



A scholarly research society advancing international civil society, philanthropy and the nonprofit sector

# Who We Are

Founded in 1992, the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) is a major international association promoting research and education in the fields of civil society, philanthropy, and the nonprofit sector. ISTR is an organization committed to building a global community of scholars and interested others dedicated to the creation, discussion, and advancement of knowledge pertaining to the Third Sector and its impact on human and planetary well-being and development internationally.



# What is Third Sector Research?

Third Sector research is the study of those organizations that emerge in many societies between the public sector/government and the private sector/market. These organizations typically include charities, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), voluntary and community organizations, social enterprises, cooperatives, foundations and self-help groups which fulfill various important societal functions.

Thematic areas of third sector research include

- Civil Society and Democracy
- NGOs and Globalization
- Social Innovation and Social Enterprise
- Philanthropy and Foundations
- The Third Sector and the Welfare State
- Volunteerism and Co-production
- Managing Third Sector Organizations
- Accountability and Transparency
- Advocacy and Public Policy



# International Conferences to share knowledge

The ISTR International Conferences provide a dynamic forum for the exchange of cutting edge research findings in the field of Third Sector Studies.

- 2018 Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2016 Stockholm, Sweden
- 2014 Muenster, Germany
- 2012 Siena, Italy
- 2010 Istanbul, Turkey
- 2008 Barcelona, Spain
- 2006 Bangkok, Thailand
- 2004 Toronto, Canada
- 2002 Cape Town, South Africa
- 2000 Dublin, Ireland
- 1998 Geneva, Switzerland
- 1996 Mexico City, Mexico
- 1994 Pécs, Hungary



# 14th International Conference

2020 Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
July 7-10, 2020

PhD Seminar: July 5-6, 2020



# ISTR Regional **Networks**

The ISTR Regional Networks serve to strengthen the community and academic bonds among researchers on issues that are specific to each region. Members connect in person at regional conferences, PhD seminars, and other events, and stay in contact through regional newsletters and listserves.

- Africa
- Asia Pacific
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Post-Soviet Regional Network
- European Network



# Africa Regional Network Conferences

- 2019 Johannesburg, South Africa  
(PhD Seminar)
- 2017 Accra, Ghana
- 2016 Accra, Ghana
- 2013 Nairobi, Kenya
- 2011 Stellenbosch, South Africa



**ISTR** Africa

African civil society research network



# Asia Pacific Regional Network Conferences

2019 Bangkok, Thailand  
2017 Jakarta, Indonesia  
2015 Tokyo, Japan  
2013 Seoul, Korea

2011 Bali, Indonesia  
2009 Taipei, Taiwan  
2007 Manila, Philippines  
2005 Bangalore, India

2003 Beijing, China  
2001 Osaka, Japan  
1999 Bangkok, Thailand



# Latin America & the Caribbean Regional Network Conferences

- 2019 Medellín, Colombia
- 2017 Quito, Ecuador
- 2015 San Juan/Ponce, Puerto Rico
- 2013 Santiago, Chile
- 2011 Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2009 Mexico City, Mexico
- 2007 Salvador de Bahia, Brazil
- 2005 Lima, Peru
- 2003 San Jose, Costa Rica
- 2001 Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1999 Santiago, Chile
- 1997 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1996 Mexico City, Mexico



# **Affinity Groups** Building research agendas, publications, and connections along common research interests

- Gender
- Research on Volunteering
- Law and Regulation
- Teaching and Learning



# Disseminating Research through publications

- *Voluntas*: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations  
ISI ranked double blind peer reviewed journal
- *Inside ISTR* – newsletter for members 6 times per year
- Conference Working Papers Series
- Book Series: Nonprofit and Civil Society Studies:  
An International Multidisciplinary Series



# Building the field through awarding excellence

## Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award

This award is given to the author of the best dissertation in the field of comparative study of civil society organizations, nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, and voluntarism and related issues.

## Best Paper in *Voluntas* Award

This award is selected by a committee assessing theoretical and empirical quality, wide conceptual applicability, originality, and policy implications.

## Best Poster Award

Presented for an outstanding poster that contributes to the field of civil society, third sector, nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, voluntarism and related issues.

## 3-Minute Thesis Award

Awarded to the PhD student with the most clear and compelling presentation of their research in 3 minutes or less.



# PhD Seminars for students from around the world since 2012

PhD Seminars provide doctoral students with the opportunity to give and receive extensive methodological advice on their research and introduce them to the main theories in the field.

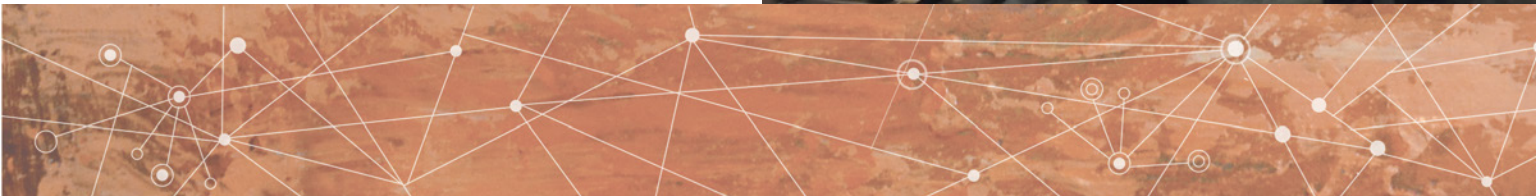
**5th International PhD Seminar 2020**  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**Regional PhD Seminars 2019**  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
Bangkok, Thailand  
Medellín, Colombia

PhD Seminar Alumni Network  
Facebook group

Mentoring Program

Professional Development Workshops



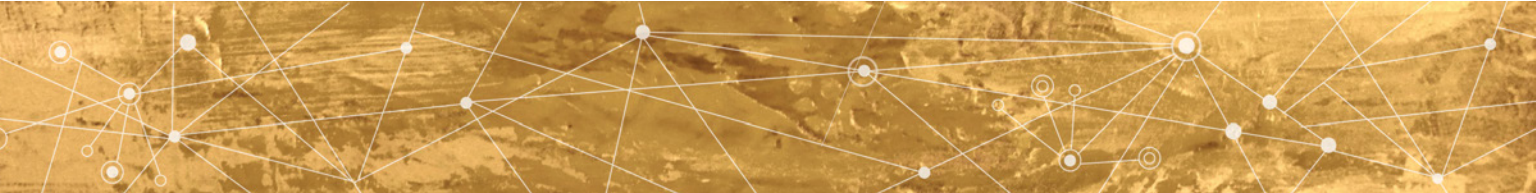
# Mentoring Program

This program matches established faculty and practitioners with graduate students, post-graduates, and junior faculty to share career, publishing, and funding advice and professional and networking development.



“You are given this amazing opportunity to witness and to be part of their journey from aspiring conference attendee to successful conference presenter and published author and, if you are very lucky, as I was, they will allow you to enter their world of research and research colleagues...” – *ISTR Mentor, Oonagh Breen*

“I learnt that the ISTR Mentoring Program is something that goes beyond mere networking and tips on research, publications or professional achievements; it is rather about the inter-generational responsibility that well-established academic and young researchers owe each other to build a bridge between past, present and future within the ISTR community and beyond.” – *ISTR Mentee, Domenico Carolei, PhD student*



# Board of Directors

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# Stay Connected ISTR Mailing Groups and Email Notifications



**Linked in.**



## **ISTR Listserv**

Connect to share news related to conferences, events, calls for papers, opportunities and requests for research guidance.

## **Research on Volunteering**

This listserv shares information relating to research on volunteering in all of its forms; conference announcements, events, calls for papers; opportunities that may be of interest to members of the group, and; requests for guidance and support in our own research.

## **Post-Soviet Regional Network**

Connects those with an interest in Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union to share information about conference suggestions, educational opportunities, student exchanges, and potential joint fundraising as well as creating opportunities for further scholarly networking and interactions.

## **PhD Alumni**

This network works to build on the amazing relationships, learning and connections that were made during each of the four ISTR PhD seminars. Stay connected also on Facebook and LinkedIn to share information on conferences, summer schools, calls for papers, job openings, and possible meet-ups.



# Work in Progress 2019 and beyond

- Enhancing membership services
- Expanding PhD Seminars to the regions
- International Research Project
- Focus on Thematic Issues
- Strengthening Regional Networks



# Connect with ISTR

Join those working in the field of third sector studies

[www.istr.org](http://www.istr.org)



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