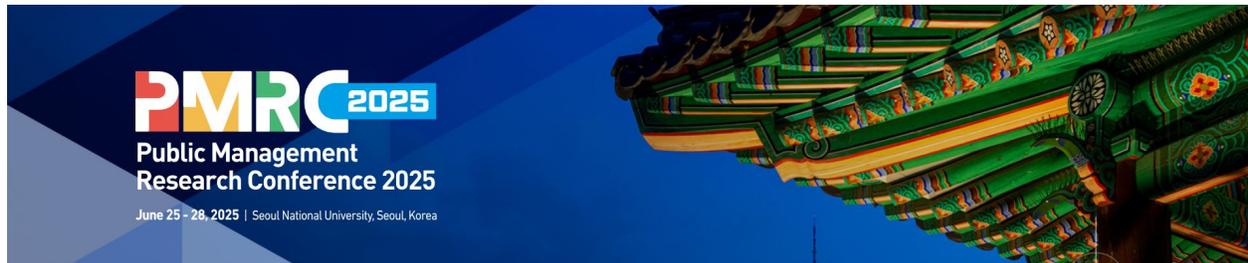
March 24, 2025

Notes

1. The Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory.
2. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.
3. National Academy of Public Administration.
4. Public Management Research Association.



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).

Sponsorship Opportunities Available:

www.pmrc2025.org

For questions, please email office@pmrc2025.org.



Key Dates

- Pre-registration: **Until May 21, 2025**
- On-site Registration: **From May 22, 2025**
- Pre-conference Workshop: **June 25, 2025**
- Concurrent Sessions: **June 26-28, 2025**
- Lunch with Business Meeting: **June 27, 2025**

Elected PMRA Board Members

The Public Management Research Association (PMRA) is pleased to formally announce the election of new members to its Board of Directors. We extend our warmest congratulations to the newly elected board members and express our appreciation for their willingness to serve. Their leadership and scholarly contributions will play a vital role in guiding the future direction of the Association and furthering the advancement of public management research.

We look forward to their term of service and to the continued growth of PMRA under their guidance.

**Nathan Favero****Sharon Gilad****George Krause****Amanda
Rutherford****Lars Tummers**

[Click for More Information](#)

2025 PMRA Awards

Best Dissertation Award**Lianne Visser**, Radboud University**Dissertation:** Customized Interactions: How Street-Level Practitioners, Managers, and Policymakers Accomplish and Challenge the Provision of Customized Social Services.**Lianne Visser****Beryl Radin Award****Jessica Lasky-Fink** and **Elizabeth Linos****Article:** Improving delivery of the social safety net: The role of stigma.” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 34(2), 270-283.**Jessica Lasky-Fink****Elizabeth Linos****Meier Travel Award****Emily Mee**, Indiana University**Marjorie De La Cruz**, Florida International University**Courtney Hahm**, Indiana University**Nancy Wu**, Arizona State University**Sina Jangjoo**, Florida State University**Tzu-An Chiang**, Florida State University**Marjorie De La Cruz****Emily Mee****Courtney Hahm****Nancy Wu****Tzu-An Chiang****Sina Jangjoo**

2025 PMRA Awards

Riccucci-O'Leary Award**Ryan Lofaro** and **Alka Sapat**

Article: Deservingness, humanness, and representation through lived experience: analyzing first responders' attitudes. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 34(4), 2024, pp. 563–581.

Ryan Lofaro**Alka Sapat****Camilla Stivers Award**

Gabriela Spanghero Lotta, Iana Alves de Lima, Mariana Costa Silveira, Michelle Fernandez, João Paschoal Pedote, and Olívia Landi Corrales Guaranha

Article: The procedural politicking tug of war:

Law-Versus-Management disputes in contexts of democratic backsliding.” *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, 7(1-2), 2024, pp. 13–26.

Gabriela Lotta**Mariana Silveira****Iana de Lima****Michelle Fernandez****Camilla Stivers Recognition**

Sharon Gilad, Michael Freedman, and Pazit Ben-Nun Bloom **Article:** Citizens' Communication Styles in Written Public Encounters.

Perspectives on Public Management and Governance, 7(3), 2024, pp. 75–88

George Frederickson Award

Richard Walker, Lingnan University

Richard Walker

News of the Profession

Whitney Afonso, Professor at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received the best Field Note award from State and Local Government Review for her paper: Afonso, Whitney, Alex Combs, and Christian Buerger. "Plugging the Tax Leak: An Analysis of North Carolina's Local Sales Tax Redistribution Policy." State and Local Government Review 56.1 (2024): 76-90.

Whitney Afonso, Professor at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received the Albert and Gladys Coates Distinguished Term Professorship.

Benjamin Brunjes, Associate Professor in the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at University of Washington, and **Evelyn Rodriguez-Plesa**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at North Carolina Central University received the William E. Mosher and Frederick C. Mosher Award for the best Public Administration Review article written by academics for, "Equity in Government Contracting:

Awards & Achievements

Analyzing the Performance of Small Disadvantaged Businesses." Public Administration Review 84(3): 484-499.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13704>.

Brint Milward, the Melody S. Robidoux Foundation Leadership Chair at the University of Arizona, is the recipient of the IRSPM 2025 Routledge Lifetime Achievement Award. This award honors scholars with sustained contributions to public management research. Milward's distinguished career spans over 45 years and has been acknowledged for its significant impact on the theory and practice of collaboration, networks, governance, and contracting out. A prolific author, his work has garnered over 15,500 Google Scholar citations. His long-standing involvement with IRSPM includes serving as North American Editor for Public Management Review for 12 years and as a conference plenary speaker.

News of the Profession

Kimberly Nelson and **Whitney Afonso**, Professors at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received the best book award from ASPA's Section on Public Administration Research for

Awards & Achievements

their book: Nelson, Kimberly and Afonso, Whitney. (2024). *Municipal Corruption: From Policies to People*. Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, New York, NY.

News of the Profession

Derek Hyra, Professor at American University, published *Slow and Sudden Violence* in August 2024. The book explores how police violence is linked to cycles of racial and spatial urban redevelopment, showing how housing and community development policies in cities like St. Louis and Baltimore contribute to the segregation, gentrification, and displacement of Black communities.

Daniel Fiorino, Professor at American University, edited *the Elgar Encyclopedia of Climate Policy*, which offers a comprehensive and compelling account of the causes of climate change and potential policy solutions. With intellectual rigor, the volume surveys the scope and implementation of

Recent & Forthcoming Publications

international climate change policies, addressing one of the most urgent global challenges of the 21st century.

Moshe Maor, Professor at Reichman University, published *Policy Over- and Underreaction: Collected Essays*. The book examines why governments often respond disproportionately to policy problems, offering a framework to understand over- and underreactions in democratic governance.

News of the Profession

Nicole Darnell, Arlene R. and Robert P. Kogod Eminent Scholar Chair, joined the Department of Public Administration and Policy at American University this spring in a joint appointment with AU's Kogod School of Business.

Jiwon Kim of Hankyong National University, Republic of Korea, was promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor as of April 1, 2025.

Jordan Matsudaira, Professor at American University, launched the Postsecondary Equity & Economics Research (PEER) Center in October 2024 to advance SPA's efforts in connecting academic research with policy making.

Danbi Seo, Assistant Professor at Arizona State University, has joined the School of Public Affairs, Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at ASU.

Sarah Souders will join the Department of Public Administration and Policy at American University as a faculty member in Fall 2025. Her background is in Education Policy and Finance.

Career Updates & Advancements

Justin Stritch will join the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a Professor and Director of the Gerald G. Fox MPA Program in August 2025.

School Updates

The Department of Public Administration and Policy at American University will launch its new STEM MPP program in Fall 2025. The program will focus on the design of research studies, measurement of variables, data analysis, and model formulation, with all courses being quantitative, technical, or statistical in nature.



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Kellye Mazzoli, Association Manager
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MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The PMRA Newsletter



S. Mohsen Fatemi, Editor & Graphic Designer
mohsenfatemi@ku.edu

PMRA Secretariat
PMRA@ku.edu

School of Public Affairs and Administration
University of Kansas

4060 Wescoe Hall
1445 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045