

NEW VOICES IN PUBLIC POLICY

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Welcome to Volume 5, Number 1 of New Voices in Public Policy. We are pleased to present you with a variety of work covering some of the most salient issues of contemporary public policy. We would also like to make readers aware of important changes to our Editorial Board. NVPP is pleased to welcome Jordan Mechanic, Layla Bonnot, Scott Phillips, and Karim Seikaly as our newest editors. At its last regular meeting, the board voted to bring PhD students from the School of Public Policy onto its team. To that end, we welcome Sasidaran Gopalan, a recently accepted PhD candidate. Beth E. Tschopp has agreed to stay as Acting Editor in Chief as a replacement is sought. Our peer-reviewed journal is comprised of work created by current Master's level students. The journal strives to provide a forum for insightful and innovative works in the policy arena that highlight the diversity of ideas and range of study undertaken by the SPP student body. The most important aspect of our work is the continued showcasing of student scholarship present at George Mason's School of Public Policy. To that end:

Our first article written by Astrid Illgner, Juhani Platt and Brandon Taylor deals with the Black Swan phenomena as applied to the global financial crisis. It provides a critical look at the risks of our current capitalist system and shares insight on how to balance those risks with better accountability.

Dovetailing this nicely are two pieces regarding economic crisis and policy. Green International Political Economy: Issues and Policy Concerns by Sasidaran Gopalan, Jeremy Liu and Temnite Tefera identifies the "environment-economy tradeoff" problem. The authors address how to best revitalize crisis-torn economies simultaneous to multi-dimensional environmental challenges. Meanwhile, in our Perspectives section Jason D. Symoniak critiques the basic tenets of economic policy found in The Washington Consensus. Outside of this issue, readers may wish to compare and contrast Mr. Symoniak's views with those discussed by the G-20 in Seoul, South Korea last November resulting in the Seoul Development Consensus. I congratulate our authors on their timely and persuasive input to this discussion.

In our third article, Holli Chmela gives us a clear look at the intersection between scarce natural resources, in this case water, and both economic and political stability. In Managing Iraq's Water Resources: The Path to Stability and Security, Ms. Chmela examines Iraq's recent history, water rights and international policy and their overall effect on an emerging nation.

Rounding out this Volume is another Perspective work, The Outcomes of Iranian Civil Unrest. Solomain Afzal shares his views regarding the outcomes possible from the conflict of an educated, but restless Iranian population, a tainted government and economic stagnation. Mr. Afzal assesses the threat of arms development and recommends covert action to halt nuclear

weapons proliferation and generate outcomes favorable to U.S. policy interests and Iran's political and economic development. We hope you find his piece, as well as those of all of our contributors, thought provoking. Congratulations to our authors for their outstanding work.

We welcome your opinions and your feedback on all matters pertaining to New Voices in Public Policy. Please direct them to the Editor in Chief at nvpp@gmu.edu.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Our Board of Editors is drawn from faculty-nominated master's and PhD students pursuing their degrees in Public Policy (MPP), International Commerce and Policy (ICP), Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics (TPOL), Peace Operations (POPP), and Organizational Development and Knowledge Management (ODKM).

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Editor's Note: This volume of *New Voices in Public Policy* is dedicated to the above members of our Editorial Board. Their conscientious dedication, diligent attention to detail, and willingness to step up to "any other duties as assigned" made this publication possible. They deserve much gratitude and appreciation. *-EIC*

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