Annual Report 2021

The International Society for Third Sector Research is pleased to report to members on its activities for the year ended December 31, 2021. 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). Following Board elections in 2020, the newly constituted Board was convened in January 2021 and the full Board met in July and December with the Board’s Executive Committee meeting on a monthly basis in between board meetings

2021-2022
Oonagh Breen, President, (Ireland) 2019-2022 (second term)
Mario Aquino Alves, President-Elect, (Brazil) 2019-2022
Carolyn Cordery, Treasurer, (New Zealand), 2019-2022
Dipendra K C, Secretary, (Thailand), 2021-2024
Fengshi Wu, Chair, Publications Committee, (Australia), 2019-2022

Members at Large
Susan Appe (USA), 2019-2022
Daniel Barragan (Ecuador), 2019-2022
Elizabeth Bloodgood (Canada), 2019-2022
Barbara Ibrahim (Egypt), 2019-2022
Bhekinkosi Moyo (South Africa) 2019-2022 (second term)
Kin-man Chan (Hong Kong) 2021-2024 (second term)
Anna Domaradzka (Poland), 2021-2024 (second term)
Maria Faina Diola (Philippines), 2021-2024
Dipendra K C (Thailand), 2021-2024
Allison Youatt Schnable (USA), 2021-2024
Ruth Simsa (Austria), 2021-2024

The Board is supported by ISTR’s Secretariat comprised of Margery Daniels, Executive Director and Megan Haddock, Program Manager.
Conferences

2021 Virtual Conference

Challenging times made a virtual conference essential after postponing the 2020 in-person conference. Scheduling presentations in two time blocks made it possible for all members to participate meaningfully and expand the Society’s role as a convenor of global third sector academic issues. A virtual platform, Pathable, was used and all registrants had access to the session recordings for 6 months following the conference.

The platform provided a space for 2 plenary events (one open to the public), 103 paper sessions, 23 panel sessions, and 16 roundtables. A total of 535 registrants from 58 countries attended including 144 students. In addition, there were 14 networking events, 16 paper sessions held in parallel organized by the ARIMA network, 2 pre-conference sessions of the Nonprofit Education Research Summit and 56,772 views of the conference platform page. The networking sessions included those for the PhD Alumni Group (2), Latin American & the Caribbean regional network, Africa network, Meet the Editors – ISTR Book Series, Law & Regulation Affinity Group, Center Directors, plus Secretariat office hours.

The first plenary session Resistance and Mutual Aid Under Repressive Regimes: Hong Kong and Myanmar, included presenters: Professor Kinman Chan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Tharaphi Than, Northern Illinois University and Professor MA Ngok, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and was moderated by Barbara Ibrahim, American University in Cairo, Egypt (emeritus). This session examined two society case studies, Myanmar and Hong Kong, in order identify some of the commonalities and distinctions in civil society response.

The second plenary, open to the public, was Civil Society Resilience: Finding the Common Thread in the Face of a Global Pandemic. This session began with a video highlighting six organizations around the world that have faced challenges from the pandemic and have changed and transformed to survive. Each presented a unique story about how they managed, pivoted, and embraced new opportunities. Participants were invited to join the world tour from Brazil, Japan, Italy, Nepal, Nigeria, Canada, and South Africa – followed by analysis and discussion of resilience and new possibilities with Nana Afadzinu (West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Ghana), and Rob Macmillan (Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, Sheffield Hallam University, UK), and moderated by Dipendra KC, Thammasat University, Thailand.

Holding a virtual conference was a challenge to organize and received positive feedback on our efforts.
ISTR International Conference Planning 2022

The 15th International conference Call for Contributions for Montreal July 12-15, 2022 was shared in June 2021. The theme is Navigating in Turbulent Times: Perspectives and Contributions from the Third Sector. The conference will celebrate 30 years of the ISTR community and we anticipate that this will be the first in-person large-scale conference for researchers and practitioners in the third sector worldwide to reunite and learn from each other since 2018. Link to the Call.

The deadline for submissions was 15 November 2021 and we received 406 submissions. This included 380 papers, 12 panels, 18 posters, and 16 roundtables. Each submission receives a double-blind review and the process will be completed by the end of January 2022.

The Montreal Academic Committee is co-chaired by Patricia Mendonca, Brazil & Marc Jegers, Belgium. Committee members include Keratiloe Mogotsi (South Africa); Daniel Barragan (Ecuador), Leopoldo Blugerman (Argentina), Qihai Cai (Macau), Domenico Carolei (UK), Kyungja Jung (Australia); Keratiloe Mogotsi (South Africa); Tereza Pospíšilová (Czech Republic), Peter Raeymaeckers (Belgium); Lili Wang (USA); and Deena White (Canada).

Conference planning continued to move forward, but slowly due to the pandemic. It is anticipated that in early 2022 the pace will increase. A Government of Canada SSHRC Connections Grant Institutional Support was secured to support the PhD seminar plus methods based professional development workshops. The core of the proposal is to enhance the methodological rigor of third sector research by helping to train and guide the next generation of scholars, with a particular emphasis on PhDs and emerging scholars from the global South.

PhD Seminar (Virtual)

The 2021 International PhD Seminar, May 24-28, 2021 included 39 PhD Students from some 21+ nationalities enrolled in universities in 18 countries. There were twelve faculty and notably, three faculty were 2012 PhD Seminar alumni. There were six small groups that met four times during the week. Professor Peter Frumkin delivered the opening keynote in which he discussed eight good ideas and strategies for emerging scholars.

The seminar included 2 closing plenaries featuring:

- 2 keynote speakers: Maria Faina Diola (The Philippines) “Research for Policy Development” and Matthew Bennett (UK) “Biological Responses to Prosocial Behavior.”
- 2 sessions on Getting Published, including a conversation between Taco Brandsen (Voluntas) and Feminda Handy (NVSQ) and “The Joys and Pains of Publishing” interactive workshop.
In addition, there were 3 informal networking sessions as well as a Three-Minute Thesis competition. The University of the Pennsylvania Center for Social Impact Strategy sponsored the prizes awarded to the top presentation and runner up. All entries were posted on the Virtual Conference platform.

**Mentoring Program**

ISTR’s mentoring program entered its sixth year in 2021. This year thirty-eight 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

**Online Programs**

Following the success of 2020 online events, we continued to offer 17 virtual programs throughout the year. These sessions included research presentations, professional development and Book Clubs. All of the 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. In December 2021, we were surprised with an excellent number of registrants for two programs. This clearly demonstrates that we are providing both content and community for this network.

- A research agenda for civil society: A Conversation with Alan Fowler and Kees Biekart
- Book Series: Civil Society and The Family
- Applying for Post-docs
- Ready to Present: Iwona Nowakowska
- A research agenda for civil society (2): An online conversation with Alan Fowler and Kees Biekart
- Book Series: Amateurs without Borders: The Aspirations and Limits of Global Compassion
- Buenas prácticas en la revisión por pares
- Introducing International Financial Reporting for Non-Profit Organisations (IFR4NPO)
- Book Series: Managerial Economics of Non-Profit Organisations
- Civil Society Responses to the COVID 19 Pandemic: A Comparative Study of China, Japan & South Korea
- Book Series: Employee Engagement in Corporate Social Responsibility
- ISTR’s Emerging Scholar Dissertation Series featuring Jan Winkin
- Replanteando la relación entre la Universidad y las organizaciones sociales
- ISTR’s Emerging Scholar Dissertation Series featuring 2020 Honorable Mention Winner: Arjen de Wit
- Closing Plenary: Civil Society Resilience: Finding the Common Thread in the Face of Global Pandemic
- Book Club: The Routledge Handbook of Taxation and Philanthropy
Archival Gift
Rockefeller Archive Center Gift

As ISTR will celebrate 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).

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. The files as well as journals and other ISTR publications will be shipped to RAC in 2022.

Publications
Voluntas
Editors-in-Chief Appointed

Three Co-Editors-in-Chief of Voluntas, Susan Appe, Fredrik O. Andersson and Galia Chimiak were appointed for a three-year term beginning January 2022. This appointment was made by the board of directors of the Society following the recommendation of the Voluntas Editorial Search Committee in December 2020. The Search Committee was comprised of Mario Aquino Alves (Brazil), chairperson, Andrea Bassi (Italy), Shauna Mottiar (South Africa), Ruth Simsa (Austria), Sonia Tello Rozas (Canada), and Fengshi Wu (Australia).

Susan Appe is Assistant Professor, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany, SUNY, New York, and has formal affiliations with universities and NGOs in Latin America and East Africa. Susan’s research is global in scope and has focused on development studies, nonprofit management, and philanthropy.

Fredrik Andersson is Associate Professor at Indiana University’s Paul H. O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Indianapolis, an affiliated faculty member with the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, and has formal affiliation with the Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden. Fredrik brings an interdisciplinary perspective in entrepreneurship and public affairs and his research areas include nonprofit governance, social enterprise and entrepreneurship.
Galia Chimiak is Associate Professor at the Civil Society Department at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Science. She is a sociologist by training and her research interests are in civil society, development cooperation and global education. Galia’s work is interdisciplinary drawing on sociology, political studies as well social psychology, among others.

This new team will build on the journal’s past and current accomplishments and strengthen the academic standing of the journal. They will be informed by ISTR’s goals to develop and implement an inclusive global research agenda and will focus on expanding the geographical coverage of the journal.

We are grateful for the tremendous contributions of the outgoing Co-Editors in Chief, Ruth Simsa and Taco Brandsen. Under their leadership, every measure of the journal’s strength has increased. As reported previously, the Voluntas Impact Factor has risen to 2.468. In 2020, the journal rose 4 ranks in the ‘Social Issues’ category in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). Voluntas is now #8 in journals for Google Scholar Rankings in the category “Public Policy and Administration.” Thanks to the entire editorial team, Voluntas continues to be a highly cited resource in its respective disciplines.

Social Media Editor

Marlene Walk was appointed as Voluntas’ inaugural Social Media Editor. In addition to serving as an active editorial board member — which requires reviewing many articles and helping with the strategic direction of the journal — Marlene is also carving out space for Voluntas on Twitter. Voluntas’ Twitter handle was launched in April 2021 and already has 640+ followers.

Dr. Marlene Walk is Assistant Professor at Indiana University’s Paul H. O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Indianapolis.

Springer Nonprofit and Civil Society Studies Book Series

In 2021, two books were published in the series: Benjamin Gidron and Anna Domaradzka (eds), The New Social and Impact Economy: An International Perspective (Springer, 2021) and Riccardo Guidi, Ksenija Fonović, and Tania Cappadozzi (eds), Accounting for the Varieties of Volunteering: New Global Statistical Standards Tested (Springer, 2021). The Book Series is edited by Paul Dekker and Lehn Benjamin and members are invited to submit book proposals to them for consideration on a rolling basis.

https://www.istr.org/page/SpringerBookSeries
**Membership**

Despite a challenging time for society membership renewals across many academic societies during the covid-19 pandemic, ISTR membership totaled 872 members from 71 countries at the end of 2021. We believe that some of this increase was due to the virtual programming and regional networks.

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.

Significant efforts have been made to clean and update the backend database to streamline the process of joining and renewing on the ISTR website.

**Regional Networks**

*Asia Pacific Regional Network*

A regional conference was planned for December 2021 on the theme, *Active Civil Society: Post-crisis rebuilding, mobilizing and innovating*, but due to COVID it is now planned for 7-9 December 2022. The conference will be hosted by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, in Sabah, Malaysia. A Call for Contributions was shared and then a decision was made prior to the August 1 deadline to submit to postpone the Conference to 2022. An academic committee has been established comprised of:

- UK (Co-Chair) Carolyn Cordery, Victoria University, New Zealand
- Hong Kong (Co-Chair): Kin man Chan, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Australia: Fengshi Wu, University of New South Wales & Ruth Phillips, University of Sydney
- Bangladesh: Salma Akhter, University of Dhaka
- China: Yongdong Shen, Zhejiang University
- India: Manjula Chengappa, St. Agnes College Mangalore
- Indonesia: Maria R. Nindita Radyati, Trisakti University
- Japan: Aya Okada, Tohoku University & Sohgen Boku, Hosei University
- Malaysia: Wendy Yee, CITrA Universiti Malaya
- Philippines: Maria Faina Diola, University of the Philippines
- South Korea: Tae-Kyu Park, Yonsei University
- Singapore: Justin Lee, Institute of Policy Studies
- Taiwan: Grace Li-Min Liao, China University of Technology
- Thailand: Dipendra KC, Thammasat University
Conference local hosts are Dr. Janice L. H. Nga, Associate Professor, Planning and Development Economics, Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Dr. Rozilee Bin Asid, Deputy Dean (Research & Innovation), Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

The committee will re-open submissions in May 2022. In the interim, they have created a number of online programs for the region, including one which took place on December 7, 2021 on “Theories for Research: Asia Pacific Response to Dominant Theories in Civil Society.”

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 and editorial assistant, Qianjun Zhang, with support from regional representatives.

**Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Network**

A Virtual Symposium was held for 2 days in October, celebrating 25 years of the network. Researchers were invited to reflect on the challenges and perspectives facing the future of research on the Third Sector and Civil Society in the LAC Region. The Symposium included 8 roundtables with 74 participants from 13 countries.

The Academic Committee for the Symposium was comprised of Adriana Reynaga Morales (Mexico); Carlos Chávez Becker (Mexico); Gabriel Berger (Argentina); Jacqueline Butcher (Mexico); Téo Armando Teodósio (Brazil); Jorge Víctor Villalobos Grzybowicz (Mexico); Paula Chies Schommer (Brazil); Mário Aquino Alves (Brazil); Ignacio Irarrazaval (Chile); Marlei Pozzebon (Canada); Luz Dinora Vera Acevedo (Colombia); Óscar Armando Pardo (Colombia); Laura Gallego Moscoso (Colombia); Jose Ivan Vega Torres (Puerto Rico); Alfredo C. Carraquillo Ramírez (Puerto Rico); Susan Appe (USA); Anabel Cruz (Uruguay); Daniel Barragán (Ecuador); Romina Farías Pelayo (Mexico); and Leopoldo Blugerman (Argentina).

ISTR and *Voluntas* held a Paper Development Workshop (November 11 & 12) for the special call: *Civil Society in Latin America: Experiments, Resilience, New Utopias*. Guest editors, Patricia Mendonça and Humberto Muñoz Grandé, launched the call in trilingual format (Spanish, Portuguese and English) during ISTR’s Global Virtual Conference in July 2021. The goal was to make the process more inclusive in receiving papers and carrying out the workshop, aiming to encourage more authors in the region to send their work to *Voluntas*.

The call received 24 submissions, of which 13 were selected to participate in the workshop, being well balanced between the three languages. During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn more about the profile of the contents and debates published in *Voluntas* and participated in individual sessions to discuss their work.
Final submission to *Voluntas* will be completed in March 2022, and ISTR/Springer will provide 8 grants for translating Spanish and Portuguese papers into English.

In addition to the guest editors, the workshop included the participation of the editor-in-chief of *Voluntas*, Susan Appe, and discussants who commented on the works individually (Carolina Andion, Marlei Pozzebon, Guadalupe Serna Pérez, Livia Pagotto, Adriana Reynaga Morales, Carlos Courdurier Real, Alicia Márquez Murrieta, Genauto Carvalho-França Filho).

The secretariat and newsletter are a joint effort between Cento Mexicano para la Filanthropia (CEMEFI), and Centro de Investigación y Estudios sobre Sociedad Civil (CIESC). The four year term (2018-2021) was managed by Romina Farias, Director of Research, CEMEFI, Jacqueline Butcher, Director, CIESC, and Cristina Rey – our outstanding consultant. Highlights from their term include: Medellin 2019 Conference, 25th Anniversary Symposium (Virtual 2021), online programs, professional development workshops, newsletters, and more.

The 2023 regional LAC conference is planned for São Paulo, Brazil.

**Africa Regional Network**

The African Regional network met during the virtual conference and we saw growth in online participation amongst African scholars during Covid. The pandemic in some ways levelled the playing field in terms of online engagement. In addition, we worked across time-zones and recorded our online events that are available to members on our website.

Plans for a professional development series of Writing Workshops in collaboration with the Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment at Wits Business School are under way. We anticipate these workshops will begin in 2022, for the benefit of CAPSI students and all African non-profit research scholars. Efforts will be made to reach students throughout the continent.
Financial Report

The Treasurer’s report addresses the financial results for 2021. ISTR’s regulatory Form 990 is available [see Attachment C]. For the year ended 31 December 2021, ISTR returned a surplus of US$64,431 (against a deficit in 2020 of US$63,494). The budget for 2022 expects also to return a small surplus.

ISTR’s revenues derive mainly from four sources as shown in the pie graphs below for 2020-2022.

As can be seen, Voluntas is the main revenue generator from ISTR’s publications and the contract with Springer for its publication continues to deliver –30% of our revenues. Membership revenues are very important, especially when one also includes revenue from members attending conferences. This latter depends on conference frequency and size and while in 2021 ISTR’s conference was delivered online, the current plan is to hold the International Conference in Montreal in 2022, and an Asia Pacific Conference in Sabah, Malaysia also in 2022.

We are also grateful for the grants we receive from the Mott Foundation (US$25,000 in 2021 and 2020), in 2021 the forgiveness of US$83,077 in PPP Loans from the US Government towards rental and staffing costs during Covid-19 (US$40,500 in 2020), and investment gains (US$44,962 in 2021; $18,862 in 2020). Reserves are held with Vanguard Asset Management Ltd in both the money market and socially responsible funds. We often receive sponsorships (which for the forthcoming conferences will be reported in 2022).
ISTR’s expenditures are quite diverse as shown in the pie graphs below for 2020-2022.

Changes to the staff resulted in adjustments to the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Consultants are now working with staff which has resulted in reduced costs.

While 2021 has been a more positive year than 2020, given inflation there is a need to ensure ISTR’s reserves are sufficient for its future sustainability. The revenue, expenses and net results for 2022-2022 are shown in the graphs below.

The Board thanks Margery and the team for their hard work during the year and to the Finance Committee for their support.

The Finance Committee members are: Nathan Grasse (Carleton University Canada), Lesley Alborough (Nottingham Trent University, UK) and Putnam Barber, with Oonagh Breen (President) as ex-officio. Margery as Chief Executive also attends the meetings and assists us greatly. Putnam rotated off the Finance Committee at the end of 2021. Joannie Tremblay-Boire (University of Maryland) has been appointed as the new member-at-large for 2022-2023.
**Members Meeting**

Our next Society membership meeting will take place during the Montreal conference in July 2022. 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 2021.