

Political Coalitions, Policy Innovations and Changing Demographics: The Road Ahead for Public Management

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The first issue of this, the fourteenth volume of the *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, brings together a collection of articles that outline contemporary changes in social policy and demographics while highlighting future considerations. Within a society that is continually changing, policies and programs are simultaneously being developed. These social policies and programs must be explored and managed with an eye to the future. The collection of articles in this issue draws attention to current practices and policies while lighting the road ahead.

In the opening article, "The Future Effectiveness of Racial-Political Coalitions in American Politics," Jason D. Rivera, DeMond S. Miller, and Deborah D. Wright examine racial-political coalitions, deconstructing them in order to identify what has allowed these partnerships to successfully accomplish their goals. The article highlights the dynamics of racial coalitions' ineffectiveness when pursuing special interests and concludes with a consideration of coalitions' potential to survive and be successful.

The next two articles focus on current social policy. Roddrick Colvin's "Innovations in Non-discrimination Laws: Exploratory Research on Transgender-inclusive Cities" explores the recent surge in communities' adoption of transgender-inclusive laws. Colvin reviews archival data and surveys 74 cities' transgender-inclusive policies, highlighting significant factors that help to explain innovation in the adoption of these laws. Colvin

concludes that such innovations can best be explained via an urbanism/social diversity framework.

Similarly looking at contemporary policies in “The End of Affirmative Action and the Future of the Legal and Medical Professions in California,” Katherine C. Naff and Alexis Kirk review the ramifications of the Supreme Court’s 2003 *Grutter* decision, which sanctioned the use of affirmative action in admissions processes at institutions of higher education but allowed its prohibition in California to stand. Using enrollment data for the University of California’s medical and law schools, the article empirically examines the impact of that prohibition on applications and admissions and finds that the Court’s decision had a significant effect. The authors conclude by assessing the effects of revamped admissions policies and the university’s response to the decline in diversity, arguing that not enough has been done to “reestablish the desired level of diversity.”

In the final article, “Municipal Best Practices: How Local Governments are Responding to a Growing Hispanic Community,” Abraham David Benavides studies the changing demographics of cities with growing Hispanic populations and presents best practices that have helped this community. Benavides suggests that “cities have built upon the traditions of second and third generation Hispanics to provide meaningful services to all Hispanics.” He concludes that the collaboration and participation of established Hispanics has helped cities customize programs for new immigrants.

This issue closes with Nichole M. Bunner’s review of *Innovations in Effective Governance*, a 2006 book that considers the elements of effective governance as the role of managers continues to change. Bunner suggests that the book provides an excellent analytical framework for those focused on “creating innovative ways to increase performance while maintaining the standards of accountability and deliberative processes of government.”

Once again, we would like to thank our committed editorial board, journal reviewers and journal staff for their continued work, which has allowed us to begin this fourteenth volume of the *Journal of Public Management of Social Policy*. We would also like to thank this issue’s contributors for considering *JPMSP* as an outlet for their research.

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