

## Call for Papers: Special Issue of the *Journal of Public Affairs*

### Lobbying Roles, the Public Interest and Democracy: Communication Perspectives

Broadly defined, lobbying deals with attempts to influence the public policy process. Organizations that conduct lobbying include business associations, companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), public affairs consultancies, labour unions and foundations. Still, critics often question the contribution to democracy, and whether or not lobbying is yet another tool for society's most resourceful. A conclusion from the literature is that financial resources and human capital are important components for organizations and their ability to succeed with lobbying efforts. In this regard, research on lobbying has produced a number of tomes that shed light on the importance of, for instance, lobbyists' resources and their use of different tactics. With a few noteworthy exceptions, however, there has been little attention devoted to how lobbyists actually *communicate*. This Special Issue of the *Journal of Public Affairs* invites papers that focus on the role of lobbying and its relation to the public interest and democracy. Communication strategies play an important part here.

Topics that will be considered for this special issue include (but are not limited to) a focus on evaluation of communication strategies in light of democratic ideals, the use of particular argument types, as well as communicative attempts to fuse private and public interests. What contribution does lobbying make in a democracy? What communication strategies are employed and how these can be evaluated against democratic goals of participation as well as the problem of unequal influence and regulatory capture? Is there any evidence that lobbying practitioners are boundary spanners assisting in orienting their clients towards serving the public interest, or do they merely advise on how to camouflage vested interests? How do we test to see if lobbyists are serving democracy and good governance, or acting as a hindrance? Are some organized interests marginalized or unmobilized? Communication scholarship can shed light on how the characteristics of organized interests influence the potential ground for arguments and their subsequent success in this regard. All theoretical and methodological approaches that help shed light on this are welcome.

#### Submission, deadlines, and review process

All papers will be subject to an initial editorial review and subsequent double-blind peer review process. All papers must also be submitted with the understanding that they are original, unpublished works and that they are not being submitted elsewhere. Papers should not be more than 6,000 words long (including references).

Papers should be submitted at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jpa> before **15 November 2018**. Initial decision expected by 23 December 2018. Revised manuscripts due 15 March 2019.

For further submission details please see JPA's Guidelines for Authors:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14791854/homepage/forauthors.html>

## Guest Editors

Please direct questions to one of the guest editors:

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**Deadline for the submission of full papers: 15 November 2018**