



ISTR Asia Pacific Regional PhD Seminar
April 22-23, 2025
Cebu, The Philippines

Hosted by the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), University of the Philippines-Diliman
in partnership with the College of Social Sciences, University of the Philippines-Cebu

Deadline to Apply: November 15, 2024

Call for Applications

The International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR), in collaboration with the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), University of the Philippines-Diliman and the College of Social Sciences, University of the Philippines-Cebu, will host a seminar for PhD students from any country at all stages of their doctoral research in topics directly related to the Third Sector, i.e., civil society, the nonprofit sector, philanthropy, social economy, social investment, third sector social innovation, corporate social investment and volunteerism, among others.

ISTR will cover the cost of shared room accommodation for 2 nights and meals during the PhD Seminar. Approximately 20 doctoral students will be accepted.

About the PhD Seminar

ISTR hosts PhD Seminars in conjunction with its biennial international and regional conferences. The aim of the workshop is to provide doctoral students with:

1. the opportunity to receive extensive intellectual and methodological advice on their research from peers and scholars,
2. to introduce them to main theories and developments in the field,
3. to reflect upon publication and career strategies, and
4. to provide an opportunity to network with scholars within the international ISTR research community.

The central focus of the seminar will be on the research of the individual students. Applicants are to submit an abstract outlining their doctoral topic, methodology, and methods to be applied for their research project. During the seminar, the students' research projects are discussed in parallel small working groups. Participants will be grouped thematically, but the group composition will be heterogeneous in terms of concrete research topics, disciplinary background, research stage, method, and regional affiliation.

The seminar will also include workshops with presentations on professional development topics by leading scholars.

Application guidelines

A maximum of 20 doctoral students will be accepted. Past participants of ISTR Seminars are welcome to apply. Students must be currently enrolled in a university and must be able to attend the entire PhD Seminar and Regional Conference. The PhD Seminar is expected to start in the morning on April 22, 2024 and conclude mid-day April 23, 2025. The Regional Conference begins immediately thereafter. PhD Seminar participants are expected to arrive the evening of April 21, 2025.

ISTR will cover the cost of shared room accommodation for 2 nights and meals during the PhD Seminar.

Accepted students must become members of ISTR and register and attend the Regional Conference.

To apply to the PhD seminar, please complete the online form

<https://www.istr.org/page/APPhDSeminar> before November 15, 2024:

Applicants will be asked to upload two documents and complete one task.

1. Upload an abstract of your research topic to be shared with the other participants. Abstracts should be min. 500 – max. 800 words and must include as much as you can of your research questions, theoretical framework, methods, results if applicable, bibliography (partial ok), keywords, and your name. **Please ensure that the abstract makes a direct connection to the field of Third Sector and Civil Society-related studies.**

At the bottom of your abstract, please include 1-3 issues, key questions or challenges you are facing in progressing with your doctoral research. These questions will help the other participants target their feedback for you. In thinking about these questions, please consider academic questions related to theory, literature review, methodology, as well as non-academic questions related to your life as a doctoral student, including questions about dealing with your advisor, your institution, networks, networking, and career development.

2. Upload a document confirming your status as a doctoral student. **We prefer this document be a letter from your faculty advisor or other university official, and we encourage them to include a statement of personal recommendation** as well as specific information about how participation in the PhD seminar would benefit your doctoral studies and a statement of financial support the university is able to provide in support of your participation in the PhD Seminar.

3. Prepare a brief description (100-150 words) of **your motivation to participate** in the ISTR PhD Seminar. Please also use this space to provide additional detail/clarification on information requested in the application or in the letter from the advisor/university

ISTR will consider all applications that are complete and meet the eligibility criteria. In line with ISTR's mission to build a global community of scholars and subscribe to the values of diversity and pluralism, participants in the ISTR Asia Pacific PhD Seminar will be representative in terms of gender and region, as well as disciplines and stages in the PhD process.

For further inquiries, please contact Megan Haddock, Director of Programs, mhaddock@istr.org

Selected applicants will be notified before January 15, 2025 (if not sooner).