American Society for Public Administration

SECTION FOR COMPLEXITY AND NETWORK STUDIES
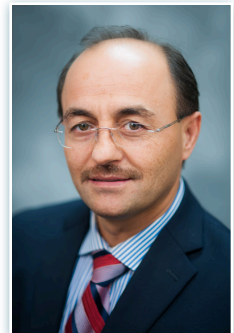
NEWSLETTER

SPRING - SUMMER 2017

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Message from the Chair

Dear Section members,

Our section contributes substantially to scholarship and practice of complexity and networks within the field of Public Administration. We had a very productive year and a successful annual conference as briefly highlighted in this newsletter. We plan to disseminate the newsletter twice in a year. Please provide feedback and share your publications and professional developments with us to be included in the newsletter. Please also follow the section social media accounts for regular updates.

The list of current section officials are in the newsletter. Congratulations to newly elected executive committee members. Drs. Fatih Demiroz, Alexey Kolpakov, and Kun Huang

Section affiliated journal Complexity, Governance, and Networks is now available online. Please see the newsletter for updated information on the Journal. The University of Bamberg Press in Germany publishes the journal. I encourage the section members to submit high quality articles to the journal.

ASPA annual conference in Atlanta in 2017 included several panels from the section members. Dr. Alexey Kolpakov will coordinate panels sponsored by SCNS for ASPA 2018 conference in Denver. The workshop at the conferences led by Dr. Michael Sicilliano was well attended. He will coordinate a pre-conference workshop for the 2018 ASPA Conference with other volunteer committee members.

The Section has a new initiative: Sam Overman Best Paper Award. This is an important recognition of our section members' scholarship. Committee members shall be Drs. Jack Meek (chair), Chris Koliba, and Triparna Vasavada. More information about this new initiative is also available in the newsletter.

Look forward updating you again with our conference issue newsletter early in spring,

Dr. Naim Kapucu

SCNS Annual Business Meeting

SCNS annual business meeting was held on Saturday, March 18. Meeting minutes are available on the section website.

https://scnsaspa.wordpress.com/meeting-minutes/

ASPA 2017 Annual Conference, March 17 - 21, Atlanta, GA

ASPA Annual Conference was held in Atlanta, GA between March 17 - 21. SCNS members collaborated to submit complete panels for the 2017 Annual ASPA Conference in August of 2016. Three panels including 12 papers have been successfully submitted and accepted for presentation. The first panel focused on the applications of collaborative governance network theories and concepts using social network analysis and big data analytics. Second panel dealt with the issues of accountability and interoperability in the context of collaborative governance networks. Third panel scrutinized the role of power, trust and micro-level processes in collaborative governance. This coming July, Dr. Kolpakov will send call for papers for organizing complete panels on behalf of our section. Potential topics include processes in collaborative governance, collaborative performance, governance and complexity, collaborative leadership, accountability, power and trust in collaborative networks, collaborative governance, interoperability and advances in social network analysis and complexity research

SNA Workshop

At this year's ASPA annual conference, SCNS hosted the first section-sponsored 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. It was designed for both practitioners and researchers looking to better understand the methodology and its application to the study of public administration. During the workshop, Dr. Michael Siciliano gave a broad overview of network theory, data collection, and measurement. Tom Haase provided a hands-on guide to using UCINET to import, visualize, and analyze network data. This was followed by four presentations highlighting applications of social network theory and methods: (i) Naim Kapucu showcased his work on disaster networks; (ii) Chris Koliba

Michael Sicilliano

discussed how network and complexity theory inform his research on watersheds and ecological systems, (iii) Aleksey Kolpakov demonstrated network approaches for reducing crime and recidivism, and (iv) Jack Meek presented work on local and regional governance networks.

We are planning to host two pre-conference workshops next year at ASPA in Denver. One intro track using UCINET and another more advanced using R for stochastic modeling. If any members have ideas or suggestions, or would like to be a part of teaching the workshops, please contact Michael Siciliano (sicilian@uic.ed).

SCNS Executive Board Election Results

SCNS filled three vacant executive member positions after an election in February, 2017. Fatih Demiroz, Aleksey Kolpakov, and Kun Huang were elected to serve on the executive committee of the section for three years. Their terms will expire in 2020.

Best Paper Award

SCNS will offer *Best Paper Award* ($200) named after Sam Overman. The first award will be presented at the 2018 ASPA- Denver and will be awarded to SNCS members only.

Criteria for the best paper award include: (1) contribution to network or complexity literature, (2) relevance to public administration, and (3) research quality (theoretical, methodological).

Nominations for the SCNS best paper award are submitted by SCNS members. Self-nominations are welcome.

Complexity, Networks, and Governance Journal

The Complexity, Networks, and Governance Journal is all open-access now thanks to the sponsorship of Bamberg University, Germany. A special issue on complexity, innovation, and policy was published in spring 2017. A new issue of the journal will be published in fall 2017.

Please visit https://scnsaspa.wordpress.com/announcements/ to read the letter from the editors for details.

NECOPA 2017 Conference - Complexity and Networks Track

The University of Vermont will host the Northeast Conference on Public Administration (NECoPA) on November 3, 4, and 5, 2017. Inspired by the Vermont traditions of grassroots democracy and strong local "town meeting" culture, and collaboration across public, private and nonprofit sectors, this year's NECoPA theme is: ***Public Administration, Policy and Community Development: Managing a Changing Landscape***

The conference will organize a panel titled *Communities as Complex Adaptive Systems.* Possible topics include: public administration and computer modeling; e-governance; models of networks and systems governance; evolving uses of social media; leading in complex environments; the uses of game theory in public administration; the role of the behavioral and decision sciences in public administration; utilization of performance management systems; the role of design and systems thinking in public administration.

Calls for conference papers, "posters plus," panels, pre-conference workshops, and practitioner forums are now open and can be emailed to: necopa@uvm.edu. Further details on the conference can be found at: https://northeastpublicadmin.org/. Abstracts and proposals will be due August 1, 2017, with decisions made and provided to applicants by August 18, 2017.

For more information contact local conference host: Chris Koliba, Community Development & Applied Economics Department, University of Vermont; ckoliba@uvm.edu; 802-656-3772.

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Dr. Clayton Wukich for his new position at the Cleveland State University. Dr. Wukich was an assistant professor at the Sam Houston State University and joined the Levine College of Public Affairs at the Cleveland State University as an associate professor of public administration beginning in Fall 2017.

Please share any member updates (tenure and promotion, new hires, job announcements etc.) with Fatih Demiroz (demiroz@shsu.edu) if you would like to have them shared in the next newsletter.

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