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Editorial

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This second issue of RAP of 2018 is the first thematic special issue, covering the theme: *Actors, mechanisms and directions of policy diffusion: between translation and resistance* — an edition by Osmany Porto de Oliveira (Federal University of São Paulo) and Leslie Pal (Carleton University, Canada).

As part of RAP's internationalization strategy, the journal established a process to select proposals for special issues, with the following guidelines:

a) The proposal must be submitted by a team of editors, with at least one Brazilian and one international researcher, both recognized for their contribution to the theme proposed.
b) The proposal must focus on key issues that have the potential to attract national and international contributions.

The intention is to stimulate collaboration, integrating contributions from a community of researchers that study and delve deeper in themes of common interest to the field of public administration, regardless of the national borders. In this way, RAP is strongly positioned in the international academic community and differs from other international journals of public administration by gathering worldwide cross-cutting research.

The starting point is the assumption that the strategy of internationalization, when reduced to metrics of "enculturation" ambiguously imposed by regulatory bodies, does little to improve the quality of research in our field. However, it is necessary to internationalize our contribution to the field of public administration, which means transcending national boundaries and fostering lasting research partnerships.

I am proud of the first result of this strategy promoting internationalization: the special issue organized by Osmany Porto de Oliveira (Federal University of São Paulo) and Leslie Pal (Carleton University, Canada) was permeated by a collaborative process from its conception to the articles published. The issue is international in many dimensions: from the nationality and prominence of the authors who contributed, to the regions covered in the several research carried out, which shows to have surpassed the North-South barriers.

The most important outcome of this special issue is its contribution to advance our knowledge of policy transfer and diffusion, which is a rich field of research and analysis. Understanding how important policies (such as conditional cash transfers (CCT) and participatory budget) transfer and diffuse from one context to another — beyond the traditional pattern North-South —, or are imposed and/or promoted in context of more or less resistance, is still very important as a research agenda.

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Undoubtedly, this special issue reflects the efforts of a research community that gathers around the theme, promotes periodic meetings (such as the International Seminars on Policy Diffusion) and has been able to build a fertile field of research that overcomes national barriers.

With special thanks to the guest editors Osmany and Leslie for completing this special issue of RAP, I encourage our research community to consider RAP as the ideal showcase for collaborative studies across national boundaries.

Enjoy!

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