



## ATP Otherness and Empathy in Public Administration

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# ATP

## *Otherness and Empathy in Public Administration*

Without “them,” there is no “us.” Without the Other, there is no Self (Mouffe, 1993). This basic tension, detectable in the literature at least as early as in Aristotle’s *Politics*, remains the driving force in the shaping of political communities. The process of construction of the collective Self could be a force of bonding and bridging, or of dividing, to paraphrase Putnam’s (2000) terms. On the bright side, it could help share the gift of empathy that brings us together in a relational community. On the more dismal side, it could be used to exclude the Other, whomever happens not to be considered as a constitutive part of the community at that moment. In between is the space for politics.

This special issue of *Administrative Theory & Praxis* invites manuscripts that provide insights into narratives of inclusion and exclusion in modern public governance, extending but not limited to issues of nationalism, xenophobia, racism, and religious hatred. Could the “administrative state,” in Waldo’s (1948) description, offer empathy and protection to the vulnerable Other, or does it remain merely an instrument of oppression? How do we create a more relational public administration inclusive of the Other? Is it possible to construct more cosmopolitan polities along with complementary public services to administer these diverse polities? These are some of the core questions that this call for papers invites the contributors to address, but the special issue remains open to a wide array of high-quality theoretical and scholarly submissions on the topic of otherness and empathy in public administration.

This special issue is coordinated by the guest editor, Dr. Dragan Stanisevski. Those interested should first submit a short abstract via e-mail to the guest editor ([dstanisevski@pspa.msstate.edu](mailto:dstanisevski@pspa.msstate.edu)) no later than November 1, 2017. Decisions for invitations to submit full papers are expected by December 1, 2017. Full manuscripts would need to be submitted through the ATP online system by February 1, 2018 with any requested revisions due by April 1, 2018. An invitation to contribute does not guarantee publication. The contributors should follow the journal guidelines when preparing the manuscripts.

*Administrative Theory & Praxis* is a leading quarterly journal of critical, normative, and theoretical dialogue in public administration. As the journal of the Public Administration Theory Network, its purpose is to advance knowledge and stimulate new thought in public administration. ATP publishes innovative, rigorous scholarship that critically examines emerging and enduring topics in public administration theory; explores the intersection of public administration and broader social, economic, cultural, political, and historical issues; introduces to the field new theories, frameworks, and literatures that illuminate matters of public administration; develops challenging, thought-provoking normative, ethical, and philosophical arguments about the field; or otherwise seeks to explore and possibly transcend the

limits of existing public administration theory and practice. ATP is open to a wide range of research methodologies and approaches that evidence these sensibilities. The editor encourages communication about possible manuscripts, symposia, book reviews, or dialogue and commentary.

## REFERENCES

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- Waldo, D. (1948). *The administrative state: A study of the political theory of American public administration*. New York, NY: Ronald Press Company.

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