

## Special Issue: Call for Papers



### Special Issue

Navigating Academic Life: Insights, Challenges, and Opportunities

### Guest Editors

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Higher education in the U.S. continues to be in transition. Any given issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education may reflect on the broader reasons for these changes – shifts in demography, encroaching neoliberal economic policy, technology, market needs, etc. – and the subsequent impacts they have on the Academy and academic life (e.g., economic restructuring, movement towards contingent faculty, new expectations of the Professoriate, online teaching and competing with MOOCs). In this respect, it is important to investigate how these broader trends are influencing and transforming the leisure field.

We are pleased to announce a special issue of *Scholar: A Journal of Leisure Studies & Recreation Education* that focuses on the academic profession within the field(s) of parks, recreation, tourism, and leisure, seeking studies that examine both the evolving administrative/human resource issues, as well as research that investigates the realities of academic life in the leisure field. This special issue emerges from the 2016 TALS Teaching Institute Conference's *Growing up Academic* panels, which were designed to highlight common challenges and best practices at multiple stages of the academic career – ranging from graduate school to life after tenure. Based off of panel discussions, this issue will create a unique forum to extend that conversation, inviting contributions that focus on an array of topics impacting those of us engaged with the Academy. Potential topics may include:

- Leadership succession planning (e.g., department heads, journal editors, professional associations)
- The challenges facing contingent faculty/the experience of contingent faculty (e.g., non-tenure track adjuncts, lecturers, part-time instructors)
- Impacts of political, social, and economic policy (e.g., neoliberal, regulatory/protectionist) on hiring and retaining quality faculty within the leisure field
- Administrative challenges with regard to the shift towards contingent faculty (e.g., departmental/organizational culture; securing funding lines for faculty; maintaining quality of teaching and/or research)
- Challenges and opportunities facing new scholars in the leisure academic field: finishing graduate school, negotiating the job market/landing an academic job, and getting started on the tenure track
- Challenges and opportunities for increasing diversity among faculty and students in the leisure field

- Achieving tenure and promotion amidst changing demands and expectations of faculty and departmental performance
- Professional development of scholars within the leisure field; best practices in graduate programs to prepare students for success in the leisure field
- Life after tenure
- Best practices with regard to assessing and evaluating faculty performance
- Challenges related to a work-life balance among leisure academics
- Strategic planning in the face of socio-economic and cultural trends that may influence or transform the leisure field
- Reflecting on the past, anticipating the future of the leisure field; considerations of the viability of the leisure field situated within the broader changes in higher education

Evidence-based (e.g., qualitative, quantitative) manuscripts are prioritized. This special issue also invites theoretical pieces and case studies that highlight significant challenges and considerations that affect the development of academic professionals and/or examine the notable trends in the leisure field.

Commentaries and position papers from faculty who are currently, or have previously been, engaged in administrative positions/duties are welcomed.

### **Important Dates**

Deadline for expression of interest: January 5, 2018

Deadline for manuscript submission: May 15, 2018

Feedback/review decisions for submitted manuscripts: July 31, 2018

Final resubmission for accepted manuscripts: September 30, 2018

Anticipated publication: Early 2019

### **Expressions of Interest**

Please submit an expression of interest (200 – 300 words) to Dr. Mariela Fernandez ([marielf@clemson.edu](mailto:marielf@clemson.edu)) outlining the following: a) Title of proposed paper, b) Contributing authors affiliations and contact details, and c) Summary of the proposed manuscript that outlines the purpose, contribution/ significance, and relevance to the special issue. Expression of interest will be reviewed on a rolling basis until January 5, 2018.

All manuscripts submitted will undergo a double-blind peer-review process and should adhere to the Author Guidelines as outlined by *Scholar* (<http://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/nrpa-journals/>). Manuscripts will be submitted to *Scholar*'s online manuscript submission and review system (website available on/before January 2018).