



CALL FOR ARTICLES

Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory

Framing the Study of Racism, Power, and Inequality in Public Administration

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The impact of racism, xenophobia, colonialism, neo-colonialism and the social and material inequalities they produce have played, and continue to play, a major role in the emergence, development and management of public institutions around the world. Information about this reality, however, has not been systematically incorporated in the body of knowledge supporting the institutionalization of public administration as a scholarly field. The purpose of this call for papers is to solicit scholarship that strengthens and advances public administration theory and research on the dynamics (causes, experiences, impact and/or outcomes) of racism, power and inequality. Our goal is to stimulate and expand theoretical directions to inform PA scholarship in ways that take into account the role of these phenomena.

Received knowledge from other disciplines about racism, power, and inequality has not sufficiently permeated our field. In the US, as in other parts of the world, early scholarship and practice has been based on problematic foundational notions of racial superiority, erasure of non-western governance and bureaucratic systems, and the "civilizing" mandate of colonial bureaucracies (Frenkel and Shenhav, 2006). This problematic legacy of the dominant international public administration paradigm continues to the present day in the form of persistent neo-colonial influences and practices on contemporary bureaucratic and development models in the non-western world (Haque, 2013).

Furthermore subaltern groups' specific contributions to PA—practical and theoretical—have not been sufficiently visible in the field. For example, The Freeman's Bureau, a US federally created policy institution in 1865, was largely composed of newly freed enslaved Africans after the US Civil War. This institution, and visions of the African-American freedom, played a major role in shaping many of the United States' first public bureaucracies addressing public education, state administered health care and anti-poverty programs. But this did not fully impact the development of early bureaucratic theories and practices which were deeply embedded in the legacy of the colonial enterprise.

Contemporary PA research has documented the problematic relationship between public institutions and citizenship of subaltern and excluded communities. Research finds that, even in the presence of ostensibly neutral public policies, racial and ethnic minorities experience higher surveillance, discrimination and administrative burden in citizen-state encounters (Epp, Maynard-Moody and Musheno 2014). There is a considerable body of PA literature in the representative bureaucracy domain and the role and

the role and effectiveness of racial and ethnic representation in public management. However, the persistence of discriminatory policy design and implementation at local and international levels warrants engagement with theoretical perspectives that go beyond representation (Ospina and Foldy, 2009). These should unpack the underlying institutional and structural ways in which racism and colonialism endure in public organizations, as well as the different ways that excluded groups contest their experience by state functionaries (Nisar 2017). The critical significance of this endeavor is further underscored by recent movements against police brutality and other state interactions with African-Americans and other subaltern groups in the US (Coupet, 2017).

We welcome manuscripts that offer meaningful theoretical advances in the study of racism and xenophobia, and the legacy and impact of colonialism and neo-colonialism in the multiple dimensions of public administration theory. Studies can be empirical or theoretical, and can leverage developed frameworks or emerging ones. The best manuscripts will make important theoretical and empirical advancements.

Please note that this is not a special issue. This call is an affirmation that scholarship engaged with these critical themes is welcome at JPART beyond the collection of papers generated by this call. All manuscripts will be subjected to the standard JPART submission and review processes.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of examples of timely and important themes that could frame proposed papers:

- Critical theories of public organization and political economy and their application to the delivery and management of public services;
- Emerging frameworks theorizing the role of race/ethnicity in performance disparities of public institutions;
- Theories of alternative public organization and management and their implications for combating social inequality, exploitation, and exclusion;
- Institutional theories of race/ethnicity and implications for the public sector;
- Applications of a historical lens on racism, colonialism and the resulting modern effects in public institutions;
- Applications of intersectional lenses surfacing the heterogeneity in experiences and outcomes of racial/ethnic groups in citizen-state encounters;
- Explorations of the relationship between foundational texts and contemporary perspectives of public administration and racism and colonialism;
- The significance of race/ethnicity, power and inequality for governance in colonial, post-colonial or neo-colonial contexts;
- The role of racism and xenophobic attitudes and biases in the creation, destruction, and reform of public institutions

References

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Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2020.

Submission information and the full call for articles is available online:
academic.oup.com/jpart/pages/racism-power-inequality-cfp

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