



AUGUST 2019

Tenth meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) 21-24 October 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division is facilitating an application process to identify representatives from civil society organizations, academia and the private sector to attend the plenary session of the upcoming Tenth Meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 22-24 October 2019. Information about this meeting is available [here](#).

Representatives can either apply to be members of the Stakeholder Selection Committee or to attend the meeting.

Apply for the Stakeholder Selection Committee by **28 August 2019** here: <http://bit.ly/IAEG10-StakeholderSC-Apply>

Apply to attend the meeting by **31 August 2019** here: <http://bit.ly/IAEG10-Stakeholder-Apply>

More information about this process is presented within the application forms.

ISTR/Wits African PhD Seminar Student Reflection

By - Kidist Ibrie Yasin

Originally from Ethiopia, Kidist is a first-year PhD student at the IUPUI Lilly Family School of Philanthropy in Indianapolis, Indiana, United States

My journey to a PhD study in Philanthropy has already opened several opportunities in less than a year, the most recent of which was four days in May to participate in the ISTR/WITS African PhD Seminar and Annual Philanthropy Conference, that was held in the beautiful *City of Gold*, Johannesburg, South Africa. **A chance to hear about my dissertation from world-class experts, networking with fellow PhD students with diverse backgrounds, participating and becoming a victor in a three-minutes thesis competition, getting a chance to present my work in front of scholars and leaders of the third sector across the world, and my experience at the Wits Business School is a treasure that I will always vividly remember.**



During the two-day PhD Seminar 20 students were teamed into three groups, each consisting of at least two senior faculty and six or seven students. This was a unique opportunity where students got a chance to present their work and obtain detailed individual feedback from the group. My group, themed general philanthropy, was awesome; it included Professor Alan Fowler and Professor Una Osili, and five more PhD students who study in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, UK, and the US. **They generously gave me well thought and insightful comments that clarified nuanced issues and evoked deeper thinking into my work, and an essential dataset for my dissertation**

was also suggested. Listening to, and actively participating in, the presentations of my group members also widened my understanding in several areas of philanthropy and boosted my confidence in expressing my views in academic settings.

The three minutes thesis competition was a moment that made me very nervous, yet ended with massive excitement. When I was announced a co-winner of the competition, I was shocked, and became speechless! Being the winner of such a competition in an international platform embodies great motivation, strong energy, and a sense of the higher significance of the work that I do. In fact, I am very grateful for my entire teammates, and especially Professor Una Osili and my friend Tiara Dungy (a 2nd year

Ph.D. student in my school who was also in attendance), who convinced me to sign up just a day before the competition, and kept encouraging me to the last moment, even when I nearly declined my participation out of anxiety.

All the senior faculty were extremely helpful. I was able to have an extensive talk with most of them during coffee and lunch breaks. I also had a chance to interview Professor Imhotep Aligidede, Professor Ali Awni, Professor Alan Fowler, and Professor Jacob Mati about their work for a project in my school that aims to study the intersection of philanthropy, religion, and youth development globally.

The two-day conference on African philanthropy that followed the PhD Seminar was intensive, yet filled with interesting panel discussions that broadened my knowledge about the state of African philanthropy. The rationale and need for philanthropy for African countries, the influence of religion and community on practices of philanthropy, and the legal and policy framework for philanthropy in the continent were among the topics addressed from which I gained a lot of input, especially for a book chapter I am writing this summer on the philanthropic landscape in Ethiopia. **Moreover, the connections and networks I created, in both the Seminar and the Conference, provided me with information on funding opportunities for my summer travel to Ethiopia for my research work and writing a book chapter.**

It would not be complete if I close my essay without mentioning how I enjoyed the lunch and coffee treats on each day, and the memorable dinner at the Moyos Shop; Pap and stir-fried squashes were my most favorites and delicious cuisines that I will definitely miss whenever I think of South Africa.

My PhD seminar experience: A reflection

by Knowledge Mwonzora, Zimbabwean Ph.D. student (Year 3)
North-West University, South Africa

It gives me so much pleasure to write about my experience at the PhD seminar that took place at the Wits Business School in Johannesburg South Africa on 14th and 15th May 2019. It was indeed a remarkable and unforgettable episode in my academic journey. The seminar attracted diverse determined and promising scholars from around the world at different stages of their PhD journeys. This is indeed crucial to learn from each other's experiences. I found the program very useful as it shaped my analytical lens as well as methodological grounding. As such, I strongly recommend it to any PhD student who wishes to apply for this PhD seminar in future. Special thanks to the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) for organizing such an intriguing PhD seminar where students from the Global South and Global North converged to share pertinent insights and reflect on their PhD projects.

Bringing students from all over the world was quite enriching. We were clustered into small working groups depending on our research areas and topics. The small groups enabled students to present their work to peers and two faculty members. I was so excited to be part of a team of men and women committed to influencing policies on philanthropy and to acting as change agents in development studies more broadly. Although we were all from different academic, geographical and linguistic backgrounds, we managed to work well in teams and assisted each other in methodological and conceptual analysis. The two-day PhD seminar was very intensive but worthwhile. It was indeed an intriguing process, receiving critical and constructive comments from fellow PhD students and seasoned academics like the current president of ISTR, Professor Ruth Phillips, and former presidents Professor Alan Fowler and Professor Annette Zimmer, among others.



The main clusters were corporate social responsibility and sustainability, philanthropy and civil society/social movements. But more broadly, students' research covered an array of third sector issues like volunteerism, indigenous philanthropy and emerging forms of civil society organizations, to mention but a few. Part of my research is about the role of civil society actors in Zimbabwe's transitional justice processes in the aftermath of electoral violence in 2008. As such, my participation further capacitated me precisely on the role of civil society in democracy and on how to publish as an emerging scholar.

Socially, we had fun. We spent some time during the night socializing, drinking and joking. It was all fun! I can safely say I have widened my networks and created new friends through this PhD seminar. I am grateful to all the faculty members for the insightful feedback, constructive academic criticism and suggestions. The comments will certainly go a long way in shaping and improving our research projects.

Quite a number of PhD students participated in the three-minute thesis competition. This was an intriguing and thought-provoking process where competitors pitched their projects in three minutes

using only one PowerPoint slide. It was indeed a tight contest. All the participants were very eloquent and elaborated on their research explicitly which made it hard for the panel to select a single winner. At last two winners were selected for the first position and one for the second position.

On 16th and 17th May, we converged into the African Philanthropy Conference. It was our time to listen to leading scholars and practitioners in the Philanthropy field from all over the world. The conference attracted high profile delegates with vast experience in philanthropy, civil society and the nonprofit sector. I really enjoyed all the panels as all panelists were very eloquent in articulating their varied experiences in the Philanthropy field. From the academic side, the academics underscored the need for further research since philanthropy is an emerging field and relatively understudied. I personally learnt a lot from this conference due to its interdisciplinary nature and more importantly on the need to give to the less privileged for humanity's sake. I am grateful to all the partners that made the Seminar and Conference a success. Hats off to the organizers of the PhD seminar and the conference, Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo and Belinda Keratiloe Mogotsi. Thanks for the good work! Your level of organization made our stay in South Africa worthwhile and memorable.

When all you have is three minutes

By Albert Kagande

What can you do in three minutes? You need at least two minutes to brush your teeth and it takes about three minutes to boil an egg. But how can one articulate an entire thesis in three minutes? According to the University of Queensland (UQ), it would take nine hours to present an 80,000 word PhD thesis. Yet, for the Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT), one has 180 seconds to present their research work! A challenge not many are willing and able to take.

Just over a decade ago, in 2008, UQ held the first-ever 3MT with 160 Higher Degree by Research candidates competing. What it pioneered has become a global phenomenon with over 600 universities across more than 65 countries worldwide doing 3MTs. While it is a competition, the 3MT develops presentation, research and academic communication skills and helps develop research students' capacity to explain their work concisely and effectively.

3MT competition rules are very simple: three minutes, one still PowerPoint slide and no props. A panel of judges presides over each presentation and assesses participants on content, clarity and charisma. The trick to succeeding is to combine the technical aspects of one's study with wit and charm in presentation, using language that can be understood by a wide audience. Nerves do kick in when one takes to the stage to present. To master the content and also deliver it articulately within three minutes is no small feat. The 3MT can be the longest or the shortest three minutes if one does not plan well. It takes a lot of guts to attempt this exercise and it's worth the effort.

The International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) and African Centre on Philanthropy and Social Investment (ACPSI) recently held a PhD seminar (14 and 15 May) and African Philanthropy conference (16 and 17 May) at the Wits Business School in Johannesburg, South Africa. A total of 23 PhD students from Africa or studying in Africa were in attendance. Out of these, eleven voluntarily participated in the 3MT which was held as a closing session of the seminar. The judges had a difficult task deciding the winner as all participants gave it their best. There was a tie for first place showing how tough the competition was. First place went to Juan Pablo and Kidist Yasin while Albert Kagande came third. The winners had to present again at the opening session of the conference where more

than 200 delegates were in attendance.

Juan is from Chile and studying at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom. His study is titled ***How do managerial and organisational practices of membership-based organisations of the poor impact social sustainability? A participatory action research of the housing sector in South Africa.***

Kidist is from Ethiopia and is studying at IUPUI Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indianapolis, United States. Her research is titled ***Motives to charitable giving in Ethiopia: Evidence from survey and experimental designs.***

Albert Kagande is from Zimbabwe and studying at the Nelson Mandela University in South Africa. His research is titled ***An alternative model for the financial sustainability of local NGOs in South Africa.*** He states: *"In my opinion, the 3MT is fun and a good way to stimulate discussion around research and trending issues. In three minutes, more than 200 people at the Wits Business School knew what Juan and Kidist are researching and if their presentations were broadcast, they would reach an even wider audience. This is more than a competition; it's an opportunity to market, network and position oneself on the academic and research landscape and three minutes might be all it takes to change one's life! Well done to all the participants and congratulations to the winners at the ISTR/ACPSI 3MT competition."*

African Philanthropy: Key lessons from the ACPSI Annual Workshop 2019

Titilope F. Ajayi, PhD Candidate, Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy, University of Ghana and 2019 Next Generation Social Science in Africa Doctoral Dissertation Fellow

I add my voice to my colleague doctoral scholars' in giving high and merited praise to the International Society for Third-sector Research (ISTR) and its partners for this year's PhD seminar, the African Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment at Wits University, for organising and making it possible for so many of us to attend this year. This seminar, my third with ISTR, was no less insightful and more than met the standard of critical constructive feedback on research and invaluable opportunities to meet and hobnob with senior researchers doing related work. I was particularly excited to meet the camera-shy Shauna Mottiar, whose work I first read at the beginning of my studies, and to discuss the prospects of spending some time at the Centre for Civil Society at the University of Kwazulu-Natal where she currently works. The fact that 23 multinational students doing very diverse research were able to locate themselves in both plenary and interpersonal discussions at the seminar speaks to ISTR's diversity of membership and the collective depth of expertise that it embodies.

As an honorary veteran of ISTR PhD seminars, I thought to use this space to reflect not so much on this year's but on my takeaways from this year's workshop on African philanthropy to which the seminar was appended. As an African researcher and civil society practitioner, I am embedded in multiple intersecting philanthropic networks, including the funding that I have received from the Social Science Research Council's Next Generation Social Science in Africa Doctoral Programme. My academic encounters with this subject revolve around ongoing work on how Pentecostal megachurches 'do' philanthropy that has taken a temporary backseat as I take on the final laps of

my thesis so the workshop was a welcome opportunity and space to immerse myself in current debates and network with a variety of relevant actors.

It was important, crucial even, that the ACPSI gathering was not your typical academic conference. The multiversity of participants reflected the realities of African philanthropy and the centre's ethos of being 'a catalyst for innovation and community engagement'. Various presentations established high need levels across the continent as well as the plural expanses of giving modalities, logics, foci, locations and volumes. Also unpacked was awareness by some philanthropies of the contradictions and unintentional consequences of large-scale modalities of giving and how they can create or entrench unequal power structures and ideologies and the need for continuing critical and diverse perspectives as this evolves.

A second strength of this workshop was the gift of hearing in person from several Africans who straddle the intersecting spaces of receiving philanthropy while simultaneously dispersing it to others. This was refreshing given that funders' perspectives are often so dominant. It was also intriguing to observe firsthand the multilaterality of the impact of philanthropy through exchanges between a Kenyan elephant conservation enthusiast and activist and a Moptswana intimately aware of the implications for human-wildlife conflict of conservation activities in Kenya. This brought home how philanthropy to solve a need/problem in one area can potentially create or aggravate others elsewhere. It also highlighted the need for knowledge and collaborative trans-sectoral and transnational approaches to philanthropy and development. It was genius to give such indigenous actors the stage to pitch directly to several philanthropies to whom they might not ordinarily have access outside stress of email deluges.

All this said, I came away from the ACPSI experience with some unanswered questions or matters for further reflection, possibly for answering in next workshop or subsequent gatherings

As interest and investment in African philanthropy intensify, how can frameworks like the ACPSI centre or ensure some level of coherence in simultaneous topical global conversations? In what ways can it try to synchronise these such that successive gatherings build on each other and form part of a seamless process of restructuring African philanthropy and related knowledge-gathering? On the latter point, several speakers reiterated the need to capture and facilitate access to data and information on African philanthropy, including where and how to learn and teach about it and some kind of database of which actors are in this field and who is doing what, where, why, how and with whom. Equally paramount is documentation: the need to tell our own stories in order to expand our self-understanding but also to own our truths as opposed to receiving them through lenses of others.

Pentecostal megachurch pastors are notoriously guarded about church accounts so I was grateful to be able to ask one on a panel where his church gets its philanthropic resources and if/how it accounts for them to those who give. The question went unanswered but it echoed in debates about what accountability means and who is entitled to it within African philanthropic matrices.

DEADLINE - ROLLING

West Africa Civil Society Series (WACSeries)

WACSeries are analytical periodic write-ups on topical themes and issues relevant to West Africa. It emphasizes the contributions of civil society organisations (CSOs) and actors to the promotion of democracy, good governance and the socio- economic development of West Africa by deepening discourse on matters affecting civil society in the region. The write-ups provide experts, researchers and practitioners a space to reflect, develop and share analyses and posit views and recommendations on emerging issues and debates. WACSI has four platforms through which we document knowledge to educate and inspire civil society actors and organisations. These are:



- 1) Blogs: short articles with a maximum of 1000 words which are published on WACSI's blog hosted on the website.
- 2) Editorials: a compilation of several (up to 5) blog articles published by the same author and focusing on the same topic.
- 3) Op-Eds: More detailed and structured articles of between 1500 to 2000 words. These are well designed and published on the website
- 4) Issue Papers: In-depth research papers on topical issues in line with our strategic themes and other topical issues in the region. Issue papers can be in the range of 4000 to 6000 words. They are well designed and published on the website.

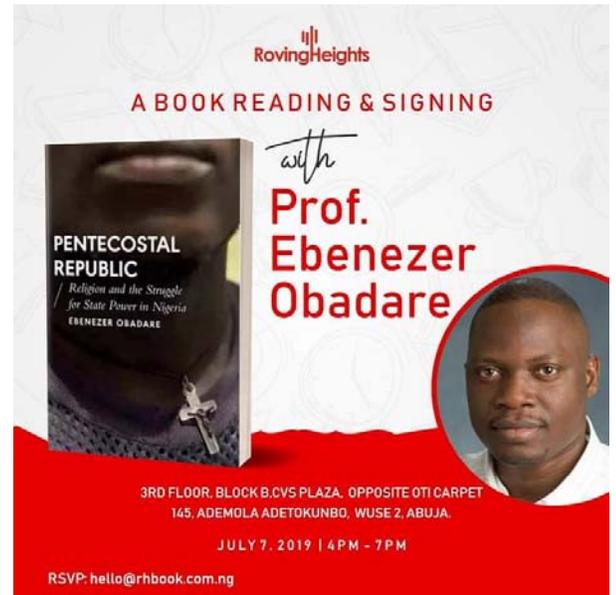
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Edited by Chris M.A. Kwaja, Ph.D. and Valkamiya Ahmadu-Haruna

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