



Editorial

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Aims and scope

Welcome to the reopening issue of the Open Access e-Journal of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IISA)! Entitled “Developments in Administration”, DinA as abbreviated, the journal was established under the leadership of Michiel S. De Vries, then-President of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA), an internal association of IIAS.

DinA’s mission is to do justice to the wide diversity of theoretical views and empirical evidence that is presented at the international conferences of the IIAS Group, to expand their audience through an Open Access publication outlet, and to raise the scientific level of these conferences.

This scientific material is generally characterized by its societal relevance and progressive character, and the insights it provides into the governance of developing countries. It fits in Clarivate’s Public Administration category, but not only that: the international conferences of IIAS and IASIA equally contribute to the fields of Development Studies and Area Studies. According to its official aims and scope:

DinA focuses on contemporary processes of administrative reform undertaken for development purposes, understood in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Its aim is to strengthen the research practice of non-Western countries; thus it especially welcomes (comparative) case studies of non-Western administrative areas and is explicitly open to unorthodox approaches and arguments.

Developments in Administration 2.0

DinA was briefly discontinued, allowing it to formalize its focus – as described above – and workflow. DinA now operates on PKP’s Open Journal Systems, allowing it to comply with the double-blind peer review standards, to uniquely register published material (DOI), and ensure systematic plagiarism checks of submitted material. In terms of governance, the Journal will be run at the level of the IIAS Secretariat, operating under the editorial supervision of the Program and Research Advisory (i.e., Scientific) Committee of IIAS. Accordingly, Purshottama Sivanarain “PS” Reddy (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) is Editor-in-Chief; and Hideaki Shiroyama (University of Tokyo, Japan) and Paul Joyce (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom) are Editors.

Also, DinA is now firmly anchored in the Open Access landscape; authors keep copyright and provide the journal with a CC-BY-ND license allowing for the non-commercial reuse of the integral content with attribution to the authors. Regarding Author Processing Charges (APC), DinA has pioneered an original model. These are included in the registration fee of the international conference of the IIAS group where they were presented or in the membership fee of the institution to which at least one author is affiliated. In other words, authors belong on one way or another to the IIAS network, and the journal accordingly contributes to strengthening the IIAS-IASIA ecosystem.

DinA will work with two different submission streams. First, authors of conference papers can opt-in for a publication scheme. After undergoing a single-blind review process, papers are routed to partner Open Access journals including DinA. Second, a stand-alone submission channel exists, allowing authors to submit their original content directly to the journal.

DinA aims to work with different sections. Academic research articles can be published stand-alone or be bundled in symposia examining a same scholarly theme from different angles. Policy notes allow for the inclusion of perspectives targeting a professional audience. Book review submissions are equally welcome. All undergo the same double-blind peer review process. Two issues will be published per year, bundling English-only material.

Overview of Volume 3

For this reopening volume, a selection was made among unpublished papers presented in the IIAS and IASIA Conferences, with the aim of representing the variety of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence addressed in IIAS Group conferences, and at setting a progressive and non-Western tone for the journal.

Entitled “Resilience Ethics and Sustainable Governance: A Quest for an Inclusive Society”, the first article of this third volume is authored by Esa Käyhkö from Tampere University in Finland. The concept of administrative resilience is brought in alignment with those of ethics and sustainable governance to portray a global system of shared ethical commitment to social and environmental justice.

In “The Inequality Machine”, Rik Peeters (CIDE, Mexico) and Fernando Nieto-Morales (El Colegio de México) emphasize how administrative burdens and bureaucratic dysfunction increase the costs of benefiting from formal rights or exclude beneficiaries altogether, disproportionately impacting vulnerable citizens and exacerbating social inequalities in non-Weberian, low capacity and highly formalistic settings such as Mexico. The authors discuss reasons for inertia and trajectories of changes.

Through a case study of the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania, David Ssemakatte (Uganda Management Institute) focuses on strategies that Universities and education institutions can implement to support climate action and sustainable development. The findings can inspire organizations striving for climate-mainstreaming. In doing so, the author also provides unique insights into the governance of a major Africa University.

Dr. Zhu Guilian (Tsinghua University, China) focuses on the history of the cadre management system in communist China. The dichotomy of the concept of responsibility he develops allows presenting HRM practices as being structural or ideological in nature and developing a critical evaluation thereof. The rich literature review he presents allows the reader to delve deeper into the unique characteristics of cadre training in China. The paper represents the significant body of knowledge on communist China that has been presented in the conferences of the IIAS Group.

Abiha Zahra (Information University Technology, Pakistan) & Geert Bouckaert (KU Leuven, Belgium) provide a classical case study of administrative reforms in the historical neo-institutionalist tradition set in Pollitt & Bouckaert (2017). They focus on Pakistan, emphasizing the pendulum swings the country has been going through, from unsatisfying civilian governments to military-led ones and vice-versa. They set the ground for further empirical research on this country, which remains understudied in public administration.

Laila El Baradei (The American University in Cairo, Egypt) overviews the main NGOs active in the sector of disabled persons in Egypt, regarding their vision, activities, sources of funding, and challenges, and positions these four case studies in the field of differently abled literature. She provides empirical evidence and seeks to raise awareness of the issue.

Hiwot Amare Tadesse (KU Leuven, Belgium) examines the functioning of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the field of healthcare in Ethiopia. While this case study is situated in the network governance literature, it also provides unique empirical evidence regarding public service delivery in the distinctive Ethiopian governance system, which is developmental (Johnson, 1982) in nature.

Closing words

To close this editorial, I would like to sincerely thank the authors, as well as the IAS scientific leadership for the trust they placed upon us, but also our anonymous reviewers, and Margaret Tabler, who ensured copyediting and production.

We hope the readers will welcome this effort to contribute to the further internationalization of the field (Santos, 2018) of public administration by frequently downloading the content, submitting new publications, and joining us in our conferences!

References

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