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This general issue of the Journal of Public affairs includes papers examining a range of subjects from development aid policy to concern about perception of pigeons and policy towards specialist food products such as foie gras. The articles demonstrate the international spread of contributions to the journal as well as its international readership. The journal's policy of encouraging international and interdisciplinary contributions of relevance to both academics and practitioners will continue despite recent political changes on both sides of the Atlantic which suggest a growing isolationist governmental orientation.

The first article is by Emmanuel, Yeboah-Assiamah of the School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch Campus, South Africa and Kwame Asamoah, Justice Nyigmah Bawole, and Thomas Buabeng and is entitled "Public Sector Leadership-Subordinate Ethical Diffusion Conundrum: Perspectives from Developing African Countries".

It is a very interesting case focusing on research into how ethics and values can be built up within the African public sector. It draws on two case studies and uses the attraction–selection–attrition and social learning models; the study assesses how superiors influence street-level public employees' interactions with clients. Drawing from existing cases and other secondary data, the authors propose a leadership-ethical diffusion model that argues that subordinates' perception and experience of superiors' behavior tend to create a kind of organizational "ethical groupthink," which spans the rank and file of the organization.

The next article is by Emma, Harris, and EP de Crom of the Applied Behavioural Ecology and Ecosystem Research Unit, Department of Agriculture and Environmental, Sciences, University of South Africa, Florida, South Africa and A. Wilson of the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa. It is entitled "Pigeons and People: Mortal Enemies or Lifelong Companions? A Case Study on Staff Perceptions of the Pigeons on the University of South Africa, Muckleneuk Campus".

The authors argue that pigeons have been part of our lives as long as we can remember some people view them with joy and others disdain. Regardless of perceptions, control measures are often implemented against the birds in a bid to reduce their presence in urban environments without considering the views of members of the public in the process. Complaints about pigeon activity are, typically, given more attention than praise for these birds. However, people who are supportive of pigeons are often not provided with the forum to express their views of the birds. By considering peoples' perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors towards urban wildlife, management strategies can be significantly informed in the process of mitigating conflict. This is a detailed study into birds and urban wildlife and their interaction with staff and students on a South African University campus.

The study shows that the negative perception of pigeons, which was assumed to be the position of all the people affected by the pigeons at the University of South Africa's Muckleneuk campus, is in fact incorrect. Participants would rather encourage the nesting and

breeding activities of the pigeons on campus, as they felt that the human–pigeon interactions and the viewing of squabs in nests contributed positively to their work environment. Pigeon control strategies should therefore not solely be on the biological aspect of a perceived pigeon infestation and problem, but should also include the human association and interaction with the birds, which can be appreciated and enjoyed, and add to people's well-being. Some people like pigeons; others do not suspect it has always been the case, and we have been living together for many centuries in urban areas.

The third article is by Kanol, Direnç of Political Science at Near East University, Nicosia, Turkey and is entitled “The Impact of Democracy on Interest Group System Institutionalization”. The paper argues that it is the paper that provides the first large-*N* study, which measures the variation in interest group system institutionalization. It argues that the level of democracy is a very strong determinant of strength of interest groups across countries. Findings are corroborated by analyzing a case on Tunisia to alleviate the reverse causality problem. Implications for comparative interest groups and democracy research are discussed.

The next article is by Warsame, Mohammed Hersi of the Department of Finance and Economics, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates and Edward, Mugambi Ileri of ITROMID, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya and is entitled “Does International Monetary AID Help or Hinder Somalia's Social Economic Revival?”

The authors argue that the government of Somalia has been accused of lacking transparency and proper accounting systems. This study investigates international monetary aid in Somalia's social and economic revival. A purposely chosen sample of Somalis living in Kenya (*N* = 204) was used. Approximately 59.4% disagreed that the lives of a great number of Somali people have improved, and 65.2% acknowledged that there was lack of integrity and expertise in the management of foreign aids. The study suggests that the key to success of monetary aid in Somalia largely depends on developing good financial infrastructure based on modern information technology and telecommunication, the establishment of strong financial institutions with good financial and aid policies, and enhanced transparency and rigorous accountability of Somalia government officials.

The fifth article is by Garayar, Ainhoa of the Financial Economy I, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, Donostia–San Sebastián, Spain, Iñaki Heras-Saizarbitoria, Department of Management, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, Donostia–San Sebastián, Spain and Olivier Boiral, Département de Management, Faculté des sciences de l'administration, Université Laval, Québec, Canada. It is entitled “Adoption of the UN Global Compact in Spanish Banking: A Case Study”.

The authors analyze the process involving adoption of a corporate social responsibility initiative—the United Nations Global Compact—in a Spanish financial institution. Semistructured interviews were conducted for such purpose with managers, workers, and customers from this organization. From the analysis carried out, it can be ascertained that only professionals from the specific field of corporate social responsibility in the organization being analyzed have suitable knowledge about the initiative adopted, while the other professionals are practically unaware. The research also provides evidence about the often only ceremonial adoption of the United Nations Global Compact, highlighting the internal friction existing within an organization that until very recently stood out in the Spanish

banking sector for the amount of externally obtained awards in recognition of its sustainability practices.

The next article is by Michael R. Ford of the Department of Public Administration, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wisconsin USA, Douglas M. Ihrke, Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA, Brian D. Cherry, Department of Political Science Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan USA and Nathan J. Grasse of the School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario Canada.

It is entitled “Perceptions of Council Member-Department Head Interactions in Local Government”. The authors use data gathered from municipal council members and department heads in Michigan municipalities with over 10,000 residents to determine how, and why, they view the quality of their interactions with one another. Building theories of small group dynamics and political control of bureaucracy, we test several hypotheses and conclude that council members and department heads hold divergent views of their interactions with one another and that their views are determined by government form and community characteristics. They conclude with simple steps that can be adopted by local government officials and that administrators can take to improve their small group dynamics and governing performance.

The seventh article is by Boonpunch, Kayanee Chor of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Prince of Songkla University, Songkhla, Thailand and Mark G. Rolls of the School of Social Sciences, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand and is entitled “The Role of Civil Society in Peacebuilding in Southern Thailand.”

The author's outline that the “Southern Fire” is an ethno-religious conflict in the southernmost region of Thailand that has claimed thousands of lives since a violent upsurge in 2004. According to a framework for conflict resolution, the state's policy alone could not resolve the conflict as it focused mainly on implementing a “peacekeeping” strategy by increasing the number of security forces. Pursuing a “peacemaking” strategy via peace talks by the government did not create any concrete outcome either. Therefore, to create lasting peace, civil society actors need to be involved in a “peacebuilding” strategy in order to keep the balance of socioeconomic structures. A number of civil society groups have played significant roles that could reduce the tensions in this region. Based on the in-depth interview data and documentary research, this research identifies the eight roles of civil society and its potential to grow in the deep-south. This article it is hoped will help to promote civil society as a tool of a nonviolent approach that could help create a sustained peace in these provinces.

The next article is by Martinez Palacios, Jone of the Department of Political Science and Administration, University Of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain and Igor Ahedo Gurrutxaga and Zuriñe Rodriguez Lara of the Department of Political Science and Administration, University Of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain and is entitled “Women's Participation in Democratic Innovation Apparatuses: The Case of the Autonomous Region of the Basque Country, Spain”.

The paper argues that since 1990, many governments have seen an increasing number of democratic innovation apparatus and processes that have reflected democratic theory and that the notion of participation has been a priority since the early stages of the institutionalization of gender studies. Many analyses of the presence and the voice of women in representative

spaces and in social movements have been made. However, both areas of study seem to have developed in parallel, giving rise to a knowledge gap when it comes to the participation of women in public affairs by the democratic innovation apparatuses and associated processes.

The researchers in this article analyze the relationship between women's participation and the extension of the public sphere in terms of obstacles they encounter and their impact. The research based on an analysis of the participatory biographies of 42 women and six men who participated in 15 democratic innovation apparatuses implemented between 1978 and 2014 in the Autonomous Region of the Basque Country (Spain), five discussion groups and two direct observations, the obstacles met by the women when carrying out their participatory project in those governance apparatuses are identified. The article concludes by highlighting the currency of the public versus private and reason versus emotion categories to explain the objectivized and incorporated structure of the obstacles.

The next article is by Seo, S. Niggol of Mueabak Institute of Global Warming Studies, Gwanak-gu, Seoul, Korea and is entitled "A Theory of Global Public Goods and Their Provisions".

This author proposes a general theory of a global public good and its optimal provision. In a national public good problem that researchers have long been acquainted with, government taxation and public expenditure are an inevitable tool for an optimal provision. This paper shows that an efficient provision of a truly global public good through public taxation and expenditure becomes unattainable because of nationally disparate incentives, especially given large uncertainties about the future. This paper describes two alternative approaches. One is a technological solution, which is a high promise but has unresolved issues of uncertainties with regard to developments of necessary technologies. The other is an adaptation framework. This paper shows that the provision of a truly global public good becomes manageable through a framework of adaptation strategies as it overcomes both divergent national interests and uncertainties with regard to needed technologies. It argues that adaptation strategies would unfold triggered by changes in private incentives over a long-term time horizon in a private–public partnership.

The next article is by Weidner, Kelly of the Barowsky School of Business, Dominican University of California, San Rafael, California 94901, USA, Frederik Beuk, Department of Marketing, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio 44325-4804, USA and John Hildebrand, Department of Marketing, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, 60614, USA.

It is entitled "Foie Gras: Animal Cruelty or Tasty Delicacy? An exploration of firm responses to restrictive regulatory change."

This fascinating and timely article by the authors proposes a conceptual framework that highlights the process firms pursue in response to externally imposed changes in the regulatory environment. The study adapts three theories to better understand this phenomenon: sense making, the affect infusion model, and cognitive appraisal theory.

Using the current context of bans on the production and sale of foie gras, the authors present a series of propositions that delineate the process through which firms innovate in response to changes in their regulatory environment. The authors suggest that cognitive processes utilized to make sense of restrictive regulation represent strategic responses, resulting in innovations that expand an existing market, or create a new one. Alternatively, affectively infused

reactions result in less innovative responses, or even noncompliance. The authors present examples of firms' innovations as support for the conceptual model and add to the debate on ethnic and specialist foods and perceived cruel methods of farming and raising animals.

The final article is by Durbek, Sayfullayev of Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Sciences, Tashkent, Uzbekistan and is entitled "Uzbekistan's diplomacy in the modern International relations system" and is dedicated to the development of democracy in of Uzbekistan's. It outlines the evolutional of Uzbek diplomacy that has played a key role in its worldwide engagement and the development of a foreign policy framework. The article argues that Uzbekistan has clearly defined foreign policy priorities that will be followed in the foreseeable future. Key aspects will be more active participation in the multilateral cooperation and at the same time retaining healthy pragmatism as a result of pursuing bilateral relations both with neighboring states and major powers are also underlined. The author provides a clear-cut longitudinal analysis of Uzbekistan's diplomacy—which has never been dealt with explicitly and in depth before in any of Uzbek or international research before.

Best wishes and look forward to your contributions