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## Editor's Note

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

It is once again that time of year when I have the distinct honor and pleasure of sharing a few comments related to the publication of the most recent volume of the *Journal of the Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences*. The current issue, Volume 18 (2015), represents the fifth and final year of my first term as senior editor in chief. I have been fortunate during this time period to have been able to work with a talented and dedicated staff of coeditors, referee-reviewers and, of course, authors. I am extremely pleased to report that the current volume presents another outstanding collection of high-quality cutting-edge research articles that reflect the rich diversity of social science disciplines, topics, and methods. Our current issue represents a balance between research dealing with national and local issues, and includes papers on international topics as well.

Last year's keynote speaker at the 84th Annual Meeting at Anderson University was David Campbell, Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy and Chair of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. His paper on the impact of religious identity in presidential elections, specifically the issue of whether voters' perceptions of Mormonism in the case of Mitt Romney affected their choices in our last election, demonstrates the critical and ongoing intersection between politics and religion in contemporary public life. It is certainly worth a careful reading, whether or not you heard Professor Campbell's presentation last fall. His published paper here draws upon his recently published book, *Seeking the Promised Land: Mormons and American Politics*. Professor Campbell elaborates on several aspects of his thesis and presents even more compelling evidence and connections to make a strong case for the continuing impact of social perceptions of religious identity in political life.

Since my first year as editor beginning with Volume 14 (2010–2011), papers submitted to JIASS are no longer limited to research presented at the annual meeting and conference. While some of the submissions I receive still originate from our annual meeting, that has become less often the case in recent years. I have published and will continue to publish papers that have been presented at the annual conference as well as papers that have not been. What matters is the quality and significance of the research in papers submitted, not whether they were presented at the Annual Meeting. To ensure quality and fairness, each and every article submitted for possible publication is subject to a double-blind peer-review process that involves at least two referees.

As is evident from an inspection of the table of contents, the journal no longer endeavors to publish at least one paper from each or most of the disciplines represented by the IASS in every volume. Some disciplines may have more than one paper represented, while others may have none. Beginning with Volume 16, JIASS no longer identified papers by disciplinary subject heading. I also continue with the practice in this volume of publishing exceptional undergraduate and/or graduate student papers. Volume 18 continues to be published simultaneously online <[www.iass1.org](http://www.iass1.org)> and in an attractive 8.5" X 11" print edition. We no longer mail print copies; instead, copies are available for

members to pick up at the annual meeting (print copies may be ordered for additional cost plus a charge for shipping and handling).

Volume 18 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.

As always, I publicly acknowledge and thank all of my editorial staff for their assistance, insight, and guidance throughout the editorial review process. Some important changes in the organization of editorial staff are reflected in Volume 18. Professor Jaishankar Raman (Valparaiso University) continues to serve as senior deputy editor. Professor Surekha Rao (Indiana University Northwest) serves as deputy editor. Both Shankar and Surekha have brought exceptional editorial knowledge and wisdom to their posts and have been extraordinary assets to me and the journal, partially but not only because of their strong backgrounds in international business and economics.

JIASS and I have been very fortunate to have had Stephanie Seifert Stringham serve as our copy editor since the beginning of my tenure as editor in 2010 with Volume 14 (2010–2011). Stephanie is and continues to be a tremendous editorial presence behind the scene, ensuring that every single graph, table, bibliographic reference, and line of text published in the journal meets all professional and technical standards. Stephanie's perseverance, intelligence, dedication, and competence all seem just as amazing to me today as they did five years ago. I cannot overstate how important her role has been in helping to make this journal the professional publication it has been in print and online since 2011.

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge and publicly thank the many reviewers who serve as referees of papers submitted for publication. Quite simply, JIASS would not be possible without their professional dedication and commitment. The authors, IASS, and I owe you all many thanks for helping to make possible and to preserve the high-quality reputation of JIASS.

Finally, I thank Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Butler University, for his support of my work as editor over the past several years and look forward to his continued support.

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