

Call for Applications for Inaugural Editor-in-Chief

The Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration

The official journal of the Section on Democracy and Social Justice of the American Society for Public Administration

The Section on Democracy and Social Justice (SDSJ) of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) announces a search for the inaugural Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration* (JSEPA).

POSITION OVERVIEW: The Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration* (JSEPA), the official journal of SDSJ, will serve in a highly visible role concerning the editorial and strategic position of *JSEPA*. We expect that JSEPA's content will reflect a breadth of theory, applied research, and professional interests across the field of public administration, public affairs, and public policy.

The inaugural editor-in-chief search committee is seeking applications from doctorate-holding senior figures in the field with active membership in ASPA. If not a member of the Section on Democracy and Social Justice, the selected editor-in-chief agrees to become a member. Applicants should have publishing experience to help ensure the success and sustainability of *JSEPA* in the journal's formative years. Further, as this position is the inaugural editor-in-chief, applicants should have an established network spanning public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Applicants must possess professionalism, accountability, and judgement to demonstrate:

- Outstanding academic achievement, especially in social equity and public administration
- Diverse, inclusive, and equitable communication style, interpersonal skills, and networking capacity
- Experience in managing and leading people and organizations
- Capability in academic journal editing

Background

JSEPA is the official peer-reviewed journal of SDSJ. After a multi-year planning and proposal process, on December 16, 2020, ASPA's National Council unanimously approved SDSJ to own, fund, and develop *JSEPA*. *JSEPA* will be an open access journal published through the University of Minnesota Libraries (UML) and using Open Journal Systems (OJS). There will initially be two (2) issues per year, which can be expanded as needed.

JSEPA's Place in the Field

The editor-in-chief must demonstrate a compelling strategic vision for *JSEPA*'s development and differentiation from other journals; and recognize the *JSEPA*'s place in the field, especially on the following:

1. The field must address numerous issues, including structural and institutional racism, sexism, homo- and trans-phobia, xenophobia, and many other forms of prejudice, discrimination, and hate directed at numerous historically marginalized populations.

2. Public service agencies have the responsibility to address and ameliorate inequities through acknowledging issues, understanding the root causes of social inequities, making fairness a priority, giving everyone a place at the table, and taking active steps to promote justice for all.
3. It is our professional duty to offer spaces, especially for both practitioners and academics, to explore cause and effects of social, political, economic, and environmental inequities and to evaluate and propose potential solutions.

Publications in JSEPA

JSEPA will offer a global space to academics, practitioners, and students to examine social equity topics. The administrative committee and SDSJ board envision that *JSEPA* will be a space for the following types of publications:

Peer-Reviewed Empirical and Theoretical Articles. The core contributions of an academic journal are peer-reviewed articles. *JSEPA* would accept both empirically-oriented and theoretically-oriented articles. It would be particularly interested in pieces that explore, extend, and/or refine the field's current understanding of the causes and effects of social inequities, as well as articles that explore and evaluate potential solutions.

Practitioner Notes. SDSJ is interested in *JSEPA* offering space for practitioners to publish. This section of the journal would invite practitioners to discuss current trends in practice and promising strategies to improve social equity.

Scholar-Practitioner Dialogues. Social equity depends upon dialogue among all those working in public administration. These pieces would feature a pairing of a scholar and a practitioner writing individual pieces on the same topic (e.g., police brutality) as to offer multiple perspectives on the same issue. This section could encourage debate between authors.

Reviews. Another feature of academic journals is reviews of scholarly books and, as is the case with the ASPA-owned journal *Public Integrity*, movies and music. Numerous works on social equity have been released in recent years, so *JSEPA* would have many potential selections to review.

Editorials and Invited Pieces. *JSEPA* would welcome well-written, rigorous editorials on topics germane to social equity in public administration. Further, the editor-in-chief would have the discretion to invite prominent figures in the field and beyond to contribute invited pieces to the journal.

The editor-in-chief will have the discretion to modify and/or add to these dimensions as needed.

Editor-in-Chief's Roles and Responsibilities

The specific responsibilities of the editor-in-chief shall include:

- **Serve for three years.** The editor-in-chief will serve a three-year term. This appointment is renewable for a successive three-year term subject to the approval of the journal committee and confirmation by the SDSJ board. The maximum time an individual may serve as editor-in-chief is six years based upon a calendar year. The term will begin during September, 2021 and end on December 31, 2024.
- **Recruit supporting editors.** The editor-in-chief may appoint managing editors, associate editors, and social media editors as needed to help the editor-in-chief manage *JSEPA*. Appointments are at the direction of the editor-in-chief alone.
- **Recruit an editorial board.** The editor-in-chief will recruit a *JSEPA* editorial board. As with other journals, this process will entail the editor-in-chief reaching out to prominent scholars and practitioners in public administration (and possibly other fields) to invite them to serve. This board should consist of a core group of senior scholars and practitioners called upon to engage in several peer reviews per year. Such persons should ideally be competent in social equity as well as other topics within public administration.
- **Ensure quality peer review.** The editor-in-chief, with the assistance of the managing editor and associate editors, will manage the peer review process. *JSEPA* would use a double-blind peer review process. OJS includes the functionality to manage the entire peer review process. In addition to calling on members of the editorial board to do peer reviews, the editor-in-chief and the team can recruit other high quality peer reviewers, as needed.
- **Arrange copyediting.** As the journal would be published open access and not through a “traditional” publisher, the editor-in-chief will be responsible for securing the services of a copyeditor.
- **Oversee journal production.** The editor-in-chief, with the assistance of the core editorial team, will oversee journal productions throughout the entire editorial and publishing process, including receiving author submissions of articles through OJS, arranging and managing peer review, making decisions on pieces, article production, creating volumes and issues, and releasing content on the journal’s website and social media platforms.
- **Promote the journal.** The editor-in-chief will help promote the journal in three primary ways. First, funds have been dedicated to support the editor-in-chief in travelling to prominent conferences--especially the ASPA annual conference and the Social Equity Leadership Conference--to promote the journal. Further, the editor-in-chief will appoint a social media editor who will promote the work of the journal across multiple channels, especially Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and YouTube. Other media sources, such as television, radio, and podcasts, can be considered, as needed. The editor-in-chief will have the authority to explore other avenues, as needed.
- **Center the journal in the field.** It is important that *JSEPA* have a high, positive profile in the field. The editor-in-chief will accomplish this especially through offering special issues and inviting prominent scholars to guest edit special issues. The editor-in-chief will have the authority to engage in other actions to help center the journal.

The administrative committee and SDSJ board can assist with these responsibilities as needed.

Institutional Support

The editor-in-chief should have support from his/her/their institution to carry out the responsibilities identified above and core practices of JSEPA's editor-in-chief. A supporting institution will ideally provide the following areas of support:

- Release time
- Additional conference travel and support
- Editorial management support, such as a graduate assistant
- Office space
- Technology support, namely computers and Internet access
- Miscellaneous financial support

SDSJ will provide resources for:

- Travel support for conference registrations, airfare, and hotels
- Editorial management support
- Securing copyediting services
- Technology purchases

Application Instructions

Applicants should submit all of the following:

1. Full CV
 - Applicants must hold a doctoral degree and should be nationally and internationally recognized and respected figure in public administration
2. A letter detailing:
 - The qualifications regarding scholarship, editorial experience, and leadership positions in public administration, especially in ASPA
 - Editorial philosophy, goals, and approach
 - Proposed core editorial team (managing editor and associate editors, discussed below) and the core editorial team members' qualifications
 - Strategies to ensure that *JSEPA* is a venue for timely, high quality pieces
 - The manner in which the applicant would represent the journal throughout the field, as well as ensure its success and quality
 - The manner in which the applicant would ensure the involvement of academics, practitioners, and students in the field
 - A letter of support from the applicant's institution addressing but not limited to, release time; graduate student or other production support; office space and office supplies for those involved in production; technology support (i.e., computers, phones); travel assistance to attend meetings and conferences of prominent professional associations in public administration; and letters of commitment from these institutions

Application Timeline

- Individuals interested in submitting applications are invited to attend one of the following information sessions.
 - DATE 1: May 24 (1pmEST)
 - DATE 2: June 14 (1pmEST)
 - Please contact the committee secretary at smcca8@uis.edu for information on how to attend these sessions.
- Applications due: By July 1, 2021
 - Applications should be sent via email to: stgooden@vcu.edu & smcca8@uis.edu
- Finalists contacted about next steps: By mid July, 2021
- Interviews with finalists: Throughout July, 2021
- Decision announced: By mid-August, 2021
- Editor-in-Chief start date: September, 2021 (Term ends December 31, 2024)

Questions?

Please contact JSEPA Founding Administrative Committee chaired Dr. Susan Gooden (stgooden@vcu.edu) with DSJ chair Dr. Sean McCandless (smcca8@uis.edu) CCed.

JSEPA Founding Administrative Committee

Chair: Dr. Susan Gooden* (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Dr. John Bartle (University of Nebraska Omaha)

Dr. RaJade M. Berry-James (North Carolina State University)

Dr. Laura Bloomberg (University of Minnesota)

Dr. Laurie DiPadova-Stocks (Park University)

Dr. Bok Gyo Jeong (Kean University)

Dr. Richard Greggory Johnson III* (University of San Francisco)

Dr. Sean McCandless* (Secretary) (University of Illinois Springfield)

Dr. Bruce McDonald (North Carolina State University)

Dr. John Ronquillo (University of Colorado Denver)

Dr. Michael J. Scicchitano (University of Florida)

*Denotes JSEPA founders