

## Editorial from the Incoming Editors: Setting out

Louise Knight and Wendy Tate

A transition in the editor team at the Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management (JPSM) occurred on January 1, 2016. We are honoured to have been selected to fill this prestigious position. This brief editorial addresses some of the facets of the transition and our thoughts regarding the Journal as we move forward. First, we wish to thank George Zsidisin and Alessandro Ancarani for their diligent work during their six-year tenure as Editors in Chief. They further developed the Journal, significantly building its contribution to the field and its international reputation.

Much has changed in the academic environment since the Journal was launched more than twenty years ago, and yet there is notable consistency of focus and direction between our predecessors: Richard Lamming (Founding Editor), Christine Harland, Finn Wynstra, George Zsidisin and Alessandro Ancarani. We aim to maintain the direction and the upward trajectory of the quality and standing of the Journal.

### JPSM Foundations and Development

The Journal was founded to focus on purchasing and supply management (PSM) when supply chain management was a little known concept. Now, PSM and SCM receive much more attention, and the field of PSM is evolving rapidly, both shaping and being shaped by SCM. We will continue to emphasize the Journal's key foundation of publishing purchasing and supply management research that yields both theoretical and managerial implications. We will continue to be open to diverse research questions and methodologies. We will continue to gradually enhance the quality of articles published, and work to build the reputation of the Journal.

We will be focusing on continuous improvement in all aspects of publishing at the Journal, including reviewing and editing manuscripts, and procedures for timely processing from submission through to publication. Constructive and timely comments from knowledgeable reviewers are essential in assuring that JPSM is the journal of choice for purchasing and supply management academics.

Overall, we believe that the journal is in very good shape. Four issues per year are being published, more articles are being submitted from around the world, and the acceptance rate has continued to decline making the journal more competitive with other prestigious journals in the supply management area. Its reputation continues to climb, thanks to the work of previous editors, associate editors and reviewers.

### JPSM Vision and Ethos

JPSM will stay true to its founding purpose and continue to focus on purchasing and supply management in its broadest sense. It is, and will remain, a niche journal, but niche only in terms of the specialist content, not in terms of the community of researchers it serves. We realize that the majority of our contributors (including the authors, reviewers, and editorial team) identify with the supply chain management discipline. However, the JPSM community also has links

with many other disciplines such as industrial marketing, organization studies, public administration, innovation management and human resource management. We strongly value and want to enhance these links by supporting interdisciplinary research with implications to researchers and practitioners in supply management. We welcome submissions from researchers from any discipline who undertake research in the PSM setting and who wish to engage with the community of scholars publishing in JPSM.

Continuing on the current upward trajectory means aiming for measured growth in the quality and quantity of manuscripts submitted, and published. We will prioritise quality, considering originality, rigour and significance, and seeking both academic and managerial significance. This will be followed by a focus on quantity by targeting regions that are currently under-represented (including China, parts of Scandinavia, and Latin America). Currently we are continuing an agnostic approach to researchers' perspectives, methodologies and methods, and levels and units of analysis; however, the issue of rigour will be diligently scrutinized!

JPSM has enjoyed a long association with the International Purchasing and Supply Education and Research Association (IPSEERA), including publishing a special issue of papers from the annual conference. We appreciate the value of this relationship and will work to sustain, and indeed enhance, it. We will also seek wider policy level engagement with other academic and professional associations in the PSM field, such as the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP), the Institute for Supply Management (ISM), the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), the International Federation of Purchasing & Supply Management (IFPSM) and others. These links will be vital in helping promote the quality of publications, and facilitating efforts to ensure relevance and impact, for theory and practice.

### **Setting out topic boundaries and priorities**

We welcome all submissions which:

- are relevant to purchasing and supply management, broadly defined
- are rigorous
- have 'significance', with both academic and managerial relevance

In some cases, we would consider a purely theoretical contribution, but it would need to demonstrate exceptional significance and originality. Based on manuscripts submitted since January and our past experience editing and reviewing for JPSM and other journals, there are some clear boundaries to the scope of PSM for this journal, and other boundaries which are more tentative. A list of 'boundary topics' to indicate what we consider to be in scope, or out of scope is shown below. This is for guidance only, and can be expected to evolve:

- logistics: trucks are 'out', but 3PL contracting – for example – is 'in'
- operations management: internal OM is out; external, upstream OM is in; external upstream and downstream is also in scope
- operations research – pure OR papers are unlikely to meet the criteria outlined above. However, we welcome mixed methods studies.
- (intra)organization studies, organizational behaviour and human resource management – all are of interest where they concern people, teams, departments interfacing with the supply base. This includes those who influence supply management, not just professionals and departments specifically identifying with PSM.
- marketing – business-to-business marketing research is in scope, where the research takes a dyadic or market level perspective

- public policy, business systems and strategy – all are relevant to JPSM where they concern how organizations or groups of organizations interface with their supply base, whether for routine operations, or innovation and development

Manuscripts addressing these boundary topics will provide welcome novelty and innovation. They are also expected to demonstrate authors' engagement with relevant prior research in purchasing and supply management, and closely related fields such as supply chain management. Authors need to be explicit about how their contribution relates to ongoing debates within the PSM community.

Currently there are some 'hot topics' that are considered priorities, and for which we particularly welcome papers reporting highly relevant and impactful research. Areas of thought leadership include:

- Location decision (reshoring, offshoring, nearshoring, outsourcing)
- Sustainability and development issues, including supply management in emerging economies
- Financial implications (supply chain finance, total cost, cost issues, currency and financial flows, resource scarcity)
- Risk and resilience
- Innovation and supply management, especially in emerging commercial sectors and in the context of public procurement
- Evolution and shaping of supply markets
- Ethics, transparency and corruption in procurement
- Services supply chain
- Purchasing integration with other functions (e.g. Engineering and Logistics)
- Performance metrics
- Network design, measurement and management

## Invitations to Contribute

### Manuscripts

JPSM has a well-established reputation for taking a broad based perspective, with articles demonstrating a wide range of methodologies. We want to build on this, and promote innovation, encouraging new links with other research communities, cross-sectoral/cross-functional/inter-disciplinary research and methodologically innovative research. As indicated, we will always welcome research manuscripts across a wide variety of levels and units of analysis from individual people, through teams, functions, organizations, to supply relationships, chains, markets and networks, and other interorganizational systems (business systems).

If researchers are not sure if their work is within JPSM's scope for topics or research approach, please contact an EIC or Associate Editors. The Associate Editor team is recently much expanded; their names and affiliations are shown on the Journal website. All in the team are willing to discuss options and help to move research forward in a way that adds value to the discipline.

### Special Topic Forum

Having only 4 issues per year, one of which is the IPSERA conference special issue, leaves little space for other special issues, and until now there has been one themed special issue per 18-24 month. In the future, we will favour 'special topic forums' – part of an issue with 3 or 4

articles. Contributions will still be sought through a call for papers. Anyone interested in guest editing a special topic forum should contact us with a brief proposal for a call.

#### Notes and Debates Articles

In addition to regular articles, JPSM publishes a second category of contribution – *Notes and Debates* – “for contributions on, for example, research methodology, research agenda, and critical review of literature and current issues. We welcome manuscripts whose structure, style or length may be unconventional by JPSM norms, or which may be provocative or controversial, so long as they are also well argued and well written.” (Wynstra & Knight, 2004). Such contributions have an important place in extending the field, promoting innovation and enhancing academic discourse. We expect to have more *Notes and Debates* articles in future. For example, the forthcoming ‘Novel Methods’ special issue (call for papers published in JPSM 20(3)) will include several such contributions from methodological experts. Ideas about novel theories might also be the subject of a *Notes and Debates* article. We welcome innovative suggestions.

#### Book reviews

Suggestions for book reviews are also welcome, and should be addressed to the new Book Review Editor, Lieven Quintens (Maastricht University, The Netherlands). In addition to PSM books, including textbooks, reviews could be of:

- high profile books reviewed from PSM perspective
- management books from other disciplines which could influence PSM thinking
- books relevant to PSM academic community on research method or pedagogy

#### Reviewing Manuscripts

Last, and by no means least, we invite academic colleagues interested in joining the pool of ad-hoc reviewers for the Journal to contact us.

We recently returned from the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual IPSERA conference, the first we have attended as Editors of JPSM. The many conversations there with colleagues who contribute papers, and who serve as reviewers, Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Review and Editorial Advisory Boards demonstrated the considerable support there is for the Journal. We appreciate everyone’s contributions to JPSM’s past and future development, and look forward to serving the PSM community as we lead the Journal towards its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### REFERENCES

Wynstra, F., & Knight, L. (2004). JPSM—foundations and future development, 2004–2007. *Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management*, 10(6), 227-231.