EDITOR’S NOTE
We warmly welcome all our readers to the unveiling of the second edition of the ISTR Asia-Pacific Newsletter for the year 2024. After delving into India in our previous edition, we now move across the border to explore the dynamic landscape of Pakistan.

This editorial focuses on a crucial theme: gender within the third sector. Resonant with various other aspects of society, women in the third sector and civil society organizations often find themselves underrepresented, facing biases, and occupying fewer leadership roles. Even when women hold significant positions, their presence may not extend to realms of competence and decision-making, such as the financial, juridical, and entrepreneurial. Furthermore, it is essential to recognize that gender disparities are not uniform across communities, races, classes, or sexual minorities. Rather, these disparities manifest intersectional complexities. As we contemplate a more inclusive and equitable third sector, acknowledging and addressing gender stratification becomes paramount.

Aligned with these reflections, we shine a spotlight on the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWGI) at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan, which is a seminal hub for scholarly exploration of gender and gender dynamics. Focused on research and pedagogy, SWGI aims to deepen the discourses on how gender interacts with the broader world, making significant contributions to academic engagement in gender studies.

In this edition, we have curated two insightful articles – one from the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly and the other from Nonprofit Management and Leadership. We hope these additions enrich your knowledge and contribute to your work within the third sector.

We gently remind you about the ISTR 16th International Conference in Antwerp, Belgium, scheduled for July 16-19, 2024 (visit https://www.istr.org/page/ISTR2024 for details). Additionally, mark your calendars for other noteworthy conferences and workshops like the Civil Society and Sustainability Conference at Stanford University from June 3-5, 2024.
encourage your active involvement, contributions, and attendance at these events. Also, do not forget to explore the featured job opportunities presented in this newsletter.

Wish you an enlightening read; may you stay safe and well!

Warm regards,
Dr. Farhat Naz, Dr. K.J. George, and Dr. Sherin Sabu.

In Spotlight: Saida Waheed Gender Initiative, Lahore University of Management Studies (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan

The Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWGI), founded in 2015 at Lahore University of Management Studies (LUMS), is dedicated to advancing research and teaching on gender within the university and across Pakistan. Named after Saida Waheed, a luminary figure in the Pakistan movement, this initiative pays homage to her visionary dedication to universal education, women’s rights advocacy, and transformative initiatives such as girls’ schools, female health centers, and empowerment-oriented cottage industries for women. The initiative is overseen by a steering committee comprising LUMS faculty, which convenes regularly to evaluate activities and chart the initiative’s trajectory. Additionally, an Advisory Committee of influential figures in gender studies provides it with a transnational network of support and intellectual acumen.

SWGI adopts a gender-centric lens to scrutinize society, culture, and politics, asserting that a comprehensive understanding of the world mandates consideration of gender as a fundamental stratifying system. Operationalizing a set of guiding principles, the initiative adopts an interdisciplinary research approach, fostering scholarly exchange across diverse schools and disciplines at LUMS. It uniquely emphasizes intersectionality, extending its focus beyond women to encompass other historically marginalized gender groups and communities. Also, bridging the theoretical-practical divide in gender studies is a paramount focus of the initiative: highlighting the everyday lived experiences of women, engaging in grassroots organizing and community mobilization, and recognizing art and literature as valuable forms of knowledge creation. Moreover, the center ardently dedicates itself to establishing and maintaining a space conducive to creative autonomy, happiness, and fulfillment to envision an egalitarian and transformative future.

Regular activities organized by the initiative span a spectrum of intellectual pursuits, featuring talks, discussions, and workshops by academics, researchers, and activists addressing multifaceted topics related to gender, such as women’s economic and social empowerment, violence and power dynamics, and the intersections between gender and stratifying systems like caste, class, and religion. Simultaneously, the center supports cultural and artistic production through theatrical productions and film screenings delving into feminist, patriarchal, and gender-related themes. In tandem with this, research mentoring workshops are organized to contribute to building a robust intellectual community extending beyond the LUMS campus.

Moreover, the center curates a noteworthy publication known as the Gender Bi-Annual, which serves as a dynamic platform for the exploration of the diverse experiences of women, queer individuals, and trans persons. Significantly, the bi-Annual functions as a channel for the articulation of interdisciplinary perspectives from both scholarly and practitioner spheres within the realms of gender and sexuality studies. This vision harmonizes with the overarching objectives of the SWGI, reflecting its commitment to advancing gender equality and fervently advocating for women’s rights.
To put it concisely, the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative at LUMS serves as a remarkable model, blending scholarship, creative exploration, and a steadfast commitment to gender justice, all in the pursuit of a fair and enlightened future.

Core Academic Journals

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, Volume 53, Issue 1, February 2024

I Selected Abstract

Consensus Formation in Nonprofit and Philanthropic Studies: Networks, Reputation, and Gender

Ji Ma and René Bekkers

Abstract: The research field of nonprofits and philanthropy has grown exponentially. To what extent do nonprofit scholars share a common language? Answering this question is crucial to assessing the field’s intellectual cohesiveness. We studied how coauthor networks, scholarly reputation, and the prevalence of female authors influence consensus formation. We found that the degree of consensus for all major research topics in the field has increased over time—For every 10% growth in the volume of literature, shared language increased by 1.4%. A cohesive research community on nonprofits and philanthropy has been forming since the early 2000s. Female scholars are fewer in number and less cited than males; their presence did not exceed 40% for most topics. The citation counts of scholars and small-world property of networks are positively associated with consensus, suggesting that star researchers and knowledge brokers bridging different intellectual communities are crucial to sharing research interests and language.

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1. Community-Based Initiatives and Public Services Delivery in a Fragile Context: The Case of Yemen
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2. We Usually Give Like This: Social Norms Describe Typical Charitable Causes Supported by Group Members
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3. Exploring Collaborative Governance Processes Involving Nonprofits
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4. Decomposing the Impact of Leadership Diversity Among Nonprofit Organizations
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5. Rethinking the Role of Volunteering in the Labor Market Inclusion of Migrants
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I Selected Abstract

1. Donor inspiration in nonprofit management: Conceptualization and measurement in a peer-to-peer context

Laura Hesse, Silke Boenigk

Abstract: Drawing on previous conceptualizations of inspiration and the motivational theory of role modeling, this study reports on developing and testing a donor inspiration framework in a peer-to-peer giving context. This framework proposes that individuals become inspired by a source, most likely peer fundraisers, to donate to a particular social cause. Based on observable donor data (N = 8697) that were scraped from the platform of a large peer-to-peer fundraising campaign, the results confirm that donor inspiration drives donation behavior. The authors find that peer fundraisers, social causes, or a combination of the two can be a source of inspiration. The findings offer an initial conceptualization for donor inspiration, with concrete implications on donor recruiting strategies and the design and implementation of peer-to-peer campaigns.

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1. The effect of multidimensions of trust and donors’ motivation on donation attitudes and intention toward charitable organizations

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**Publications | News | Reports in the Sector**

**AFP Foundation recognizes Drs. Lauren Dula and Ruth Hansen with Early Career Emerging Scholar Award**

On 12 February 2024, two esteemed members of ISTR, Dr. Lauren Dula and Dr. Ruth Hansen, were awarded the 2024 [Early Career Emerging Scholar Award](#) by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). This prestigious award recognized their exceptional collaborative research contributions in fundraising and philanthropy.

Dr. Dula and Dr. Hansen were recipients of the inaugural Bill Levis Research Grant from the AFP Foundation in 2021, which catalyzed numerous publications. Their commendable work, including three recent articles featured in AFP’s magazine, showcases their dedication to advancing knowledge in the field. These articles cover diverse topics such as “Testing Acquisition Messages,” “Demystifying the Donors in Checkout Charity,” and “Do Your Acquisition Letters Appeal to New Donors?”

**Conferences**

**(Repost) 16th International ISTR Conference, Antwerp, Belgium**

Crisis After Crisis After ...: What About the Third Sector?
The 16th International ISTR Conference, eagerly awaited by ISTR members, will take place from 16 July to 19 2024 at the prestigious University of Antwerp in Belgium. The event promises to be a significant highlight in the annual calendar of ISTR members. Prior to the main conference, the 8th International PhD Seminar will commence from 14 July to 16, adding to the anticipatory buzz.

The conference’s overarching theme, “Crisis After Crisis After...: What About the Third Sector?” is expected to set the stage for stimulating discussions on the trials and triumphs of the third sector. The conference will focus on the dichotomy between preserving ethical integrity and amplifying impact, providing a valuable forum for scholars, practitioners, and researchers to exchange profound insights. The event will present an unparalleled opportunity to delve into the pertinent issues influencing civil society today.

For more information and registration, head over to the ISTR website.

Get ready for an inspiring and intellectually stimulating experience in Antwerp!

**Civil Society and Sustainability Conference, Stanford University, June 3-5, 2024**

The Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS) is organizing an international conference at Stanford University from 3 June to 5 June 2024. It is intended to strengthen the scholarly community for research-based assistance and intensify civil society initiatives for sustainable development. Additionally, scholars will have the opportunity to engage with leaders of civil society organizations.

The conference welcomes early-career scholars, advanced PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and assistant professors from all disciplinary backgrounds who engage in research at the intersection of civil society and sustainability.

For further information, please visit the conference website.

Deadline for Submissions: **15 March, 2024**

Submission link: [https://form.jotform.com/240466497945168](https://form.jotform.com/240466497945168)

For queries, please get in touch with Lisa Overbey at loverbey@stanford.edu.

**Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference, September 11-12, 2024, University of London, London, UK**

**Voice of the people? Democracy, representation, and involvement in and through the voluntary sector and volunteering**

The Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference 2024 has been scheduled for September 11 and 12 at Bayes Business School in London. This conference aims to contribute to evidence and theory building, generate emerging research ideas, inform practitioners’ work, and influence policy.

Against the backdrop of global socio-political challenges, the conference invites researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to submit abstracts covering topics related to the voluntary
sector and volunteering. Contributions can cover issues such as the sector’s engagement with communities, its role in democracy, and responses to recent crises. The conference spans different themes, including “Voice of the People?” and diversity and inclusion, crisis management, grassroots voluntary action, democracy, organizational governance, and measuring civil society outcomes and social value.

Abstract submission portal for individual papers, panels, and workshops.

Deadline: 8 May, 2024

Email for inquiries, vsvrconference@gmail.com.

For detailed information, please visit the conference website.


The inaugural International School Social Work Conference, organized by the Social Work in Schools International Collaboration (SWISIC), is set to take place on September 9th and 10th, 2024, at ARU Anglia Ruskin University in Essex, England. This event aims to unite global perspectives on school social work, attracting researchers, practitioners, and students interested in this growing field. Papers and poster presentations on theoretical considerations, case studies, and research reports from around the world are invited.

Submission of abstracts: **31 March 2024**

Notification of outcome: **31 May 2024**

Registration Ends: **9 August 2024**

For inquiries, contact marelize.vergottini@nwu.ac.za.

**The 13th EuroSEAS conference, University of Amsterdam, 23-25 July 2024, with an excursion on 26 July 2024**

The European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS), an international and multi-disciplinary scholarly organization, is inviting scholars and PhD students from all academic disciplines whose work is aligned with Southeast Asia to present a paper on one of the chosen panels.

The panels cover a wide range of topics such as inequality, mobility and migration, climate change related issues, land politics, identity and religion, southeast Asia’s civil society, and activism.

For further information, please visit the conference website.

Contact the convener for submission-related clarification or send your abstract directly to the convener at euroseas@kitlv.nl.

Closing date for abstract submission: **30 March 2024**
Deadline early-bird registration: **30 March 2024**

Confirmation abstracts acceptance: **10 April 2024**

Deadline of registration & payment for all participants: **20 May 2024**

**Call for Papers**

**Gender and Energy: Unveiling the Nexus of Equality and Sustainability, Asian Development Bank Institute and the University of Texas**

The Asian Development Bank Institute and the University of Texas are inviting scholars, researchers, and practitioners to submit their original work on the special issue “*Gender and Energy: Unveiling the Nexus of Equality and Sustainability*” of the *Energy Economics* journal. This special issue explores gender-energy intersections, focusing on gender norms, roles, and inequalities. The special issue aims to promote a comprehensive understanding of gender-sensitive energy strategies to enhance energy security, environmental sustainability, and social justice.

For additional details and submission guidelines, please visit the [publishing page](https://www2.cloud.editorialmanager.com/eneeco/default2.aspx).

Submission deadline: **30 June 2024**

The submission system can be found here:
[https://www2.cloud.editorialmanager.com/eneeco/default2.aspx](https://www2.cloud.editorialmanager.com/eneeco/default2.aspx)

**Call for Applications**

**Postdoctoral Position in Inequality and Democracy, Democracy Institute, Central European University**

The Central European University Democracy Institute (DI) is seeking a postdoctoral researcher to join its research group on inequality and democracy. The position will involve constructing and consolidating an international research network. The position requires excellent written and oral proficiency in English and a PhD in Political Science, Sociology, Public Policy, Law, or related fields. The initial employment contract is for 24 months, with the possibility of an extension for another two years.

Application deadline: **30 March 2024**

Click [here](#), for more details.

**Postdoctoral Position in the Anthropology of Common Concerns, The Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology**

The Department of Anthropology of Economic Experimentation at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology is hiring a postdoctoral researcher to advance the anthropology of common concerns. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in anthropology or a related discipline. The application deadline is **31 March 2024**. Women and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
Postdoctoral Position in History or Sociology of Food, Agriculture, or Environment, School of History and Sociology, Georgia Institute of Technology

The School of History and Sociology at the Georgia Institute of Technology is seeking applicants for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in History or Sociology of Food, Agriculture, or Environment. The ideal applicant should hold a doctorate in history, sociology, or a related discipline.

The fellow will be responsible for conducting independent research on food and actively participating in the project “From Collection to Cultivation: Historical Perspectives on Crop Diversity and Food Security.” The application review process will begin on 15 March 2024, and the expected starting date for the fellowship is 1 July 2024.

Click here, for more details.

Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

The Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) is seeking an Associate Professor of International Relations to start from 1 September 2024. Applications are welcome from both experienced and early-career scholars in any subfield of international relations. The department is seeking a scholar specializing in historical international relations, mainly focusing on the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Russia, international law, and international environmental politics.

Successful candidates will be required to conduct advanced research, develop courses, teach and supervise undergraduate and graduate courses in International Relations, and participate in academic administration.

Click here for more information.

For specific enquiries, please get in touch with Nick Owen at nicholas.owen@politics.ox.ac.uk.

Application deadline: 26 March 2024
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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 ISTR 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 2024, the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IITJ) will host the Newsletter.