Highlights from the 11th ISTR Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

• Professor Bernardo Toro, a Colombian philosopher and educator and one of the most important thinkers on education and democracy in Latin America, delivered the keynote speech.
• The Program included 22 sessions with around 90 papers. See final program here.
• 151 participants registered for the conference
• 18 posters were presented in the poster session
• Two round tables took place on 21st and 22nd October: On learning and teaching about sustainability (organized by VIVA Idea) and another one about civil society in Ecuador and relationships with the State and Academia (organized by CEOSC)
• Journal Gobernador will publish a special issue on Latin America and has a current call for papers. Articles submitted at the Regional Conference can be submitted.
• Pictures from the conference available here.
• All complete papers will be included in an electronic ISBN publication and will be available on the Network webpage (www.istrlac.org).

PhD Workshop
For the first time in a Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, a PhD Workshop took place. It was successfully organized and held on October 20, before the conference, at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar premises. It included a session for Master’s degree students. It was attended by 12 students from 5 countries. Faculty members were from Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Germany. The PhD workshop was coordinated by ISTR Board Member, Paula Chies Schommer.

Conference Support
Many thanks for the conference support provided by Los Hemisferios University, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Institute de Comunicación Desarrollo, ISTR, Avina Foundation, VIVA Idea Trust, Ecuadorian Confederation of NGOs, Journal Gobernador, and Springer.
ISTR support allowed 20 researchers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay to receive a scholarship and to attend the Conference and the PhD Seminar.
My Experience at ISTR LAC 2017
By Morgana Krieger, PhD Student, Fundação Getulio Vargas in São Paulo, Brazil

I am a current 2nd year PhD candidate at Fundação Getulio Vargas in São Paulo and being part of ISTR LAC in 2017, which took place in the amazing Quito, was a wonderful experience. This was my first Regional Conference and I have already attended two International ISTR Conferences (in Münster and Stockholm). But I must say that, due the proximity to other Latin American fellows, the cultural similarities and the shared challenges we face, this Conference was the one where I built more relevant connections.

Before the Conference, I attended the Taller para Estudiantes de Doctorado (PhD Workshop), in which we had the opportunity to discuss relevant issues. The most significant to me were related to the difficulties PhD candidates are facing in Latin American political environments (in which some federal governments are reducing funds for postgraduate students) and how this is connected to health issues faced by PhD candidates due to overload and stress. We also discussed how we connect to the organizations that provide us with knowledge, shedding light on the potential of new research perspectives, in which we consider ourselves as participants and not outsiders.

Also in the Taller (PhD Workshop), I had the opportunity to discuss my research project with outstanding professors who had great knowledge in my research topics (urban conflicts and collective action). This was fundamental to establish the next steps for my theoretical development, and to emphasize or question some of the topics that I have to further develop with the support of my supervisor. Sharing experiences with other PhD students also made me feel a bit more secure about my research development, especially for realizing that most of us face similar anguish during this period.

In general, I believe that the main topic of the conference, Democracy and Civil Society in Latin America and the Caribbeans in Times of Change, was very accurate. The discussions around the topic emphasized how the continent is dealing with these changes and the important role that we, as researchers and practitioners, have in this scenario.

As a constructive feedback, I believe that the format of the conference still has room for improvement. Especially considering that this is a small conference, we could take more advantage of this proximity by fostering activities as guided debates and round tables with practitioners and researchers. I am sure that other participants have other suggestions within this topic as well. I believe that advancing in the format of the next conferences is both a challenge (as we are very used to the same format for a long time) and an opportunity. We cannot miss the opportunity to increase the learning experiences and connections that will make our research even more relevant!
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Calls to Host: Regional Network (2018-2021) and Regional Conference (2019)

The International Society for Third Sector Research is seeking a new host for the Latin America and the Caribbean Network for a four (4) year term (2018 – 2021). This network was established in 1996 and has held 11 regional conferences. Its focus is to engage researchers, scholars and practitioners in building Third Sector research capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The network brings together individuals working in all parts of the region for a meeting every two years as well as a meeting at the biannual ISTR International Conference.

The conferences are the major venue in the civil society, nonprofit, philanthropic and social economy sector in the region. They provide an opportunity to explore sector developments, theoretical and empirical insights, interact with colleagues, and become informed about new ideas and major debates that are going on in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The hosting institution(s) serve as the secretariat for the network and provide the following:

- Serves as the liaison to the ISTR Secretariat and Board of Directors
- Fundraise within the region to support the network
- Publish periodical regional newsletter
- Maintain regional database (in cooperation with ISTR)
- Coordinate the academic committee for the biannual regional meetings
- Oversee the Academic Committee which is responsible for the theme, call for papers, blind reviews and program of the Regional Conference
- Works with the local conference host committee for the regional conference logistics

ISTR provides a small stipend for the host institution to cover some activities.

The Instituto de Comunicacion y Desarrollo (ICD), based in Montevideo, Uruguay, has served as the secretariat since 1997. ICD has successfully developed the network and coordinated the meetings in cooperation with the local hosts, every two years. ICD is prepared and willing to transfer its knowledge, expertise and experience to the new host.

For details, visit the regional websites: www.istrlac.org and www.istr.org/LAC

Please send your expressions of interest in serving as the regional host by February 28, 2018. The expression of interest should include your motivation to serve, the organization(s) profile, and infrastructure available. The board of directors of ISTR will choose the new host with input from the regional board members, prior host and the ISTR Secretariat by April 2018. Please send the letter to Margery Daniels, Executive Director, at istr@jhu.edu.

Call for Potential Hosts
Twelfth Latin America Regional ISTR Conference to be held in 2019

The ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Network requests researchers and affiliated institutions from any country of the Region to express their interest in hosting and co-organizing the Twelfth ISTR Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in 2019. Final decision on the location will be made by the ISTR Board during the International ISTR Conference in Amsterdam in July 2018.

Previous regional conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean were held in Brazil (1998), Chile (1999), Argentina (2001), Costa Rica (2003), Peru (2005), Brazil (2007), Mexico (2009), Argentina (2011), Chile (2013), Puerto Rico (2015) and most recently in Quito (2017). The next regional conference will take place in 2019.
Hosting a regional conference is a prime opportunity for strategic engagement of stakeholders and promotion of the third sector within the host city and country and to promote fruitful alliances at the local and national level and with other countries in the region.

We encourage private and public academic institutions, civil society organizations and research centers to submit proposals for hosting and co-organizing the next ISTR Regional Conference in 2019. The organizations or consortia of organizations that are interested in coordinating the Twelfth Regional Conference should have the ability to:

- Engage a broad range of academics and practitioners within civil society or the third sector from within the host country;
- Make fundraising efforts to ensure the conference success
- Plan the logistics to carry out the event

In past regional conferences, two committees have been formed with the support of the ISTR Regional Network Secretariat. The first is an academic committee which includes researchers and practitioners from various countries in the region, and the second is a local host committee. Members of the local host committee will serve voluntarily and coordinate the programmatic and logistical aspects of conference. The Academic Committee manages the Call for Papers, Academic review and program.

Interested individuals and institutions can send their questions to Anabel Cruz or Analía Bettoni, at the Regional Coordination of ISTR Latin America. They can be reached at acruz@lasociedadcivil.org and istr@lasociedadcivil.org.

The process of selecting the host for the 2019 Regional Conference will be facilitated by the Board of Directors of ISTR, with the participation of all the members associated in the region. The last day to submit your proposal to Margery Daniels, Executive Director, istr@jhu.edu is April 30, 2018.

On behalf of the ISTR Board and the Regional Coordination for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Paula Chies Schommer, Universidad de Santa Catarina, Brasil
Margery Daniels, Executive Director, ISTR
Analía Bettoni, Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo, ICD, Uruguay
Anabel Cruz, Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo, ICD, Uruguay
**Booknotes**


The regulation of civil society provides the framework under which those organisations can most effectively provide services in education, health, social services, housing, development aid and so on. Civil Society in Europe identifies common principles of civil society law in two ways. First, the approaches of the Council of Europe and the European Union are explored. Next civil society regulation in twelve domestic legal systems are investigated on a broad range of substantive areas of law including internal organisation, registration, external supervision, public benefit organisations and international activities. From these, the authors distill a set of minimum norms and optimal conditions under which civil society can deliver its aims most effectively. This book is essential reading for policymakers and legislators across Europe and beyond.

- Compares civil society law amongst different European countries, giving the reader insights into the variations between different countries
- Minimum and optimal norms of civil society law provide guidelines for the development of positive relations between CSOs and the state
- Systematic presentation of civil society laws throughout Europe gives the reader a meaningful framework for comparing CSO law and creating a benchmark


Shaping Social Enterprise offers the first tested framework that helps identify institutional influences affecting social enterprise. For well over a decade, scholars and practitioners have known that social enterprise looks different in different contexts but few have attempted to understand why. Kerlin’s work in this area is the first to consider the influence of large institutions such as government, economy, civil society, and culture on the development of social enterprise. This book provides an in-depth assessment of Kerlin’s theoretically-based framework for understanding these institutional and other influences by means of quantitative analysis as well as qualitative critiques from eight countries that help validate and refine it. The concluding chapter offers a revision of the framework based on the critiques. New features include more attention to culture and micro- and meso-level forces as well as the introduction of optional framework components that address rarely occurring country situations. Two new social enterprise country models are also added and new applications of the framework are detailed.


This is the first book to explore the different relationships between active citizenship and civil society, particularly the third sector within civil society. In what ways can the third sector nurture active citizenship? How have the third sec-
tor and active citizenship been constructed and reconstructed both locally and internationally, over recent years? To what extent have new kinds of social connectedness, changing forms of political engagement and increasingly complex social and environmental problems influenced civil society action? Written by experts in the field, this important book draws on a range of theory and empirical studies to explore these questions in different socio-political contexts and will be a useful resource for academics and students as well as practitioners.


Not all international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) are created equal. Some have emerged as “leading INGOs” that command deference from various powerful audiences and are well-positioned to influence the practices of states, corporations, and other INGOs. Yet Sarah S. Stroup and Wendy H. Wong make a strong case for the tenuous nature of this position: in order to retain their authority, INGOs such as Greenpeace, Oxfam, and Amnesty International refrain from expressing radical opinions that severely damage their long-term reputation. Stroup and Wong contend such INGOs must constantly adjust their behavior to maintain a delicate equilibrium that preserves their status.

Activists, scholars, and students seeking to understand how international organizations garner and conserve power—and how this affects their ability to fulfill their stated missions—will find much of value in The Authority Trap. The authors use case studies that illuminate how INGOs are received by three main audiences: NGO peers, state policymakers, and corporations. In the end, the authors argue, the more authority an INGO has, the more constrained is its ability to affect the conduct of world politics.


The Routledge Handbook of Civil Society in Asia is an interdisciplinary resource, covering one of the most dynamically expanding sectors in contemporary Asia. Originally a product of Western thinking, civil society represents a particular set of relationships between the state and either society or the individual. Each culture, however, molds its own version of civil society, reflecting its most important values and traditions.

This handbook provides a comprehensive survey of the directions and nuances of civil society, featuring contributions by leading specialists on Asian society from the fields of political science, sociology, anthropology, and other disciplines. Comprising thirty-five essays on critical topics and issues, it is divided into two main sections:

Part I covers country specific reviews, including Japan, China, South Korea, India, and Singapore.

Part II offers a series of thematic chapters, such as democratization, social enterprise, civic activism, and the media.

The book offers an analysis of Asian social, cultural, and political phenomena from the perspective of civil society in the post-World War II era.


Social enterprises represent a new kind of venture, dedicated to pursuing profits for owners and benefits for society. Social Enterprise Law provides tools that will allow them to raise the capital they need to flourish.

Social Enterprise Law weaves innovation in contract
Inside ISTRI

and corporate governance into powerful protections against insiders sacrificing goals such as environmental sustainability in the pursuit of short-term profits. Creating a stable balance between financial returns and public benefits will allow social entrepreneurs to team up with impact investors that share their vision of a double bottom line. Brakman Reiser and Dean show how novel legal technologies can allow social enterprises to access capital markets, including unconventional sources such as crowdfunding. With its straightforward insights into complex areas of the law, the book shows how a social mission can even be shielded from the turbulence of an acquisition or bankruptcy. It also shows why, as the metrics available to measure the impact of social missions on individuals and communities become more sophisticated, such legal innovations will continue to become more robust.

By providing a comprehensive survey of the U.S. laws and a bold vision for how legal institutions across the globe could be reformed, this book offers new insights and approaches to help social enterprises raise the capital they need to flourish.


Charitable fundraising has become ever more urgent in a time of extensive public spending cuts. However, while the identity and motivation of those who donate comes under increasingly close scrutiny, little is known about the motivation and characteristics of the 'askers', despite almost every donation being solicited or prompted in some way. This is the first empirically-grounded and theorised account of the identity, characteristics and motivation of fundraisers in the UK. Based on original data collected during a 3-year study of over 1,200 fundraisers, the book argues that it is not possible to understand charitable giving without accounting for the role of fundraising.


Cultures of Doing Good: Anthropologists and NGOs serves as a foundational text to advance a growing subfield of social science inquiry: the anthropology of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Thorough introductory chapters provide a short history of NGO anthropology, address how the study of NGOs contributes to anthropology more broadly, and examine ways that anthropological studies of NGOs expand research agendas spawned by other disciplines. In addition, the theoretical concepts and debates that have anchored the analysis of NGOs since they entered scholarly discourse after World War II are explained.

The wide-ranging volume is organized into thematic parts: “Changing Landscapes of Power,” “Doing Good Work,” and “Methodological Challenges of NGO Anthropology.” Each part is introduced by an original, reflective essay that contextualizes and links the themes of each chapter to broader bodies of research and to theoretical and methodological debates. A concluding chapter synthesizes how current lines of inquiry consolidate and advance the first generation of anthropological NGO studies, highlighting new and promising directions in this field.

In contrast to studies about surveys of NGOs that cover a single issue or region, this book offers a survey of NGO dynamics in varied cultural and political settings. The chapters herein cover NGO life in Tanzania, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Peru, the United States, and India. The diverse institutional worlds and networks include feminist activism, international aid donors, USAID democracy experts, Romani housing activism, academic gender studies, volunteer tourism, Jewish philanthropy, Islamic faith-based development, child welfare, women’s legal arbitration, and environmental conservation.

The collection explores issues such as normative democratic civic engagement, elitism and professionalization, the governance of feminist advocacy, disciplining religion, the politics of philanthropic neutrality, NGO tourism and consumption, blurred boundaries between anthropologists as researchers and activists, and barriers to producing critical NGO ethnographies.
IN MEMORIAM
Nissan Limor (1944-2017)

We mourn the death of Nissan Limor, a distinguished government official who became a distinguished academic, research and policy specialist. Nissan mentored several generations of specialists on nonprofits and philanthropy, in Israel and beyond, and worked to strengthen respectful and appropriate relationships between the Israeli state and its nonprofit sector.

Nissan worked for many years to improve nonprofit management and sensible regulation of the nonprofit and philanthropic sector in Israel, recommending more rational policies and criticizing — often severely criticizing -- proposals that would weaken the sector and its roles. He was a key figure in promoting and expanding research on nonprofits and philanthropy in Israel; at his death, Nissan was senior research fellow at the Institute for Law and Philanthropy at Tel Aviv University, and a faculty member of the College for Academic Studies, Or Yehuda, where he chaired the Center for Civil Responsibility. He served as Chair of the Board of the Guidestar initiative in Israel from the beginning of the initiative until his death. Earlier he participated actively in the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research (ICTR) at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Nissan’s warm personality, clear vision, unerring sense for right and wrong, commitment to dialogue and mentorship, and professional prominence made him the key figure in Israel working for more sensible state-nonprofit relations and on nonprofit regulatory issues.

Earlier Nissan served as senior research fellow and head of the Van Leer Forum for Civil Society Organizations at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. He taught at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at the Ben-Gurion University. Still earlier in his distinguished career, Nissan served as Director General of the Office of the President of Israel, and Director General of the Israeli Council for Higher Education. He wrote six books and many articles and policy and position papers in Hebrew and English on nonprofit management, nonprofit regulation, self-regulation, higher education policy, and related themes.

All who knew Nissan or who came into contact with his warmth, commitment and vision, deeply mourn his passing, whether their contact with him was through his teaching, mentorship, writing, policy advocacy and coalition building, active participation at ISTR, and other events. He will be deeply missed. We offer our deepest condolences to his beloved wife Ariella and his family, friends and colleagues.

Mark Sidel
University of Wisconsin-Madison and ICNL