Gabriel G. Rudney Memorial Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Nonprofit and Voluntary Action Research

to

Noah Jacobsen Isserman

for

Venturing into Public Good: from Venture Capital to the Creation of State-supported Venture Philanthropy and its Implication for Third Sector Financing

In his dissertation, *Venturing into Public Good: from Venture Capital to the Creation of State-supported Venture Philanthropy and its Implication for Third Sector Financing*, Noah Isserman focuses on the transfer and translation of private sector principles and practices to the third and public sectors. To this end, his work examines the emergence, operational practices and institutional arrangements of two British venture philanthropy organisations, carefully selected following a review of the full British venture philanthropy fund landscape. The first of these, the Impetus Trust, was the initial pursuer of a venture philanthropy approach in the UK; it is considered archetypal and has been a key driving force in European venture philanthropy. The second, Inspiring Scotland, pioneered venture philanthropy in Scotland and was the first joint government venture philanthropy organisation.

Taking a mixed-method approach, combining archival research, semi-structured interviews and surveys, as well as quantitative analyses, the work offers a new, multi-faceted picture on venture philanthropy. Highlighting that privately- and publicly-funded venture philanthropy takes on similar roles as venture capital in the private sector, the work points to benefits as well as inherent tensions, limitations and dangers in each of the venture philanthropy models presented by the two cases.

Enriching and strengthening theory, conceptualisations and practice of venture philanthropy, the work is particularly important in that it takes a holistic perspective that draws in the voices and experiences of recipients of venture philanthropy, and explores the changing role for governments as co-funders and co-producers of venture philanthropy. Overall, this dissertation is an important contribution to the field and a very worthy co-recipient of the Gabriel G. Rudney Memorial Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Nonprofit and Voluntary Action.

The members of the 2019 selection committee are: Steven Rathgeb Smith, chair (American Political Science Association and Georgetown University), Elizabeth Bloodgood (Concordia University), Tobias Jung (University of St. Andrews), Heather MacIndoe (University of Massachusetts, Boston), Lili Wang (Arizona State University)
Gabriel G. Rudney Memorial Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Nonprofit and Voluntary Action Research

to

Cassandra Margot Chapman

for

Toward a Triadic Understanding of Charitable Giving: How Donors, Beneficiaries, Fundraisers, and Social Context Influence Donation Decisions


Her multi-method study employs surveys, experiments and thematic analysis and draws on diverse samples from 117 countries, to show that charitable giving is triadic, relational, and contextualized. Dr. Chapman finds that, consistent with the social identity approach, donors prefer to support charities that align with their social groups in meaningful ways. Donors are more likely to reference the self when explaining giving to religious and research charities, but are more likely to reference the other (i.e., beneficiary) when explaining giving to social service, animal, or international charities. In addition, political advocacy affects charitable giving by changing donor emotions, perceptions of efficacy, and identification with beneficiaries. Finally, when fundraisers identify more with their nominated charity they take more actions to raise money and that, in turn, results in more funds raised.

This dissertation advances research on charitable giving by integrating diverse streams of research on charitable giving into a new conceptual model of the “charitable triad”. Decisions about donations are informed by a triad of actors—donors, beneficiaries, and fundraiser—the relationships between them, and the wider social context. This work contributes to several areas where Gabe Rudney made significant research contributions, including examining patterns of giving, policy and charitable giving, and international research.