



2017 Board of Directors - Slate of Nominees

Voting Period May 18 – June 1, 2017

A ballot will be sent via email to all Network members in good standing.

Sebawit G. Bishu

Ph.D. Candidate, Florida International University

Statement of interest/qualifications: I have been a member of the PA Theory Network throughout my doctoral studies at Florida International University. As I conclude my doctoral work and enter a tenure track position, I look to continue my service to the Network in a more professional capacity. I am very interested in bringing the global knowledge and experiences I have acquired over the years to PA Theory Network. My experience working in Ethiopia and conducting research in Africa allows me to offer a unique global perspective to the work of the Network and its members. I would be honored to serve the membership as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Brief Biography: Sebawit Bishu is a doctoral candidate in Public Affairs at Florida International University. She is completing her doctoral studies in the summer of 2017 and will be joining the University of Colorado at Denver as a faculty member in the fall of 2017. Sebawit has an MPA degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and an MSc degree in Urban Planning and Design from Addis Ababa University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Her dissertation addresses issues related to gender and equal employment opportunity in local government leaderships in the United States. Her research also addresses issues of diversity and representation in the public sector workforce as well as social justice and equity issues in urban transformation. Sebawit has published in Administration and Society.

Sean McCandless, PhD

University of Colorado Denver

Statement of interest: I would be honored to hold a seat on the Board. I would like to help PATNET increase and sustain membership, expand classroom coverage of PA theory, and advance discussions of how PA theory helps to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Statement of qualifications: Sean McCandless completed his PhD at the UC Denver School of Public Affairs and currently holds a fellowship with the UC Denver Office of Diversity and Inclusion with the goal of improving inclusion for Muslim students. His research centers on social equity, specifically how political and administrative systems influence citizen perceptions of fairness. His recent refereed publications have focused on exploring social equity in policing, especially the effect of racial representativeness, community policing and trainings, and the philosophical dimensions of citizen distrust of the state. Recent non-refereed publications have centered on the need to foster social justice for Muslim communities and on examining the complexities surrounding the French presidential election. Sean is the Founding President of the Student and New Administrative Professionals Section of the American Society for Public Administration as well as Board Member at Large of ASPA's Democracy and Social Justice Section. He has directed several workshops focused on social equity and strategies to teach diversity and inclusion in MPA classes. He has also organized and facilitated police-community engagement panels. He is interested in advancing public administration theory in three ways. First, he wants to use his connections among students and new administrative professionals to increase PATNET's membership, particularly among students and professionals. Second, he aims to use his teaching experience to help expand the coverage of PA theory in MPA classrooms by helping PATNET offer webinars for professors and students to share techniques on teaching and learning theory. Third, he wants to encourage greater scholarly coverage of how PA theory informs and improves outcomes for vulnerable populations. As a proud member of the GLBTQ community, Sean particularly hopes to raise awareness of issues surrounding sexual orientation and identity and how PA theory can advance discussions on social justice.

Billie Sandberg

Assistant Professor, Portland State University

Statement of interest: PATNet's annual conference was the second conference I attended as an emerging PA scholar. I attended and presented a paper at the conference in 2010 at the encouragement of Tom Catlaw, who at the time was my advisor in the doctoral program at Arizona State University. Unlike my first conference experience at ASPA, I felt at home with the scholars in attendance at PATNet, not only as a doctoral student but also as an emerging scholar increasingly interested in exploring critical theory and its application to issues in the nonprofit sector. Over time and as I completed my doctoral program and moved into an assistant professorship at Portland State University, that initial sense of welcome and belonging has remained such that I consider PATNet the professional, scholarly group with whom I most align myself and my work and *Administrative Theory & Praxis* the PA journal that best "gets" my work and its contribution to nonprofit studies and larger PA scholarship. Joining PATNet's Board of Directors would allow me to collaborate with other like-minded scholars to help contribute to PATNet's sustainability over time. Specifically, I would like to join the Board so that I can help continue PATNet's legacy of encouraging and promoting critical PA scholarship and supporting the work of emerging scholars.

Statement of qualifications: I have served on a number of boards and executive committees, including in Oregon the Program Advisory Board of the Willamette Valley Development Officers Association and the local chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. Nationally, I am one of the founders of the Critical Perspectives Interest Group of ARNOVA, and serve on the Executive Committee of both the Nonprofit Practice, Policy, and Partnerships section of ASPA and the Theories, Issues, and Boundaries section of ARNOVA. In addition, I have overseen PSU's Nonprofit Institute for the past two years. My tenure has involved overseeing and managing a strategic visioning process as well as program development and implementation, contract management, budget development and oversight, grantwriting, and personnel management.

Brief biography: I am an assistant professor of Public Administration and the Director of The Nonprofit Institute at Portland State University. I hold a B.A. in History from Ripon College, and received my MPA and PhD in Public Administration from Arizona State University. I teach graduate courses in public service ethics, administrative theory, leadership, nonprofit management, program evaluation, and more. My research focuses on the application of critical social theory to issues of public governance, with a particular focus on philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. Recently, my work has been published in *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, *Administration & Society*, *Voluntas*, and the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*. I have presented papers at annual meetings of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, American Society for Public Administration, Western Political Science Association, and Public Administration Theory Network (PAT-Net). Prior to my current position, I taught at the University of Colorado, Denver, and spent more than a dozen years working for a number of nonprofit organizations.

In sum, I believe that my governance and administrative experience coupled with my critical scholarly and teaching agenda would be a good fit for the PATNet Board of Directors.

Sarah Surak, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Salisbury University

Statement of interest: My interest in running for a seat on the Public Administration Theory Network Board of Directors is rooted in my desire to give back to the organization. Over the years, PAT-Net has afforded me a welcoming and intellectually stimulating community. My first experience with PAT-Net as a newly minted graduate student in Omaha (2010) provided positive and supporting feedback on my scholarship as well as a network on which to draw for advice related to my professional and academic development. In the years since I have continued to find the organization and its members as a source of support, rigorous engagement, and positive professional development. As a social theorist (located within a political science department) with work spanning several disciplines and two continents, I hope to broaden PAT-Net's community through engagement with scholars and practitioners of governance and power.

Statement of qualifications: My involvement with PAT-Net has spanned a variety of positions over a number of years. I first began attending PAT-Net as a graduate student. Since taking a position as a faculty member I have served on the annual conference program committee as both participant and now chair for the 2017 conference. I have also worked with the journal, *Administrative Theory & Praxis*, serving as the guest editor for a two-part series on utopia and public administration resulting from the 2013 conference. Over the past fifteen years I have held a variety of positions in 501(C)3 organizations and will bring this experience to the operational side of the organization as well.

Brief biography: Dr. Sarah Surak holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Political Science and Environmental Studies at Salisbury University. Sarah received her BA in political science (2003) and a Masters of Public Administration (2006) from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and a Ph.D. in Planning, Governance and Globalization from Virginia Tech (2012). At Salisbury University, she also Co-Directs the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement. Sarah has been an active PAT-Net member since 2010. She is currently serving as the program chair for this year's annual conference and has served on conference program committees in the past as well as the guest editor for a two-part special issue of *Administrative Theory & Praxis* following the 2013 conference. Her teaching and research interests include civic engagement, environmental policy and political theory, comparative politics, public administration, and modern political and social theory. Sarah's work has appeared in a variety of journals including *New Political Science*, *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, and *Administrative Theory & Praxis*. Sarah is currently completing on a manuscript titled *Governing waste: Politics, process, and public administration*, assessing sustainability, waste management, and the public administrative experience (expected Routledge fall 2018).