

Editorial

As a form of organization of social relations, the state is always in motion. The key is to see it in its ever-changing forms. The field of public administration enables us to consider the state in concrete forms and practices. Moreover, this field allows us to grasp it together with its 'public'. If we do not regard the state as a sui generis or as an entity separate from the social/economic sphere; and if we avoid discursive, ideological and political/economic retreat strategies in the analyses of the state, we will be able to ask diverse questions in order to understand the present and shape the future. Following this path, we would rather question 'how' the state has taken its current form within all the social relations that have shaped it.

This issue of Publicus includes articles focused on a wide range of topics. They examine the dynamics of change shaping public administration and how these shifts are experienced in areas the 'public' regards as domains of needs, rights, and problems.

In this issue, Publicus features five groups of articles. The first consists of research articles that form the focal point of the issue and remind us that the field of public administration must always ask its questions with the 'public' at the center. Bekir Kılıç's article, 'The Outlook of Administrative Problems in the Livestock Sector in Turkey', shows us what kind of administrative problems have emerged over the years in access to safe food in terms of production, employment, distribution, and sustainability. Co-authored by Yasemin Mamur Işıkcı, Tuğba Canbulut and Canan Budak, the article 'A Critical Public Policy Analysis of Apprenticeship Education in Türkiye: Problems and Policy Proposals in Comparison with Germany and Norway' sheds light on how apprenticeship education was transformed by the major amendment to the Vocational Education Law in 2021 and how this

change created a child labor dynamic in line with sectoral demands. Merve Çaylı's article, 'The Potential of Women Living in Rural Areas to Transform Public Decision-Making: Notes from Field Research', examines the public participation process of rural women through a field study. Merve Nur Yaşar's article, 'Policy in Orbit: An Anatomy of Türkiye's Presence in Space', which might be seen as one of the pioneering studies in an emerging field, discusses how 'space' has become an area of public policy in the Turkish context, alongside the main contours and actors of this policy.

The second group comprises the articles on public personnel. In his article titled 'What is Meritocracy? A Critical Review of the Meritocracy Literature from a Public Administration Perspective', Ali Güneyi approaches the transformation of public personnel at a general level of abstraction through the concept of meritocracy. Murat Öztürk, in his article 'Exam-Related Problem of the Graduates of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration: The Case of the District Governor Candidate Exams', addresses entry exams into public service, with a specific focus on the district governorship exams.

The third group of articles in this issue consists of an interview that can be interpreted as an open-lecture. The interview, conducted by Şeyma Eşki Çaylak with Levent Karabeyli, retired senior auditor at the Turkish Court of Accounts, demonstrates the value of communicating expertise-based knowledge and experience. While shedding light on the past and present of Court of Accounts auditing at both national and international levels, Karabeyli shares his observations on the reasons behind changes in the field of auditing. His expertise, which enriches the conversation with insights, is so extensive that it draws us beyond the field of auditing by illuminating the entire field of public administration. This interview demonstrates that this new series of interviews deserves the close attention of future public personnel and researchers in the field.

The fourth group comprises articles demonstrating that the field of public administration cannot be confined to a single country example, and that the accumulation of comparative knowledge and international experience is important for the development of the field. The first article of this group is Kutsal Yeşilkağıt's comment article titled 'The Guardian State: Guarding the Liberal Democracy Between Popular Sovereignty and Constitutional Loyalty'. The comment articles that Publicus curates with such care in each issue constitute a venue where senior academics articulate their original insights. These freely crafted articles aim to broaden the horizons of our thinking, enrich our research interests and open new debates. We believe that this article has the same potential when viewed through Türkiye's earlier experiences and accumulated knowledge. Another article that can be included in this group is Levent Demirelli's Event Report on the Advanced Course on 'Concepts and Methods in Executive Triangle Research'. Demirelli conveys his experience and observations, as an instructor and an attendee, regarding the Advanced Course on 'Concepts and Methods in Executive Triangle Research', held at the Centre Universitaire de Norvège à Paris–CUNP. Şulenur Özkan Erdoğan's event report on the 2nd International Public Administration Congress, themed 'Public Services and Access to Public Rights' shows that the accumulation of knowledge in the field of public administration in Türkiye has advanced enough to create channels of interaction on an international scale.

The final group of articles in the December 2025 issue of Publicus consists of a book review by Cennet Terzi Müftüoğlu. In this review, Terzi Müftüoğlu examines *Kamu Politikası Analizi: Kamusal Sorunların Teşhisi ve Çözümü*, one of the foundational works of Mete Yıldız—a founding figure in the field of public policy in Türkiye—which is widely used in the field and assigned as a core text in academic courses.

Marking the completion of two years and four issues, Publicus invites all its readers to ask bold and horizon-expanding questions and to open new debates.

Editor

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