

Public Administration Quarterly Symposium Call for Papers:
Moving the Field of Nonprofit Management towards New Interdisciplinary Heights:
Research and Practice for Social Change

The study of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy is usually regarded as an interdisciplinary field, with scholars from business, economics, history, law, political science, social work, public administration, and sociology, among others contributing to our knowledge base in these areas (Lough, 2021, Mirabella & Wish, 2000, Young, 2021). As the field has grown since the late 20th century, we have witnessed an increase in scholars from these disciplines seeking to understand and explore the nonprofit environment. However, scholars' theoretical approaches and methodologies in the primary disciplines have historically provided little cross-over *between* disciplines. At times, the field has been intently focused on specific content areas such as acquiring financial resources or organizational effectiveness dominating scholarly output (Mirabella, 2013; Shier & Handy, 2014). In addition, our education programs have become increasingly narrow, with fewer interdisciplinary programs today than at the beginning of this century (Mirabella et al., 2019). Many have argued that the absence of a cross-disciplinary approach has hampered our ability to develop innovative solutions to key social issues (Beaton, 2021; Funk, 2017; Herzog, 2020; Mirabella, 2013).

The ASPA Section on Nonprofits aims to explore how nonprofit and philanthropic research and practice might embrace its interdisciplinarity by developing theories and methodological approaches to challenge traditional ways of understanding and address wicked problems facing communities today. We invite you to submit original manuscripts on methodological approaches to nonprofit and philanthropic studies that embrace interdisciplinarity, including, but not limited to:

- Philosophical, historical, and comparative approaches that center the role of values in our understanding of nonprofit organizations and philanthropic practices;
- Innovative structures that no longer bind scholars to a particular faculty within the university;
- Exploring the ways in which international NGOs employ interdisciplinary perspectives to counter the restriction of civic space;
- New theoretical approaches to civil society embracing interdisciplinarity;
- Critical explorations of institutional barriers limiting interdisciplinary scholarship, including but not limited to: reward structures, resource acquisition, and dominance of sole-authored work as the gold standard in higher education;
- Creative ways in which professional/member associations have recognized and attempted to transcend the culture and belief systems thrust upon scholarship by the professions;
- The role of academic centers and academic-practitioner partnerships in creating environments conducive to interdisciplinary study and policy in action;
- New methodologies and approaches focused on blurring boundaries between the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.
- Ways in which traditional disciplinary approaches obscure and detract from the *usefulness* of theory when put into practice;
- The responsibility of nonprofits and philanthropic organizations in advancing social change/shifts and societal movements;

Logistics and Timeline

Interested scholars are requested to submit abstracts of 200 words or less no later than June 30, 2022. Theoretical, conceptual, and empirical research are welcomed. Essays (2500-4000 words) in addition to longer articles (up to 12,000) can be submitted for this symposium. Essays must be carefully argued presentations that contribute to building/critiquing/amending theory with some substantive weight of evidence. If you are proposing an essay rather than an article, please note "Essay Submission" in the subject of your emailed abstract.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to draft papers and present them for discussion and critique by the editorial team and participating authors at a Zoom workshop at the end of September 2022. Draft papers, after workshop and ensuing revision, should be submitted by November 2022 for blind review. Publication will be scheduled for the _____ 2023 issue of PAQ. Please note that acceptance of an abstract does not guarantee final publication.

To submit a proposed abstract, email it by June 30, 2022 to Symposium Editor-in-Chief Roseanne.Mirabella@shu.edu and copy to the section email SNPaspa@gmail.com.

Editor-in-chief: Roseanne Mirabella

Co-editors: Suparna Soni, Cynthia Lynch, Lauren Azevedo, Jennifer Alexander, Lindsey Evans and Bok Jeong

References

Beaton, E. (2021). Ethnography: Tales of the Nonprofit Field. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 1-8.

Funk, C. (2018). Where Philanthropy Intersects International Development Aid. In *Applied Interdisciplinarity in Scholar Practitioner Programs* (pp. 179-201). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Herzog, P. S. (2020). Introduction: The Science of Generosity: From Disparate to Integrated. In *The Science of Generosity* (pp. 1-20). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Lough, B. J. (2021). Examining the Normative Operations of Nonprofit Academic Centers. *The Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*, 11(1).

Mirabella, R. M., & Wish, N. B. (2000). The "best place" debate: A comparison of graduate education programs for nonprofit managers. *Public Administration Review*, 60(3), 219-229.

Mirabella, R. M. (2013). Toward a More Perfect Nonprofit: The Performance Mindset and the "Gift". *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, 35(1), 81-105.

Mirabella, R., Hoffman, T., Teo, T., & McDonald, M. (2019). The evolution of nonprofit management and philanthropic studies in the United States: Are we now a disciplinary field. *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*, 9(1), 63-84.

Shier, M. L., & Handy, F. (2014). Research trends in nonprofit graduate studies: A growing interdisciplinary field. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 43(5), 812-831.

Young, D. R. (2021, July). The First Decade of Nonprofit Policy Forum. In *Nonprofit Policy Forum* (Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 223-242). De Gruyter.