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# SECTION FOR COMPLEXITY AND NETWORK STUDIES

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## NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2018

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ISSUE 2

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### Message from the Chair



Michael Siciliano

Dear Section members,

Thank you for being a part of the Section on Complexity and Network Studies. I would first like to thank Naim Kapucu for leading our section over the past three years and for his leadership in the field of Public Administration. Thanks is also due for our outgoing executive committee members, Jack Meek, Qian Hu (who is now Chair elect), and Clayton Wukich, and our outgoing treasurer, Chris Koliba. SCNS thanks you for your service.

I would also like to congratulate our newly elected officers, Gogtug Morcol, Tom Haase, Triparna Vasavada, and Asim Zia, who will be part of the executive committee until 2021. You can find an updated list of all executive committee members and contact information in this newsletter

and on our website: <https://scnsaspa.wordpress.com/>

Our members continue to make important contributions to research in the areas of policy, administration, and nonprofit studies. We apply a range of tools, both computational and theoretical, to local and global problems. I continue to see more work in our premier journals that either use or require a complexity and network lens to better understand how social, ecological, political, and economic systems operate. More and more NSF programs require interdisciplinary work, including the Cyber Physical Systems and Smart and Connected Communities grants. It is becoming evident that the NSF and other funders understand that researchers with an eye toward complex systems and the interconnections among actors are valuable social science members on the interdisciplinary teams required to address our most pressing challenges.

I value the work of this section and hope we can continue to grow. Not just for the sake of having a larger section, but for building and sustaining a dialogue around complex systems in Public Administration and for carving out greater space in our journals, conferences, and statehouses for

our work. In that regard, I have a small request. I would ask that each of you recruit 1-2 students or colleagues whose work is influenced by complexity and networks and whose voice would contribute to our mission. I think both they and our section would benefit from their inclusion.

It was great to see everyone in Denver. A few notes and comments coming out of the 2018 conference. First, our section held two pre-conference workshops, one on an intro to social network analysis and another on exponential random graph models. We intend to continue the SCNS workshop series that began in 2017. I will be reaching out to several of you to discuss topics and dates. More information can be found in the newsletter below. Second, our section is looking for someone to take over our Twitter page. If you are social media savvy and would like to keep up on the latest research in our field, please let me know and we can provide you with the account information so you can begin posting. Third, given the overlap in our research interests, our section will be coordinating with SIAM to take on a larger role at the Deil Wright symposium at the 2019 conference. If you have ideas or suggestions please let me know. Fourth, our section will sponsor a new panel to be held at ASPA each year that brings together leaders in our field to discuss the role of complexity theory and networks in public administration scholarship and practice. The goal is to showcase the contributions and value of our section's work. Lastly, a main action item coming out of our section meeting was to revisit our mission and to explore how our work fits with trends in big data, machine learning, etc. I will be contacting a few of you to be a part of an exploratory team.

Thanks again for being a part of our section. See you all soon. Best,

Michael D. Siciliano



### SCNS Annual Business Meeting at ASPA

SCNS official business meeting was held on March 11, Sunday at 5:15pm at Mineral Hall G. You can find the meeting minutes on the section website.

### SNA Pre-Conference Workshop

Last year, the SCNS organized the first section-sponsored pre-conference social network analysis workshop titled "A Beginners Guide to Social Network Analysis". The objective of the workshop was to provide a user friendly introduction to the methods and tools of network analysis. This year, the SCNS hosted the 2nd SNA pre-conference workshop. The workshop offered two simultaneous sessions. One session introduced participants to the basic concepts and applications of SNA while the other session targeted more advanced users and demonstrated the use of inferential SNA (random graph models) with R.

## SCNS Election Results

This year's election has finished. The results are in the candidates have been notified. We had a great turnout this year for a lot of great candidates. Those who have been elected are:

**Chair-Elect:** Qian Hu

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Jennifer A. Adams

**Executive Committee:**

- Tom Haase
- Goktug Morcol (Re-elected)
- Triparna Vasavada
- Asim Zia

## Complexity, Networks, and Governance Journal

CGN published a special issue on "Teaching Complexity."

**COMPLEXITY  
GOVERNANCE  
& NETWORKS**

The second special issue of 2018 will be on "Adaptive Governance of Coupled Social-Ecological Systems." This second issue is edited by Asim Zia of the University of Vermont. The special issue editor still accepts manuscript that would be suitable for this topic. See the call for papers at <https://ubp.uni-bamberg.de/ojs/index.php/cgn/pages/view/CallForPapers-2018%20>.

All papers published in CGN are freely available to download from the journal's website: <https://ubp.uni-bamberg.de/ojs/index.php/cgn>.

The editors of the journal invite SCNS members to submit their high-quality manuscripts to CGN for peer reviews. Not only manuscript that fit the special issue topics, but those on other topics that are relevant to complex systems, governance problems, networks, and network analyses are welcome.

The website of the journal will be upgraded by the University of Bamberg Press in the coming months.

## Member Spotlight

Steve Scheinert has accepted an offer from the University of Central Florida. Steve is a research assistant professor at UCF and working on a new DARPA funded project on the diffusion of ideas and beliefs across social networks.

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