



# A Historical Approach to Innovative Teaching Strategies

25 Years of Teaching Public Administration Conference Presentations

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# Agenda

- Background of TPAC
- Previous research
- Research questions
- Conference data
- Current conference
- Challenges
- TPAC Database
- Summary

# Background of TPAC

- 3 friends & a patio conversation
- First conference – May 5-6, 1978 (Kansas City, MO)
- Not your mama's conference!
  - “Kiosk” concept
  - Sharing vs. presenting
  - Product of the participants
- Hosted by local universities

# (1978) Five Organizing Rules

- A free standing entity whose future would be dependent on the interests of the participants, not an institutional agenda.\*
- Be small enough to allow for a maximum interchange between participants
- Designed to maximize written and oral interaction
- Beyond day one (1<sup>st</sup> Annual) the conference would belong to the participants
- We have fun

\*Linda Wolfe: "Looking Back – A Decade Later" Conference Proceedings: 10th Annual Teaching Public Administration Conference

# Conference Locations (1979-2015)



Red stars: 2 conferences

# Previous Research

- Build on previous research:
  - Manns, E.K. & Streib, G. (1990). Sifting through the past: A ten-year perspective on the annual conference on teaching public administration. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 13(3): 415-433.
  - Yeager, S.Y. (1990). Trends in teaching public administration: A view from the proceedings of the national conferences on teaching public administration. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 13(1&2): 279-303.

# Manns & Streib

- Content analysis of 352 papers
  - 1978-1987
  - Authorship, subject areas, target audiences, contributions to cumulative knowledge base, type of presentation, number of citations
- Finding: little has been done to build a cumulative knowledge base about teaching public administration
- Suggestions:
  - Promote greater cooperation between TPAC & SPAE
  - Index & market past 10 years' papers
  - Highlight issues that need attention in future conferences

# Yeager

- Research question: “What trends exist in research on teaching public administration?”
  - Content analysis
  - Extends Manns & Streib’s research by 2 years
  - Added more topical categories
  - Explored the issue of lack of cumulative knowledge



# This Study

1. Update the previous research with the past 25 years' worth of TPAC presentations
  - Trends, type of presentation, number of citations
  - Innovative teaching strategies
2. Look at relationship of 38<sup>th</sup> TPAC to past conferences
  - Availability of cumulative knowledge
3. Researchable database

# Classifying the Categories

- Teaching Methods
- E-learning & Technology\*
- Core Competencies
- Specific Courses
- MPA Curriculum
- Program Administration
- International\*
- PA Issues\*
- Review of papers, abstracts, slides or titles
  - Identified major topics and sub-categories

\* Added to Yeager's classifications

# Categories/Topics

- Teaching Methods

- Case studies, simulations, experiential learning, service learning, critical thinking, team teaching, films, collaboration, etc.

- E-learning & Technology

- Innovations not specific to a course

- Core Competencies

- Relates to NASPAA Standard 5, Market Demands, curriculum

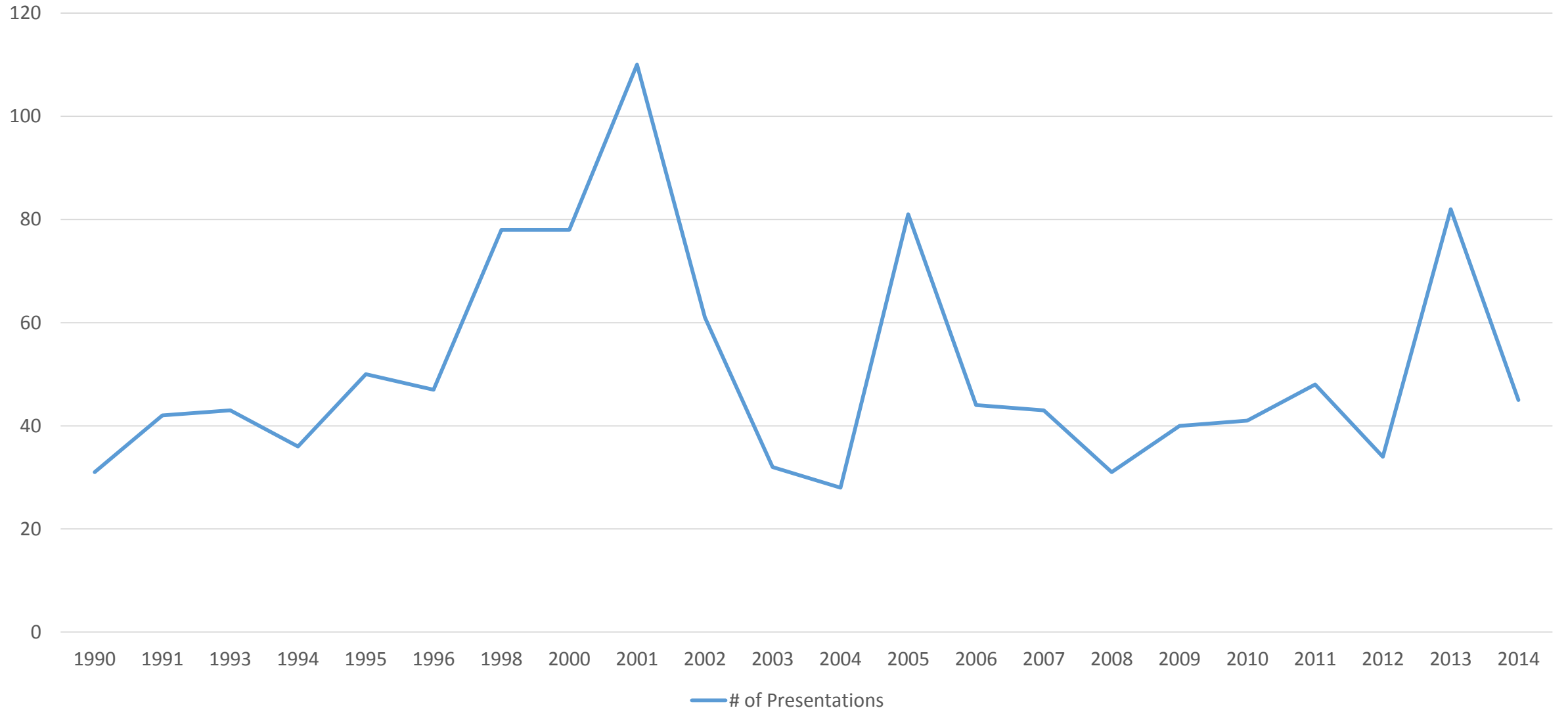
# Categories/Topics

- Specific Courses
  - Innovation for existing, proposed content for one or more, textbooks
- MPA Curriculum
  - Social equity, capstone, outcomes assessment , interdisciplinary studies, globalization, concentrations
- Program Administration
  - Faculty development, internships, advising, admissions, benchmarking, off-campus programs

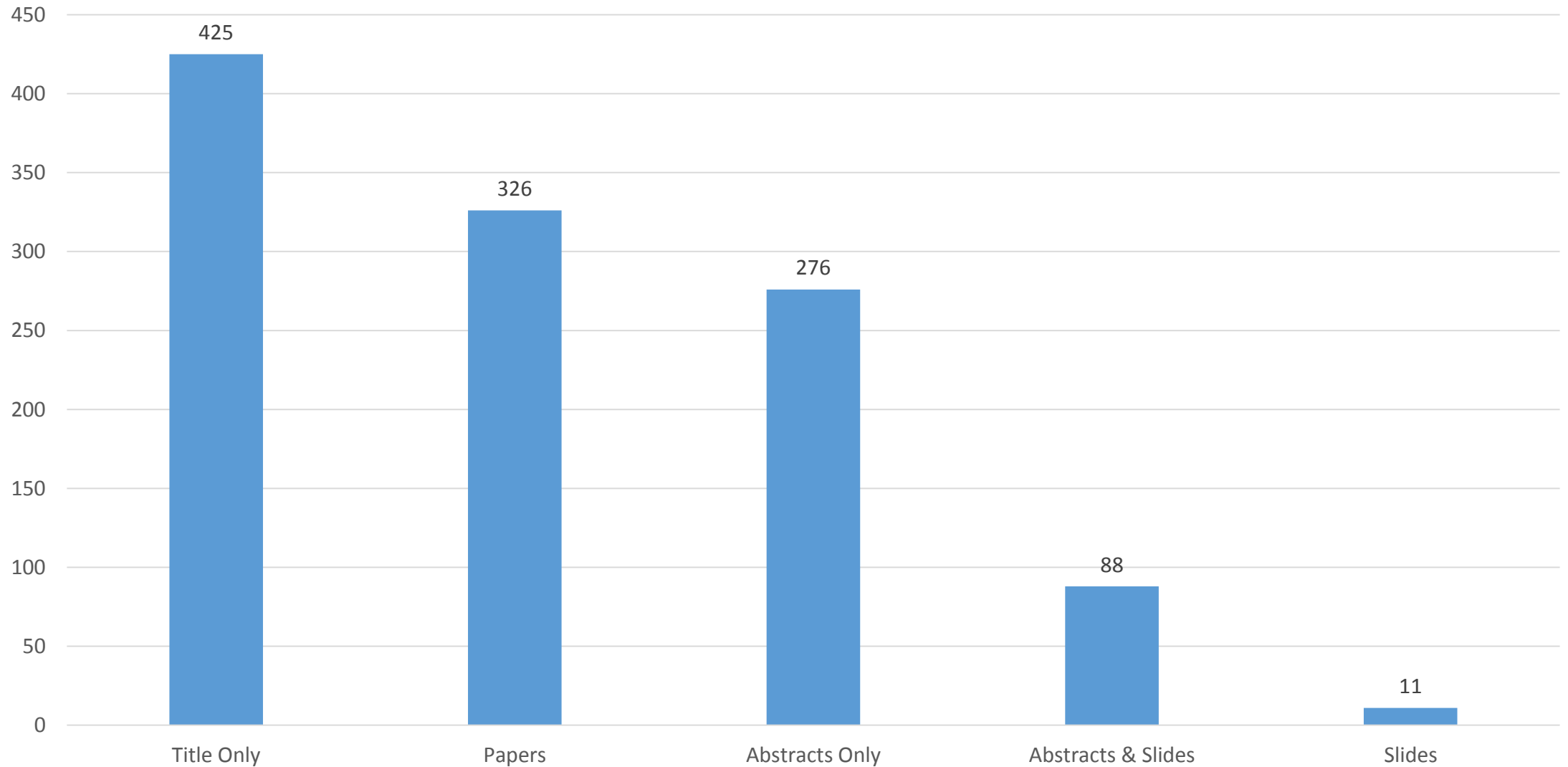
# Categories/Content

- International
  - Programs in other countries, managing international students
- PA Issues
  - Studies relating to the field of PA not directly related to other categories

# Number of Presentations

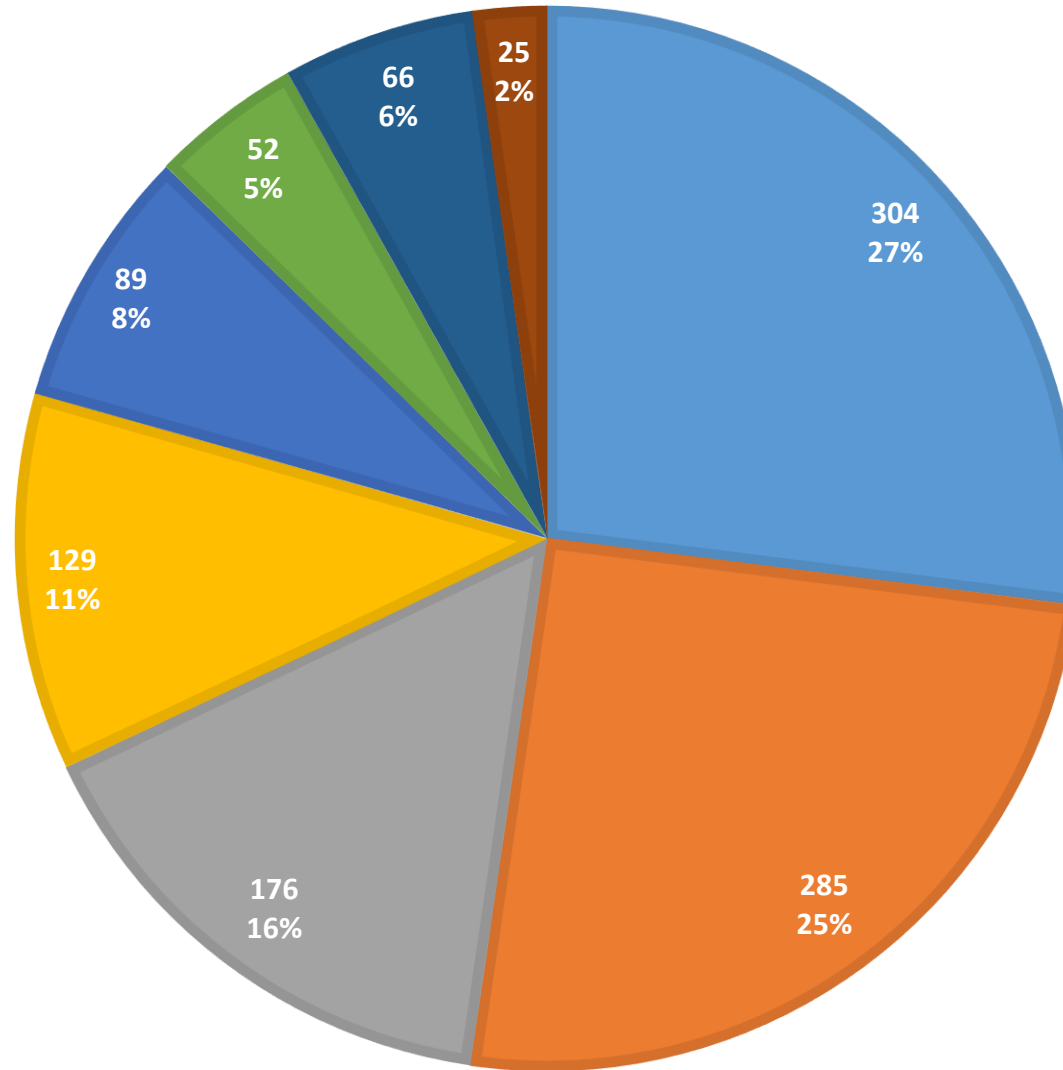


# Source of Data



n=1126

# By Category (1990 – 2014)



- Specific Courses
- Teaching Methods
- MPA Curriculum
- Program Administration
- e-Learning & Technology
- PA Issues
- International Programs
- MPA Core Competencies

n=1126



# Major Topics within Categories

PA Issues	Austerity, civic engagement, community service, public service motivation, spirituality
Methods	Case studies, diversity, learning styles, simulations, action learning, classroom tools, critical thinking, distance learning, experiential learning, reflective writing
International	Accounting reforms, international perspectives, India, United Kingdom
e-Learning	Distance learning, evaluation, technology

# Major Topics within Categories

Curriculum	Applied learning, capstone, competencies, interdisciplinary, outcomes assessment, research, social equity
Courses	Budgeting, ethics, leadership, organizational theory, public policy, research methods
Core Competencies	Assessment, curriculum, NASPAA standards
Administration	Accreditation, assessment, diversity, faculty development, internships, student evaluations

# Major Topics Across Conferences

<b>Topic</b>	<b># of Presentations</b>
Ethics	28
Service learning	27
Research methods	24
Public policy	24
Simulations	23
Case study	23
Assessment	20
Total	169 (15% of Total)

# Innovative Teaching

- “...process leading to creative learning, the implementation of new methods, tools and contents which could benefit learners and their creative potential.”
  - Ferrari, A., Cachia, R., & Punie, Y. (2009). Literature review on Innovation and Creativity in E&T in the EU Member States. Retrieved from <http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>
- “...the use of new and diversified ideas, methods or strategies and activities by teachers to understand students’ individual differences, facilitate active learning and the development of students’ creative potential, stimulate their learning interests and improve learning effectiveness in the teaching and learning processes.”
  - Zhu, C., Wang, D., Cai, Y. & Engels, N. (2013). What core competencies are related to teachers’ innovative teaching?. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education*, 41(1): 9-27.

# Innovation Categories

- Presentations in Methods, Courses, & eLearning/Technology (1990 – 2014)

Type	#	%
Papers	209	30.9
Abstracts and Slides	34	5.0
Slides	7	1.0
Abstracts	171	25.2
Titles Only	256	37.9
Total	677	100

# 1990-2014 Presentations

- 209 papers
  - 9 years (1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2005 & 2006)
- Citations:
  - Papers with citations: 204 (98%)
  - Papers with references to previous TPA conferences: 11 (5%)
    - Manns & Streib: 25% with citations; 5% citing previous conferences

# 38<sup>th</sup> TPAC

- A look at the relationship of 38<sup>th</sup> TPAC to past conferences
  - The availability of cumulative knowledge
- The availability of a researchable database

# 2015 Presentations by Category/Topic

- **Administration (7)**

- Citizenship/Community (1)
- Curriculum (1)
- Fiscal constraints (1)
- Insights from Teaching Research (3)
- Undergraduate PA (1)

- **Courses (3)** (*Innovative Teaching Category*)

- Research Methods (1)
- Quantitative Methods (2)



# 2015 Presentations by Category/Topic

- **Curriculum (5)**

- Behavioral Economics (1)
- Ethical Leadership (1)
- Leadership (1)
- Outcomes Assessment (2)

- **E-Learning and Technology (2)** (*Innovative Teaching Category*)

- Building Community (2)

# 2015 Presentations by Category/Topic

- **Teaching Methods (13)** (*Innovative Teaching Category*)
  - Bilingual Education (1)
  - Collective Intelligence (1)
  - Experiential Learning (4)
  - Films (1)
  - Oral Arguments (1)
  - Simulations (2)

# Topics 1990 - 2015

## Courses

Topic	Total Nr	Papers	Abstracts & Slides	Abstracts	Slides	Topic
Research Methods	20	7	1	2		10
Quantitative Methods	10	2		4		4

## E-Learning & Technology

Topic	Total Nr	Papers	Abstracts & Slides	Abstracts	Slides	Topic
Building Community	2					2

# Teaching Methods

Topic	Total Nr	Papers	Abstracts & Slides	Abstracts	Slides	Topic
Bilingual Education	0					
Collective Intelligence	4	2	1			1
Experiential Learning	7	3		1		3
Films	3				3	
Oral Arguments	0					
Simulations	21	8		6	1	6

# The Question

- **Are we really being innovative or just failing to build on lessons learned?**
  - 2015: 18 “Innovative Teaching” topics presented
    - Number of previous papers (1990-2014):
      - Simulations – 8
      - Research Methods – 7
      - Experiential Learning – 3

# Thoughts

- Being able to build on the lessons learned presents some challenges:
  - Difficult to determine based on available data
  - Full papers (high value) are not required for TPAC
  - Abstracts and slides (medium value) are required for TPAC but need to continue to be archived
- TPAC archives are now available on the SPAE web site

# TPAC Archives

- SPAE Web Site - <http://www.spae.aspaonline.org/>



The screenshot displays the website for the Section on Public Administration Education (SPAE). The navigation menu on the left includes links for ASPA HOME, JOIN ASPA/SPAE, CODE OF ETHICS, SPAE FACEBOOK, 2015 TPAC, SPAE MINUTES, SPAE CHARTER, and TPAC ARCHIEVES. A blue arrow points to the TPAC ARCHIEVES link. The main content area features a 'WELCOME' heading and a paragraph describing the SPAE's mission and activities.

Section on Public Administration Education

WELCOME ABOUT US CONFERENCES

(SPAE)

ASPA HOME

JOIN ASPA/SPAE

CODE OF ETHICS

SPAE FACEBOOK

2015 TPAC

SPAE MINUTES

SPAE CHARTER

TPAC ARCHIEVES


## WELCOME

The Section on Public Administration Education (SPAE) contributes to the professional development of practitioners and academics by: increasing awareness of public administration educational issues; providing a forum for information exchange among members in regard to innovative curricula and pedagogical approaches across a wide range of topics; fostering a relationship between ASPA and the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*; sponsoring the annual Teaching Public Administration Conference; and offering competitive scholarships to attend the annual ASPA conference. Those interested in the professional development of public administrators and public

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## Teaching Public Administration Conference (Archives)

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<a href="#">About</a>	<p><i>The purpose of the conference is to promote excellence in teaching through shared experience and research. It also serves as a source of expertise for professors, administrators, students and practitioners.</i></p>
<a href="#">History</a>	
<a href="#">Reflections</a>	
<b>Archives</b>	
<a href="#">2010-2015</a>	<p><i>This site documents the history of the National Teaching Public Administration Conference also referred to as TPAC. The first conference was in 1978 in Kansas City, MO and has been meeting every year since that date. This site contains conference proceedings, programs, and presentations. The conference is associated the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Section on Public Administration Education (SPAE).</i></p> <p><i>The site is "a work in progress" as information eight of the past 37 conferences is still needed. (See information needed link)</i></p> <p><i>To view conference information, click on the Archives links for the years indicated. Conference information will appear in PDF format.</i></p>
<a href="#">2000-2009</a>	
<a href="#">1990-1999</a>	
<a href="#">1980-1989</a>	
<a href="#">1978-1979</a>	
<a href="#">Index of All Presentations</a>	



# TPAC Archives

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## TPAC INDEX - 2010-2015

38th Annual Conference - June 3-5, 2015  
Franklin University  
Columbus, Ohio

[Conference Proceedings \(to be added\)](#)

37th Annual Conference - June 9-11, 2014  
University of Liverpool  
Liverpool, UK

[Conference Proceedings](#)  
[Index of the Program with Presentations and Photos](#)


36th Annual Conference - June 1-3, 2013  
University of San Francisco School of Management  
San Francisco, California

[Conference Program](#)  
[Conference Proceedings](#)  
[Index of Presenters - With Abstracts & Some Presentations](#)



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	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Year	Source	Presenters	Topics	Topics	Categories
2	2014	Abstract	Wankhade	Ambulance service and health inequalities: an exploratory study	Ambulance Service	PA Issues
3	2014	Abstract	Chouhan	Public Sector Management - Volunteers managing Volunteers	Volunteers	PA Issues
4	2014	Abstract	Falconer	Responding to Austerity: Challenges and Prospects for the Management of Museums	Museums	PA Issues
5	2014	Abstract	Werner	Civic Engaged Learning Study	Civic Engagement	Methods
6	2014	Abstract	Filipova	Is the Poster Session an Effective Teaching Tool for Developing Healthcare Leaders?	Poster Sessions	Methods
7	2014	Abstract	Killian	Teaching and Learning in an Age of Austerity: The Importance of Being Authentic	Impact of Austerity	Methods
8	2014	Abstract	Heckman	What to Expect When You're Expecting... to Go Virtual: My Experience Designing	Online Challenges	Administration
9	2014	Abstract/PF	Jones/Murphy	Appraising local financial and fiduciary management in the UK: A strategic sta	Financial Management	PA Issues
10	2014	Abstract/PF	Greenhalgh/M	Assessing the New Fire and Risk Management Framework for the Republic of	Risk Management	PA Issues
11	2014	Abstract/PF	Connelly	Crisis Management in the Context of Multi-Level Governance: Politico-bureau	Crisis Management	PA Issues
12	2014	Abstract/PF	Ayres	Examining the role of 'informal governance' in shaping inter-governmental rel	Informal Governance	PA Issues
13	2014	Abstract/PF	Clarke	Fire services, accountability and the 'new governance'	Accountability	PA Issues
14	2014	Abstract/PF	Quinn	Ireland's public administration in a regime of austerity: coping and hoping	Austerity	PA Issues
15	2014	Abstract/PF	Alcock/Taylor/	Relying on Reservists? The Government's Strategic Defence and Security Revi	Reservists	PA Issues
16	2014	Abstract/PF	Rosener	Teaching Public Administration in an Age of Austerity: Librarians and Hybrid	Austerity	PA Issues

# Summary

- We presented a classification of TPAC presentations by category given over a 25 year period
- We showed the relationship of the papers being presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and the number of previous presentations on the same topic over the past 25 years
- We highlighted the researchable database on the SPAE web site

# TPAC 2015

FRANKLIN  
UNIVERSITY



# Backup Slides

## (1978) Three Founding Assumptions\*

- Teaching is challenging work that requires an enormous amount of energy and commitment,
  - Because of the way academics are rewarded, it receives little formal attention and nurturing
- We can significantly benefit from exchanging information on content, presentation styles, course design good texts, etc.
- Having the opportunity to talk about our teaching activities can produce unintended and stimulating results

\*Linda Wolfe: “Looking Back – A Decade Later” Conference Proceedings: 10th Annual Teaching Public Administration Conference