The International Society for Third Sector Research is pleased to report to members on its activities for the year ended December 31, 2022. The following report provides information on the governance of the Society, the conferences held and planned, the publications overseen, the online programs provided and a Treasurer’s report. It includes updates from each of its regional networks and news of the transfer of ISTR’s archival files to the Rockefeller Archive Center in preparation for ISTR’s 30th anniversary celebrations in 2022.

Governance
ISTR is governed by a Board of Directors who are elected by members for a four-year (renewable) term. The Board is led by the President and the President Elect (who respectively serve two-year terms in these roles). The board held three meetings, two virtual (April and December) and one in-person in July, immediately prior to the international conference in Montreal. This meeting was hybrid as several board members were not able to attend in person. The Executive Committee of the board meets on a monthly basis in between board meetings.

A Nominations Committee was formed to create a slate of candidates for the board election in October/November. A slate consisting of nine nominees for six positions was presented to the membership. The Nominations Committee was comprised of Hadara Bar Mor (Israel) chair, Gojko Bezovan (Croatia), Kinman Chan (Taiwan), Dana Doan (USA/Vietnam), Anna Domaradzka (Poland), Neelima Khetan (India), Ruth Philipps (Australia), Allison Schnable (USA), and Armindo Teodosio (Brazil).

The election results for 2023-2024:
Mario Aquino Alves, President (Brazil)
Carolyn Cordery President-Elect (New Zealand)
Elizabeth Bloodgood, Treasurer (Canada)
Dipendra K C, Secretary (Thailand)
Fengshi Wu, Chair, Publications Committee (Australia)

Members at Large
Susan Appe (USA)                Barbara Ibrahim (Egypt)
Pablo Marsal Baraldi (Argentina) Shauna Mottiar (South Africa)
Kinman Chan (Taiwan)            Allison Youatt Schnable (USA)
Anna Domaradzka (Poland)        Ruth Simsa (Austria)
Maria Faina Diola (Philippines) Stijn Van Puyvelde (Belgium)

The Board is supported by ISTR’s Secretariat comprised of Margery Daniels, Executive Director and Megan Haddock, Director of Programs.
15th International Conference

The July 2022 International conference marked our first in-person event since 2019. Originally planned for 2020, Montreal opened to international travel in the months preceding the conference. The conference offered a fitting way to celebrate the Society’s 30th Anniversary and the transfer of 30 years of records to the Rockefeller Archive Center where they will be available to researchers.

The conference theme was *Navigating in Turbulent Times: Perspectives and Contributions from the Third Sector*. This was the first time ISTR hosted a hybrid conference, recognizing the challenges many members face in international travel during the pandemic. A total of 266 members attended in person and another 160 attended virtually. Approximately 40% of the registrants were new ISTR members and 25% were students, and both groups brought new ideas and energy to the gathering. The smaller than usual attendance gave the conference an intimate atmosphere that enabled frequent interactions and networking opportunities. Videos of the hybrid sessions were available to conference attendees for two months after the conference.

In addition to the paper, poster, panel and roundtable sessions, the conference featured an Opening Reception, All Student Party, reception in honor of Lester M. Salamon, professional development workshops, a “Meet the Author Session,” affinity group and regional network meetings.

The Opening Plenary, “Mapping the Nonprofit World: The Global Comparative Project,” address was given by Helmut Anheier. Dr. Anheier had been the lead partner of the late Lester M. Salamon during the early development of the Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project (CNP). Dr. Anheier provided a description of the development of the groundbreaking study on the scope, structure, financing, and role of the nonprofit sector in more than 45 countries around the world, which produced the first set of comparative data on the nonprofit sector ever available and challenged many conventional beliefs and evolved over time. Helmut Anheier’s speech addressed its contribution to our knowledge, both theoretical and practical, and identified areas for future research that could build on the foundations it laid.

The keynote speech was followed by reflections from senior scholars from five continents that had worked on the CNP Project. Many of their comments addressed the adoption of the nonprofit institutions measurement piece by the United National Statistical Commission.

Four additional sessions reflected on some of the major projects for which Dr. Salamon was known and are available to our members on the ISTR website. These sessions included:

1. *Revisiting Government/Third Sector Relations in the Welfare State*

Professional Development Workshops were hosted to advance the professional development of ISTR members. They included:

1. *Developing a Roadmap to Marketability.* This workshop considered the state of the job market and how to research the expectations of academic and non-academic employers hiring new PhDs.
2. *Inspirations from the South: Decolonized Methodologies and Engaged Research.* This workshop considered methodologies for conducting research using methods derived from ‘the South.’ Two main topics were discussed: decolonized methodologies and engaged research. The purpose was to promote a constructive discussion about the strategies, tools and challenges of operationalizing methodologies that are coherent with decoloniality and the epistemic/political emancipation of the peripheries.

3. *Records, Archives, and Resources for Scholars: Taming Your Third-Sector Organization’s Ocean of Information.* This roundtable hosted by the Rockefeller Archive Center introduced key concepts of information governance and archives as ways to manage, leverage, and share the vast quantities of data and information created by your organizations and by the organizations you research.

4. *A Conversation with the Editors of VOLUNTAS.* Susan Appe (University at Albany, SUNY, United States) and Fredrik O. Andersson (O’Neill School at IUPUI-Indiana, United States) led a conversation about publishing in VOLUNTAS. The session was very well attended by emerging scholars who were interested in learning more about how to get their work published.

5. *Pedagogy for Instruction About Civil Society.* Led by the ISTR Teaching and Learning Affinity Group, this session invited participants to share examples of how they use pedagogical tools and techniques in the classroom, consulting, and any research or theoretical papers on civil society pedagogy.

6. *Writing a Strong Book Proposal.* This session was about publishing a book and writing a book proposal. Topics included preparing compelling book proposals, the book production process, and the differences between writing a book and a dissertation, scholarly article or published report.

**ISTR International Conference Planning 2022**

The 16th International conference will be held at the University of Antwerp in Belgium, July 16-19, 2024. The planning began with the appointment of the conference co-chairs, Marc Jegers (Belgium) and Aya Okada (Japan). They began drafting the Call for Contributions on the theme, *Crisis after crisis after … What About the Third Sector?* The local host committee, chaired by Peter Raeymaeckers, has started meeting and an MOU has been signed with the University of Antwerp.

**7th International PhD Seminar**

Forty-one students and nine faculty attended the 7th International PhD Seminar July 10-12 in advance of the international conference in Montreal. The main feature of the seminar is the small group sessions during which students each have about 45 minutes to solicit peer and faculty feedback on their doctoral research. In addition, the students also participated in an opening plenary, professional development workshops, a three-minute thesis competition and social activities. In addition to the in-person attendance hybrid sessions and a small virtual group was set up following the conference for those students and faculty that were not able to attend.

**Conference Support**

Donors and sponsors made the conference possible and many continued their support from 2020. They included: Chagnon Foundation, Muttart Foundation, Lawson Foundation, Social Science Humanities
Council of Canada, Carleton University, University of Quebec, Montreal (UQAM), PhiLab, Queen’s University, University of Montreal, McGill, Montreal Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC), HEC, IDESOS (HEC), CRISES, Concordia University, Ajah, Tourism Montreal, Rockefeller Archive Center, Indiana Lilly School of Philanthropy, Indiana University O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, ACOSA, The Family of Lester M. Salamon, The A.M. and Ruth Z. Fleishman Foundation and East-West Management Institute.

Awards Presented In 2022
Award Presentations were made following committee recommendations.

**Best Paper in Voluntas**

**Lester M. Salamon Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award 2022** *(formerly, ISTR Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award was renamed for its anonymous donor)*
Irina Krasnopolskaya (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia). "When do Non-profits Produce Social Innovations? Exploring Determinants of Social Innovation among Non-profit Organizations, Based on Russian Survey Data."

**2022 Civil Society Policy Impact Research Awards**
- Acilon Cavalcante, "Social Innovation into the Civic Media Movements in the Terra Firme District"

**Best Poster 2022**
Renato Regis (WU Vienna, Austria). “How to Thank a Donor - A Qualitative Investigation of Thank-You Letters.”

**3 Minute Thesis**
Jennifer Kruwinnus (Queensland University of Technology, Australia). “Increasing Gender Balance in Nonprofit CEO Positions: How Women Make it to the Top.”

**Affinity Group Meetings**
Three Affinity Group Meetings were held for Law and Regulation; Research on Volunteering; and Teaching and Learning. ISTR hosted a discussion to explore the possibility of hosting new Affinity Groups and engagement approaches. Interest in new thematic groups included cross-border research, social innovation, social enterprise, social economy, social movements, and climate change. Looking forward, ISTR plans to integrate the Affinity Groups more fully with the work of the conference academic committee in the development of conference sub-themes and the abstract reviewing process.

**ISTR Regional Networks**
Four regional networks met to discuss future plans and conferences. The four groups included: Europe and Neighbors, Asia Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Africa.
Mentoring Program
ISTR’s mentoring program entered its seventh year in 2022. This year twenty-nine pairs of mentors/mentees were matched. Conversations focus on suggestions related to publication, funding, networking, research methodologies, academic institution navigation, and work life balance. ISTR takes great care in making our mentoring matches in the hopes that it will help students and early career scholars find valuable connections. [https://www.istr.org/page/Mentoring](https://www.istr.org/page/Mentoring)

Online Programs
Following the success of 2020/21 online events, we continued to offer 15 virtual programs throughout the year. These sessions included research presentations, professional development sessions, and Book Clubs. All sessions have been recorded and can be accessed by the members. The Book Clubs have been quite successful, with authors now reaching out to us to provide a platform for their newly authored books. Attendance at the online events continues to be robust which clearly demonstrates that we are providing both content and community for this network.

1. Book Club: *The Routledge Handbook of Volunteering in Events, Sport and Tourism*
2. Responding to crises: Civil Society experiences in different Asia-Pacific regimes.
3. Book Club: *In Defense of Philanthropy*
4. 25 Años De Inversión Social Privada En Brasil: Avances, Retos Y Perspectivas
5. Roundtable Series Discussion 1: The ‘Pracademic’ as Change Agent
6. Roundtable Series Discussion 2: The ‘Pracademic’ as Change
7. Co-Production and Japanese Healthcare: Work Environment, Governance, Service Quality & Social Values Agent
8. ISTR Book Club: *Beyond the Boomerang*
9. Nuevas tendencias de la innovación social
10. Book Club: *Anchoring Change: Seventy-five years of Grassroots Interventions that Make a Difference*
11. Presentation: Lester M. Salamon Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award Winner
12. A Global Perspective on Generosity, Giving and its Impact
13. Records, Archives, and Resources for Scholars: Taming Your Third-Sector Organization’s Ocean of Info
14. Book Club: *A Research Agenda for Civil Society*
15. Presentation: Civil Society Impact Award Winners

PhD Seminar Alumni Network Newsletter
A PhD Seminar Alumni Newsletter was established in 2022. The newsletter is shared with 305 alumni and was published in June, September and December. The inaugural issue included an editorial from the co-editors, Lesley Alborough (UK) and Elaine Xu (Australia). The aim of the newsletter is to keep the alumni network informed about the development in the field of third sector research. They also plan to spotlight research projects, books, publications, career pathways, research methodology, as well as members of the PhD seminar alumni network. Contributing editors include, Ali Baker Hamoudi, (Iraq/Ireland); Shiqi Peng (Hong Kong); Rachel Biaz (Israel); Jessica Joy Gilles (Australia); Anna Reggiardo (Italy); Nur Azam Perai (Malaysia) and Mercy Kibe (Kenya).
Rockefeller Archive Center Gift
As ISTR celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022, the Society holds three decades of archival files on the establishment and operation of the Society. In December 2021, an agreement was approved by the board of directors to gift the Society’s files to the Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC) and all of the printed material has been transferred. The transfer of digital records will be forthcoming.

The agreement includes: Institutional membership in the Society for RAC; gift of files to RAC but to retain intellectual property rights; provision for RAC access to digital records in the agreement but with the understanding that paper records will move first; and establishment of a 5-year embargo on RAC making ISTR records available.

Publications

Voluntas
The journal continues to expand and received an impact factor (2021) of 2.794, an increase from 2020 impact factor of 2.468. During 2022, the journal received 376 manuscripts from 58 countries and 88 manuscripts were accepted from 31 countries. The co-editors-in-chief (Fredrik O. Andersson, Susan Appe and Galia Chimiak) expect to see new submission to Voluntas leveling off to an average of about 400 annually. With resubmissions, they estimate they are processing about 600 submissions annually.

The first virtual special issue was guest edited by the outgoing editors’ Taco Brandsen & Ruth Simsa and published in March 2022. Two other special issues were published, Civil Society and the Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers (Guest Editors: Simone Baglioni, Francesca Calo & Dino Numerato), October 2022, Volume 33, Issue 5. Researching the Third Sector Diversity, Pluralism and Openness (Guest Editors: Paloma Raggo & Mirae Kim), December 2022, Volume 33, Issue 5. A number of special issues are in the pipeline for 2023.

Springer Nonprofit and Civil Society Studies Book Series

Membership
ISTR membership totaled 704 members from 66 countries at the end of 2022. This was a decline from 872 members from 71 countries in 2021. We believe that some of this decrease was due to limited university budgets and a reduced conference attendance.

From 2022 onwards, membership fees will be paid on a two-year rolling basis so that, instead of all memberships expiring on 31st December, they will now expire two years after the date member has joined. In addition, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) will be used to categorize countries for membership discounts. This provides for more countries to have a discounted fee.
Regional Networks

Asia Pacific Regional Network
The ISTR Asia Pacific Conference, Active Civil Society: Post-crises Rebuilding, Mobilising and Innovating, took place 7-9 December 2022 (PhD Seminar 5-6 December 2022). The 12th ISTR Asia-Pacific Conference was hosted by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy within the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and especially Associate Professor Janice Nga who chaired the organizing committee.

Highlights included:
Meredith Weiss’ plenary on the first day entitled ‘Civil Society in the Post-crises Remaking of Southeast Asia’. Professor Weiss (University at Albany, SUNY) follows the Malaysian political situation closely, having been here for the recent elections. Her address balanced detail with theorization, brought in other countries in Southeast Asia, and generated a lot of discussion.

The Board (and friends) plenary on the second day was entitled ‘Academics as Activists: encouraging democracy.’ Linda van der Wijk (PhD student), Faina Diola, Dipendra KC and Kinman Chan formed the panel and each talked about their personal experience of activism and working with NGOs. This spanned a variety of activism including teaching and research, and also the personal cost of activism.

The evening banquet at the 5-star Magellan Hotel attended by the Minister of Sport and Youth, UMS’s Vice Chancellor and almost 200 attendees, supporters and other dignitaries and helpers.

The visit to PACOS by the PhD students and Faculty on the second day of the PhD seminar. This community-based organization works with more than 500 communities to support them in learning and leading better use of their land and resources.

PhD seminar: Three students participated in person and one online and presented their research and gave good feedback to each other. Nur Azam Perai (ISTR PhD alumni from Indonesia in 2017 and Amsterdam in 2018) now at UTM, Beatrice Lim from UMS and Carolyn Cordery (ISTR board president elect) served as faculty. On the first day Azam led a session on ‘local context, global impact’, and we had an interactive session on time saving tools for research. On the second day after the NGO visit, Carolyn led a 2-hour workshop on ‘research dissemination – developing an academic article’ which was also attended by 8 UMS faculty.

Conference: A total of 62 people registered with 35 papers and 2 roundtables being included in the program. Fewer than 5 people joined online as this option was restricted to people who could not travel due to health or logistic reasons.

Supporting Asia-Pacific members:
- **Affinity Groups**: Meetings were held of three affinity groups – Law and Regulation, Teaching and Learning and the ‘new affinity group’/pracademics.
- **Asia Pacific newsletter**: This was ‘marketed’ through the affinity groups and in plenary.
- **Voluntas Special Issue**: Fengshi Wu, Dipendra KC and a UPM (Universiti Putra Malaysia) staff member, Steven Krauss, are guest editors of a Special Issue of Voluntas for papers presented at the conference, on the conference theme.
The Asia Pacific regional newsletter continues to be sent monthly, now with guest editors and a new focus on research centers around the region. The newsletter is edited by Fengshi Wu (Australia), with support from Associate Editor, Qianjin Zhang (Macau), Assistant Editor, Linda van der Wijk (Thailand) and Editorial Assistant, Tahlia McKee (Australia). This year included guest editors, Dipendra KC (Thailand), Qihai Cai (Macau), David Gilchrist (Australia), Farhat Naz (India), Maria R. Nindita Radyati (Indonesia), Ying Hooi (Malaysia) and Maria Faina Diola (Philippines), who have contributed to editing the newsletters, writing up wonderful editor’s notes, and introducing different research centers through spotlights.

Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Network
A new regional liaison and newsletter editor, Pablo Marsal Baraldi, of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been appointed for 2022-2023. Pablo and his team are working to expand the regional outreach in all parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. The newsletter is published in Spanish and provides information including news, calls, dissemination of new research papers, professional opportunities, and scholarships. Future plans include a brief summary of the state of civil society in each country.

The 2023 regional LAC conference is planned for São Paulo, Brazil, October 9-11.

Africa Regional Network
The first edition of the Africa Third Sector Researchers Network newsletter highlights the critical scholarly and activist work being undertaken in the sector. The newsletter includes information about conferences, research, publications, Call for Expressions of interest, resources, film & documentary, and more.

Edited by Shauna Mottiar, Professor of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa where she directs the Centre for Civil Society. Contributors to the newsletter are Neville Magwirol (South Africa) and Kennedy Musyoka (USA)

Financial Report
This report presents the financial results for 2022. ISTR’s regulatory Form 990 is available [https://www.istr.org/Annual_Report](https://www.istr.org/Annual_Report). For the year ended 31 December 2022, ISTR returned an operating surplus of $4579; after investment losses this was a deficit of US$145,452 (against a surplus in 2021 of US$54,241). The budget for 2023 expects to return an operating deficit.

As can be seen in the bar charts below and accounts following for 2021 and 2022 (and budget for 2023), ISTR’s revenues are mainly from four sources. Publishing (including Voluntas) is a key income stream. Membership revenues are very important, especially when one also includes revenue from members attending conferences. This year revenue has come from surpluses generated by both the international conference in Montreal, as well as the Asia Pacific conference in Sabah, Malaysia. Membership fees is an important revenue stream; hence we remain concerned about the low levels of membership.

ISTR is grateful for the receipt of $50,000 (US$25,000 in 2021) from the Mott Foundation which is a continuation of a steady funding stream as part of our capacity building within the sector. That funding will end in 2023. We often receive sponsorships (including for conferences).
ISTR’s expenditures are quite diverse as shown in the bar graph below for 2021 and 2022 (and budget for 2023). We continue to support special programs in the regions and PhD seminars. We have a small staff to cover the needs within delivery of member services.

The investment market has seen declines and variability. ISTR has invested its capital with Vanguard Asset Management Ltd in both the money market and socially responsible funds. The markets have been volatile this year and our portfolio returned a deficit. We are invested for the long term and the finance committee continues to monitor this.

We are grateful to the support of the Finance Committee members: Nathan Grasse (Carleton University Canada), Lesley Alborough (Wellcome Trust, UK) and Joannie Tremblay-Boire (University of Maryland), with Oonagh Breen (President) as ex-officio.
Administration
The office was relocated in July when the lease at Johns Hopkins University expired. A smaller space in a nearby co-working building allowed the Society to cut its cost in half.

The staff has been reduced to an Executive Director (full time) and Director of Programs (part-time). In addition, we have hired three consultants who are working hourly to support financial management, technology/graphic design, and database needs.

Members Meeting
The Society’s membership meeting took place during the Montreal conference in July 2022. The board members updated the membership on the status of the Society including its financial status.

Members are always invited to contact any member of the Board or the Secretariat if they have queries, or proposals on how to further enhance the membership experience provided by ISTR.

The Society is most grateful to the many volunteers who have dedicated their time and expertise to the association in 2022.