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Senior Editor's Note

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SENIOR EDITOR'S NOTE

I am pleased to present Volume 19 (2016) of the *Journal of the Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences*. Our latest issue offers a sizable number of papers sharing results in research, pedagogy, and shorter research notes, including remarks from last year's keynote speaker, Professor Kosali Simon. Taken as a whole, this volume explores a rich and diverse array of topics and issues from across a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. Topics include health, gender, healthcare professionals, and healthcare policy; African American and American Indian families; family, work, and leisure pursuits such as scrapbooking; a 1945 bingo riot in Evansville; social demographic trends in Northwest Indiana over recent decades; Internet advocacy approaches for welfare policy; interracial cooperation in 19th-century emigration movements; domestic violence; and traditional markets in Mexico. This issue truly represents an outstanding collection sure to be of interest to all social scientists!

Volume 19 represents the first year of my second term as senior editor in chief and the sixth year since I assumed the role of editor in 2010. I have been fortunate during this time to have worked with a talented and dedicated staff of coeditors, referee-reviewers, and, of course, authors. We have together accomplished much over the past six years, moving the journal to a premier venue for publication of social science research. Since my first year as editor, beginning with Volume 14 (2010–2011), papers submitted to JIASS are no longer limited to work presented at the annual meeting and conference. Authors of papers presented at our annual conferences are, of course, welcome and encouraged to submit their work for possible publication, but we are also happy to receive and publish papers that were not presented at our annual meetings. To ensure quality and fairness, articles submitted for possible publication undergo, after a preliminary review by the editorial staff, a double-blind peer-review process involving two referees. The high quality of submitted papers has increased in recent years, with the pleasing result of an abundance of extremely fine selections for the journal and its readers.

The journal no longer identifies papers as it once did by disciplinary subject heading. This is because we no longer attempt to publish at least one paper from each or most of the disciplines represented by the IASS in every volume. Since 2010, we have published papers strictly on the basis of merit, with the result that in some issues, some disciplines may have more than one paper represented and other disciplines, none. We encourage submission of exceptional research by students and over the years have published more than a few outstanding examples of student scholarship.

JIASS is published simultaneously online and in an attractive print edition. Print copies are no longer mailed to members; instead, copies are available for members to pick up at the annual meeting (print copies may be ordered for additional cost plus a shipping-and-handling charge). Volume 19 will, as usual, be indexed and available through EBSCO. JIASS is also listed in *Cabell's Directory* (of special interest for scholars in business, economics, and finance). All of these developments represent important

milestones for both the journal and the Academy and will ensure their successful transition to the 21st century of scholarly communication.

It takes a very good team, if not quite a village, to creatively and responsibly oversee an undertaking as complex and important as the publication of this fine journal year after year, issue after issue. I want to publicly acknowledge and thank my editorial staff for their assistance, insight, and guidance throughout the previous year: Jaishankar Raman (Valparaiso University), who serves as senior deputy editor, and Surekha Rao (Indiana University Northwest), who serves as deputy editor. I am grateful to them both for their good judgment, hard work, and many helpful suggestions and guidance. Both Shankar and Surekha have brought exceptional editorial insight and skill to their posts, and they are a major reason why JIASS has become such a quality research journal today. Additionally, we have been very fortunate to have the editorial assistance of Stephanie Seifert Stringham, who has been our copy editor since 2010 (Volume 14). Stephanie continues to be a tremendous editorial presence behind the scene, ensuring that every single line of text and every graph, table, and bibliographic reference published in the journal meets all professional and technical standards. Stephanie's perseverance, intelligence, dedication, and competence all seem as amazing to me today as they did six years ago. *Thank you, Stephanie!*

I also want to publicly recognize and thank the many persons who serve without fanfare as referees of papers submitted for publication. Quite simply, JIASS would not be possible without their professional dedication and commitment. The authors and editorial staff, as well as readers, greatly appreciate reviewers' commitment and service to helping make possible the publication of JIASS. Our reviewers, whose names are published at the end of the journal, deserve everyone's thanks.

Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Butler University, has supported my work as editor since I assumed this position in 2010. Last year, he provided some modest funds to support the hiring of a student assistant over the next several years. I am grateful and look forward to his continued support.

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