ISTR Conference Report

ISTR’s 15th International Conference marked our first in-person ISTR event since 2019. The conference offered a fitting way to celebrate the Society’s 30th Anniversary and the transfer 30 years of records to the Rockefeller Archive Center where they will be available to researchers. Attendees celebrated together at the Opening Reception on the open-air roof deck of the William Grey Hotel in the Old Port section of Montréal where we witnessed a full double rainbow over the city which surely foretold of the successful conference to come.

This year’s conference theme was *Navigating In Turbulent Times: Perspectives and Contributions from the Third Sector*. As in the past, this conference was preceded by the ISTR PhD Seminar, which hosted 41 PhD students and 9 ISTR faculty for discussion, peer-mentoring, professional development, and community building.

A series of conference sessions was organized to highlight the academic legacy of Lester M. Salamon’s research on the development of the field of Third Sector Studies. These sessions both reflected on his achievements and on the future directions for research and practice.
In recognition of the anonymous donation he had made to fund the ISTR Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award, it was renamed for its donor Lester M. Salamon. The award was presented by Dr. Salamon’s son, Matt Salamon, at the ISTR Awards Session in advance of a reception in his honor.

This conference marked 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. The smaller than usual attendance gave the conference an intimate atmosphere that enabled frequent interactions and networking opportunities. Videos of the hybrid sessions are available to conference attendees for a period of 2 months after the conference.

Approximately 40% of registrants were new ISTR members and 25% were students, and both groups brought new ideas and energies to our gathering. Welcome! The conference attracted participants from organizations in 36 countries and territories.

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, and affinity group and regional network meetings.

A huge thank you to the many people whose work made this conference possible, especially the Academic Committee co-chairs Patricia Mendonca and Marc Jegers and Elizabeth Bloodgood at Concordia.

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An Editor’s Swansong: A Reflection on Voluntas

Taco Brandsen and Ruth Simsa served as co-editors-in-chief of Voluntas until their terms ended in 2021.

Of the journals in the civil society and non-profit field, Voluntas is the most diverse, both thematically and geographically. That is something for the journal’s community to be proud of. In that sense, the journal is a good reflection of ISTR itself. Diversity also makes strategic sense: journals with a broader profile are more likely to be resilient, because they are less invested in the fortunes of one particular subfield.

Having said that, a hard challenge for us has been to realise more geographical diversity within the journal. The majority of published manuscripts are still from Europe and the US (albeit with more spread within those regions). It’s not for lack of trying, because we have tried various means of involving underrepresented scholars, such as mentoring and regional issues. The problem is that these are often time-intensive and incidental. The forces determining the extent and nature of civil society research run deep. The fact that China has figured much more prominently in the journal, in the way that it has, obviously has more to do with investment, performance targets and geopolitics than with anything the journal has done. The support with regard to language services, time and training that scholars from some countries get, and others don’t, is probably a decisive factor. Still, small wins have been achieved. They have helped us move slowly but steadily in the right direction, a movement that the new editorial team may be able to speed up.

Politically, the context in which the journal operates is now very different from when it was founded in 1990. Back then, civil society research benefitted from a general optimism about the future of democracy. Now authoritarianism is back on the rise, even in what were once considered reliable democracies. As academics, we’re fascinated by the rapid decline of seemingly solid institutions. As citizens, we’re mortified.

Is this a cause for pessimism, from the perspective of a journal on civil society? Yes, but only up to a point. The trend may weaken our field, because authoritarian leaders and regimes are rarely enamored of social science education and research. Several colleagues have been directly under threat. But the same developments have also created a new vibrancy in civil society, on all sides of the political spectrum – some of them promising, some of them very scare, depending on where you stand. The multiple and overlapping crises have spurred the emergence of new types of movements and organisations. Voluntas is well-placed to capture these exciting new developments. Civil society research is more relevant now than it has been at any point in the journal’s history.
ISTR Award Winners
Click on the posters to learn more about each

ISTR CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY IMPACT RESEARCH AWARD 2022
Gorgi Krlev
"Putting Social Innovation and social Entrepreneurship on the Germany Policy Agenda"

ISTR CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY IMPACT RESEARCH AWARD 2022
Acilon Cavalcante
"Social Innovation into the Civic Media Movements in the Terra Firme District"

ISTR BEST PAPER IN VOLUNTAS 2020
Abhishek Bhati
"Does Implicit Color Bias Reduce Giving? Learnings from Fundraising Survey Using Implicit Association Test (IAT)."

ISTR BEST PAPER IN VOLUNTAS 2021
Stefan Toepfer & Alan Abramson

ISTR BEST POSTER 2022
Renato Regis
"How to Thank a Donor - A Qualitative Investigation of Thank-You Letters"

ISTR 3 MINUTE THESIS AWARD 2022
Jennifer Kruvinus
"Increasing gender balance in nonprofit CEO positions: How women make it to the top"

LESTER M SALAMON EMERGING SCHOLAR DISSERTATION AWARD 2022
Irina Krasnopolskaya
"When do Non-profits Produce Social Innovations? Exploring Determinants of Social Innovation among Non-profit Organizations, Based on Russian Survey Data"
Upcoming Online Events

Click on the posters to register

Lester M. Salamon Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award Winner:
When do Non-profits Produce Social Innovations?
Exploring Determinants of Social Innovation among
Non-profit Organizations, Based on Russian Survey Data

Wednesday, October 12, 2022
9:00 New York • 15:00 Fribourg • 16:00 Moscow

Irina Krasnopolskaya
National Research University, Russia

Philipp Erpf
University of Fribourg, Switzerland

https://www.istr.org/page/OnlinePrograms

Presentation:
A Global Perspective on Generosity, Giving and its Impact

Wednesday, October 19, 2022
10:00 Toronto • 16:00 Brussels

Woodrow Rosenbaum
Chief Data Officer, GivingTuesday

Sevda Kilicarp
Head of Research & Knowledge Development, Philia

https://www.istr.org/page/OnlinePrograms
ISTR Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

7-9 December 2022 -- Sabah, Malaysia

Hosted by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy

Active Civil Society: Post-crisis rebuilding, mobilising and innovating

MEMBER NEWS
ISTR congratulates member **Dr. Ruth K. Hansen** on her new position as **Director of the Institute for Nonprofit Management Studies** University of Wisconsin Whitewater!

**Congratulations to the ISTR Members published in the most recent editions of Voluntas.**

**Volume 33, Issue 3 and Issue 4** are now available online.

Ram Cnaan, Lucas Meijs, Jeffrey Brudney, Sophie Hersberger-Langloh, Aya Okada, Samir Abu-Rumman, **You Thought That This Would Be Easy? Seeking an Understanding of Episodic Volunteering**

Sophie Hersberger-Langloh, Georg von Schnurbein, Michal Almog-Bar, Jacqueline Butcher Garcia-Colin, **For the Love of Art? Episodic Volunteering at Cultural Events**

Sara Compion, Ram Cnaan, Jeffrey Brudney, Bok Gyo Jeong, Chao Zhang, Debbie Haski-Leventhal, **‘Young, Fun, and Free’: Episodic Volunteers in Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania**

Aya Okada, Yu Ishida, Naoto Yamauchi, **Episodic Volunteering in Sport Events: A Seven-Country Analysis**

Sara Compion, Lucas Meijs, Ram A. Cnaan, Georg von Schnurbein, Samir Abu-Rumman, **Repeat and Non-returning Volunteers: The Promise of Episodic Events for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention**

Michal Almog-Bar, Sophie E. Hersberger-Langloh, Sara Compion, Jacqueline Butcher **Age Is But a Number? An Exploration of Age Differences in Episodic Volunteering**

K.C. Dipendra **Spatial Differences in the Founding Pattern of Nongovernmental Organizations and Not-for-Profit Companies**

Dyana Mason **Can Institutional Support Improve Volunteer Quality? An Analysis of Online Volunteer Mentors**

Iwona Nowakowska **Altruism, Egoism, and the Wealthy**

Dyana Mason **Dijkzeul, Dennis and Dirk Solomons (eds), “International Organizations Revisited: Agency and Pathology in a Multipolar World”**

Aseem Prakash **NGO Failure: A Theoretical Synthesis**

Ester Zychlinski **Social and Economic Exchange Between Social Workers and their Employers in the Context of their Sectorial Affiliation and Seniority**

Riccardo Guidi **Reintermediating Voluntary Action: The Path-Dependent Pluralization of the Italian Volunteering Field**

Kirsten Holmes, Lucas Meijs and Debbie Haski-Leventhal **Growing the Volunteer Pool: Identifying Non-Volunteers Most Likely to Volunteer**

Megan Paull, Kirsten Holmes, Debbie Haski-Leventhal **Myths and Misconceptions About University Student Volunteering: Development and Perpetuation**

Lawrence S. Cumming **Catherine E. Herrold: Delta Democracy—Pathways to Incremental Civic Revolution in Egypt Beyond**
ISTR members Allison Schnable, Associate Professor at the Paul H. O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and Susan Appe, Associate Professor of Rockefeller College, University at Albany are excited to present findings from the Grassroots Aid Survey, a project to understand the programs and challenges of small international development organizations.

Read more here

**Calls & Opportunities**

Apply for a Rockefeller Archive Center Research Stipend  
**Deadline Nov. 1**

Submissions/Nominations for 2023 Skystone Partners Prize for Research on Fundraising and Philanthropy  
**Deadline Nov. 15**

See [current employment](#) listings

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