

Editorial

Publicus continues the tradition established in its inaugural issue by opening its second edition with a comment article section authored by esteemed scholars renowned for their contributions to the field of public administration and its evolution. By featuring high-quality commentaries in consecutive issues, the journal emphasizes its commitment to fostering the field and extends an invitation for future contributions, enriched with innovative insights, critiques, and recommendations.

This issue's comment article section features Sonay Bayramoğlu Özüğurlu's insightful analysis, "Public Administration in Transition: The Case of Hungary." This country-specific study explores the profound impact of political regime changes during Hungary's post-socialist transition on public administration and bureaucracy. Bayramoğlu Özüğurlu begins by examining the interconnected transformations in political parties, regimes, civil society, market economies, and private property. The article illustrates how these dynamics shaped the trajectory of public administration and bureaucracy during the transition, with effects that persist into the present. Bayramoğlu Özüğurlu argues that bureaucracy, particularly in the eyes of ruling political parties, was often viewed as an impediment to the desired course of political regime change, leading to continual restructuring. This analysis broadens the discussion to encompass comparative case studies, probing whether bureaucracy inevitably becomes an obstacle or excessively politicized during transitional periods in public administration.

The research article section, the cornerstone of *Publicus*, presents four studies on a diverse array of topics in this issue. Despite their thematic variety, the articles share a common methodological approach, emphasizing realistic portrayals over idealized perspectives. Going

beyond the limits of value-laden analyses, each explores critical issues in public administration, offering nuanced and grounded insights.

The first research article, “A Holistic Overview of the Turkish Public Personnel System” by Ali Güneyi, underscores the critical need for a well-functioning public personnel system to support effective public policies and services. Güneyi advocates for evaluating how this need is addressed in practice rather than relying solely on theoretical frameworks. The article centers on two fundamental questions: “What is the current state of public personnel management in Turkey?” and “Why has success remained elusive in this area?” Through an analysis grounded in literature, reports, and legislation, Güneyi provides descriptive and explanatory insights. Güneyi identifies two pivotal factors shaping the current system: global paradigm shifts affecting many nations and dynamics unique to Turkey. Güneyi argues that addressing the challenges of public personnel management requires a comprehensive understanding of both axes in equal measure.

The second article, “The Weberian/Eurocentric Approach to the Construction of Modern Bureaucracy and Methodological Constraints,” by Meryem Çakır Kantarcıoğlu and İmren Pınar Dülger, critiques the dominant Weberian/Eurocentric framework used to analyze Ottoman-Turkish bureaucracy. The authors explore the theoretical and historical limitations of this approach, which idealizes the Weberian model of modern bureaucracy as a Western construct, marginalizing non-Western societies as outside this ideal. Within this context, the study examines the works of Turkey’s founding figures and introduces an original argument that the construction of this framework is rooted in three methodological attitudes: dichotomy, templating, and normativization. Through this analysis, the article challenges conventional narratives and offers a fresh perspective on the methodological constraints shaping bureaucratic discourse.

The third research article, “An Evaluation of the Sustainability of Rural Women’s Cooperatives: The Case of Adana,” by Müge Kantar Davran, professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, adopts a realistic approach to public administration, offering a unique interdisciplinary perspective that bridges women’s cooperatives research with public administration. Drawing on insights from national and international workshops, the study examines rural women’s cooperatives in Adana, emphasizing the critical roles played by both internal and external stakeholders in their establishment and operations. Kantar Davran underscores that rural cooperatives are significantly more influenced by public institutions than their urban counterparts, shedding light on the distinctive dynamics of rural cooperative sustainability within the broader public administration framework.

The final article in the research section, “Audit of Disaster and Emergency Administration Presidency by Turkish Court of Accounts in the Context of Disaster Administration,” by Eda Mert and Bulut Doğan, examines the role of audits in enhancing accountability within Turkey's disaster administration framework. Focusing on the Disaster and Emergency Administration Presidency (AFAD)—the central coordinating body for disaster preparedness, risk reduction, response, and recovery—the article highlights the extensive use of public resources in AFAD’s operations and the critical importance of oversight by the Court of Accounts. The study analyzes 12 audit reports issued by the Court of Accounts between 2012 and 2023, evaluating their impact on process administration in disaster response. The authors explore how these audits contribute to institutional accountability and discuss the opportunities they present for improving government and disaster administration practices in one of the world's most disaster-prone regions.

In addition to its comment and research articles, *Publicus* continues to prioritize book reviews, highlighting their value in critically evaluating

national and international scholarly works and presenting them as exemplary resources for advancing the discipline.

This issue features two book reviews, the first being Tuna Çelik's "Nomads and the Outside World." Çelik examines Anatoly Michailovich Khazanov's seminal work, which investigates early class-based societies and state formation through an anthropological lens. Khazanov focuses on the interactions between nomadic and settled communities, analyzing these dynamics within a socio-economic framework and exploring the administrative structures developed by nomadic societies. Çelik highlights the book's relevance for foundational research in public administration, emphasizing its importance in deepening comprehension and analysis within the field.

The second book review, Pınar Sarigöl's "Crisis Response and Social Reproduction on the Brink of Disasters: State, Society, and the Others," offers an in-depth analysis of Peter Illner's 2020 work, *Disasters and Social Reproduction*, which has yet to be translated into Turkish. Illner's book examines four major U.S. disaster events over the past century, using them as case studies to articulate his central arguments. Illner traces the evolving role of the state in disaster management, highlighting a gradual shift from state intervention to reliance on collective solidarity, positioning this transition as a critical axis of discussion. Sarigöl highlights the significance of Illner's argument that the state has increasingly abandoned society—particularly its most vulnerable populations—forcing them to develop their own solidarity practices as a de facto model of disaster response. Sarigöl critically evaluates the book's methodology and case studies, emphasizing its relevance for understanding contemporary disaster management paradigms.

Publicus concludes its December issue with an event review, continuing its tradition of spotlighting events related to public administration or intersecting fields, presented by experts. This issue features a review of

the “Artificial Intelligence and Public Services Workshop” organized online by the Public Administration Association on November 23, 2024. Authored by Songül Demirel Değirmenci, the review provides an in-depth account of the workshop, which explored one of the most prominent and debated topics of recent years—artificial intelligence (AI). Featuring a comprehensive program with leading field experts, the workshop addressed AI's implications for public services. Demirel Değirmenci not only details the discussions but also offers a roadmap for engaging with the work and insights of specialists, making it a valuable resource for readers seeking to navigate this rapidly evolving domain.

The Editorial Board, editors, and publishing team, whose dedicated efforts were instrumental in preparing this journal for publication, proudly present the second issue of *Publicus* to its readers. This issue, shaped by their careful evaluations and contributions, features a wide array of articles across diverse genres and topics. Looking ahead, we are establishing a foundation for a steady, productive, and responsible publishing approach, aimed at showcasing the field's distinguished and innovative works. With an evolving publishing policy and expanded scope, *Publicus* is poised for greater visibility. We eagerly anticipate receiving your submissions in a variety of genres and topics for future issues.

Editor

Fatma Eda Çelik

EPHE / Université PSL, France-Paris
