The Section on International and Comparative Administration (SICA) of the American Society of Public Administration is seeking abstracts and/or fully-formed panels for the seventh annual Fred Riggs Symposium, to be held in Anaheim, California on April 3, 2020.

Our question for this year's symposium – Does Democracy Deliver? – is tied to the overall ASPA conference theme: 2020 Vision for Politics, Policy and Administration.

Over the last quarter-century, policymakers have been urged to redesign administrative systems so that they advance liberal democratic values. Emphasis has been put on design principles like public control, checks and balances on agency action, transparency, decentralization, and community engagement. In some contexts, these principles have been implemented without having formal democracy. Simultaneously, scholars have noted growth in autocracy and a decline in democratic governance around the world. This has led many policymakers and scholars to raise a set of related and critical questions:

- Is democracy necessary to generate effective service provision and establish governmental legitimacy?
- What kinds of organizations and institutional designs are necessary to produce public services?
- Do democratic systems control corruption and maintain a strong merit-based public service more effectively than non-democratic systems?
- To what extent is liberal democratic governance necessary to improve state capacity?
The aim of the 2020 Riggs Symposium is to explore these questions, and consider how specialists in public administration should respond to the apparent crisis of liberal democracy. We seek papers and panels that address this topic in any national or comparative context. Papers might evaluate criticisms of liberal democratic governance, examine specific cases of policy reform or policy failure that relate to aspects of liberal democratic governance, or challenge us to reconsider assumptions about the desirability or features such forms of governance.

**Individual Paper Proposal:** Please submit an abstract not exceeding 300 words, your paper title, and your affiliation and contact information.

**Panel Proposal:** Please submit the panel title along with the titles of 3-5 papers and the paper author names, affiliations, and contact details. Each panel submission must also include the paper abstracts for each panel. Each abstract should not exceed 300 words.

All abstracts and panel proposals must be submitted via the [ASPA website](http://icont.ac/4l8u1). Please name your submission with an indication of ‘Riggs Symposium/SICA’ and select the Riggs Symposium from the options when you submit through the ASPA website. The submission deadline is October 4, 2019. Notice of abstract acceptance will be given by mid-December, 2019.

If your paper abstract or panel is accepted, your full paper for the ASPA Conference is due by March 1, 2020. Accepted paper authors must register for the conference via the ASPA website. All full papers submitted for the Riggs Symposium will be considered for SICA’s Garcia-Zamor Best Paper Award.

The 2020 Riggs Symposium Committee is:

- Veronica Junjan, Co-Chair (University of Twente)
- Alasdair Roberts, Co-Chair (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
- Farhad Hossain (University of Manchester)
- Mauricio Dussauge Laguna (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas)
- Jennifer Murtazashvili (University of Pittsburgh)
- Meghna Sabharwal (University of Texas Dallas)