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## Senior Editor's Note

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## SENIOR EDITOR IN CHIEF'S NOTE

It is my privilege to present Volume 21 (2018) of the *Journal of the Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences*. Our latest issue leads off with the very well received keynote address by Stephen Morillo delivered at our annual conference at Wabash College: “World History, the Social Sciences, and the Dynamics of Contemporary Global Politics.” This article is not only an insightful survey of the emergence of the social sciences in the latter 19th and early 20th centuries from a world history perspective; it is also a very persuasive exposition of the explanatory power of the global, comparative, and interdisciplinary form of analysis that Professor Morillo pioneered in his 2013 book, *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture*. This paper is definitely worth a read by every social scientist—even those already familiar with Professor Morillo’s work or who were part of the audience last October.

This year’s volume offers nine research papers exploring a wide variety of topics and social science perspectives. The first is Professors Barney and Kara’s study of Securities and Exchange Commission data for 425 firms filing for bankruptcy, in which they attempt to identify the predictive factors influencing Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 bankruptcies. Professors Ceesay, Bandyopadhyay, and Szarleta offer a case study assessing the transportation needs of seniors in one mid-sized Indiana community. Messrs. Crawford and Juricevic propose a structural-contextual framework for understanding how pictorial metaphors may be identified and interpreted, employing their framework in an analysis of a sample of comic book covers from 1938 to the present. Professor Debra Israel examines the topic of support for reducing global greenhouse effects compared to support for reducing local air pollution in an Indiana city, utilizing a survey of university students using the contingent valuation methodology.

Professor Yu Ouyang and associate Chloe Carpentier present results of a pilot study on how gender influences gubernatorial executive orders in seven states where women are currently or have recently served as governor: Arizona, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Professor Evelyn Ravuri undertakes a timely analysis of the change in composition of census tracts in Indianapolis as a result of the 300 percent increase in the Hispanic population in the city between 1990 and 2010. Dr. David Root examines chief justice leadership on the Supreme Court during the judicial decision-making process, with an eye toward formulating a model of leadership as he examines case studies of Supreme Court chief justices Marshall, Stone, and Warren. This is followed by an interesting paper from Professor Schrank in which he describes findings from an ethnographic study and from interviews conducted at a local food co-op in Indiana seeking to understand why some folks are willing to join food co-ops and spend more money for food. Professor Laura Wilson offers an important study of the relationship between a political candidate’s race/ethnicity and campaign fundraising as influenced by a state’s political context, her timely research analyzing data on fundraising totals across 15 states for more than 3,000 candidates in the 2006 state legislative campaigns. Finally, this volume concludes with an interesting undergraduate senior research paper by Julia Cant that examines the media portrayal of schizophrenia.

The publication of this volume represents the third issue I have produced since being elected to a second term as senior editor in chief in 2015. It is also the eighth volume I have edited since I first assumed the role of editor in 2010. I am proud of our accomplishments during my tenure as editor. These include the journal's move to an online version in addition to print with my first issue in 2011 and, recently, in the summer of 2017, the migration of the online version to the digitalcommons.com platform—at no cost to the Academy. As a result, our journal is now available to a very large national and global audience; the Digital Commons website is able to track numbers and locations of downloads (10,450 total to date, at a rate of more than 200 per week from around the globe).

Perhaps the single most important change I have enacted, however, is the complete break with the journal's pre-2010 status as a quasi-proceedings, printing only papers presented at the annual conference. Since my first year as editor, beginning with Volume 14 (2010–2011), papers submitted to JIASS are expressly not limited to those presented at the annual meeting. On the contrary, social scientists from anywhere in the world are eligible and welcome to submit their research papers for review for publication, irrespective of annual conference participation. All submissions are subject to the same rigorous double-blind review process. Under my tenure, the journal has also abandoned the practices of identifying papers by discipline and limiting the number of papers published by disciplinary affiliation. Since 2010, we have published papers strictly on the basis of merit, with the result that in any given volume, one may find several papers from a few disciplines and none from others. Our mission is to publish only the best social science research, regardless of discipline, methodology, or theoretical orientation. As senior editor, I have encouraged submission of and have published exceptional undergraduate and graduate student research. Most of all, I am gratified that as editor, my promotion of high standards of scholarship for the journal have resulted in its increased visibility and status across academic circles for its excellence in social science research. Volume 21 (2018) 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.

One new development I am very pleased to report is that the Board of Directors voted at its February 2018 meeting to approve a change in the name of our publication to the *Midwest Social Sciences Journal* by 2019. More information and a formal announcement regarding this change will occur at the annual membership meeting. This is a very exciting prospect and commences a new era for the journal as well as for IASS itself.

I have been very fortunate during the past eight years to have been able to work with a talented and dedicated staff of coeditors, referee-reviewers, and, of course, authors. I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank my editorial staff for their assistance, insight, and guidance throughout this past year. I am appreciative of my current senior deputy editor, Surekha Rao (Indiana University Northwest), who has assisted me for many years. Surekha has been very helpful over the past year by managing several manuscript reviews and making recommendations and suggestions.

Likewise, I have been very fortunate to have the outstanding editorial assistance of Stephanie Seifert Stringham, who has been our copy editor since 2010 (Volume 14: 2010–2011). Stephanie continues to be a major editorial presence and resource behind the scene, ensuring that every line of text and every graph, table, figure, and bibliographic reference meets the highest professional and technical standards. Authors who work with her often express how appreciative they are of her assistance in helping to make their publications sparkle and be the very best they can be. Stephanie has, without a doubt, been largely responsible for the high quality of our finished product year after year.

I also want to publicly recognize and thank our many *referee-reviewers* who serve without fanfare, reading and evaluating papers submitted for publication, helping to ensure that every issue maintains the highest standards of scholarly excellence. Quite simply, JIASS would not be possible without their professional dedication and commitment. (The names of our reviewers are published at the end of the journal. They deserve a moment's attention and thanks from everyone.)

I also acknowledge and thank Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Butler University, for kindly and consistently supporting my work as editor of JIASS since I first assumed this role in 2010. Dean Howard has provided modest funding to support my work as editor, for which I am grateful.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as the journal's senior editor over the past eight years. It has been a privilege and honor, in addition to being professionally and personally rewarding, for me to do so. Life is change, however, and I have informed the Board that I do not plan to continue as senior editor beyond expiration of my current term in October of 2020. I have asked the Board to begin the search this year for a new senior editor-elect to be in position by October 2019. This will permit a year of transition for me to collaborate with the new editor-elect and for him/her to become familiar with the important elements of the job that the new editor will fully assume in 2020.

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Senior Editor in Chief

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