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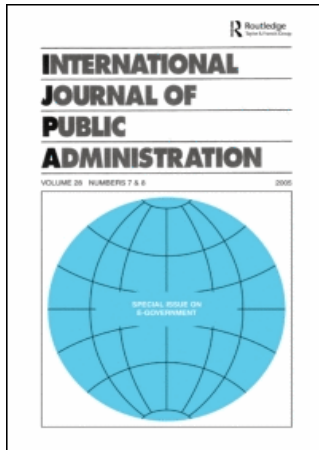
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Introduction

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Introduction

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University libraries are brimming with books and essays on globalization and its impact on world economy, social structures, and political dynamics. This special issue is not meant to be just one more addition to this already crowded field. Instead, it is focused on the potential value of worldwide collaboration and partnership among policy makers, policy implementers, politicians, and public managers. It explores how policy and public managerial expertise in one corner of the world affects, and is being affected in return, by similar developments in other nations and societies. Most importantly, this special issue is an attempt to track the movement of knowledge, ideas, innovations, and experiences in policy arenas at the social, national, and international level.

This special issue maps our globalizing world from the viewpoint of the policy maker, the policy implementer, or the public manager. Sociologists will focus on the meaning of a globalizing knowledge society and its impact on citizens' daily lives, norms, and values. The cultural bank of knowledge on state bureaucracies presented here may lead to the exploration and implementation of better strategic management policies. Economists may find that the powerful market forces described in this special issue determine the path by which a nation finds its place and status in the world economy. In addition, political scientists and public administration experts may find support in this special issue for the notion that political and administrative power is one of the most influential factors that promotes or prevents reforms and organizational change in modern societies.

It is possible, however, that these views and approaches are *all* relevant and timely. Moreover, we trust that each professional, scholar, or policy maker can benefit from the views and experiences presented here. Nonetheless,

we recommend our special issue as one more aide in the struggle to understand our constantly changing public-sector environment. The collection of essays on the experience of various nations in emerging policy fields brings no ultimate solutions to policy dilemmas in such fields as telecommunications, healthcare, commerce, or urban affairs. Instead, it raises serious questions about the course of planned change and possible future developments in the fields of public policy and public management. All of these developments are affected by technology, the transition of knowledge, and collaborative political arrangements that are created in our rapidly changing communities. The answers to these questions are, after all, less important.

Hence, the special issue is about our lives as citizens in modern societies of the third millennium. The reality we are facing is formed by both top-down policies and grassroots change. The players in all of the essays in our special issue are governments, politicians, and policy designers in many places across the globe, as well as citizens acting individually or collectively as parts of groups and movements. The symposium also explores the new patterns of the global integration of policies that result when regulations, norms, experiences, and knowledge flow from one place to another faster than ever.

Finally, while this special issue reflects a certain level of professional uncertainty in these times of global policy change, it also is an impressive analysis of the movement of many nations and societies towards higher levels of learning, emulation, enhancement of knowledge and experience, and the deep, comprehensive understanding of the potential of international collaboration. The articles in this special issue are reprinted as selections from our book, *International Public Policy and Management: New Learning Beyond Regional, Cultural, and Political Boundaries* (New York: Marcel Dekker, 2004). In the emerging global village, *International Public Policy and Management* offers a cluster of up-to date theories, ideas, practices, and innovations for both scholars and practitioners. It is our pleasure to list some of the scholars who encouraged and helped us with this project. We would like to thank the following people whose comments on the particular aspects of the project were solicited and were generously given: Ian Bartle (University of Bath), John Braithwaite (Australian National University), Peter Humphreys (University of Manchester), and Jack Rabin (Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg).

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