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## Editorial

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Volume 8, number 1 of the journal Public Sciences & Policies (PS&P) marks a new journey in the history of the journal. In addition to a new team and a renewed editorial policy, a new image was added. It is intended to reinforce an identity that distinguishes us and affirms us in the scientific community. Therefore, we abide by a policy of peer review committed to ethics and a high standard of quality in its publications. PS&P's publishing policies are based on the guidelines of the Publication Ethics Committee.

This volume marks the transition to a more challenging interdisciplinary publication that consolidates itself as a reference in the areas of social and political sciences. The magazine's strategic dimension bets on the dialogue between political science, public policies, public administration and other areas of the social sciences. This responsibility is accentuated by a concern for sustainable citizenship and social justice as presented in the contributions that make up the present volume.

Leonardo Secchi, Joaquim Croca Caeiro and Ricardo Ramos Pinto analyse “Two hundred years of administrative reforms in Portugal and Spain: from patrimonial administration to management” presenting a comparative analysis of the administrative reforms of the governments of the Iberian Peninsula. The article examines the doctrines of reforms, justifications and their underlying values, policy leadership and implementation styles and instruments, as well as external induction and resistance against their implementation.

In the article entitled “Challenges in Public Governance and Meta-governance: from a theoretical-historical analysis to its application to the Portuguese case”, Luís Mota

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presents a critical review of the themes of governance and meta-governance and the main challenges in the Portuguese context with a focus on historical issues. The article reflects on the hybrid character of public governance in Portugal from the influences of the Napoleonic administrative tradition and the reformist ideas of New Public Management and New Public Governance.

Ana Sofia Amandio in “The evaluation of European funds in Portugal” carries out a study on the evaluation of the main instrument of Cohesion Policy in European Portugal. An extensive document-based research composed of national and community legislation (1986-2014), analyzes the institutionalization of the evaluation of European funds in public administration, focusing on the actors and the evaluation rules.

Juan Santarcángelo in “Is there a new State in Latin America? Lessons after Covid-19” compares the public policies implemented by ten different Latin American governments to face the pandemic. The article reveals that the pandemic has exposed the structural deficiencies generated by decades of neoliberalism in the region and demonstrates that only through a profound transformation of the State and its capacities will peripheral countries be prepared to face similar challenges.

In the article “Intermediate Managers in Public Administration in the Health Sector – accessory training in management/administration and in leadership skills”, Paulo Antunes presents the relationship between accessory training in management/administration and leadership skills in a representative sample of the national plan of Intermediate Managers to exercise in Public Administration in the Health Sector. It is inferred that due to training, there are higher levels of leadership skills, promoting organizational leadership cultures in the sense of Innovation, Objectives and Rules, and the Focus on Flexibility, for the Internal and External environments.

Finally in the article “Rethinking Instability: Imbalances between indigenous powers and state collapse in Guinea-Bissau”, Claudia Favarato analyzes the recurrent political instability as an effect of the process of Africanization of power in Guinea-Bissau. A situation that is related to the ethnicization of power (played by the Balanta ethnic group) and the dysfunctional state (allegations of corruption, clientelism, personalism and hyper-presidentialism), which combine to identify a political class poorly prepared for the position, committed in the misappropriation of power and resources.

Given the nature of this journal, this volume is transversal to different themes, discussing administrative reforms, governance and meta-governance, evaluation of European funds, challenges of the pandemic, Public administration in the Health Sector, and political instability.

Thus, the contribution of these six articles oscillates between critical reflections on the past and the present, proposing to advance with guiding strategies towards greater social justice and awareness of the need for interdisciplinary interventions in civil society.