



School of Public Administration

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Recent Research 2020-2021



Director's Welcome

Greetings from the School of Public Administration!

The [School of Public Administration](#) is a nationally recognized program with an innovative and stimulating curriculum that builds on shared values of public service, diversity, resilience, and inclusion to provide exceptional educational opportunities for those choosing careers in the public

and nonprofit sectors. Our faculty publish in the leading journals in the field and undertake interdisciplinary research that is intellectually and socially relevant to public administration and policy scholarship and practice. Our graduates work in local, state, and federal agencies and non-profit organizations, providing guidance and leadership that make a difference in the lives of others every day. Our Ph.D. alumni working in academia have distinguished themselves with their scholarly contributions to the field and through the leadership positions they have achieved.

The School of Public Administration's two signature centers provide research and training for both university and public audiences and are led by Sarah Shannon, Director of the John Scott Dailey Institute of Government (IOG) and Dr. Peter Cruise, Executive Director of the LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy. Our School also continues to be the editorial home for two leading academic journals edited by Dr. Ali Farazmand: International Journal of Public Administration and Public Organizations Review.

As part of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, our School is continuing to chart a dynamic and progressive path forward. Despite a global pandemic, our outstanding faculty and students have been a beacon of resilience and hope and have been very productive in their contributions to research and practice. In this newsletter, it is my pleasure to share their scholarly and other achievements with you, along with an overview of our recent events.

With much appreciation and warm regards,

Alka

Alka Sapat,

Director and Professor,
School of Public Administration

Recent Events

1. Ph.D. Student Colloquium

The Association of Doctoral Students in Public Administration held its virtual colloquium on January 29, 2021. This student-organized annual conference provides the means for students at FAU and other universities in South Florida to present scholarly research, receive feedback from peers and professors, and network. The aim is to expand the breadth of knowledge in public administration while giving students the experience of presenting at an academic conference. This year the guest speaker was Dr. Sean McCandless, Assistant Professor of

Public Administration in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Illinois Springfield. Students presented on three panels: *Cultural Competency, Diversity, and Social Equity in Public Service*; *Public Management and Organizational Decision-Making*; and *The Administration of Public Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic*.



*Picture taken at the 2019 colloquium.

2. High School Ethics Bowl: 2020 and 2021- LCPEA

The 2021 Regional High School Ethics Bowl was held (virtually this year) on Monday, February 1, 2021. The Ethics Bowl is co-hosted by the LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy and the School District of Palm Beach County. Eight schools and 12 teams participated, and forty community leaders served as volunteer judges and moderators during the event. Four winning teams from two local high schools shared in over \$10,000 in scholarship awards.

The Ethics Bowl is primarily an educational experience with two fundamental purposes: the development of ethical understanding in connection with complex, ambiguous, and difficult cases to resolve; and the fostering of key virtues associated with democratic deliberation, thereby cultivating the virtues central to democratic citizenship, and preparing students to navigate challenging moral issues in a systematic and open-minded way. During the Ethics Bowl competition, teams are presented with the issues which they can study and analyze and are asked questions about the cases and are then judged on the quality of their analysis of

each situation, with the format of the competition allowing for teams to respond to each other, and to respond to questions from the judges.



3. Scholarships – Ethics Academy – March 2020

The FAU School of Public Administration and the [Leroy Collins Public Ethics Academy](#) held their annual scholarship luncheon in mid-March. At the meeting, six FAU students received the inaugural Collins Scholarships (\$1,000 to each student), based upon an essay submission that describes their interest in public service and the connections they see with Governor Collins's career. [Other scholarships](#) were also awarded to SPA MPA and Ph.D. students. The SPA Advisory Board member, Ms. Edith Friedheim was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the national Public Affairs and Administration Honor Society.



Faculty Research 2020-21



Efraim Ben-Zadok, Ph.D.

In 2020, Dr. Efraim Ben-Zadok published a [journal article in Planning Practice and Research](#). The article analyzes policy change in Florida legislation through three elements of policy design: policy problem, policy goal, and intervention strategy. It covers five successive policies of Florida Growth Management Act, from 1970 to 2010. The article also examines social construction of policy change and sources influencing change. Drastic changes in the 1980s included a centralized state-regional-local planning-implementation system and local economic development. Florida's policies emphasized statewide control of population growth (1970s-1980s), and sprawl, and urban decline areas (1990s-2000s).



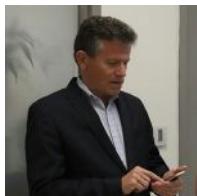
Cliff McCue, Ph.D.

In 2020 Dr. McCue published seven articles in some of the leading academic journals in the field and presented at a virtual international conference on public procurement. In addition, Dr. McCue is currently working with the Portuguese Ministry of Health and Science Foundation examining professionalization of public procurement in the European Union.



Peter Cruise, Ph.D.

Dr. Peter Cruise, the Executive Director of the [LeRoy Collins Public Ethics Academy](#) (LCPEA), was appointed Chair of the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics and the Palm Beach County Inspector General Review Committee. The LCPEA is now in its third year operation. Highlights from 2020-21 include a partnership with the School District of PBC to offer the Regional High School Ethics Bowl. The LCPEA awarded nine scholarships to FAU students. Dr. Cruise was interviewed by various news outlets throughout Florida, including the Orlando Sentinel, the Tampa Bay Times, the Miami New Times, and the Palm Beach Post.



Hugh T. Miller, Ph.D.

Prof. Hugh T. Miller is the author of the newly published [*Narrative Politics in Public Policy: Legalizing Cannabis*](#). When reality is confusing, ambiguous, or uncertain, humans create narratives to impose order and to generate meaning and understanding. In conditions of democratic pluralism, these narratives may contradict one another. In the context of public policy discourse, policy narratives compete for dominance, enactment, and formal legitimacy. The book takes cannabis policy to be the exemplary discursive field in a U.S. policy environment where 50 different states have 50 different policy regimes, with most of them directly contradicting policies of the federal government.



Tomás Olivier, Ph.D.

Dr. Olivier joined the School of Public Administration in January, of 2020 as an Assistant Professor. During the past year, he has published some of his work on water governance in Patagonia and South America in the Policy Studies Journal and in two book chapters forthcoming in 2021. In addition, Dr. Olivier has published a book chapter and a forthcoming piece in the journal Public Administration focusing on the design of institutional arrangements for the governance of drinking water in the New York City Watersheds. During 2020, Dr. Olivier has taught classes on Public Administration, Quantitative Methods, Communication Skills for Public Managers, and Organizational Behavior.



Palina Prysmakova, Ph.D.

During 2020, Dr. Prysmakova published six peer-reviewed research articles in journals such as the Review of Public Personnel Administration, Public Management Review, and the International Journal of Public Administration, including a research article titled 'Whistleblowing Motivation and Gender', which she co-authored with FAU Ph.D. alumni Dr. Michelle Evans. She also published two book chapters and gave several research-based presentations on the national mass protests in Belarus, including presentations at the global Belarus World Congress and on the role of women in the elections and the protests at the International Panel organized by the Russian American Business and Culture Council, Minnesota.



Leslie A. Leip, Ph.D.

Dr. Leslie Leip just completed a five-year evaluation of a program developed to support foster care youth who were aging out of the Broward County child welfare system. Children's Harbor, Inc. implemented the program from 2015 to 2020 as part of a Healthy Marriages/Relationship grant they received. Dr. Leip utilized a random controlled trial (RCT) for the evaluation, and three cohorts of foster care youth participated in the study. She is currently working on several articles about the RCT results.



Alka Sapat, Ph.D.

During 2020, Dr. Sapat received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant titled: "RAPID: Health, Housing, and Hazards: COVID-19, Subjective Resilience, Vulnerabilities, and Policy Evolution in Hurricane Prone Counties" and she was also Co-PI on a multi-institutional interdisciplinary NSF grant titled: "CRISP TYPE 2: Probabilistic Resilience Assessment of Interdependent Infrastructure" which explores interdependencies in critical infrastructure resilience. The results of the research have been published in a number of leading academic journals including the *Natural Hazards Review*.



Gao Liu, Ph.D.

Dr. Gao Liu's continuing research interests revolve around public budgeting and financial management, particularly issues related to municipal security financing. He has also developed an interest in topics related to nonprofit sector economics, particularly the presence of the nonprofit sector and its relationships with the public sector. Dr. Liu has published in *National Tax Journal*, *Public Budgeting and Finance*, *American Review of Public Administration*, *Public finance Review*, *Municipal Finance Journal*, etc. His teaching interests include public budgeting and finance and quantitative research methods.



Arthur Sementelli, Ph.D.

In 2020, Dr. Sementelli published four articles with one more forthcoming along with a scholarly book for the *Routledge Studies in Management, Organizations, and Society* series. One article appears in *Organization*, one appears in the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, one appears in *Administrative Theory and Praxis*, and one appears in *Public Voices* in a symposium coordinated with Dr. Garrett. Dr. Sementelli continues to work on critical management issues in public administration.

Ph.D. Student Research 2020-21

Refereed Journal Articles and Encyclopedia Entries

Dzhurova, A. (2020). Organization theory, bureaucracy, and public management in a time of transformation. *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*, 1-5. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31816-5_4126-1

Dzhurova, A. (2020). Symbolic politics and government response to a national emergency: Narrating the COVID-19 crisis. *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, 42(4), 571-587. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10841806.2020.1816787>

Lofaro, R. J., & McCue, C. (2020). Salient target populations and the subcategorization of deviants in the release of inmates during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, 42(3), 379-393. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10841806.2020.1794745>

Lofaro, R. J. (forthcoming). "No damn cat, and no damn cradle": *Cat's Cradle*, science, and the pitfall of evidence-based drug policy. *Public Voices*.

Lofaro, R. J., & Miller, H. T. (forthcoming). Narrative politics in policy discourse: The debate over safe injection sites in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. *Contemporary Drug Problems*.

Lungu, B., & Lungu, M. (forthcoming). COVID-19 effects on student learning and engagement: An innovative and interdisciplinary approach: Effects of COVID-19 on student learning. *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education*.

Ramos, A., Sarmiento, L., Dietz, N., Cordero, N., Levy, X., & Hennekens, C. H. (2020). Opioid overdoses: Emerging clinical challenges. *Journal of Opioid Management*, 16(2), 151-154.

Spano, D. (forthcoming). Bureaucracy, leadership, and ethics as reflected through movies. *Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*.

2020 Dissertation Defenses



Dr. Arjola Balilaj defended her dissertation titled: Social Constructions and Narratives: An Analysis of The U.S. Refugee Policy From 1980-2018

Dr. Jose Irizarry defended his dissertation titled: The Classical Dilemma and Probation Officer Training in Florida: An Ethnographic Content Analysis of Rules, Routines, Roles, Rituals, and Relationships

Dr. Karen Sweeting defended her dissertation titled: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Competence: An Interpretive Analysis for Cultural Competence of Federal Departments' Strategic Plans

