Call for Papers: Spotlight on "Leadership in the Political Realm" in the Behavioral Science & Policy

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The **Behavioral Science & Policy Association** (BSPA) invites submissions for its flagship journal, *Behavioral Science & Policy* (BSP), for a Spotlight on "Leadership in the Political Realm." This Spotlight will focus on leadership in political domains, a particularly salient issue in today's increasingly turbulent and divisive political climate. From the moment a citizen envisions running for public office to the moment a political leader is re-elected for another term, several factors and processes influence the nature and unfolding of political leadership that have an immense impact on the daily lives of their constituents.

This Spotlight welcomes ideas across the social and political spectrum and institutional contexts. We are interested in a wide range of topics, cutting across traditional viewpoints, which highlight behavioral insights both in navigating the challenging present political climate as well as charting a way forward. The current political environment, on both a domestic and global scale, presents an important opportunity for behavioral science to provide updated and expanded insight on leadership and practical recommendations. Possible questions to examine might include the following:

- How do individuals develop interest, ambition, and efficacy in running for political office?
- What forces are shaping the current patterns of political leader emergence and election, and how does behavioral science explain or account for these patterns?
- What factors, such as leader characteristics, voter characteristics, and voter decision-making processes, influence how political candidates are elected or re-elected for public office?

- In what ways are political leaders evaluated by citizens as effective/ineffective, and what factors influence how political leaders earn approval or disapproval of their constituents?
- How do political leaders gain traction and amass support on salient policy issues (e.g., universal healthcare, income inequality, climate change, criminal justice reform, etc.)?
- What factors influence whether political leaders decide to run for higher office and whether they are elected into these higher positions?
- In what ways does political leadership diverge from general leadership models/perspectives, and what are the implications for the public sector?

We are particularly interested in how insights gained from addressing these questions can guide effective policy responses and implementation. These practical applications are essential to informing policy decisions in the face of uncertain or unstable political and economic climates.

To receive consideration for the *Behavioral Science & Policy* Spotlight on "Leadership in the Political Realm," please email a 250-word abstract of your intended article to bsp@behavioralpolicy.org by August 31, 2020. Please also indicate the name of this Spotlight ("Leadership in the Political Realm") and which manuscript category you see your intended article will be submitted (see *Manuscript Categories* below). Competitive abstracts will be invited to submit a full manuscript by September 30, 2020.

About the Journal

BSP features short, accessible articles describing actionable advice for policy makers and practitioners that is firmly grounded in the empirical scientific study of individual, group, and organizational behavior. Submissions will undergo a dual review process involving discipline-focused editors to assess scientific rigor and policy-focused editors to assess practicality. Articles recommended for publication will also receive feedback from professional writing editors to enhance their appeal to a broad audience of behavioral scientists, policy makers, practitioners, and educated lay readers. Published articles will be available online via open access until compiled into print editions. BSP is not limited to a particular point of view or political ideology.

Manuscript Categories
Manuscripts can be submitted in a number of different categories, each of which must clearly demonstrate the empirical basis for the article as well as explain specific implications for (public and/or private-sector) policy and practice:

- Proposals (≤ 2,500 words) specify scientifically grounded policy proposals and provide supporting evidence including concise reports of relevant studies. This category is most appropriate for describing new policy implications of previously published work or a novel policy recommendation that is supported by previously published studies.

- Reports (≤ 3000 words) provide a summary of output and actionable prescriptions that emerge from a workshop, working group, or standing organization in the behavioral policy space. In some cases such papers may consist of summaries of a much larger published report that also includes some novel material such as meta-analysis, actionable implications, process lessons, reference to related work by others, and/or new results not presented in the initial report. These papers are not merely summaries of a published report, but also should provide substantive illustrations of the research or recommendations and insights about the implications of the report content or process for others proposing to do similar work. Submitted papers will undergo BSP review for rigor and accessibility that is expedited to facilitate timely promulgation.

- Findings (≤ 4,000 words) report on results of new studies and/or substantially new analysis of previously reported data sets (including formal meta-analysis) and the policy implications of the research findings. This category is most appropriate for presenting new evidence that supports a particular policy recommendation. The additional length of this format is designed to accommodate a summary of methods, results, and/or analysis of studies (though some finer details may be relegated to supplementary online materials).

- Reviews (≤ 5,000 words) survey and synthesize the key findings and policy implications of research in a specific disciplinary area or on a specific policy topic. This could take the form of describing a general-purpose behavioral tool for policy makers or a set of behaviorally grounded insights for addressing a particular policy challenge.

- Other Published Materials. BSP will sometimes solicit or accept Essays (≤ 5,000 words) that present a unique perspective on behavioral policy; Letters (≤ 500 words) that provide a forum for responses from readers and contributors, including policy makers and public figures; and Invitations (≤ 1,000 words with links to online Supplemental Material), which are requests from policy makers for contributions from the behavioral science community on a particular policy issue. For example, if a particular agency is facing a specific challenge and seeks input from the behavioral science community, we would welcome posting of such solicitations.