

Special Conference Issue

Public Management Research Conference



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Public Management Research Association | Newsletter

Volume 24 | Issue 1

Spring 2026

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Volume 24 | Issue 1

Spring 2026

PMRA President's Message

The Public Management Research Conference is almost here, and I'm truly looking forward to it. I attended my first PMRC in the final year of my graduate program, and it was a turning point in my career. It deepened my interest in public management and expanded my understanding of bureaucracy beyond a primarily political science perspectives, which was the discipline I was most familiar. PMRC opened my eyes to a wider range of disciplinary approaches and introduced me to new research that has shaped me as both a scholar and a teacher.

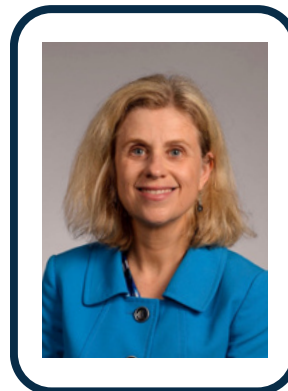
It is always a pleasure to attend this conference. Because PMRC is hosted by different universities on their campuses, each conference offers a unique experience and a chance to appreciate what makes each institution special. I encourage you to consider hosting a future PMRC at your university. I—and any members of the PMRA Board—would be happy to speak with those interested in proposing to host the next U.S. based conference in spring 2028.

This year's PMRC also marks an important milestone: the beginning of

PMRA's silver jubilee. This year's PMRC also marks an important milestone: the beginning of PMRA's silver jubilee. There will be events throughout the conference celebrating the organization's history.

Finally, a sincere thank you to the faculty and staff at American University for their work organizing the conference, panels, and events. Based on their previous efforts hosting PMRC in the past, I know this will be an outstanding gathering.

I look forward to seeing you all in DC.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lael Keiser'.

Lael Keiser
PMRA President

PMRA Marks 25 Years with New Fundraising Campaign

As PMRA approaches its 25th anniversary, it's worth pausing to consider what this community has become. What began as a small network of scholars committed to studying public organizations has grown into the leading international association for public management research – with two journals (JPART and PPMG) at the center of the field's intellectual life, an annual conference (PMRC) widely regarded as the field's flagship gathering, awards that recognize excellence at every career stage, and a mentoring culture that has shaped generations of scholars.

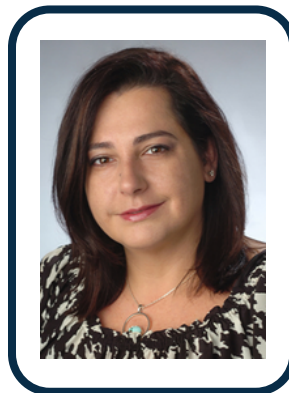
None of that is accidental. PMRA's mission – to improve public governance by advancing research on public organizations, strengthening links among interdisciplinary scholars, and furthering professional and academic opportunities – has been sustained by the steady contributions of members who believe the work matters.

The landscape ahead is less predictable than the one behind us. Higher education is under pressure. Academic publishing is shifting. Nonprofit associations everywhere are rethinking how they remain viable while staying true to their purpose. PMRA is in a strong position, but strong positions are

built, not inherited, and they need to be reinforced.

At PMRC 2026 you'll hear more about a 25th Anniversary Campaign designed to put PMRA on sustainable footing for the next quarter century and beyond – protecting the journals, the conference, the awards, and the mentoring culture that define us. The goal is not just to mark an anniversary. It is to make sure the community we've built continues to do what we built it to do.

More soon. We hope you'll be part of it.



Tina Nabatchi
PMRA President-
Elect



Rob Christensen
Past PMRA
President

Public Management Research Conference 2026



SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

A Message from PMRC 2026 Conference Co-Chairs

On behalf of American University's School of Public Affairs, we are delighted to welcome you to our campus in Washington, D.C., for the **2026 Public Management Research Conference**. This year holds special significance as we gather to kick off the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Public Management Research Association. For twenty-five years, this community has defined the cutting edge of our field, and we are committed to

making this milestone conference engaging, memorable, and valuable for all.

A PMRC Milestone in Engagement and Rigor

The enthusiasm for this year's meeting has been extraordinary. We are currently finalizing a program that reflects both the growth of our association and the depth of our collective scholarship. The numbers already tell a compelling story of a vibrant, global community:

- **748 applications:** The volume of submissions this year has been great, allowing us to build a rigorous and competitive program.
- **509 acceptances:** We are proud of the high caliber of research that will be presented during the conference, including 490 individual

Public Management Research Conference 2026

presentations, 10 pre-formed panels, 9 roundtables- in addition to four pre-conference workshops.

- **460 early-bird registered attendees:** We are seeing incredible momentum, with scholars joining us from all over the globe.
- **16 Sponsors:** We are deeply grateful to the institutions and partners who have stepped up with financial support for this anniversary celebration.

Charting the Future of the Field

PMRC2026 is curated to address the most urgent pressures public management is facing today. We especially look forward to the scholarly engagement u in these topical clusters:

- **Democratic Backsliding & Governance Under Turbulence:** a major focus on how public institutions adapt to political instability and populism.
- **Digital Transformation & AI:** exploring the ethical delivery of services in the age of generative technology.
- **Administrative Burden & Citizen Experience:** diving into "Administrative Deserts" and the behavioral foundations of public

trust.

- **Collaborative Governance & Coproduction:** Focusing on cross-sector collaboration between government and nonprofits.
- **Workforce Resilience & Leadership:** Highlighting female leadership and managing burnout in volatile environments.

A Distinctive D.C. Experience

While the heart of the conference will be in Kerwin Hall—the home of American University’s School of Public Affairs—we want to ensure your time in Washington is inspiring both inside and outside the session rooms.

We are excited to host you for a reception at Planet Word, a museum dedicated to the power of language, as well as events in AU’s own Katzen Arts Center. If you haven’t visited our campus in June, you are in for a treat: our grounds are a designated arboretum, and we expect the flowers to be in full bloom for your arrival.

Special Anniversary Highlights

To honor PMRA’s history, we are hosting a 25th Anniversary Signature Panel. This session will bring together the pioneers

Public Management Research Conference 2026

and junior scholars of our field to reflect on PMRA's journey and the road ahead.

Our Commitment to You

We are dedicated to making your experience as productive and welcoming as possible. Whether you are a long-time PMRA member or attending for the first time, we look forward to hosting you.

We encourage you to regularly check the conference website for details!

Please reach out to us at pmrc2026@american.edu if you have any special needs, accessibility requirements, or general questions as you plan your travel.

See you in D.C.!

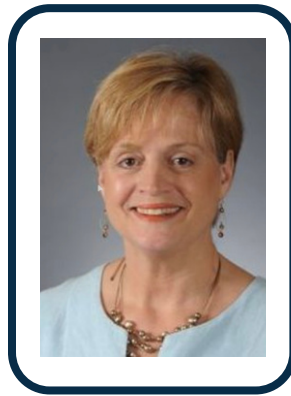
Khaldoun AbouAssi, Anna Amirkhanyan,
and Jocelyn Johnston
PMRC 2026 Conference Co-Chairs



Khaldoun
AbouAssi



Anna
Amirkhanyan



Jocelyn Johnston

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

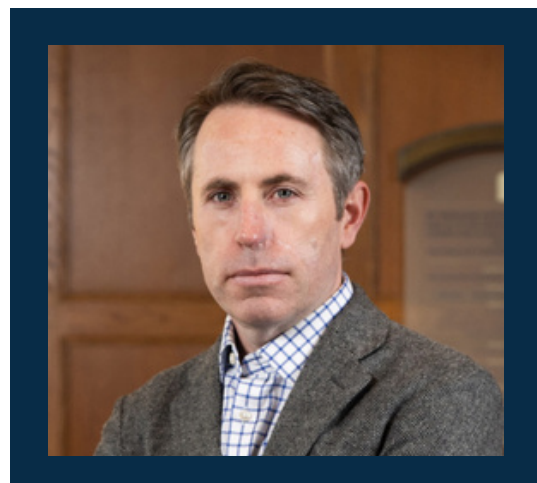
H. George Frederickson Award for Career Contributions

Donald Moynihan, J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

PMRA is pleased to announce that Professor Donald Moynihan has been selected as the 2026 recipient of the H. George Frederickson Award, which honors a scholar whose career represents a sustained and significant contribution to the intellectual development of public management research. The selection committee emphasized sustained intellectual contributions to the field's core questions, clear influence on other scholars, and proven application across diverse contexts. Professor Moynihan's research on performance management reshaped how scholars and practitioners think about the use of performance information in public organizations, and his work on administrative burden has become one of the most generative

research agendas in contemporary public administration - applied by scholars globally across welfare administration, voting access, and health policy, and influencing guidance from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

A past president of both PMRA and APPAM and co-director of the Better Government Lab, Professor Moynihan has also invested deeply in the professional life of the field through mentorship, journal service, and his widely read *Can We Still Govern?* newsletter. He exemplifies the sustained, field-shaping career the Frederickson Award was established to honor.



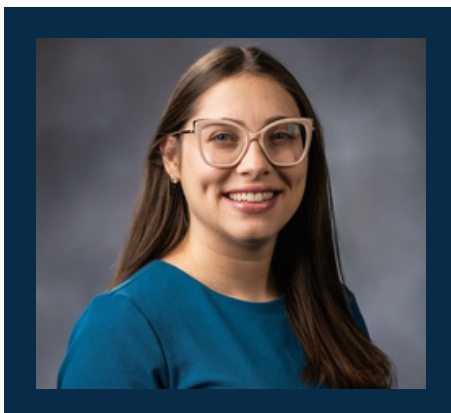
Donald Moynihan

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

**BEST
DISSERTATION
AWARD**

PMRA congratulates Dr. Marylis C. Fantoni, recipient of the 2026 Best Dissertation Award for Channel, Communication and Composition: Improving Reporting of Domestic Violence. Drawing on comparative evidence from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the State of Indiana, the dissertation applies administrative burden theory and cutting-edge causal methods to demonstrate how reporting channels, communication framing, and the gender composition of the judiciary each shape outcomes for survivors of domestic violence.

Marylis C. Fantoni, Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University PhD, Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University Bloomington



Marylis C. Fantoni

The selection committee recognized Dr. Fantoni's work as a rare combination of theoretical innovation, methodological diversity, and real-world impact. She completed her PhD in May 2025 under the supervision of Claudia Avellaneda and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Romney Institute of Public Service and Ethics at Brigham Young University.

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

Meier PMRC Doctoral Travel Award

PMRA congratulates the following twenty recipients of the 2026 Ken Meier PMRC Doctoral Travel Award, which provides financial support to doctoral students presenting at PMRC who have faced significant barriers in their academic journey and financial challenges related to conference attendance. Recipients will be recognized at the PMRA Annual Business Meeting during PMRC 2026:



Award recipient photos are arranged sequentially from top to bottom within each vertical strip, moving left to right across the page.

- Ashraf **Haque**, Syracuse University
- Tasmin **Hossain**, Florida International University
- Niki **Jabbari**, University of Missouri
- Sina **Jangjoo**, Florida State University
- Miyeun **Jung**, University at Albany, SUNY
- Hyunji **Kim**, Florida State University
- Nicolás **Lagos-Machuca**, Rutgers University – Newark
- Valentine **A. Lamar**, Rutgers University – Newark
- Laura **McCann**, The University of Arizona
- Seongdeok **Oh**, The University of Texas at Dallas
- Ximena **Pizarro-Bore**, Georgia State University
- Marilyn D. **Rozario**, University of Texas at Arlington
- Guilherme Otaviano **Soares**, University at Albany, SUNY
- Shuping **Wang**, Syracuse University
- Maham **Ali**, The Ohio State University
- Tipeng **Chen**, Arizona State University
- Jung Ho **Choi**, University of Pennsylvania
- Apu **Deb**, Florida International University
- Calia Jackson **Franco**, University of Delaware

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

Beryl Radin Award - Best Article in JPART

The Beryl Radin Award is given annually to recognize the best article published in the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, honoring the legacy of Dr. Beryl A. Radin, one of public administration's most distinguished scholars. Articles are evaluated on scholarly contribution, theoretical advancement, methodological rigor, and relevance to public management research.

Winner:

Florian Keppeler, Jana Borchert, Mogens Jin Pedersen, and Vibeke Lehmann Nielsen for **"How Ensembling AI and Public Managers Improves Decision-Making"** (JPART, Vol. 35, No. 3, July 2025, pp. 261–276). This timely and rigorously designed study investigates how combining artificial intelligence with the judgment of public managers produces better decisions than either approach alone. The selection committee recognized it for its empirical rigor and its direct relevance to one of the most pressing governance challenges of our moment.



Top Row: Florian Keppeler,
Jana Borchert

Bottom Row: Mogens Jin
Pedersen, Vibeke Lehmann



Honorable Mention Kirstine Karmsteen

Kirstine Karmsteen for "Making Administrative Work Matter in Public Service Delivery: A Lens for Linking Practice with the Purpose of Office" (JPART, Vol. 35, No. 1, January 2025, pp. 15–28).

The committee commended this article for its conceptual originality in connecting frontline administrative work to broader institutional purposes — a contribution with clear value for both researchers and practitioners.

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

Camilla Stivers Award - Best Article in PPMG

The Camilla Stivers Award is given annually to recognize the best article published in *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, honoring the contributions of Camilla Stivers, a pioneering scholar whose work challenged the field to grapple seriously with questions of gender, democratic citizenship, and the meaning of public service. Articles are evaluated on originality, analytical rigor, contribution to governance scholarship, and relevance to public management research.

Winner: **Maeve Curtin** and **Caitlin McMullin** for "The Co-Production Spectrum: Conceptual Blurs in Theory and Practice" (*Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, Vol. 8, No. 3, September 2025, pp. 144–157). Curtin and McMullin critically examine the conceptual boundaries of co-production, identifying how ambiguities in theory translate into uneven and inequitable practice. The selection committee recognized this article for advancing scholarly clarity in a consequential area of public management while centering questions of participation, power, and access.



Maeve Curtin

Caitlin McMullin

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

Riccucci-O'Leary Award - Best Article on Diversity in JPART or PPMG

The Riccucci-O'Leary Award is given annually for the best article on diversity, broadly defined, published in JPART or PPMG, honoring the contributions of Norma Riccucci and Rosemary O'Leary, two scholars who have shaped the field's understanding of diversity, management, and public service.

Winner:

Pamela Herd and **Donald Moynihan** for "**Gendered Administrative Burden: Regulating Gendered Bodies, Labor, and Identity**" (Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Vol. 35, No. 1, January 2025, pp. 45–57).

Herd and Moynihan extend administrative burden theory in a powerful direction, demonstrating that burdens are not neutral but are systematically structured along gendered lines — shaping whose bodies, whose labor, and whose identities are subject to government

regulation and compliance demands. The committee recognized this as a landmark contribution bridging public administration with broader conversations about gender, equity, and state power.

Note: Professor Moynihan is also this year's recipient of the Frederickson Award for Career Contributions — a reflection of the remarkable breadth and impact of his scholarly work.



Pamela Herd



Donald Moynihan

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

Avellaneda Award — Best Article on the Global South in JPART or PPMG

PMRA is proud to present the inaugural Avellaneda Award, established through the generous endowment of Professor Claudia N. Avellaneda of Indiana University Bloomington. Given every three years, the award recognizes the best article published in JPART or PPMG that advances knowledge of public management in the Global South, reflecting Professor Avellaneda's commitment to centering the scholarship and governance challenges of developing and emerging nations in our field.

Winners of the 2026 award are **Wenchi Wei, Chengwei Wang, Wenkang Zhai,** and **Wenzhao Li** for **"'Honor List' and 'Shame Roll': Quasi-Experimental Evidence of the Effect of Performance Feedback under Political Control"** (Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Vol. 33, No. 1, January 2023, pp. 122–138).

Using quasi-experimental methods,



Top Row: Wenchi Wei, Chengwei Wang
Bottom Row: Wenzhao Li, Wenkang Zhai

the authors examine how public recognition and public shaming — instruments of the authors examine how public recognition and public shaming — instruments of performance feedback embedded within a system of political control — affect organizational behavior. The committee recognized this article as an exemplary contribution to understanding performance management in non-Western governance contexts.

2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

Avellaneda Award —
Honorable Mention**Honorable Mention:**

Alan Zarychta,
Michelle E. Benedum,
Emily Sanchez, and
Krister P. Andersson

"Decentralization and Corruption in Public Service Delivery: Local Institutional Arrangements That Can Help Reduce Governance Risks" (Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Vol. 34, No. 2, April 2024, pp. 238–254). The committee commended this article for its significant contribution to understanding how local institutional design can mitigate governance risks in decentralized systems across the Global South.



Top Row: Alan Zarychta, Michelle E. Benedum

Bottom Row: Emily Sanchez, Krister P. Andersson

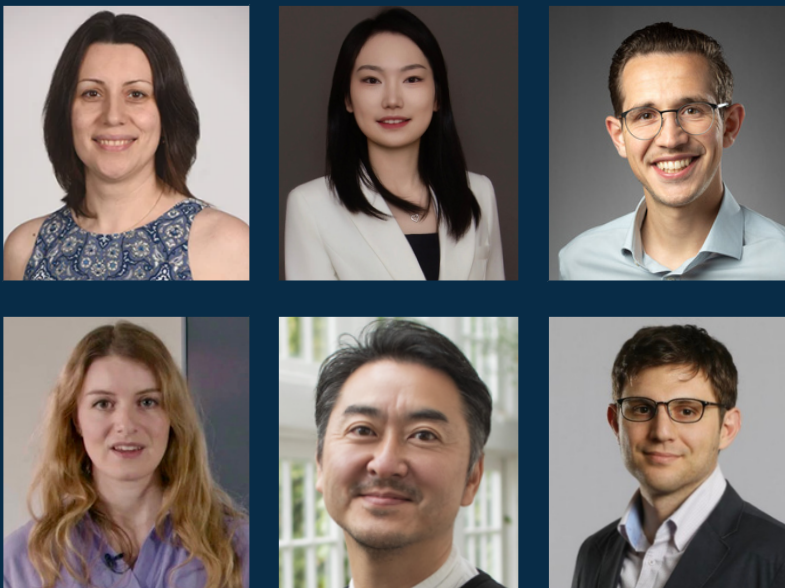
2026 PMRA Awards Announcement

JPART Outstanding Reviewer Award

Peer review is the backbone of academic quality assessment, and JPART is fortunate to have an exceptionally strong and committed reviewer community. Each year, the editors recognize colleagues who have gone above and beyond in providing careful, critical, and constructive reviews that strengthen manuscripts and advance the field. The recipients of the 2026 JPART Outstanding Reviewer Award for work done in 2025 are:

- **Anna Amirkhanyan**, American University
- **Ting Huang**, Queen Mary University of London
- **Florian Keppeler**, Aarhus University
- **Rosanna Nagtegaal**, Utrecht University
- **Mogens Jin Pedersen**, University of Copenhagen
- **Gregory Porumbescu**, Rutgers University – Newark

Recipients will be recognized at the PMRA Annual Business Meeting on June 4 at PMRC 2026 in Washington, D.C. JPART Editors-in-Chief Ole Helby Petersen and Kim Sass Mikkelsen extend their gratitude to these colleagues and to all reviewers who contributed excellent reviews in 2025.



Top row:
Anna Amirkhanyan,
Ting Huang,
Florian Keppeler

Bottom row:
Rosanna Nagtegaal,
Mogens Jin Pedersen,
Gregory Porumbescu

PPMG & JPART Artificial Intelligence Message

JPART update: Maintaining academic quality in the age of generative AI

The use of generative AI in academic writing is now real, widespread, and rapidly increasing. Across the field, colleagues are seeing it, discussing it, and trying to understand its implications for our profession. At JPART, the numbers speak for themselves. Just a few years ago, the journal received just under 600 submissions annually. This year, we expect to receive over 1,200. Based on our day-to-day handling of manuscripts, and on what we hear from colleagues across the field, we have little doubt that this sharp increase is largely driven by the growing use of generative AI.

More specifically, we now regularly encounter manuscripts that appear to have been heavily edited or even partially or fully created by AI tools. They are, at a surface level, well constructed and well written, but often do not withstand closer examination. The language is often over-refined. Sentences follow similar patterns. Paragraphs may use elaborate or “fancy” phrasing but lack a clear, forward-moving argument. We also see

recurring stylistic markers, including University terms, punctuation, and phrasing, that suggest strong reliance on AI-assisted writing. This is not limited to isolated cases; it is becoming a broader pattern. Like other major journals, we now see AI content in submissions on a daily basis.

For the field of public administration and management research, and for academic publishing more broadly, the concurrent increase in submission volumes and rapid development of AI tools present a serious challenge. Editorial and reviewer time has always been the bottleneck of academic quality assessment. When the volume of submissions increases rapidly, in large part driven by AI generated text, that system comes under pressure. There is a real risk that it begins to break down. We already see signs of strain in some journals, where decisions can appear inconsistent or difficult to explain, as editors and reviewers struggle to keep up with the pace of submissions. This is not a race we can win by simply working harder, especially as AI tools continue to improve. Moreover, we view it as imprudent to respond to automation of content creation by merely automating its evaluation.

PPMG & JPART Artificial Intelligence Message

In the JPART editorial team, we have made a decision to explore options for handling the large increase in (often AI-generated) submissions. Other journals are using measures such as caps on submissions, submission fees, and more systematic screening for AI-generated content, among others. The JPART team will not develop these approaches in isolation but will seek to learn from leading journals in related fields and will work closely with the scholarly community and PMRA leadership.

We have one goal with these initiatives: to maintain and strengthen JPART as a trusted platform for high-quality research. In a context where the volume of content is increasing and quality is becoming more uneven in ways that may be difficult to spot, it is more important than ever that the people we serve, our authors and readers, can rely on the journal as a place where manuscripts are carefully assessed and selected for publication by experienced editors and reviewers.

For authors, the message is straightforward. If you submit a manuscript of high quality, within JPART's aims and scope, and one that you take intellectual ownership of as a

researcher, we will evaluate it carefully. We will try to provide constructive feedback and, if the paper meets the standard, we will publish it. Our efforts are also intended to protect our reviewers. The reviewer pool is a scarce and valuable resource. It is important to us that the manuscripts we send out for review meet a standard that justifies the time and effort of reviewers. As editors, we take seriously our responsibility to filter submissions before they reach you.

We anticipate that not all initiatives will work equally well, but doing nothing is not an option. Some measures may work better than others, and we will work closely with the PMRA community and leadership in assessing what works and what does not work. We hope that all of you, our authors, readers, and reviewers, will approach these efforts with an open mind and share your ideas for supporting and advancing JPART in the age of generative AI. We warmly welcome your thoughts and ideas and encourage you to use the upcoming PMRC in Washington, D.C., to share your input with us.

Sincerely,
The JPART editorial team (Editors and Associate Editors)

News from the Profession

Alisa Moldavanova, Associate Professor in the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy & Administration at the University of Delaware received the 2026 American Society for Public Administration's Section on Public Administration Research Book Award for her book, *The Overlooked Pillar: Making a Case for Cultural Sustainability* (SUNY Press, 2024).

William T. Jackson, Assistant Professor in the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University, published an article. Jackson, William T. and Lofaro, Ryan J. (2025). Protecting the Citadel of Democracy: A Political and Administrative Response. *Public Administration Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.70078>

Valentine A Lamar, successfully defended dissertation at Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) and started a postdoctoral research associate position at the Institute for Data, Research and Innovation Science (IDRIS), Rutgers University-Newark.

Hillary Knepper, Professor in the Department of Public Administration at

Pace University, co-authored an article. Kritz, J., Knepper, H., Roberts, A., Bouzan, L., Mitchell, S., Abdelrasol, S.T., Jha, R. (2026). Advancing Administration and Human Rights. *Journal of Health & Human Services Administration*. She also received the 2026 Mentorship Award from the Conference of Minority Public Administration (COMPA).

Rachel Fyall, Associate Professor at the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Washington, is now the Undergraduate Program Director for the new Public Service & Policy major at the University of Washington.



LATEST
NEWS



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

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PMRA Newsletter



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