

Gauging Research: Uncovering Democratic Norms as we Bridge the Worlds of Practice and Scholarship

Patricia M. Shields
Nandhini Rangarajan
Texas State University
Mattia Casula
University of Bologna

Presented at the 2023 American Society for Public Administration
virtual conference March 20 - 24

PowerPoint Template
Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY School of International
& Public Affairs

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Conference Theme

Protecting Democracy for the Next Generation: The Role and Responsibility of Public Administration.

- **Panel Title** – Local Civic Engagement in Action
- **Paper Title** – Gauging Research: Uncovering Democratic Norms as we Bridge the Worlds of Practice and Scholarship.

PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY School of International
& Public Affairs

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

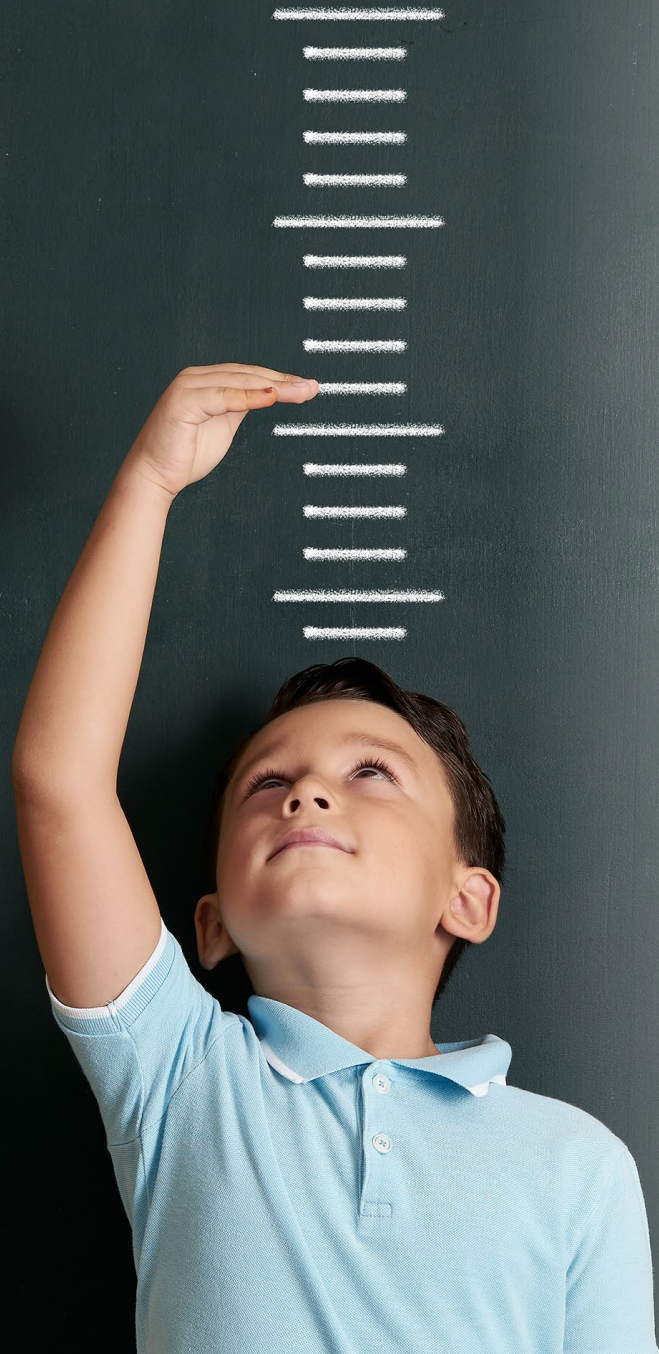
Story

Building a **grading rubric** in the 3rd grade classroom.

Participatory Democracy

Build in equity norms





Gauging Research
Purpose

Logic of Rating

Common way of thinking, doing and making in PA

- MPA Program Accreditation
- University Accreditation
- Professional Certification
- Assessment of job candidate (rubric)
- Rating of Schools, School Districts – Texas Education Agency
- Safety Regulations Adherence
- Evaluation of Program Processes (use of standards)
- Regulations with Standards generally
- Rating using best practices
- Auditing that uses standards

PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Research Purposes

1. Explanation
2. Description
3. Exploration

4. GAUGING

PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Gauging

- is a **normative** research purpose that uses a **logic of rating** and is often used in **assessment**
- is generally **applied research** that uses mixed methods
- is **problem oriented** and has limited external validity



Conceptual Frameworks

Explanation – Hypotheses

Description – Categories

Exploration – Working Hypotheses

Gauging – “What Should” Framework

PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Commonplace underlying logic

Explanation – Hypotheses – Experimentation

Description – Categories – Sorting

Exploration – Working Hypotheses -- ????

Gauging – Assessment frameworks – logic of rating

PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Gauging – “What Should” Framework

- Rubrics
- Standards
- Practical Ideal Type
- Best Practices
- Ratios

Assessment Frameworks

PowerPoint Template
Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Gauging's **Coach & Cop** Role

Design assessment
frameworks for
both roles

Potential for
participatory democracy

listening and conversation

Practice implications – use results

PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Democracy and Social Ethics
Jane Addams

Democracy

She had an expansive view of democracy that included social justice. She linked social morality to a larger democratic spirit, one that implied “that diversified human experience and resultant sympathy are the foundations and guarantee of democracy” (Addams, 1902, p. 7). She moved beyond considering democracy’s essentially political expression; rather, she also articulated and emphasized its social function (Addams, 1893, p. 14).

Way of life.

Includes a place-based problem orientation.

It happens on the ground as we work to resolve problems.

PowerPoint Template
Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Gauging Research: Uncovering Democratic Norms as we Bridge the Worlds of practice and scholarship

Build the assessment frameworks

- engage stakeholders
- incorporate equity dimensions

Consider results – Coach Role



PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



We Hope

- Gauging makes sense as a research purpose for PA
- Potential to incorporate democratic values into PA practice

PowerPoint Template

Sponsored By:

FIU | Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

References

Addams, J. (2002). *Democracy and social ethics*. University of Illinois Press.

Babbie, E. R. (2020). *The practice of social research*. Cengage learning.

Casula, M., Rangarajan, N., & Shields, P. (2021). The potential of working hypotheses for deductive exploratory research. *Quality & Quantity*, 55(5), 1703-1725.

Shields, P. M., & Rangarajan, N. (2013). *A playbook for research methods: Integrating conceptual frameworks and project management*. New Forums Press.

Shields, P. M., & Tajalli, H. (2006). Intermediate theory: The missing link in successful student scholarship. *Journal of public affairs education*, 12(3), 313-334.

Shields, P., & Whetsell, T.: Public administration methodology: A pragmatic perspective. In: Raadshelders, J., Stillman, R., (eds). *Foundations of Public Administration*, pp. 75–92. New York: Melvin and Leigh (2017)

Soeters, J., Shields, P. M., & Rietjens, S. J. H. (Eds.). (2014). *Routledge handbook of research methods in military studies*. London: Routledge.

PowerPoint Template
Sponsored By:

FIU
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs

2023 ASPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**Protecting
Democracy**
for the Next Generation
THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION