

The International Society for Third-Sector Research is an international and multidisciplinary scholarly association to promote research and teaching about the Third, Voluntary, or Nonprofit Sector.

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Editors-in-Chief Appointed to *Voluntas*

The board of ISTR is pleased to announce the appointment of Ruth Simsa and Taco Brandsen as editors-in-chief of *Voluntas, International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, beginning on January 1, 2016. As the official journal of the Society, the board welcomes two editors for the first time following a search by the Editorial Search Committee.



Ruth Simsa

The journal has grown significantly in the past few years under the leadership of the current editor, Bernard Enjolras. In 2014, the journal began publishing six issues per year and continues to receive a growing number of submissions. During the tenure of Enjolras as editor, the journal became indexed in ISI and has an impact factor that continues to increase. *Voluntas* is now ranked as number 20 of 39 social issues journals.

The newly appointed editors will focus on increasing the journal's contribution to strengthening the academic standing of the Society and the scientific development of the field of Third Sector Research. Accordingly, the new editor's mission is to continue a high degree of pluralism, both in disciplinary and regional aspects.



Taco Brandsen

They note, "As the Third Sector, also the community of Third Sector researchers is very pluralistic and heterogeneous. Thus the tradition of pluralism is very important for the accomplishments of *Voluntas*. As a vital basis for its uniqueness and its high significance within the community --the tradition of pluralism needs to be maintained into the future." This focus includes a commitment to a broad approach regarding content and an enhancement of the multidisciplinary orientation as well as increasing attention to regional diversity.

Ruth Simsa is Professor at the Institute for Sociology and Empirical Social Research of Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). From 2000 to 2013 she has also been scientific head of the Nonprofit and Social Entrepreneurship Competence Centre at WU, since 2013 she is deputy head of the Centre. Simsa has also worked as a consultant and management-trainer in profit- and nonprofit-organizations.

Her research has focused on civil society and social movements as well as societal functions and the management of third sector organisations, and on impact

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ISTR 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Stockholm, Sweden • Ersta Sköndal University College
28 June – 1 July 2016

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear ISTR Colleagues,

I would like to start this very first column by saying how honored I am that you have chosen me to represent our scholarly association ISTR for the next two years. ISTR has been accompanying my professional life since the early 1990s when I participated in the first international ISTR conference in Pécs, Hungary. Since then, I have worked for ISTR in various functions, amongst those as member of the Academic Committee, chair of the Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award and host of the last international conference in Münster, Germany. Moreover as a member of the ISTR-Board, I am looking forward to fruitful board discussions.

Against the background of these experiences, I am in the position to truly underline that there is something special about ISTR. Close co-operation based on trust and friendship that goes far beyond our academic routines constitutes one of ISTR's key characteristics which makes our organization special and distinct and sets it apart from many other scholarly associations. From my point of view, this very special culture of ISTR has much to do with the field and topics of research we are working on. Nonprofit-organizations, civic engagement, philanthropy and hence civil society as the umbrella concept under which many of the aforementioned features may be grouped are the areas of the expertise of ISTR and the association's membership. Not self-interest but reciprocity constitutes the underlying rationale of many initiatives and concepts that are researched and analyzed by ISTR-members. The goal of finding non-state and non-market solutions for societal problems constitutes a further underlying principle of our research. Therefore, we are neither in favor of highly competitive approaches of problem solving in the sense of the "survival of the fittest," nor we are aficionados of top-down, power-based and bureaucratic solutions for current challenges. Moreover, if you like, civiness as a key-concept and rationale of a specific human behavior, might be translated into non-violence. For ISTR and its members one of the normative underpinnings of scholarly investigation is working on behalf of societies that are peaceful and in which violence is not perceived as a legitimate tool of problem solving.

Since the beginning of ISTR more than twenty years ago, "doing the right thing," research and scholarly investigations that might help to make the world better and that might contribute to the democratization of societies, has been a strong incentive as well as point of reference for our research community. And indeed, when ISTR first started to operate perspectives used to be very bright and promising. On purpose, the first ISTR international conference took place in Hungary. It was right after the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and the end of the so-called Soviet bloc. Civil society, the point of reference of our association, seemed to on the move almost anywhere. Prospects were bright and widely shared was the belief that through social capital, civ-



Annette Zimmer

ic activities and citizen participation, we might envision a world in which societal solutions come first, conflicts are solved peacefully and the economy works on behalf of the people and not exclusively for shareholders.

More than twenty years later, ISTR is faced with a thoroughly changed environment. In international relations and politics, the civil society approach with its high emphasis on peaceful conflict solution seems to be an old fashioned relict of former times. Violence and cruelty in the name of whatever "strong leader" are back on the international agenda. Some of us might have thought that international civil society might be in a position to hinder atrocities and to stop genocides. Doubtlessly, we had to recognize that civil

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

society has even less battalions than the Pope. But also with respect to national politics, there is no success-story to be told. Civil society, nonprofit –organizations and philanthropy are supposed to work in the direction of fostering social cohesion and are perceived of making our modern societies participatory and more equal. However, the outcomes of the last twenty years in terms of societal development tell a very different story. In many countries around the world, social cohesion is significantly endangered. The gap between the very rich and the poor has continuously been widening in the last decades. Gentrification and the development of so-called guided or protected communities whose inhabitants set themselves apart from the shabby rest of the city are on the advance in the majority of cities worldwide. Due to the overall trend of marketization, many commodities and social services, such as the supply of clear water, or access to housing and education have been changed to marketable products that are no longer accessible for everybody.

Against this background, ISTR has to position itself firstly as a scholarly association that primarily fosters research and facilitates the advancement of knowledge in the field of nonprofit and civil society studies; however, secondly ISTR should be aware of its specificity and therefore also position itself as a community of researchers who share norms and values and a belief-system underlying democracy, participation and civiness in terms of human dignity and non-violence. For sure, comparatively we are a very small scholarly association. One should not expect too much of us. But, if we start working on our impact we might, nevertheless, be in a position to accomplish a lot.

Field-building has ever been a central topic of our purpose. We should continue to give the broadening and intensifying our scholarly community a key priority. This translates into the further establishment and promotion of sustainability of the ISTR-regional networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The outreach to our membership by facilitating scholarly exchange and close co-operation in theme specific affinity groups constitutes a further important approach of establishing the field despite those many and aforementioned negative trends and developments. Investing in the future by supporting young scholars affiliated with the ISTR PhD-network to be able to do research on civil society and nonprofit organizations also provides us with a tool to

strengthen our scholarly community. The regional and first and foremost the biennial international conferences provide us with forums not only to discuss our research but also to build up and intensify existing networks of scholarly collaboration and exchange of ideas. With the support of the newly elected Board of ISTR it is my strong desire to make these conferences as accessible as possible for all members of our research community. For sure, ISTR should not follow a neo-liberal approach of developing into a research association to which only members of the most affluent countries around the world have access.

We have also to step outside ISTR by becoming more visible as a scholarly association and by building up our brand as a very knowledgeable association when it comes to issues and topics related to civil society, civiness and nonprofit service provision. We will work together and collaborate with other scholarly associations in the field that share the same purpose and work in a similar direction. A strategy of trying to give the field more visibility vis-à-vis a very disperse set of stakeholders, amongst those foundations, international organizations, national ministries, the business community and possibly representatives of the media, might be a necessary and useful approach for safeguarding our position in the near future.

The Board of ISTR will invest in strategy development. The discussion has already started and first results will be reported at the upcoming Board Meeting this year in July which is scheduled right before the regional conference of the Latin American network in San Juan and Ponce in Puerto Rico. I see it as my duty to keep you –the ISTR-membership –posted and online concerning the next steps of the task force and the ISTR Board at large. Furthermore, I am looking forward to welcoming many of you at the upcoming regional conferences in Puerto Rico, Tokyo, and Accra, Ghana. ■

Best regards,



Annette Zimmer

President

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Editors-in-Chief Appointed to *Voluntas*

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and impact measurement. She is author and editor of several books including the handbook on nonprofit organisations that has recently been published in the 5th edition and is part of the basic literature of nonprofit-research in German language. Recently, she has been the leader of the Civicus project Assessment of the Austrian Civil Society, she is leading the project “Civil society and the Organisation of Protest Movements – the Spanish Case” and is part of the European FP7-project “Third Sector Impact.”

Simsa studied economics at Vienna University of Economics and Business and Sociology at the Institute for Higher Studies, Vienna. For her habilitation on functions of nonprofit-organisations she received the Senator Wilhelm Wilfling-Prize for scientific achievements. Besides that she is a teaching trainer for Group Dynamics and Consulting at the Austrian Society for Groupdynamics and Organisational Consulting. Amongst other affiliations, she is member of the editorial board of *Voluntas* and of the Senior Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Civil Society*. She is board member of the NPO-Institute Vienna and of Educult Institute for Cultural Policy and Management.

Taco Brandsen is Professor of Comparative Public Administration at Radboud University Nijmegen. His research has focused on the interplay of third sector and the state, e.g. co-production of citizens in the delivery of services and the collaboration between non-profit organisations and governments. Over the past years he has been editor of various special issues and books, including a special issue in *Voluntas* on co-production (2012) a special issue on state-third sector relationships (*Public Management Review*, 2014), the edited

volumes *Manufacturing Civil Society* (Palgrave, 2014) and *Social Innovations in the Urban Context* (Springer, forthcoming).

He received masters degrees in Public Administration and in English Literature from Leiden University and a PhD in Public Administration from Twente University, for which he won the Van Poelje Award for the best dissertation on public administration in The Netherlands.

He is currently coordinator of the project WILCO (Welfare Innovations at the Local Level (2010-2014, www.wilcoproject.eu) on social innovation; Vice President for Europe of the International Research Society on Public Management (IRSPM); Director of the International Master Programme on the Coordination of Transition (IMPACT), supported by a consortium of the Universities of Budapest, Ljubljana and Nijmegen; Steering Committee member of the European Group of Public Administration (EGPA); board member of the EMES Research Network and a member of the Dutch Association for Public Administration.

In addition, Brandsen is co-editor of the Palgrave Series, *Governance and Public Management* and member of the editorial board of the Nomos book series, *European Civil Society*.

He has been part of several notable international projects on the third sector, including the Third Sector European Policy project (2002-2006, www.kent.ac.uk/tsep/) and the Third Sector Impact project (2014-2017, <http://thirdsectorimpact.eu>).

We are most grateful to the Editorial Selection Committee, chaired by Adalbert Evers (Germany) and comprised of Ann Dill (USA), Bernard Enjolras (Norway), Brenda Gainer (Canada), and Alberto Hernandez (Mexico). The Committee played a significant and thoughtful role in selecting the new editors. ■

MEMBER NEWS

Susan Appe of Binghamton University in New York was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Grant for 2015-2016 and will be hosted by Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, Ecuador. During the summers of 2015 and 2016, she will examine civil society networks as key instruments used by NGOs to shape the sector in Ecuador and in Latin America more generally. She explores the responsibility networks have assumed to meet the demands for organizational and sector-level capacity building. In addition, she is de-

veloping NGO management curricular content for the Ecuadorian context with Ecuadorian colleagues.

Kazumi Noguchi is completing a six month Japan Scholar Fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Her research has focused on public and private partnerships on USA global health diplomacy. She is associate professor at Kobe Women's University, in Kobe, Japan. ■

REGIONAL NEWS

Africa Regional Network

The ISTR Africa Network (ISTRAN) will hold a conference at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana in Accra, on 16-18 of September, 2015.

The ISTR Africa Regional Network specifically supports emerging African scholarship in civil society by holding conferences and professional development workshops once every two years. It is a community of over 120 scholars both working and living in African countries, but also includes members of the African diaspora in other parts of the world. ISTR Africa Regional Network remains true to the global network’s core mission, which is to increase, share, and apply knowledge about the third sector in all countries of the world. The specific goals and objectives of the African Network are to develop a critical mass of African scholars dedicated to the field of third sector research.

The theme is Civil Society and a Renascent Africa: A Stock Taking.

Two decades ago, the ‘discovery’ of civil society was heralded as the key, theoretically and practically, to a renascent Africa, expected to reconstitute the state and contribute to development and democratization objectives on the continent. This expectation, more so, was based on a hypothesized potential of civil society to provide the missing key, at both theoretical and policy levels, to sustained political reform, legitimate states and governments, and viable state-society and state-economy relationships, and to prevent the kind of political decay that had undermined African development in the past.

Two decades later, to what extent has civil society lived up to those expectations? Is civil society the missing key to a renascent Africa? Specifically to what extent has civil society contributed to the triple imperatives of African development, democratization and integration? More basic, has an African civil society that is organically embedded in and responds to African realities and aspirations, emerged? If so, what is its nature and contours? What influences its development and contributions?

How representative is it, in nature, agenda, operational modalities, location of operations, of the preoccupations of the ordinary men and women who constitute the majority of Africa’s citizenry? And how can the civil



society sphere in Africa, and the organizations therein, be sustained?

These questions, and more, will be explored at the 2015 International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) Africa regional network conference. Specifically the conference will take stock of two decades of civil society praxis and its contributions to the imperatives of a renascent Africa.

Hosted by the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, the conference will be organized around keynote addresses and a number of paper presentations. Keynote Speakers will provide historical assessments of different dimensions, and roles, of civil society. The review process is now under way and completed papers will be due by July 1, 2015.

Latin America & the Caribbean Network

The ISTR Latin America & the Caribbean Regional Network will hold its 10th Regional Network Conference in San Juan and Ponce, Puerto Rico, 5 – 7 of August, 2015.

The conference theme is ‘Inequality, Inclusion and Social Innovation’.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Marcia Rivera, a well-known Puerto Rican academic, economist and sociologist. Dr. Rivera has served as the Executive Secretary of the Latin American Council on Social Sciences (CLACSO)



REGIONAL NEWS

from 1991 to 1997. She is currently both Executive Director of ILAEDES and a university professor, and is active both in Puerto Rico and other countries in the region. ILAEDES is a non profit action-research institute based in San Juan, Puerto Rico, but operating as a network in several Latin American and Caribbean countries. Particular attention is given to the linkages of higher education and grassroots economic development. She has previously served as Executive Director, Education, Science and Technology Commission in the Puerto Rico Senate and Special Advisor to the Director General at UNESCO.

Asia Pacific Regional Network

The ISTR Asia Pacific Regional Network will hold its 9th Regional Network Conference in Tokyo, Japan, on 27 - 28 of August, 2015, at Nihon University.

The theme is 'Exploring Frontiers of Civil Society, Social Capital and Social Enterprises'.

Civil society in the Asia Pacific region is thriving and vibrant in its structure and organization with its geographic and historical linkages, as well as each country's unique institutional, economic, social, and cultural characteristics. At the same time, its large and dynamic nature leads us to reconsider the value and significance of civic engagement, emergence of new forms of social business or entrepreneurship, and the potential power of social capital. It is a good time to explore frontiers of these powerful but still uncertain values and impacts, in constructive and collaborative ways, for the future development of civil society in this region. ■



Nihon University

European Summer School on Social Economy (ESSE) 2015 – IV ed. "Personalisation and Social Entrepreneurship"

July 6th-11th, 2015

University Residential Centre, Bertinoro (FC), Italy



The Department of Economics, University of Bologna, Forlì Campus in collaboration with AICCON is pleased to announce the fourth edition of the European Summer School on Social Economics (ESSE), "Personalisation and Social Entrepreneurship", which will be held from July 6th to 11th, 2015 at the University Residential Centre of Bertinoro (FC), Italy.

This fourth edition is organized in partnership the Department of Architecture of the University of Bologna, EMES Network, EURICSE and SECS IRT (University of Bologna).

In the last decade western democracies witnessed a wide change in the attitude of the citizens as consumers towards the role and function of private for profit enterprises in society. This change in life styles, opinions and attitudes put pressure on firms influencing their corporate behavior, pushing them to adopt a more social responsible orientation towards the environment and its stakeholders. The corporations are asked nowadays to fulfill the requirements of a "triple bottom line". As well a similar trend characterizes the welfare systems in many post-industrialized countries. These changes go in the direction of a new paradigm in the production, delivering and consumption of goods and services, called personalization, which replace the previous one: consumerism. In the new approach "Personalisation" the users are co-producers of the good in question. In this framework a key role is played by civil society organizations, both in the more traditional "non-profit associational" form and in the new "social enterprise" structure.

ESSE 2015's principle aim is to foster academic and

professional enrichment of its participants.

To this end, participants will take part in classroom lectures and discussions focused on both the theoretical issues present in the field as well as case studies. The latter will take into consideration practical models of both success and failure in order to explore the strengths, weaknesses, and areas of growth and opportunity that the growing field of Social Entrepreneurship.

The Summer School is aimed at students currently

engaged in graduate studies as well as PhD students and researchers. Practitioners wishing to deepen their knowledge from a theoretical point of view are also welcome.

For further information, please visit: www.esse.unibo.it

Deadline for application is April 15th, 2015.

Application fee: € 650 ■

BOOK NOTES

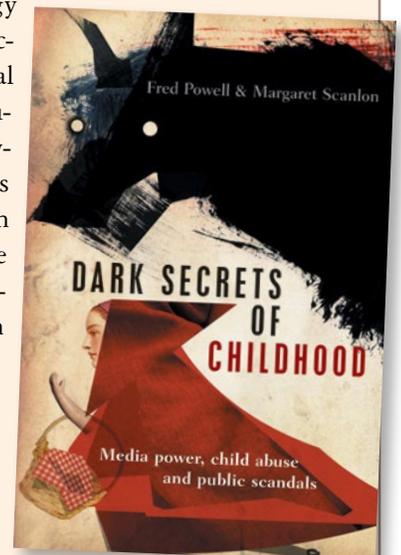
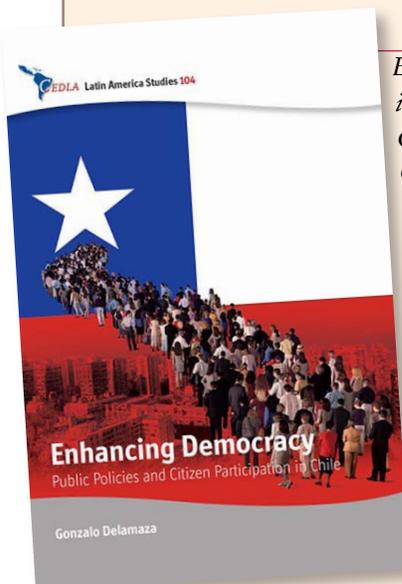
Enhancing Democracy: Public Policies and Citizen Participation in Chile. By Gonzalo Delamaza. Oxford, New York: Berghahn Books, 2015. 308 Pages. Cost: £62; US \$99. To order: www.berghahnbooks.com

Since the end of the Pinochet regime, Chilean public policy has sought to rebuild democratic governance in the country. This book examines the links between the state and civil society in

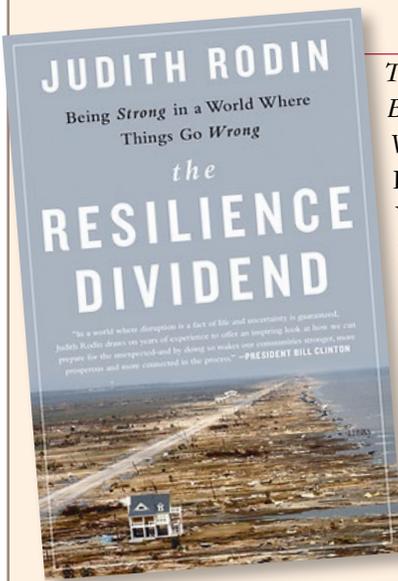
Chile and the ways social policies have sought to ensure the inclusion of the poor in society and democracy. Although Chile has gained political stability and grown economically, the ability of social policies to expand democratic governance and participation has proved limited, and in fact such policies have become subordinate to an elitist model of democracy and resulted in a restrictive form of citizen participation.

Dark Secrets of Childhood: Media Power, Child Abuse and Public Scandals. By Fred Powell and Margaret Scanlon. Policy Press at the University of Bristol and University of Chicago Press, 2015. 256 Pages. Cost paper £21.59, Cloth US \$115; Paper US \$ 45.95. To order: press.uchicago.edu or policy-press.co.uk

Child-abuse reports in the media make for 'good stories' but at what cost? This ground-breaking book explores the relationship between the media, child abuse and shifting adult-child power relations which, in Western countries, has spawned an ever-expanding range of laws, policies and procedures introduced to address the 'explosion' of interest in the issue of child abuse. Revelations of child sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland – and its 'cover-up' by Church authorities – have given rise to one of the greatest institutional scandals of modern history. Through in-depth analysis of 20 years of media representation of the issue the book draws significant insights on the media's influence and its impact on civil society. Highly topical and of interest and relevance to lecturers and researchers in the areas of childhood studies, sociology of childhood, child protection and social work, social and public policy and human rights as well as policy-makers, this book provides an important contribution to the international debate about child abuse as reflected to the public through the power of the media.



BOOK NOTES



The Resilience Dividend: Being Strong in a World Where Things Go Wrong. By Judith Rodin. New York, NY: Public Affairs Books, 2014. 384 pages. Cost: US \$27.99. To order: www.publicaffairs-books.com

Building resilience—the ability to bounce back more quickly and effectively—is an urgent social and economic issue. Our interconnected world is susceptible to sudden and dramatic shocks and stresses: a cyber-attack, a new strain of virus, a structural failure, a violent storm, a civil disturbance, an economic blow.

Through an astonishing range of stories, Judith Rodin shows how people, organizations, businesses, communities, and cities have developed resilience in the face of otherwise catastrophic challenges:

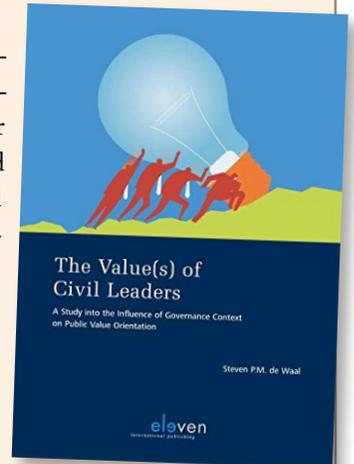
- Medellin, Colombia, was once the drug and murder capital of South America. Now it's host to international conferences and an emerging vacation destination.
- Tulsa, Oklahoma, cracked the code of rapid urban development in a floodplain.
- Airbnb, Toyota, Ikea, Coca-Cola, and other companies have realized the value of reducing vulnerabilities and potential threats to customers, employees, and their bottom line.
- In the Mau Forest of Kenya, bottom-up solutions are critical for dealing with climate change, environmental degradation, and displacement of locals.
- Following Superstorm Sandy, the Rockaway Surf Club in New York played a vital role in distributing emergency supplies.

As we grow more adept at managing disruption and more skilled at resilience-building, Rodin reveals how we are able to create and take advantage of new economic and social opportunities that offer us the capacity to recover after catastrophes and grow strong in times of relative calm.

The Value(s) of Civil Leaders: A Study into the Influence of Governance Context on Public Value Orientation. By Steven P.M. de Waal. The Netherlands: Eleven International Publishing, 2014. 274 pages. Cost: Paperback € 37.50; £ 34.50; US \$56.50. To order: www.elevenpub.com

The importance of civil leaders can hardly be overestimated. They contribute to a better society, mobilize people and resources for good causes, and focus attention on urgent problems. Civil leaders work outside government and are personally motivated, thereby exercising public leadership. They come from the ranks of philanthropists, celebrities, and volunteers, but may also be directors

of non-profit and public organizations or business entrepreneurs. This book examines how various Dutch civil leaders are influenced by their value patterns - both personally and in their societal work. It also investigates to what extent their values and leadership styles are determined by for-profit, non-profit, and informal institutional contexts. The concepts of 'values,' 'leadership,' 'governance,' and 'public value' are studied both theoretically and in a comparative case study of 30 Dutch civil leaders, as well as in a comparative survey. The inspirational portraits and stories of these different civil leaders show how the common value patterns in different contexts are characterized by a unique combination of societal and entrepreneurial values, making them indeed a breed of their own. ■



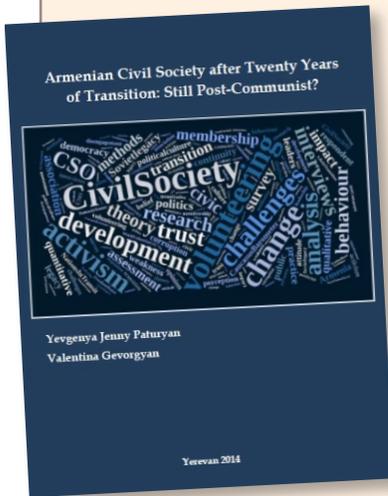
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ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Armenian Civil Society Study Published



Yevgenya Jenny Paturyan and Valentina Gevorgyan, from the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis at the American University of Armenia, have published their study on the Armenian civil society. The research project was funded by the Academic Swiss Caucasus Net, an organization aimed at promoting social sciences in the region of the South Caucasus.

The study, *Armenian Civil Society after Twenty Years of Transition: Still Post-Communist?* is the outcome of a research project that was conducted in Armenia in 2012-2014. The project assesses current Armenian civil society to determine what has changed or remained constant over two decades of post-communist development. The manuscript discusses the communist legacy, trust toward, engagement with and membership in non-governmental organizations, various forms of volunteering, and changes in the social and political environment of Armenia. This is a comprehensive study based on both primary and secondary data, with the use of quantitative and qualitative methods, including statistical analysis of existing survey data, an original organizational survey, and semi-structured interviews with third sector leaders and volunteers. The study concludes that the post-communist legacy of low engagement and trust toward the civil society persists in Armenia; however some positive developments include emerging volunteering and civic activism, mainly on behalf of youth.

The manuscript is available online at: http://tcpa.aua.am/files/2012/07/Armenian_Civil_Society_after_Twenty_Years_of_Transition_Manuscript_November_2014-fin.pdf

Working Paper from Northern Rock Foundation Third Sector Trends

Available at this web address:
<http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk/third-sector-trends.php>.



How Willing are Third Sector Organisations to Borrow Money?

A new report on the interest Third Sector Organisations have in borrowing money (January 2015). The study looks at the way that TSOs think about money and how this affects their mission and practices. The report is based on research in Yorkshire and the Humber, Cumbria and North East England and formed part of a bigger study with Peter Wells, Sheffield Hallam University.



A short briefing on the work is available here:
[A link](#)

And the full report is available here:
[A link](#)

The Philanthropy Outlook: 2015 & 2016

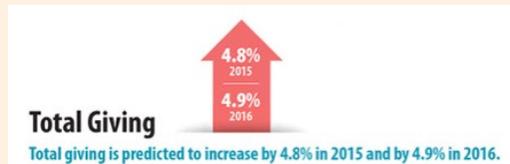
The Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, in partnership with Marts & Lundy, has released a research project that predicts future philanthropic giving. The Philanthropy Outlook projects that charitable giving is expected to grow by 4.8 percent in 2015 and 4.9 percent in 2016. Contributions from individuals/households, estates, corporations and foundations all are predicted to rise in both years.

The nonprofit sector has a significant impact on our society and economy, yet nonprofits lack the tools and resources business and government have to assess the outlook for their fields. Nonprofits need information about giving trends to develop effective fundraising strategies. The

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Philanthropy Outlook enables fundraisers to gauge the future philanthropic climate and develop strategies tailored to that environment.

We hope that these forward-looking predictions along with historical data will inspire new conversations that can inform decisions and enhance our collective ability to grow philanthropic giving in the U.S.



<http://martsandlundy.com/the-philanthropy-outlook>

Building Sustainability of Civil Society: Debates, Challenges and Moving Forward

Between October and December 2014, INTRAC convened an important debate around civil society sustainability. Key issues were brought to the fore through a workshop, webinar and blog series. These provided space for organisations that INTRAC works closely with to reflect and share their experience on the topic.

This paper is by Sarah Lewis, Afua-Adu Boateng, and Rachel Hayman, January 2015. ■

[A link](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

African Giving Knowledge Base TRUSTAFRICA issuelab

TrustAfrica is delighted to announce the launch of an **African Giving Knowledge Base**

While philanthropy is an integral part of African society, the study of philanthropy in Africa is only recently gaining traction. To help us understand the field better and generate new knowledge that allows us to strengthen its role and impact, we have compiled a database of literature from academic as well as other sources. You will find a range of topics on African giving – from legally structured entities to systems and traditions of solidarity – in English, French, Arabic and Portuguese. We also include literature that looks at the impact of external philanthropy on African development.

We hope that this database will provide a foundation that will enable a better understanding of the nature of giv-

ing in Africa; encourage more widespread and cross-sectoral analysis of the gaps in our knowledge; and serve as a platform from which to develop new knowledge and as a basis for refining and adding to the discourse on African giving.

The African Giving Knowledge Base is an ongoing collaboration between TrustAfrica and IssueLab, a service of the Foundation Center. TrustAfrica would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Social Surveys Africa in pulling together and contributing to the repository of documents at hand.

This database contains much information, but we believe that much more knowledge exists on African systems of giving. We invite you to submit additional knowledge products for inclusion to africanphilanthropy@trustafrica.org.

To access the database, please click [here](#)

Civil Society Organizations in Designing Research Governance

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are increasingly playing a vital role in research. In the context of the EU policy agenda on responsible research and innovation (RRI) and its focus on public engagement, this role is likely to continue to grow



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in the future. At present however, CSO participation remains limited. Despite decades of research on public engagement in general and the role of the public in research in particular, there is little insight into the role of CSOs in research, their motivations, the factors that promote or inhibit it and the ways it can be assessed and evaluated.

Within the CONSIDER project (Civil Society Organisations in Designing Research Governance) we have focused on collaborative research projects, especially EU-funded multi-stakeholder projects (such as FP7 and Horizon 2020). We focused on current collaboration practices, observing different research teams in a real time context.

CONSIDER has involved a conceptually sound and empirically rich investigation of the role of CSOs in research. The CONSIDER findings have been informed by:

- A survey of 14 000 EU Framework 7 (FP7) research projects
- An in-depth investigation of 33 cases of research projects including CSOs
- Expert and stakeholder perspectives obtained through a set of workshops and community-related exercises, and the development of a network of associates.

Our findings show that approximately one in four collaborative EU-funded projects (under FP7 in 2012) collaborated with at least one CSO. The added value provided by CSOs was about improving the societal relevance, enhancing policy impact, or representing the interests of a given societal group (such as patient groups, children etc.). However, CSO participation is not on the radar of some researchers.

The CONSIDER recommendations focus on the following key roles:

- Researchers
- Civil society representatives
- Policymakers
- Funders
- Evaluators and reviewers

As these actors follow different strategies, the benefits and limitations of CSO-participation in research depend on the interaction between them. Crucial questions include:

- whether research needs to be better aligned with societal challenges
- whether the opportunity for participatory research with the relevant communities of interest is realised
- whether the translation of research results back into society, including through innovation should be improved
- whether the research (and its benefits) can be improved through the input of citizens' expertise and context

Our research has clearly shown that CSO participation is no panacea and should not necessarily be recommended in all cases. In order for CSO participation to be successful, the different project partners need to understand each other and be clear about the purposes that such engagement is meant to achieve.

Further information regarding the project's findings, including details of all of the recommendations, further specific case studies, quotes and examples, is available online at www.consider-project.eu/guidelines-landing-page

Future Philanthropic Educators pilot project prepares emerging faculty to teach college students about philanthropy

A pilot program that will advance the study of philanthropy by mentoring those who plan to teach it is being initiated by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and the Learning by Giving Foundation.

The pilot program director will mentor an emerging scholar, who will develop and teach a university-level experiential philanthropy course in which students grant \$10,000 to local nonprofit organizations.

Professor Gregory R. Witkowski, associate professor of philanthropic studies at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, leads the Future Philanthropic Educators program.

The 2015 Future Philanthropic Educator is Peter C. Weber, a 2014 Ph.D. graduate of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, who has worked closely with Witkowski and who recently began a position as assistant professor and director of the Nonprofit Leadership Studies Program at Murray State University.

During the spring 2015 semester, the Future Philanthropic Educators program and Learning by Giving course are being implemented through a collaboration among the foundation, the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and the Nonprofit Leadership Studies Program at Murray State University (MSU). Students from IUPUI and MSU will learn together about local needs, philanthropic patterns and the nonprofit sector in both rural and urban contexts. The two classes will interact throughout the joint grant-making process and will take on the challenge of evaluating needs and granting awards in two different states via weekly Skype sessions. ■