EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the first issue of ISTR Asia Pacific Researchers Network Newsletter in 2023! We hope you have had a wonderful holiday season and been reunited with all your loved ones.

As we start the new year, we have some exciting initiatives to share with you. First, we have made the editorial decision to move all the information related to professional development to ISTR social media spaces. Linda will manage the Asia-Pacific information on the ISTR Twitter account (@ISTRorg) and support Megan with the account in general. Second, we would like more direct input from YOU! In addition to the Spotlight section, we are introducing two new sections – Conversation and After Reading – both of which are open for your participation. For more details, please see page 2.

Many of you travelled to the beautiful Sabah last December and attended the AP regional conference. We followed up with Assoc Professor Janice Nga (the main driving force behind the conference) and asked her about what types of third-sector research activities her home institution will embark on. Shiqi Peng from Hong Kong University also contributed a Reflection Note to share her Sabah experience.

Our Regional Network has recently held a webinar on “International Philanthropy and Domestic Politics”, an issue area that is of particular relevance to our region. Please watch out here for more online programs to come!

Last not least, with much regret, we will be seeing some of our long-time readers off in March. So, if you prefer not, please renew your ISTR membership soon.

All the best,

Fengshi, Qianjin and Linda
Call for Your Input
The Newsletter is opening the following calls for 2023:

1) **Guest editor**: responsibilities include the Editor’s Note, selecting research paper abstracts, and collaborating on the Spotlight and/or Conversation sections. Don’t panic, as the three regular editors will support you every step throughout the process!

2) **Author of the Conversation**: responsibilities include interviewing someone special from the big ISTR family and sharing all the highlights (and surprises) of your conversation! (500-800 words)

3) **Reviewer of the book Being Good in a World of Need**: Contemporary philosopher Larry Tomkin’s new book cast serious doubt about the world of NGOs, charities, and philanthropy (probably the worst in the past three decades). What is your reaction to it? Let’s have a good read of his arguments, establish our counterarguments, and have a good intellectual contest!

Our dear readers and members, please raise your hands and let us know your interest in contributing to future issues: istreastasia@istr.org.

Conversation with Janice Nga
21 February 2023

**Short bio**: Dr. Janice L. H. Nga is an Associate Professor of Planning and Development Economics, at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). She is the first candidate to complete the integrated PhD or PhD Plus from the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Leeds, UK. She has been nominated several times as a member of ISTR Conference International Academic Committee and the Nominating Committee of Board Members. She served as the Conference Chair for the ISTR Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in December 2022.

**Fengshi**: Hi Janice, hope all has been well since the ISTR AP conference last December. I thought it would be good to feature you, your home faculty, and the research from Sabah as a natural follow-up, a reflective note to the conference.

**Janice**: Thank you for this opportunity. My home institution and local communities in Sabah, including our government, saw the ISTR AP Conference last December as a great success. Some from the governmental offices even encouraged me to bid for ISTR global conference in the future! Would be a great recognition of the academic standing of Sabah and Malaysia and a privilege to our university, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). It is not only my dream but a dream for my university, as well as a dream for Sabah and Malaysia!

**Fengshi**: Wonderful to hear this! Could you tell us a bit more about your research, particularly the parts related to the third-sector.

**Janice**: My third-sector related research from the political economy angle, particularly on valuation and monetising civil society contribution, grassroots innovation, social enterprises, and the democratisation process, has always been integrated with my long-time research focus on gender, youth, and aging. I am now on the editorial boards of the Journal of Youth...
Economy and Malaysian Journal of Youth Studies and also the managing editor for Girl Guide Association Malaysia. Because of the experiences related to the research, I became the advisor and resource person of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Sabah (KBSS), Sabah Youth Consultative Council (MPBNS), Sabah Youth Council (MBS) and also a member of the expert team for the Malaysian Innovation Foundation (YIM). I have also transformed some of my third-sector studies into academic courses in our Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy. For example, Civil Society and Development and Youth and Political Economy are two elective courses listed by our Faculty.

**Fengshi:** Do you see more colleagues, PhD students and even undergraduates joining you to do research on the third-sector in Sabah in the future?

**Janice:** Very much so. We have a very vibrant civil society sector (hundreds of NGOs and grassroots organisations) in Sabah. They work in all aspects of social and public domains such as aging, digital economy, equity and more. Therefore, there is a natural demand of research and public discussion of the sector. At the Centre for Economic and Development Policy (CEDP), my colleagues integrate empirical research of NGOs and nonprofits into other research, for example, financial equity without particularly pronouncing it. As for myself, I attempt to promote and highlight third-sector research under the Planning and Development Cluster that I head under CEDP.

**Fengshi:** What do you see as some of the challenges ahead for the third-sector research to develop in Sabah and more generally in Malaysia?

**Janice:** Limited capacity certainly remains a major challenge. Maybe we could put resources together and establish a Chair Professorship in Third-sector Studies to champion this academic field in the future. For example, we could develop a specialised graduate curriculum and establish intersectoral talk series on topics such as nonprofit accounting, grassroots innovation, social enterprises, and nonprofit management. I personally have a passion to enhance studies related to marginalised groups such as people with disabilities, communities living in extreme poverty, youth, women and the kind. It’s my hope that international collaboration through ISTR platform and relevant networks with boost further third-sector research in Sabah and Malaysia.

**Fengshi:** This all sounds like a great plan to me!

**Reflections on ISTR Asia-Pacific Conference and Ph.D. Seminar**

*Shiqi PENG, PhD Candidate, The University of Hong Kong*

It is my great honor to present at the 12th ISTR Asia-Pacific Conference and the Ph.D. seminar from Dec 5 to 9, 2022 in Sabah, Malaysia.

The two-day Ph.D. seminar was well-organized, with intensive discussions on our research, exchange of knowledge, a fascinating field visit, and an inspiring workshop about research mechanics and dissemination. I found the field visit to PACOS Trust - a community-based organization dedicated to supporting indigenous communities in Sabah - the most impressive. I found the experience of seeing local nonprofit practices from the perspective of an “outsider” useful to contract with my current research. I also competed in the 3-min thesis competition as an early-stage Ph.D. student, which gave me ideas about how to
present my ideas better, how to design my research better, and how to sharpen the main arguments of the thesis.

Communications and interactions always bring out opportunities and surprises. After the PhD seminar, I enjoyed three-day conference and met excellent researchers from the Asia Pacific regions, thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). I presented one paper during the conference and received a lot of constructive feedback. For the first time, I also served as a moderator of a session with three marvelous papers by distinguished professors. Besides, I became one part of the ISTR Asia-Pacific researcher networks and the affiliated groups of ISTR global community. I believe this network will enable me to conduct more future research collaborations.

All the experiences and merits of the seminar and conference mentioned above will lead to short-term and long-term benefits in my Ph.D. and professional development. Therefore, I strongly recommend all emerging scholars and researchers in the nonprofit sector participate in future ISTR Ph.D. seminars and both regional and international conferences.

Core Academic Journals

VOLUNTAS, Volume 33, Issue 6

I Selected Abstract

Taking Stock on How We Research the Third Sector: Diversity, Pluralism, and Openness

Mirae Kim & Paloma Raggo

Abstract: With the growth of third sector research, the field needs more dedicated discussion on how we study the third sector, not only the decisions in research design or data collection process but also the general research approaches and the way we analyze the data. In this introduction to the special issue of Voluntas Volume I, we discuss how the sector can foster a more inclusive and diverse research community for people, topics, and methods. We also discuss the implications of methodological pluralism, an organizing principle of a research community that fosters respect, appreciation, and empathy between its members. We conclude by calling for more empathetic, transparent, and accountable research.

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Gavin Ramsay, Nivedita Narain, Arundhita Bhanjdeo

Journal of Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, Volume 52, Issue 1

I Selected Abstract

The Gendered Pathways Into Giving and Volunteering: Similar or Different Across Countries?

Pamala Wiepking, Christopher J. Einolf, and Yongzheng Yang

Abstract: There has been a steady increase in research studying the role of gender in prosocial behavior, such as charitable giving and volunteering. We provide an extensive review of the interdisciplinary literature and derive hypotheses about three different pathways that lead men and women to differ in their display of giving and volunteering: pathways through social capital, motivations, and resources. We test these hypotheses across 19 countries by analyzing 28,410 individuals, using generalized structural equation models. Our results support previous research, conducted in single countries, that there are distinct different pathways that lead men and women to engage in giving and volunteering: Women report stronger motivations to help others, but men report more of the financial resources that make giving and volunteering possible. The gendered pathways to giving and volunteering that lead through social capital, educational achievement, and financial security vary by country.
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    Margaret A. Post, Elizabeth T. Boris, Carol L. Stimmel
Welcome to the Newly Elected Board of Directors of ISTR

ISTR is pleased to announce and introduce our newly elected Board of Directors:

**President Elect:** Carolyn Cordery (New Zealand)*

**Board Members:**
- Susan Appe (USA)*
- Elizabeth Bloodgood (Canada)*
- Barbara Ibrahim (Egypt)*
- Pablo Marsal Baraldi (Argentina)
- Shauna Mottiar (South Africa)
- Stijn Van Puyvelde (Belgium)
- Fengshi Wu (Australia)*

* Serving their second term

Those members join continuing board members:
- Mario Aquino Alves (Brazil) President
- Kin-man Chan (Taiwan)
- Anna Domaradzka (Poland)
- Maria Faina Diola (Philippines)
- Dipendra K C (Thailand)
- Allison Youatt Schnable (USA)
- Ruth Simsa (Austria)

The term of office for the newly elected board members will commence on January 1, 2023. The directors have been elected to serve two 2-year terms.

**Professional Development: Publishing Your First Article**

**Wednesday March 15, 2023**

10:00am New York • 15:00 Amsterdam • 22:00 Hong Kong

Publishing your research is almost as important for your future marketability as completing your dissertation. This talk will help guide you through the process. We will examine how to identify novel and robust findings from your research, identify appropriate journals for your work, navigate the submission process, and handle reviewer feedback. The content and discussion should be useful for both graduate students and junior faculty. Join Chris Pallas in conversation with Susan Appe, co-editor of ISTR’s journal *Voluntas*, about what it takes to get your first article published. Chris Pallas will draw from guidance outlined in his

**WA 2022 Sustainable Funding Survey Report**

The Western Australia Council for Social Services (WACOSS) has released its 2022 Sustainable Funding Survey for the WA non-government human services sector. The survey data collected by WACOSS was analysed and the report was written by David Gilchrist and Clare Feenan of the Centre for Public Value at the UWA Business School.

The report, centring on sector pricing and indexation, found an increasingly pressurised operating environment for service providers while sizable consequences for vulnerable people and communities predicted if providers are required to reduce services or the workforce becomes increasingly strained.

Access the full report through the Centre for Public Value webpage along with other Centre contributions that deliver valuable insight into the challenges facing the community services sector in Australia.

**New Book: For-Profit Philanthropy: Elite Power & the Threat of Limited Liability Companies, Donor-Advised Funds, & Strategic Corporate Giving**

Dana Brakman Reiser & Steven A. Dean

In *For-Profit Philanthropy*, Dana Brakman Reiser and Steven A. Dean reveal that philanthropy law has long operated as strategic compromise, binding ordinary Americans and elites together in a common purpose. At its center stands the private foundation. The authors show how the foundation neatly combines donor autonomy with a regulatory framework to elevate the public’s voice. This framework compels foundations to spend a small but meaningful portion of the assets their elite donors have pledged to the public each year. Prophylactic restrictions separate foundations from their funders’ business and political interests. And foundations must disclose more about the sources and uses of their assets than any other business or charity. The philanthropic innovations increasingly espoused by America’s most privileged individuals and powerful companies prioritize donor autonomy and privacy, casting aside the foundation and the tools it provides elites to demonstrate their good faith. By threatening to displace impactful charity with hollow virtue signaling, these actions also jeopardize the public’s faith in the generosity of those at the top.

Private ordering, targeted regulation, or a new strategic bargain could strike a modern balance, preserving the benefits of the compromise between the modest and the mighty. *For-Profit Philanthropy* offers a detailed roadmap to show how it can be accomplished.
Call for Papers

EIASM Workshop on Non-Profit Management in Aberdeen, UK

22–23 June 2023

Globally third sector organisations are a growing feature of societies and play an essential role in supporting communities at all levels of society. Indeed, even more during the COVID-19 pandemic charitable organisations provided essential support and filled many gaps in public service provisions. As communities grapple the consequences of the pandemic and now the global recession, demand for the services and support of third sector organisations by the most vulnerable communities have continued to increase. As a result of the financial wreckage of the pandemic and this growing demand on charity services, leaders of charities are faced with significant financial challenges and a variety of capacity constraints.

The purpose of this workshop ‘The challenges of managing the third sector’ is to present and discuss in a stimulating academic environment high-quality research papers exploring the contemporary challenges in managing all kinds of non-profit organisations (NPOs). We seek to engage a global community of scholars and practitioners to explore the financial and managerial challenges facing this sector during the global pandemic and beyond. Potential contributors are encouraged to interpret this theme broadly, yet critically, including through applying diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives to a wide range of countries and regional settings. This workshop will be of interest not only to researchers active in this area, but also to policymakers, senior managers, and practitioners from all disciplines. The workshop organisers are particularly interested in the results of accounting, managerial, economic, policy and inter-disciplinary approaches that explore the contemporary challenges in managing third sector organisations during times of crisis.

• Submissions of papers to the Workshop should be made via the EIASM website by 24th April 2023.
• Notification of acceptance of papers will be made as of 2nd May 2023.
• Registration of authors must be made by 24th May 2023.
• Submission deadline for receipt of final completed papers for the conference is 5th June 2023.

A selection of the best papers will be eligible for submission to a special issue of Financial Accountability and Management Journal (Guest editors Audrey Paterson, Noel Hyndman, Marc Jegers, and Irvine Lapsley). FAM is ranked by the Association of Business Schools (ABS) as 3-rated. More information will be offered during the workshop.

The 7th Annual ARNOVA-Asia Conference

The roles of Nonprofit Organizations for Sustainable Civil Society

07 – 08 July 2022

The 2023 ARNOVA Asia Conference theme is “The Roles of Nonprofit Organizations for Sustainable Civil Society” which looks into the challenges and exploring of nonprofit
organizations to seek advanced collaborations with governments and corporations as well as gaining voluntary actions and philanthropy. In particular, we welcome empirical and theoretical studies addressing the following three broad issues: civic engagement, partnerships in public service delivery, and nonprofit sustainability in post-disaster recovery. In addition, we are experiencing new and difficult situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as more disasters striking and economies facing volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA). These changes facing the nonprofit field increase the need to expand our research paradigm and employ more inclusive strategies that comprehensively cover behaviors and organizations outside our traditional scope.

We invite conference submissions from academic researchers, practitioners, and emerging scholars that address this conference theme. Topics to be discussed cover a wide range of issues related to nonprofit, charity, philanthropy, and social economy, including, but not limited to:

- Giving & Volunteering
- Corporate Philanthropy
- Policy Advocacy and Civic Engagement
- Nonprofit Governance and Management
- Human and Financial Resource Management of Nonprofit Organizations
- Collaborations & Partnerships within and across Sectors
- Social Enterprises and entrepreneurs
- Nonprofit Innovation & Impact
- New Technologies, Big Data, Digitalization, and Civil Society
- Disaster Mitigation, Recovery, and Management
- COVID-19 and Civil Society
- Beyond Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Other Related Significant Topics

Deadline for proposal submission (no more than 500 words): **March 31, 2023**
Deadline for full paper: **June 20, 2023**

Please visit [here](#) for more information.

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About Us

The Asia Pacific Third-Sector Researchers Network (formerly the East Asia Third-Sector Researchers Network) is an initiative first launched by the ISTR (International Society for Third-Sector Research) and the Centre for Social Innovation Studies in the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2016 to help scholars and students in East Asia and beyond to exchange information about publications, conferences and job vacancies in third-sector studies through this Newsletter. The scope of the Newsletter and the network has expanded to cover the entire Asia Pacific region since November 2018. Starting from January 2020, the School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, has been the host of the Newsletter.