

Editors' Note

Change is in the air. It has been a major element of the political scene this year, as the change of the presidential administration has brought with it new strategies and themes. The mortgage and banking industries, as well as U.S. auto companies, face major systemic change in the coming months. Change has hit *Policy Perspectives* as well, as we seek to keep the journal part of the ongoing conversation in public policy and public administration.

The biggest change this year has been our new website, policy-perspectives.org, which has dramatically improved our editorial process. More importantly, using online journal software and the helpful advice of librarians at the Gelman Library, we have been able to digitize all of the journal's past content and post it online in searchable form. We thank Caroline Crouse for steering this massive undertaking, and hope that our readers will enjoy the unprecedented access to our archives.

Much of what *Policy Perspectives* has published in the past, as well as the literature in public policy and public administration, focuses on change—how a policy change might produce more effective outcomes, or how to lead change in an organization. The four articles and five book reviews in this year's journal all have something important to contribute, whether in advocating for change or discussing the merits of a potential new policy.

Teresa M. Derrick-Mills shows the mismatched incentives at the eligibility threshold in three federal work programs and explores the unintended consequences of current federal and state programs, and proposes an alternative child care benefit system to better align the needs of employers and employees.

Amanda Cherrin takes a new approach in exploring policy options to give men a role in caregiving, by using feminist economics to show that both domestic violence issues and the care gap can be addressed with related policies. She argues that increased male care work will help address the problem of unbalanced gender relations.

Lauren Donnelly performs a cost-benefit analysis of a proposed addition to the Washington, D.C. Metrorail subway system and conducts a break-even analysis to argue that the net benefits of the new addition would not begin to accrue on the project until 2051.

Jessica McKinney provides a policy analysis of a national-level education policy. She suggests that national standards and assessments could improve the competitiveness of the workforce of the United States in an increasingly demanding international labor market.

We also include reviews of five books that are changing the debate. **Matt Kazan** analyzes *Health Care Reform Now! A Prescription for Change*, Kaiser Foundation president George Halvorson's suggestion for federal health policy. **Derek Jones** discusses how Karl Mallon's *Renewable Energy Policy and Politics: A Handbook for Decision-making* could be used in passing new renewable energy policies. **Imtiaz Bhatti** evaluates Fareed Zakaria's assertions of a changed global power structure in *The Post-American World*. **Robert McManmon** grapples with *Urban Regional Policy and Its Effects*, a joint project of GW's Institute for Public Policy and the Brookings Institution aimed to highlight effects of specific policies on urban problems. Finally, **Christine Feroli** reviews Joseph S. Nye, Jr.'s *The Powers to Lead*, and evaluates changing notions of leadership.

We are extremely proud to introduce Volume 16 of *Policy Perspectives*. It is the product of endless hours of work and debate, and would not have been possible without our authors. This issue would not have been possible without our amazing team of associate editors: **Lauren Alfred, Lauren Bloom, Caroline Crouse, Sarah Hassaine, Jeremy Koulish, Linnea Laestadius, Ashley Palmer, and Sarah Snyder**. We would also like to thank the faculty members who took the time to provide critical feedback on these articles. Finally, many thanks go **Jill Kasle**, our faculty advisor, as well as **Kathy Newcomer** and **Joe Cordes** for their support and guidance.

We hope reading this year's journal will change you as much as creating it has changed us.

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