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Editorial: A Call for Research

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Editorial: A Call for Research

History is being made. Yes, it's always being made; you can't stop it. Bill Buckley couldn't. But this is different. Our entire social welfare system is under review, with the intent of some to totally dismantle it.

Now is the time to monitor what's going on. The Editorial Board of *JSSW* has instructed me to commission from our readers a Special Issue, a double one if we can collect enough articles, to document what is happening under the new administration.

So, get cracking. What is the issue dearest to your heart? What theories explain how it works and how it might be changed? Collect baseline data and decide the best way to monitor change.

We don't need anti-Trump polemics, or pro-Trump polemics, should there be any out there. We don't need prophecies of doom. We need cool, gimlet-eyed, carefully measured research. If you're a qualitative researcher, we need warm, rich description, but equally cool analysis of what people are experiencing.

We may fear the worst, but we need to be open to the possibility that some good things may happen. We may discover, perhaps, that our programs and institutions are more resilient than we thought. We may discover that assault has actually strengthened them. We may discover that they needed to be shaken up to work better. We may discover that we can actually do without some of them.

But, we can't just sit by and watch in horror. We have a professional obligation to find out what is going on and report it.

Bob Leighninger, Editor