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ARTICLES: Probing the Field

Research Methodology in the Public Administration Review, 1975-1984

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Public administration was in an early stage of development when Luther Gulick¹ called for a "science of administration." Gulick's exhortation became a source of heated and continuing controversy that centers around positivist versus alternative views of appropriate research methodology.² This paper examines the last ten years of *Public Administration Review (PAR)* methodology and suggests directions for its future development.

Two general methods are used in this study: historical and statistical. Past and current assessments of research methodology in public administration are reviewed in order to set the context for this analysis. Also, published research in *PAR* from 1975-1984 is analyzed statistically to provide a baseline for evaluation of the state of research methodology. In the final portion of the paper we generate some recommendations for future directions within the field.

Clarifying Definitions

At the outset we need to clarify some definitional ambiguities. What, precisely, do we mean by research methodology? Do quantitative methods delimit the scope of this subject matter? Do we include activities both academic and practical? Answering these questions requires some judgment, but the literature on social inquiry offers useful guidelines.

In search of a working understanding of methodology, we rely on Kaplan's discussion of this concept in *The Conduct of Inquiry*.³ He distinguishes several senses of methodology: (1) techniques, the specific procedures used in a given science; (2) honorifics, a ritual invocation attesting to concern with meeting standards of scientific acceptability; (3) epistemology, involving the most basic philosophical questions about the pursuit of truth. It is the first of these senses that has the greatest bearing on this inquiry.

In addition, our primary concern is methodology used in academic research; that is, in the conscious effort to advance knowledge about public administration. Methodologies for administrative research, such as program evaluation, client surveys, and productivity

■ *The adequacy and quality of public administration research has historically generated significant controversy. This study reviews the research methodologies of Public Administration Review articles from 1975-1984. It concludes that recent public administration research: (1) has been predominately applied; (2) has not been cumulative; and (3) has lacked adequate institutional support. Recommendations are offered to improve research methodology in public administration by focusing intensively on core issues, institutionalizing research, and introducing specific methodological improvements.*

measurement, are focused on generating knowledge about the problems of particular organizations or programs and are excluded from the scope of this study because of their essentially instrumental orientation. They are oriented to the practice of administration rather than to the study of administration.

As the foregoing suggests, methodology and research are closely linked. Methodology exists to guide the conduct of research; methodology is reflected in research. As a practical matter, therefore, our assessment of public administration methodology is also necessarily an assessment of public administration research.

Recent Critiques of Public Administration Research

Recent discussions of public administration research methodology have been characterized by two predominant streams. The first is concerned with the degree to which research is adding to a verifiable knowledge base that we can use to improve public administration as an applied science. The second stream is concerned with methodology issues, that is, the type of research questions that we can pierce with our methodologies, and whether our methodologies produce useable knowledge.

Several recent works have looked at different bodies of research in public administration from the standpoint

of their contributions to knowledge. Garson and Overman⁴ reviewed public management research, as a subset of public administration research, for the years 1981-1982. They concluded that the research was fragmented, noncumulative, and underfunded. McCurdy and Cleary⁵ analyzed abstracts from public administration doctoral dissertations published in the *Dissertation Abstracts International* for 1981. They found that the vast majority of dissertations neither dealt with significant issues nor were conducted in such a way as to produce findings in which one could have much confidence. They concluded that the lack of methodological progress, as evidenced by the low quality of dissertations, is due to inadequate standards among leading public administration programs as well as to the nature of the field itself. Jay White's recent replication of McCurdy and Cleary's⁶ analysis found that dissertation research is not published and therefore not communicated beyond the dissertation committee. He concluded that whatever the reasons which explain the lack of publication (e.g., poor quality, lack of interest in publishing the dissertation), dissertation research does not appear to be a major source of knowledge in the field.

General research methodologies are essentially restricted to logical argumentation, legal briefs, or empirical analysis.

The second stream of discussions is concerned with the methodology issue, and has been joined by a number of public administration theorists, most notably Catron, Denhart, Hummel, and White.⁷ White⁸ argues that most critiques of public administration research have been grounded in models of research predicated on positivism, indicative of the natural and mainstream social sciences. He argues, however, that public administration research has not been viewed in light of two other modes of research—the interpretive and critical modes. He suggests that growth of public administration knowledge be interpreted in light of all three modes of research.

This paper is only able to shed light on this second question indirectly. Its primary purpose is to assess how *PAR* methodologies measure up against mainstream social science research. Whereas Garson and Overman looked at contract and grant research and McCurdy, Cleary, and White looked at dissertation research, we look at another subset of research in the field—*PAR* articles.

Research Methodologies in Use

Research articles published in *PAR* from 1975-1984 are the population for this analysis. Symposia articles, Professional Stream essays, review essays, and special issues were excluded from the domain of analysis. Included are 289 articles. Each was coded on 12 variables, about half reflecting purely descriptive information and the others requiring some interpretation of the contents of the article. These variables are discussed

TABLE 1
Classification of Research Stages

Research Stage	Research Purpose
1. Problem delineation	To define what we are looking for and the extent to which it constitutes a social problem
2. Variable identification	To identify variables which might be linked to the problem and to describe possible relationships among these variables
3. Determination of relationships among the variables	To determine the clusters of relevant variables required for prediction and to analyze their patterns of relationships
4. Establishment of causality among the variables	To determine which factors are critical in promoting or inhibiting the problem
5. Manipulation of causal variables for policy formation purposes	To determine the correspondence between a theoretical problem solution and the manipulatable factors
6. Evaluation of alternative policies and programs	To assess the expected, as well as the unanticipated, consequences of various programs and policies before and after they are applied on a large scale and to determine the effectiveness of such programs in overall problem solution

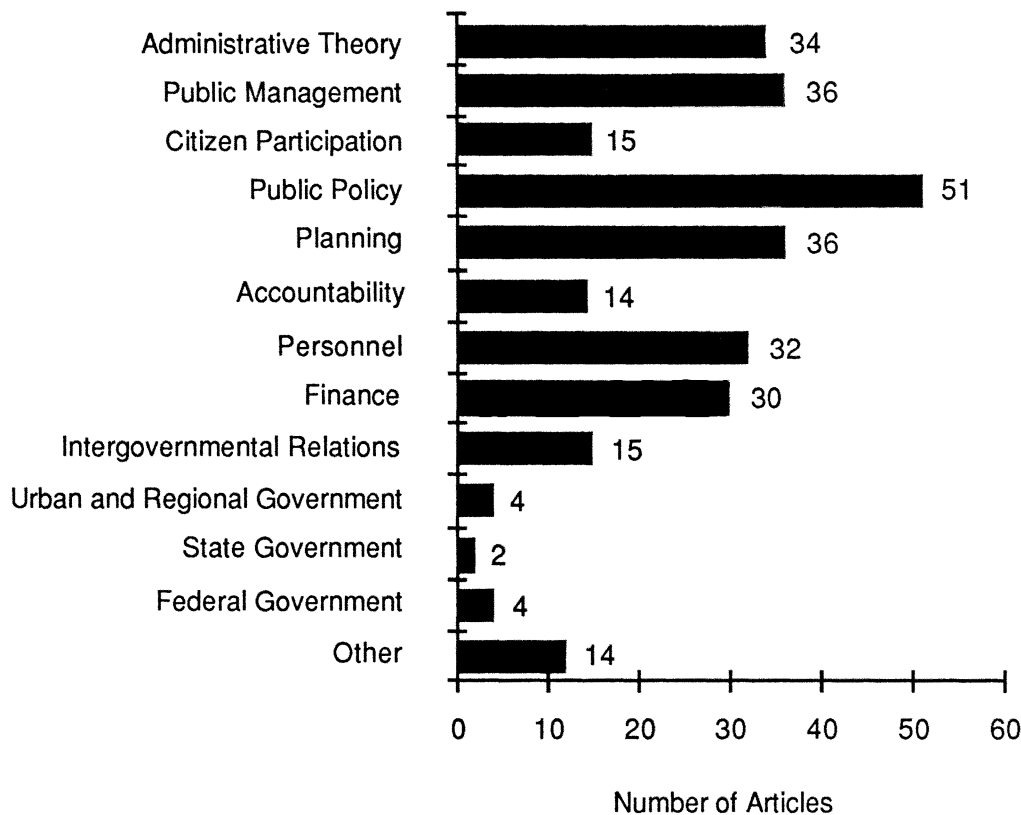
briefly below and the Appendix presents the complete coding scheme.

Analytic Categories

Seven variables provided primarily descriptive information, some of it purely for identification purposes, about each of the cases: year of publication, volume, issue number, author(s), author's organization, general subject area, sources of research support. Four other categories were used to record information about the methodology used in the study.

Research stage is a taxonomic variable derived from earlier work by Rogers and Agarwala-Rogers.⁹ It represents the stage of social science research, reflecting the purpose for which the study was conducted. These research stages and purposes are summarized in Table 1. *Research methodology* was adapted from an earlier taxonomy by Caldwell.¹⁰ The categories of this taxonomic variable reflect general methods of inquiry used in the social sciences. *Method of empirical analysis* was based on Gordon, Rogers and Agarwala-Rogers, and Vogel and Wetherbe.¹¹ This variable applied only to studies that used empirical observation. The categories of this variable range from case study to controlled field experiments. Each category of the taxonomy represents increasing internal validity.¹² *Focus* is a dichotomous

FIGURE 1

Distribution of 1975 - 1984 PAR Articles by Subject Matter

variable which distinguishes whether the study was oriented toward theory building or problem resolution.

Results

Descriptive characteristics of research. Figures 1 through 5 present bar charts for research by subject area, source of research support, stage, methodology, and methods of analysis. The distribution of research by topic, as shown in Figure 1, confirms the broad distribution of research in the field. No topical area accounts for more than 20 percent of research, but six areas represent more than 10 percent each: administrative theory, public management, public policy, planning, personnel, and finance. Though the data are not shown in the figures, 80 percent of research was problem oriented rather than theory oriented.

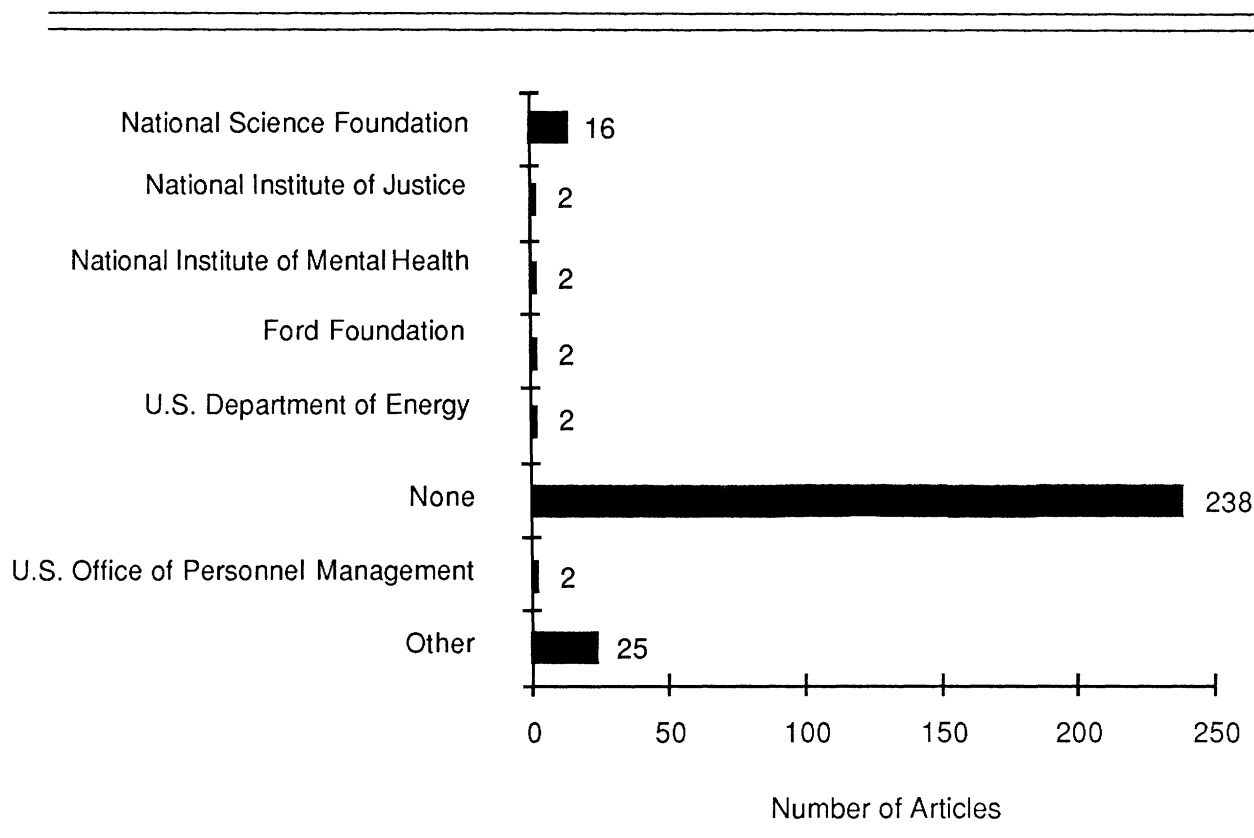
The low levels of research support are apparent from Figure 2. Eighty percent of the articles failed to identify sources of institutional support. The most important category of sponsorship was "other" which consisted

primarily of research funds provided to faculty by their universities. The National Science Foundation supported the largest amount of published research, but it was identified in only about five percent of the articles.

Most articles reported research at an early stage of development, as reflected in Figure 3. Seventy percent of the articles dealt with either problem delineation or variable identification. Although over 20 percent of the articles focused on the relationships among variables, only about five percent of the research was conducted at the three most advanced stages.

Figure 4 indicates that the general research methodologies are essentially restricted to logical argumentation, legal briefs, or empirical analysis. Methodologies often associated with interpretive or critical theory, i.e., historical or descriptive approaches,¹³ were infrequently represented. Mathematical models or comprehensive literature reviews were employed in less than three percent of the articles. Somewhat surprising is the relatively large proportion (52 percent) of empirical research. Figure 5 indicates, however, that a large share of this

FIGURE 2

Sources of Research Support Reported in 1975 - 1984 *PAR* Articles

empirical research was of the case study variety (37 percent) and that much of the rest was cross-sectional (52 percent). Very little empirical research involved field experiments, structural equations, or longitudinal studies.

Changes in research methodology over time. As a means for identifying changes in public administration research methodology, the data were categorized into two five-year periods, 1975-1979 and 1980-1984. The broad distribution of research by topic during these two periods did not change appreciably, but shifts occurred in the importance of research topics (Table 2). Administrative theory, citizen participation, planning, and personnel all declined in significance as a proportion of total research. Finance, intergovernmental relations, and public policy increased significantly as focal areas for research.

Few differences for the two periods were found for research sponsorship or research stage. In contrast, general methodologies changed significantly, with much greater emphasis on empirical analysis from 1980-1984. The increase is accounted for almost entirely, however, by expansion in use of case studies (Figure 6).

Discussion

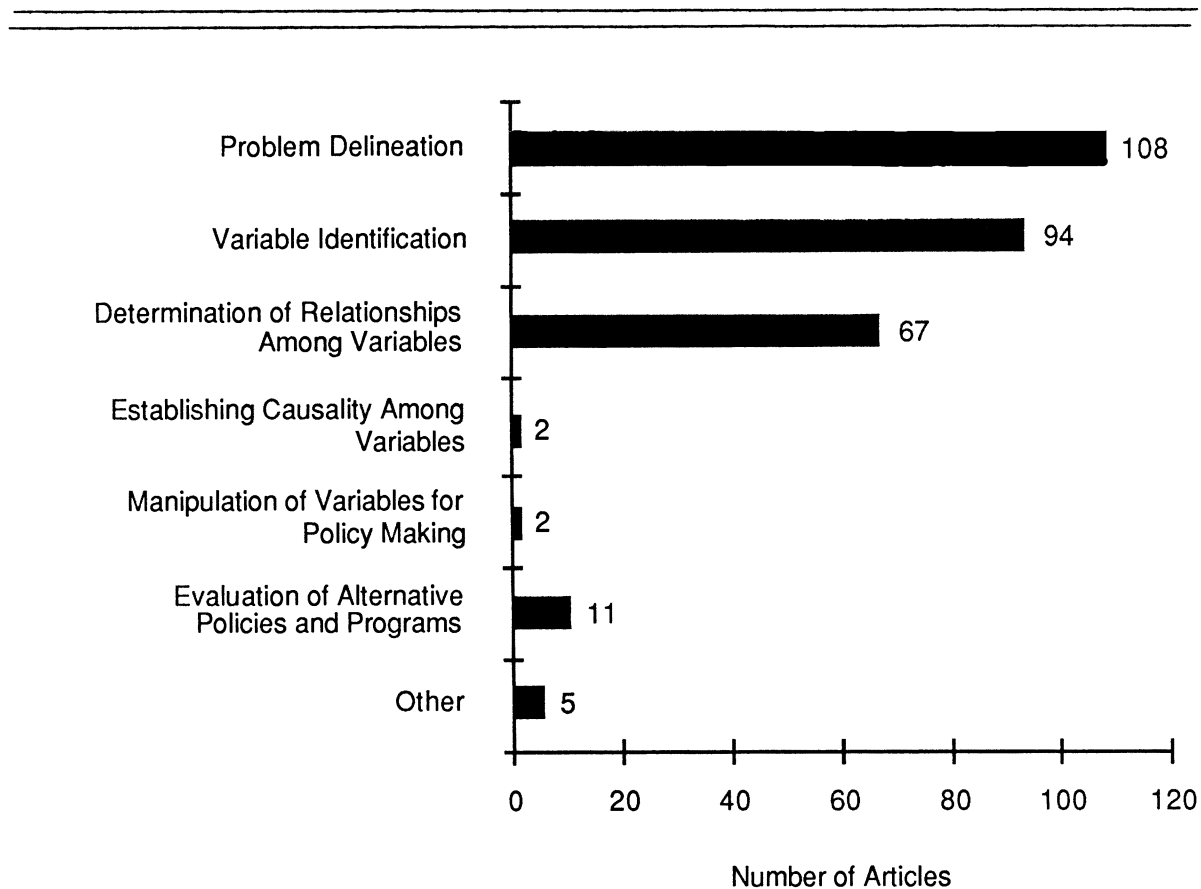
A question raised by this analysis of *Public Administration Review* articles is the extent to which this

evaluation of the state of research methodology is generalizable to the field as a whole. Other public administration, political science, and management journals which deal with public administration research have not been included in the database. However, given that *PAR* is a publication of the major professional society whose goal is to advance the art and science of public administration, it is reasonable to assume that strengths and weaknesses of the field are reflected in it.

We think it is useful to note the factors that led us to choose *PAR* research articles for this analysis. First, *PAR* has been recognized as the major public administration journal among political scientists as well as public administration scholars.¹⁴ Second, *PAR* research articles are peer reviewed. This process assures that articles meet broad professional standards. Third, program prestige ratings are highly correlated with publications by faculty in *PAR*. In their study of reputation and productivity of public administration programs, Morgan, Meier, Kearney, Hays, and Birch,¹⁵ found the coefficient of determination between reputation and publication in *PAR* was around .65. This statistic testifies to the prestige of *PAR* among academics in the field.

While some might argue for a more inclusive sample, we believe that a purely random sample would produce similar results. As evidence, we cite the substantive correspondence between the original analysis of doctoral dissertations by McCurdy and Cleary and the reanalysis,

FIGURE 3

Distribution of 1975 - 1984 PAR Articles by Research Stage

based on a broader sample, by White. Moreover, we explicitly excluded political science journals such as the *American Political Science Review* and the *Political Science Quarterly* precisely because they are mainstream political science journals and not mainstream public administration journals. Finally, we believe that adding data from other public administration journals, such as the *American Review of Public Administration* (formerly the *Midwest Review of Public Administration*) and the *Public Administration Quarterly* (formerly the *Southern Review of Public Administration*), would not appreciably alter (and may worsen) the picture drawn from *PAR* data.

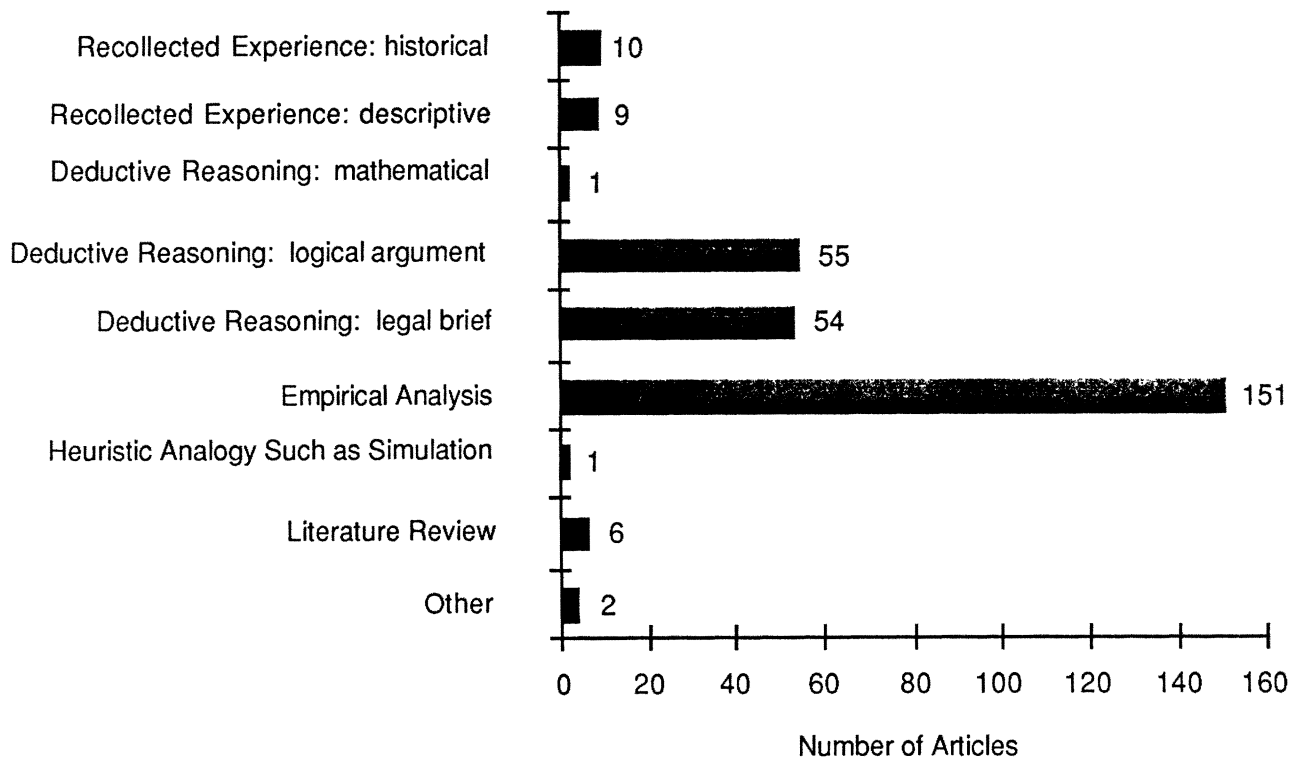
Admittedly, *PAR* is not a mirror image of public administration research. It has a dual set of objectives aimed simultaneously at communicating with practitioners and advancing the science of the field; and this dual set of objectives obviously has implications for the content of *PAR* articles and the representation of research methodologies published in the journal. Beyond serving these professional goals of the Society, editorial policy during this period may have had some effect on the content; for example, editorial policy might have been aimed at achieving some kind of

balance between academic and practitioner articles. Therefore, generalizations from this research must be made with appropriate caution.

With these cautionary and explanatory notes in mind, we believe three evaluative statements can be drawn from the foregoing findings about public administration research. First, public administration research is primarily "applied" rather than "basic." Nearly three-fourths of the articles dealt with either problem delineation or variable identification; less than one-fourth dealt with theoretical relationships among variables. Moreover, the research lacks detachment from immediate and instrumental concerns. Most of the articles reporting on empirical research were of either the case study or cross-sectional survey variety; few articles involved field experiments, structural equations, or longitudinal studies. Finally, the underlying purposes of doing research tend to be problem oriented, which limits development and testing of empirical theory. Eighty percent of the articles in *PAR* were problem rather than theory oriented. Problem-oriented research tends to reduce the chances that the conditions for sound theory will be met.¹⁶

Second, public administration research has not been

FIGURE 4

Distribution of 1975 - 1984 *PAR* Articles by General Research Approach

cumulative. Both the methodology and the stage reflected in public administration literature indicate that research is not cumulative. Figure 4 shows that only two percent of the articles are literature reviews of empirical research. Moreover, our personal reading indicates that much of the literature provided only citation reference to previous research and did not seriously engage the linkages between the current article and prior or contemporary research.

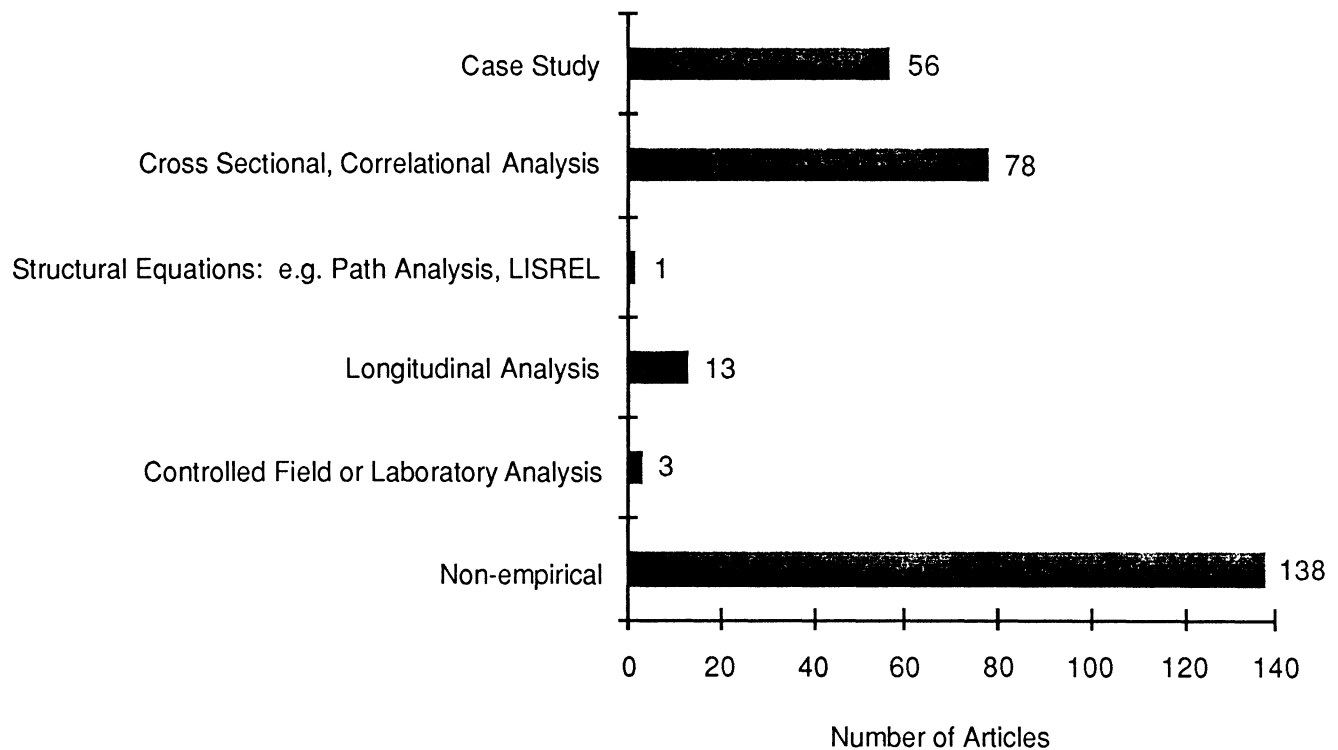
Further, relatively few public administration scholars pursue research actively or pursue research issues to advanced stages of development. There are over 200 public administration programs in the United States. Yet, 51 percent of the authors affiliated with academic institutions were from only 22 universities; and 20 percent were from 6 universities. Few authors in the sample are consistently represented, i.e., five or more articles in 10 years. These findings are in line with White's findings that few public administration dissertations are published. Only 17 percent of the 142 dissertation authors in 1981 published refereed articles based on these dissertations.¹⁷ It appears, therefore, that research is not a high

value for either individual faculty, doctoral students, or public administration programs.

Third, public administration research lacks adequate institutional support (university and extramural funding, organized research institutes, collaborative groups, external rewards). The primary indicator of support for research was financial. Eighty percent of the articles failed to identify sources of financial or other institutional support. We believe this omission is not due to poor reporting, journal policy, or author ingratitude. Rather it is an indicator of the low level of such support. To compare the level of support for public administration research with another professional field, we analyzed reported support for articles published in the *Academy of Management's* two publications, the *Review* and *Journal*, for calendar year 1984. From a total of 105 articles, 40 percent acknowledged some type of support, 22 percent reported receiving extramural support and another 18 percent received assistance from their universities. This is twice the proportion of articles in *PAR*.

Thus, given the assessments above, we find ourselves

FIGURE 5

Distribution of 1975 - 1984 PAR Articles by Methods of Empirical Analysis

in basic agreement with Fritz Mosher,¹⁸ who, 30 years ago in a review of research methodology in public administration, wrote:

The field has not channeled its research efforts; its scope of interest seems unlimited; it has not developed a rigorous methodology; it has been pretty blasé about definitions; it has not agreed on any paradigms or theorems or theoretical systems; it has not settled on any stylized jargon or symbols; with a very few experimental exceptions, the field has not been modeled or mathematized into an 'adminimetrics.'

In order to advance the status of research methodology in public administration, we believe several changes are necessary:

1. Focus on core issues in public administration. As noted above, public administration is a remarkably diffuse field encompassing contributions from many disciplines. It is also a relatively "small" field, in terms of scholars pursuing its study, when compared with similar fields such as business administration. Public administration, therefore, may need to focus the scope of its scholarship if progress is to be made in understanding phenomena within its general domain. Two core issues could provide this focus:

The study of characteristics that distinguish public administration from other administration. This could be attacked as both an issue of political philosophy and as an empirical issue. An approach based on political philosophy would concentrate, as suggested by Woodrow Wilson, on those "public purposes" which define public administration.

Political-administrative system interface. The second anchor we propose for a redefined public administration core is the study of phenomena at the interface of the political-administrative system. Among the issues that would be the object of research given this definition of legitimate concerns are: (1) responsiveness or non-responsiveness to the political system; (2) legitimacy of the administrative system in carrying out its politically-mandated functions; (3) legislative oversight of administrative agencies; (4) representativeness of administrative agencies; and (5) administrative reform, e.g., civil service reform for increasing the responsiveness of administrators to both the executive and the public.

Criteria of research significance. As a compliment to focusing public administration research on core issues, more attention needs to be given to doing cutting-edge research. Both of the analyses of abstracts of doctoral dissertations in public administration arrived at the

TABLE 2

Comparison Between 1975-1979 and 1980-1984 Distribution of Articles by Subject Area

Subject Matter	Number of Articles		
	1975-1979	1980-1984	Total
Administrative Theory	18	16	34
Public Management	13	23	36
Citizen Participation	9	6	15
Public Policy Making	9	42	51
Planning	20	16	36
Accountability	4	10	14
Personnel	15	17	32
Finance	6	24	30
Intergovernmental Relations	4	11	15
Urban and Regional Government	1	3	4
State Government	1	1	2
Federal Government	4	0	4
Other	8	6	14
Total Number of Articles	112	175	287

same conclusions—most dissertations did not reflect good judgments about timely and important research. Although the dialogue about criteria for defining and evaluating the significance of a research topic to the field has not advanced to the stage of producing agreement about such criteria, the development and application of standards about research significance would be a major stride in public administration research methodology.

2. Institutionalize research. It is apparent that public administration research is very much a product of norms and incentives institutionalized within the field. Substantial advancements in research methodology can occur if new norms and incentives are legitimated. These changes would need to include:

Upgrade the importance of research in faculty roles.

At the micro level, considerable progress can be made by better developing the capacity and incentives for public administration faculty to do high caliber research. For existing faculty, vehicles such as the Inter-university Consortium on Political and Social Research (ICPSR) summer program could be used to upgrade faculty research skills. Faculty incentives can be influenced by institutionalizing research as a promotion and

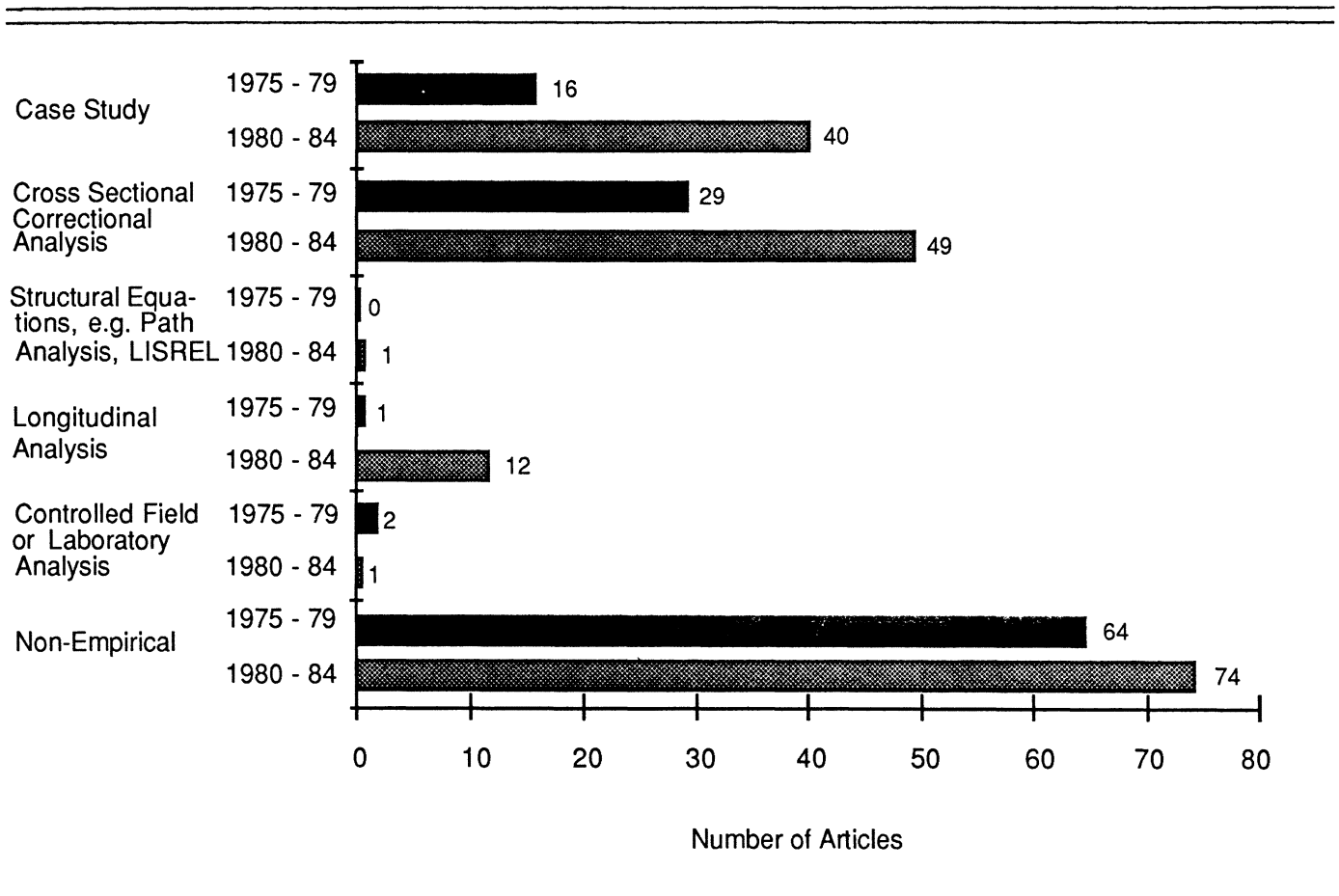
merit criterion. The faculty tenure and promotion policies of individual universities could be significantly reinforced by NASPAA's adoption of standards which defined research as a faculty responsibility and required that PA faculty be substantially engaged in teaching, service, and research prior to accreditation. A recent study by Joseph Uveges indicated that NASPAA standards have had a modest impact on MPA curricula and program autonomy.¹⁹ Thus, some evidence indicates that the leverage of NASPAA standards might contribute to institutionalizing research.

Increase importance of PhD programs in schools of public administration. A change related to upgrading faculty research roles involves increased emphasis on research-oriented PhD programs. After reviewing abstracts for 142 doctoral dissertations written in 1981, McCurdy and Cleary²⁰ concluded that weaknesses in public administration research methodology were partly a function of inadequacies in doctoral-level research training.

Develop research unit-PA program ties. An expanded emphasis on the value of research would be greatly facilitated by stronger ties between formal research units and public administration programs. Universities considering creation of public administration units

FIGURE 6

Comparison Between 1975 - 79 and 1980 - 84 Distribution of Articles by Methods of Empirical Analysis



should give serious consideration to funding research units at high levels relative to the instructional programs, for example, one-half the program resources. This objective would be advanced by seeking to upgrade the role of governmental research bureaus so that they respond to local needs but in the context of general research interests within the field.

Increase funding for public administration research. Without financial resources, adequate research about public administration cannot occur. This is an issue that needs to be resolved collectively by the profession and leading public administrators. The National Academy for Public Administration might initiate a dialog with Congress about the needs for and benefits from research on public administration. Given the scale of the modern administrative state and its centrality in society, Congress might consider creation of a National Institute along the lines of the National Institutes of Health. Within the current fiscal climate such proposals would appear to be inopportune, but the scale of problems of modern public administration could easily justify a moderate amount of earmarked funds likely to repay the initial investment in a few short years.

3. Specific methodological improvements. In addition to changing incentives and norms, specific improvements are needed in research methods used by public administration scholars.

More extensive use of meta-analysis. One of the most important of these changes involves steps to make research more cumulative. Kronenberg's²¹ earlier call for a public administration proposition inventory was one means for dealing with this problem, but it has not been implemented in the 15 years since it was suggested, probably because it was dependent on a large-scale, collaborative effort. An alternative means for making research cumulative is wider use of meta-analysis. Meta-analysis refers to the set of methods used for cumulating knowledge across studies. These methods include literature reviews, counting statistically significant findings, and averaging results across studies.²² Also, the empirical analysis indicated that literature reviews were reported relatively infrequently in *PAR*, and few studies advanced to mature stages of social science research. Both of these findings suggest the need for more attention to meta-analysis. An ancillary benefit of greater use of meta-analysis is that it can also be valuable for

integrating results across different academic fields, which is a particularly important objective for an interdisciplinary enterprise such as public administration.

Case study methodology. Case studies have been stereotyped as a "method of last resort," "exploratory," and an "attractive nuisance."²³ Given these critical views about case study methodology, it might be appropriate to call for a significant reduction in the use of case studies in public administration research. Instead, we believe case studies will continue to be a popular method given the subject matter of the field and, furthermore, that a call for abandonment of case studies fails to consider a revisionist view that has developed in the past decade.²⁴ Although major improvements still need to be made in case study research, recent refinements in the conduct of case studies have increased their validity.²⁵ Considering their widespread use in the field, public administration scholars might undertake further refinements in the case study methods as a means for enhancing public administration research and generally contributing to development of social science methods.

Qualitative methodologies. Another specific area for improvement is the use of qualitative methodologies within public administration. A grasp of qualitative methodologies is becoming increasingly important as "interpretation" and "rhetoric" regain prominence and respectability in the social sciences.²⁶ The empirical analysis confirmed public administration's already strong preference for qualitative research, albeit a diminishing one, but it also questioned the adequacy of the researcher's grasp of the tools and craft associated with qualitative methodology. There has been a small explosion of materials in recent years about qualitative research,²⁷ and public administration scholars need to become both more proficient practitioners of this craft and contributors to the advancement of these methods.

Advanced quantitative methodologies. The call for better qualitative methodology is not a slap at its opposite number—more appropriately its complement—quantitative methodology. Although the empirical analysis indicated a significant increase in the amount of quantitative research in public administration, the techniques used were primarily confined to simple correlation and linear regression analysis. This represents an advance in the field's application of quantitative techniques, but public administration still lags behind other social sciences in the application of advanced statistical techniques. Thus, public administration scholars need to make more substantial use of causal analysis, structural equation models, and longitudinal statistical methods and to develop working competence with new statistical methodologies sooner after they become available to social scientists than they do currently.

Two examples of advanced statistical techniques that would significantly enhance opportunities to investigate research questions characteristic of the field are Box-Jenkins time series models and covariance structural modeling. Box-Jenkins is a technique for modeling changes in a time series of data to test the effects of

specified interventions. Although it has not yet been widely applied, it has already been used to study such issues as the policy implications of economic change and the effects of the CSRA merit pay intervention on organizational performance.²⁸

Covariance structural modeling, commonly known as LISREL,²⁹ is a causal data analysis technique that is much more powerful than path analysis, which became popular in the 1960s. LISREL permits simultaneous estimation of the relationship between observed measures of latent independent and dependent variables. LISREL has begun to appear with increasing frequency in sociology and management journals for research problems involving social and individual behavior.

Some attention needs to be given not only to specific techniques which might be integrated into the field, but also to how those techniques are acquired by students and scholars. An earlier study of empirical research in public administration and political science found a high degree of methodological stability over time. Scholars kept using familiar, traditional approaches rather than learning new methods.³⁰ Thus, the field needs to develop support systems, for example, research workshops and doctoral consortia at professional conferences, to facilitate learning. Such support systems are equally applicable and necessary for public administration scholars interested in positive, interpretive, or critical research modes to develop and stay abreast of appropriate research methodologies. Quite clearly such steps are only a partial answer. However, they are not only necessary for moving the field to the forefront, but for improving average research craft in public administration.

Conclusion

Even if all the suggestions outlined above could be implemented instantly, it would take several years before their consequences would be noticeable. However, while some of our suggestions require collective or institutional action, many can be implemented by individual scholars in the routine practice of their craft. For example, individual scholars can stay with research issues over the long term, improve the methodologies associated with case studies, and increase the application of more advanced statistical methodologies appropriate to the problems of public administration. The acceptance of these suggestions by the public administration community could serve to advance both the science and the art of public administration.

* * *

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Negotiating (Ablex, 1985), *The Dynamics of Computing* (Columbia University Press, 1985), *People and Computers*, and *The Politics of Modeling* (Columbia University Press, forthcoming).

Appendix Codebook for Analysis of *PAR* Articles, 1975-1984

Variable 1 Year (1975-1984)

Variable 2 Volume (35-44)

Variable 3 Number (1-6)

Variable 4 Title

Variable 5 Author(s)

Variable 6 Institutional Affiliation(s)

Variable 7 Topic

1. administrative theory/bureaucracy/organizational theory
2. managerial roles/public management
3. citizen participation/representation
4. public policy making/policy analysis/policy evaluation
5. planning/administrative systems
6. accountability/responsiveness/public interest values
7. personnel
8. other
9. budgeting/finance
10. intergovernmental relations
11. urban and regional government
12. state government
13. federal government

Variable 8 Source of Research Support

1. National Science Foundation
2. Office of Naval Research
3. National Institute of Justice
4. National Institute of Mental Health
5. Ford Foundation
6. U.S. Department of Energy
7. None Indicated
8. Other
9. U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Variable 9 Research Stage/Purpose

1. problem delineation
2. variable identification
3. determination of relationships among variables
4. establishing causality among variables
5. manipulation of variables for policy making
6. evaluation of alternative policies and programs
8. other

Variable 10 Research Methodology

1. recollected experience: anthropology
2. recollected experience: historical
3. recollected experience: descriptive
4. deductive reasoning: mathematical
5. deductive reasoning: logical argument
6. deductive reasoning: legal brief
7. empirical analysis (inductive inference)
8. other
9. heuristic analogy such as simulation
10. literature review

Variable 11 Method of Empirical Analysis

1. Case study
2. Cross sectional, correlational analysis
3. Structural equations: e.g., path analysis, LISREL
4. Longitudinal analysis
5. Controlled field or laboratory analysis
6. Not applicable
8. Other

Variable 12 Focus

1. Theory building or mostly theoretical
2. Problem resolution or mostly practical

Notes

1. Luther Gulick, "Science, Values, and Public Administration," in Luther Gulick and Lyndall Urwick (eds.), *Papers on the Science of Administration* (New York: Institute of Public Administration, 1937), pp. 191-195.
2. See, for example, the classic debate between Dahl and Simon: Robert H. Dahl, "The Science of Public Administration: Three Problems," *Public Administration Review*, vol. 7 (Winter 1947), pp. 1-11, and Herbert A. Simon, "A Comment on the 'Science of Public Administration'," *Public Administration Review*, vol. 7 (Summer 1947), pp. 200-203. Waldo and others have continuously engaged research in public administration: Dwight Waldo, *The Administrative State*, 2nd edition (New York: Holmes and Meier, 1984); Vaughn L. Blankenship, "Theory and Research as an Act of Faith," *Public Administration Review*, vol. 27 (September 1967), pp. 262-271; John C. Honey, "Research in Public

- Administration: A Further Note," *Public Administration Review*, vol. 17 (Autumn 1957), pp. 238-243; and Robert P. Biller, "Research and the Public Sector: Choices for NASPAA," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, Portland, Oregon, October 15, 1982. Most recently, see: Howard E. McCurdy and Robert Cleary, "Why Can't We Resolve the Research Issue in Public Administration?" *Public Administration Review*, vol. 44 (January/February 1984), pp. 49-55; and Jay White, "On the Growth of Knowledge in Public Administration," *Public Administration Review*, vol. 45 (January/February 1986).
3. Abraham Kaplan, *The Conduct of Inquiry* (San Francisco: Chandler, 1964).
4. David G. Garson and Samuel E. Overman, *Public Management*

- Research in the United States* (New York: Praeger, 1983).
5. McCurdy and Cleary, *op. cit.*
 6. Jay White, "On the Scope and Method of Dissertation Research in Public Administration," address to the Doctoral Research Roundtables at the 1985 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, Miami, November 1, 1985, revision published in this issue of *PAR*.
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