Public Service: Law Enforcement, Environmentalism and Health

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The Journal of Public Management and Social Policy, beginning its sixteenth volume, aims to continue bringing together a collection of articles and research that review policies and cases underscoring the area of social policy and management throughout the United States and around the world. The issue’s contributors provide contemporary analyses of public management and social policies in areas ranging from perceptions of diversity and law enforcement to health care policy and issues. The issue brings together four general articles, and a book review to begin the first issue in this sixteenth volume of JPMSP.

In the opening article, “African-American and White Perception of Police Services: The Impact of Diversity on Citizens’ Attitudes toward Police Services,” co-authors Erin J. Holmes and Doug Goodman explores the relationship between race and satisfaction with police services. They surveyed residents of a U.S. southern, medium size city and found that those who are satisfied with the community as a place to live, those who feel safe walking in their neighborhoods, and are satisfied with police services are positive in their attitudes toward the community oriented police services. They also find that African-Americans’ satisfaction with police services is not different than non-African Americans’ attitudes, continue the critical discussion and research of race and ethnicity in public service perceptions attitudes.

Sacoby M. Wilson looks at environmental justice in the next article, “Environmental Justice Movement: A Review of History, Research, and Public Health Issues.” By providing the history of the environmental justice movement, the reader is able to reflect upon the institutionalization of environmental justice, and grasp the contribution of academia to the environmental justice movement. Wilson introduces environmental slavery as a concept and describes how the new concept can help in the struggle against environmental oppression, to improve public health, and reduce environmental health disparities.

In the third article, “Normative and Empirical Justice Research: A Preliminary Exploration of Public Administrators in the Health Care Context,” Kaifeng Yang and Neil De Haan, review the background of justice theories and debates, compares three empirical jus-
tice beliefs, and explores public health administrators’ principles of justice. The authors find both merit-based and equality-based beliefs among public administrators in the health care context. The results show that respondents’ justice beliefs affect their attitudes toward government spending on health care.

The final article, “The Unintended Consequences of the Stigmatization of Affirmative Action for Beneficiaries: A Review of the Literature,” G.L.A. Harris provides a framework that explains the psychological antecedents of the unintended consequences of affirmative action for beneficiaries, not only from the perspective of the majority, but through the lenses of members of beneficiary groups who are adversely impacted by them. Also discussed are the challenges of balancing the benefits of affirmative action while mitigating the negative effects of stereotyping.

The issue concludes with a review of A Reasonable Public Servant: Constitutional Foundations of Administrative Conduct in the United States, reviewed by Judy-Lynne Peters. The book offers, as Peters states, “future practitioners an extraordinary glimpse into the workings of constitutional law in the context of administrative practice.” We would like to offer sincere thanks to our committed editorial board, reviewers, and staff for their continued work. Lastly, we would like to thank our contributors for considering JPMSP as an outlet for their research.