

The 2018 PA Theory Board election is for two open seats. Seven candidates submitted nominations, and they are presented below in alphabetical order.

I. Candidate Name: Sebawit Bishu

Statement of Interest/Qualifications: I have been a member of the PA Theory Network (PATNet) since I began my doctoral studies at Florida International University. In my current role as an assistant professor, I look to continue my service to the Network and pay back the benefits I have enjoyed from my membership. As an international student during my doctoral studies, the Network was a place that allowed me to learn and engage on theoretical discourses in the field. In the years that I have engaged with the Network, it has been an important intellectual space for me to reflect on public administration theory discourses and to learn widely from other scholars in the community. Prior to my doctoral study in the United States, I have worked as a researcher and practitioner in my home country Ethiopia and beyond, in Zambia. My international background has afforded me with the opportunity to learn ways in which social, political and economic contexts shape lived experiences of the people. I believe that my international practitioner and research experiences equip me with a unique global perspective that can be of value to the work of the Network and its members. I am therefore very interested in bringing the global knowledge and experiences I have acquired over the years to PA Theory Network. I would be honored to serve the membership of the Network. Given the opportunity to serve alongside the Network's leadership, I plan to support the Network by increasing:

- **Diversity in Perspective:** promote diverse theoretical, contextual and research perspectives that enrich discourses among the Network's community.
- **Student Engagement:** as someone who benefited from the Network as a student, I will work toward increasing student engagement with the Network and promote diversity in student engagement activities.
- **Opportunity:** increase engagement opportunities for diverse membership, including networking and mentorship opportunities connecting young scholars to established scholars in the Network.

Candidate Bio: Sebawit G. Bishu is an assistant professor at the University of Colorado Denver, School of Public Affairs (SPA). Sebawit applies theories of social equity and organizational behavior to uncover practices and societal values that shape unequal opportunities for public organization employees and citizens. She also conducts research on social justice and equity issues in urban transformation. Her work appears in *Administration & Society*, *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, and *The American Review of Public Administration*.
 Sebawit G. Bishu (Assistant Professor)
 University of Colorado Denver, School of Public Affairs

II. Candidate Name: David John Farmer

Candidate Statement of Interest: PATNet is important because P.A. theory, traditional and post-traditional, means something that can help in upgrading PA and related practice - by encouraging administrators and others to think more effectively, more widely, about government and its context. I've been interested in PATNet since joining in 1996, and have been on the Editorial Board since the nineties.

Candidate statement of qualifications: Academic - Have two Ph.Ds - one in Philosophy and the other in Economics. Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University (35 years). Theorist, including both traditional and post-traditional P.A. theorizing (the post-traditional discussed in three books and some 60 academic papers). Practitioner in a variety of contexts - and three countries. Consultant to a variety of governments (e.g., more than 30 U.S. state and local governments)

Candidate biography: Currently, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University. For more bio information, see "Tales from the Field" in the last four issues of Administrative Theory and Praxis (2017, vol. 39, no. 2, pp. 142-156; 2017, vol. 39, no 3, pp. 240-251; 2017, vol. 39, no 4, pp. 331-343; 2018, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 83-95.)

III. Candidate Name: Roy Heidelberg

Candidate Statement: Roy Heidelberg is an assistant professor in the Public Administration Institute at Louisiana State University. He has been a member of the Public Administration Theory Network since 2012, when he joined as a doctoral candidate. He has served on the Board for the past three years as Treasurer.

IV. Candidate Name: Morgan Higman

Candidate Bio: Morgan Higman is a third-year doctoral student at Florida State University. Her research focuses on policies that enhance equitable sustainability in both urban and rural communities. Morgan currently works for the local government of Leon County, Florida, and has five years of practitioner experience at the state and local level. In addition to these experiences, Morgan coaches the FSU Powerlifting team.

Candidate Statement of Qualifications: Prior and concurrent to my graduate education, I have worked for a variety of public organizations: state departments, local governments, and non-profits. In each of role, my primary responsibilities included managing large-scale programs, engaging in inter-agency collaboration, and giving and receiving feedback. These experiences contribute to my readiness to sustain any administrative Board responsibilities on behalf of the PA Theory Network. Within academe, my ongoing research endeavors and status as a current doctoral student position me uniquely to both share the merits of the journal with peers across the nation and keep an ear to the ground on the interests and sentiment of rising scholars.

Candidate Statement of Interest: Currently, I am a PhD student at Florida State University's Askew School of Public Administration. My studies focus on environmental justice and policies that support equitable outcomes related to public goods, especially energy production and health, primary at the municipal level. Complementary to my studies is my work for a local government in Florida. I serve in Leon County's Office of Sustainability, overseeing the management of utility consumption data, the procurement of software and services, and the development of research and recommendations to advance sustainability in government operations and the community beyond.

My interest in serving the PA Theory Network as a Board member stems from a commitment to research that includes critical theory, and other perspectives that are deeply critical. That is, research that questions not only the ways of the world, but also the stories we tell ourselves about the way the world works.

My undergraduate education was atypical: at the University of Florida, I pursued an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts that include coursework in the anthropology, law, urban planning, and leftist criminology. My underlying interests were patterns of policy and development that reinforced the disenfranchisement of various groups over time, namely women, African Americans, and the LGBTQ community. Now, as a third-year PhD student, my studies have honed in on the potential for sustainable investments and policies to benefit or exclude underserved and vulnerable populations. Routinely, my research is inspired by and/or draws upon articles from Administrative Theory & Praxis including Meier (2011), Nanzer (2004), Hand & Ching (2011), and Dixon and Dogan (2002).

My aspiration in the field is to support research that, at once, accounts for the

history of public institutions and outcomes and seeks evidence (or, at least, raises questions) that advances knowledge and stimulates new thought and practice in public administration.

To the PA Theory Network Board, I will bring prerequisite experience in management, oversight, and collaboration, as well as enthusiasm for endeavors to improve the theory, science, and practice of public administration.

V. Candidate Name: Courtney Jensen

Candidate Statement of Interest: My interest in serving on the PA Theory Network Board of Directors is directly related to critical role the Network has played in my intellectual and professional development. My first conference presentation was a student only panel at PAT Net during my first year of doctoral studies at Virginia Tech. From the gentle encouragement and constructive feedback from senior professors to the preconference doctoral student seminar to the countless conversations in between, the PA Theory Network has played a consistent, important role in my evolution as an academic. Having been gifted so much support from the organization I would like to give back by serving on the Board of Directors.

Candidate Statement of Qualifications: I have been fortunate in my brief career to have been mentored, not exclusively, but certainly exhaustively, by PA Theory Network members. From Bob Zinke and Larry Luton at Eastern Washington University to the Blacksburg scholars at Virginia Tech to Angela Eikenberry, Gary Marshall and Richard Box at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, much of my education has been formed by longtime PA Theory Network members. Over the years I have participated in the PA Theory Network and Conference through a variety of roles—publishing in the journal, participating in the preconference doctoral student seminar and creating panels. I also had the opportunity, when the conference came to Omaha, to serve on the location committee and experience all the hard work the local teams in particular put into making the conference successful every year.

In addition to my PA Theory Network contributions, I have served as the administrative assistant to Gary Wamsley at *Administration & Society*, and have a varied background in constitutional law and democracy, urban studies and local government, nonprofit and philanthropy, qualitative research and research design due to studying at two different, theory focused programs. Finally while I did not write a theory dissertation at UNO under the advice of my committee, I got as close as I possibly could by conducting a Foucauldian discourse analysis on philanthropic institutions of power.

Candidate Brief Biography: Currently I am an Assistant Professor of Public Administration at Eastern Washington University. I have a B.A. in political science from the University of Washington and an M.P.A. from Eastern Washington University, where Bob Zinke and Larry Luton oversaw my masters' thesis, *Can Bureaucrats be Good Citizens?* After beginning my doctoral studies with Gary Wamsley, John Rohr and Larkin Dudley at Virginia Tech, I transferred to the University of Nebraska-Omaha to continue studying with Angela Eikenberry. Under her supervision, and with Gary Marshall serving as a committee member, I completed my studies in 2011. Following three years at Georgia Southern University, I accepted my current position and returned to my home state.

VI. Candidate Name: Nidhi Vij Mali

Statement of Interest: Public Administration Theory Network is a strong platform that provides true integration of theory, practice, and management. As a scholar who continues to work towards a symbiotic relationship between administrative theories and real life, I cannot underscore the importance and relevance of the PA Theory Network. I believe in working towards an integrative space of theory, research, and teaching. I would like to stand for the election to the Board of Directors, and hope to bring my enthusiasm, energy, and excitement towards advancing the interests of the PA Theory Network and broader PA scholarship.

A Statement of Qualifications: Nidhi Vij Mali is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Policy Leadership at the University of Mississippi. She holds a PhD in Public Administration from Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, Syracuse University, and a Master in Arts in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, India. She has been a visiting Summer Fellow at the Center for Technology in Government at Albany. She has also received recognition for the teaching through the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award for 2018 by the College of Liberal Arts, University of Mississippi.

Brief Bio: Nidhi Vij Mali is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Policy Leadership at the University of Mississippi. With a background in Public Administration from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University, her research focuses on the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT), especially mobile technologies in public administration and particularly in social welfare policies, specifically health policies in a global comparative context. She examines the intersection of administrative burden theory in policy implementation and ICT innovations. She is also interested in developing impact evaluation designs and implementation for social programs. She has published in American Review of Public Administration, and International journals including IDS Bulletin, and Human Affairs. She teaches policy design and analysis and research methods at the University of Mississippi. She has been an active member of numerous professional associations, including American Society for Public Administration and is serving as an Executive Member Committee member ASPA sections on Health and Human Services and on Public Performance Management to increase visibility, outreach, and participation of the sections. She strives to bring her commitment and dedication toward the public administration field to the PA Theory Net Board within the roles and opportunities offered, and willing to stand for election to the Board of Directors.

VII. Candidate Name: Craig Wickstrom

Candidate Statement: I, Craig Wickstrom, am interested in candidating for membership on the board of directors of the PA Theory Network. A member of PATNet since 2008, I have participated in the annual conference whenever possible since 2009. I was a member of the program committee for the 2010, 2012, and 2013 conferences and I find involvement in organizational matters one of the most satisfying aspects of being a PATNet member.

A December 2017 recipient of a PhD in Urban Studies and Public Affairs from Cleveland State University, I have worked in local public administration for the County of Ashtabula, Ohio and have extensive experience as board and committee member of a number of non-profit organizations ranging from my local church congregation and church conference to the Ashtabula County Online Consortium, the Ohio County / City Information Technology Association, and the Central Ohio branch of ASPA.

Born in Belgium while my parents were preparing for work in the Belgian Congo, I lived much of my youth in Congo / Zaire, graduating from high school in Karawa, Zaire in 1974. Since that time, my career has shifted back and forth from volunteer work in central Africa to various types of employment in the United States, and my current path seems to be leading me back to Congo. However, I continue to be interested in public administration theory and believe that my unusual background and employment path will bring a unique perspective to the PATNet board. How that perspective will affect PATNet is yet unclear, but I offer it as an alternative for the PATNet membership to consider.