CONFERENCE REPORT

9th International Conference of ISTR

ISTR’s 9th International Conference held in Istanbul, July 7-10, attracted the largest and most diverse number of delegates in the Society’s history. Conference participants from 69 countries including many from the host country, Turkey, and with strong representation from the Middle East, created a dynamic and exciting forum in which to address the Challenges and Opportunities Confronting the Third Sector and Civil Society.

The Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV) and Kadir Has University served as our local hosts and provided the breathtaking venue in the center of the city on the Golden Horn. Meeting in this location allowed our hosts to showcase both the newly designed University in a former Tobacco Factory and the Rezan Has Museum with its ruins of a “hamman” which dates back to the Ottoman era and the remains of a Byzantine water cistern.

The Conference opening and Keynote speech on Wednesday evening was followed by a reception at Kadir Has University overlooking the Bosphorus and allowed for opportunity for meeting old friends and making new ones.

An exceptional cultural reception took place on Friday at the Military Museum and was hosted by the Vodafone Foundation. As guests, we were able to explore the historical treasures of the Museum before a concert by Mehter, the world’s oldest military band. This was followed by delicious local cuisine, dancing and entertainment by a local social justice jazz band which is supported by the Vodafone Foundation. It was a truly magical evening.

Workshops

The conference began with a series of workshops that explored a range of topics including, Partnership, Participation and Paradox; Arab Philanthropy: Trends and Challenges to Networking; Understanding Volunteerism for Development in South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Strategies for Expansion; Meeting the Challenges and Opportunities for the Third Sector in Turkey; Standard Chart of Accounts; Marking the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV + 10): Research on Law and Policies Affecting Volunteerism since 2001; and The Future of Peer Review: Theory and Best Practices with a Focus on Foundation Policies.

The workshop, “Exploring Diverse Interpretations of Gender Issues” was organized by the Affinity Group on Gender (AGG) and chaired by Priya Anand (UK/India) and Latika Mangrulkar (US/India). The approximately 40 participants discussed the following topics in three groups: Gender and Grassroot Organizations, Gender and Conflict Management, and Gender and Economic Conflict. The

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Dear ISTR Colleagues,

I write to you in the wake of our international conference in July in Istanbul, a highly successful event that brought together nearly 650 colleagues from over 60 countries around the world for four days of intensive discussions on the issues facing the third sector in comparative and international perspective. The conference included a number of special panels, workshops and other events, as well as keynotes from Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Rajesh Tandon, President of the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA).

As ever, we are grateful to our superb Executive Director, Margery Daniels, and her terrific staff for organizing another very successful ISTR international conference. We’re also grateful to our wonderful friends and colleagues at TUSEV, the Third Sector Foundation of Turkey; Kadir Has University; Etix Travel, and all of the others who worked so hard to host us and to make the conference the success it was.

We also began another regular transition in our board at this meeting. We are grateful to those completing their term on the ISTR board for their important contributions to the Society. I want to take this opportunity to honor Jackie Butcher, Paul Dekker, V. Adefemi Isumonah, Krishna Kothai, Jean-Louis Laville, Kathy McCarthy, and Felipe Portocarrero for their years of service on the ISTR board. An election for new and renewing board members will be held later this year and I urge all ISTR members to vote in that election.

Looking ahead, we have another exciting year planned. Among other events, with the support of the Japan Foundation/Center for Global Partnership, we will be partnering with the Center for Nonprofit Research and Information at the Osaka School of International Public Policy for a symposium and publication on the impact of the economic recession on the third sector in Asia and the United States. This project will bring together specialists from Japan, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and elsewhere in Asia, and the United States, for work on these developments. We will be convening ISTR regional conferences in Indonesia (covering Asia-Pacific), and in Argentina (covering Latin America and the Caribbean). We’re working on academic conferences in the Middle East and in Africa, and beginning planning for ISTR’s Tenth International Conference, to be held in 2012.

Over the next year, we’ll also be continuing to increase our support for the rapidly growing third sector research community in countries like China, which now has dozens of civil society and third sector research centers and an increasingly active research and teaching community. I recently returned from a visit to China for work on civil society and philanthropy and was struck, as I always am there, by the extraordinary pace of activity in the development of philanthropy, civil society research, and other elements of our fields.

So we have much to do over the next year. For the time being, however, I commend to you this rich and detailed issue of our ISTR newsletter, containing reports on the Istanbul conference and many other items of news. Please do be in touch with me at any point on any matters at all.

Best wishes.

Mark Sidel
President
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9th International Conference of ISTR

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workshop participants collected ideas on what they can and should do to deal with problems related to each topic. In addition, the workshop included an opportunity to learn about efforts and achievements of the Sabanci Foundation, a Turkish Third Sector organization. Inanc Misriglou, a representative of the Foundation, introduced the foundation’s programs on gender equality in Turkey and explained how they have worked to take teachers and decision-makers “on board” – and whose role they consider crucial in the combat of social exclusion of women.

Africa Workshop

The Africa Regional Network of ISTR used the opportunity to organize a pre-conference workshop on July 6 and 7 on the theme of “Democracy and Governance in Africa: (Dis)Enabling the Public Sphere.” The workshop was sponsored by the Dakar-based research and policy think tank, Trust Africa, in collaboration with ISTR. Presentations at the workshop were structured around a set of sub-themes: measuring civil society in Africa, democracy and governance in Africa, and the public sphere in Africa’s governance.

The session on ‘Measuring Civil Society in Africa’ featured presentations from Ebenezer Obadare, Alan Fowler, and Bev Russell respectively. The presentations addressed the questions of what it means to ‘measure’ civil society in Africa, what the appropriate methodological tools are, what exactly is being measured when we ‘measure’ civil society, and the implications of the approach for how civil society in Africa is understood. Adam Habib rounded off the session with a critical summary in which he inserted the presentations within the frame of new global thinking on the subject of civil society and the voluntary sector.

The session on ‘Democracy and Governance in Africa’ addressed the impact of civil society on the process of democratization in Africa. Ongoing research presented by Christiana Atibil, Ronelle Burger, Victor Adefe Mi, and Mouzayian Khalil examined themes as varied as actors’ conceptualization of the idea of civil society in Africa, government regulation of the voluntary sector, the paradoxical situation in Nigeria of an ‘imperial presidency’ in the context of ‘democratic’ governance, and a critical evaluation of the role of civil society in the development and institutionalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism, APRM.

Under the rubric of ‘The Public Sphere in Africa’s Governance,’ James Muzondidya, Jacob Mati, and Priscilla Wamucii analyzed the challenges of democratizing rural spaces in transitional African spaces, the dynamics of social movements, youth insecurity, governance, and the emergent public space in Africa. Plans are currently under way to publish selected papers from the workshop as special issues of the Journal of Civil Society and Voluntas respectively.

Black Sea Region Workshop

Despite the increasing role of civil society in development initiatives and civic engagement in the Black Sea region, there are very few opportunities for different stakeholders to interact and come together to discuss and reflect on the current state of civil society and the challenges it faces.

As such, TUSEV, in partnership with Counterpart Armenia and with the support of Black Sea Trust, A Project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, organized the “Developing Strategy for Civil Society in the Black Sea Region Workshop,” which aimed to raise awareness, assess strengths and challenges, and galvanize action to strengthen civil society in the region.

The Workshop brought together 19 researchers, practitioners and academicians from eight countries. Using CI-
VICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) findings as a conceptual framework, the workshop generated dialogue and collective learning on the character, impact, environment and aspirations of civil society in the region. Further action planning activities are to take place in future gatherings and through the establishment of an e-group.

Meeting the Challenges and Opportunities for the Third Sector in Turkey Workshop

This workshop provided a closer look at the Turkish third sector by focusing on recent studies and examples from the field. The first part of the session provided an overview of the state of civil society in the world and in the region. The second part presented an in-depth assessment of the state of civic participation, values, impact and environment of civil society in Turkey. The final section focused on the characteristics of CSOs in Turkey. Panelists drew conclusions from two recent studies on Turkish civil society: the CIVICUS Civil Society Index undertaken by TUSEV; and the Civil Society Culture in Voluntary Organizations Research of the YADA Foundation.

Speakers included Zeynep Meydanoglu (TUSEV), Emrah Göker (YADA Foundation) and Suat Özçağdaş (Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey - TEGV).

First, Zeynep Meydanoglu (TUSEV) gave a presentation on TUSEV’s work that focuses on such issues as Civil Society Law reform, social investment, international relations and networking, research and publications. TUSEV has carried out the Civil Society Index research in Turkey. They used a broad definition of civil society, although they decided to exclude political parties. There was a lot of discussion regarding the inclusion of faith-based organizations, labor unions, and chambers of commerce, but they were all included in the research sample.

Findings from the Index research included:
- Civil society in Turkey is weak and greatly affected by the environment within which it operates.
- CSOs do not communicate well with each other and face financial difficulties.
- 60% of all CSOs operate with 6-20 volunteers.
- CSOs don’t generally have clear internal democratic standards, don’t generally have written policy documents, and don’t have their financial accounts open to the public, even though they say they are transparent in this respect.
- CSO’s need to be more self-critical and work harder to improve transparency.

Emrah Göker (YADA Foundation) presented the findings of the research project, titled “Civil Society Culture in Voluntary Organizations in Turkey.” Its purpose was to analyze the civil society culture of Turkey, particularly the origins and characteristics associations and foundations. There were 3 field research phases: (1) ethnographic case studies of 50 organizations; (2) interviews with 2,489 CSOs; (3) interviews with 4,902 CSO Board Members in 26 cities. The researchers developed 13 “civil-topographical categories” by which all interviewed CSOs could be institutionally classified. These classifications were: self-organized, philanthropic, specialist, advocate, idea-oriented, club, socializing, construction/beautification oriented, hometown-oriented, subsidiary, commercial, patronage-oriented, and foreign donor-oriented. He explained that chambers of commerce were not included in their classification since they were not seen as voluntary institutions. Of those sectors analyzed, the most common were sports clubs, hometown-oriented CSOs, and cultural CSOs, while advocacy-oriented CSOs were the least common.

The major findings of the study included:
- The majority of CSO Board Members are 40 years old or above, with only 1/3 of all CSOs having board members younger than 25.
- Only 14% of CSO Board members are women.
- CSO board members have an education level above Turkey’s average, with the majority of them having graduated from high-school or university.
- While many board members are civil servants, more than 1/4 of them don’t have full time employment.
- Less than 1/3 of the board members earn more than 2000 Turkish lira in a month.

These presentations were followed by Suat Özçağ-
das's presentation on TEGV’s work in education in Turkey. Founded 1995, Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV) evolved into the most widespread NGO in Turkey operating in the field of education since its inauguration 15 years ago. The objective of Educational Volunteers is to create and implement educational programs and extracurricular activities for children, so that they can acquire skills, knowledge and attitudes to become rational, responsible, self-confident and cognizant individuals who can put their inner creativity to use. With the help of its dedicated volunteers, Educational Volunteers implements its original education programs in a variety of different activity locations throughout the country.

TEGV presentation was followed by a general discussion about the common findings between the TUSEV and YADA’s research on civil society in Turkey, and steps being taken to strengthen civil society at the country level.

**Plenary Sessions**

The conference plenary featured the keynote address by Dr. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Dr. Obaid’s comments addressed “Working in Partnership Across Sectors.” Dr. Obaid described the third sector as a crucial factor for the protection of girls’ and womens’ lives and for giving them the right to make choices of their own for their lives. She has encouraged building partnerships among the UN, NGOs and governments, as well as networks of NGOs at every opportunity. She also discussed the importance of the third sector in work of the UNFPA and noted its tremendous contribution to what they are able to deliver in their programme countries.

The main theme in Dr. Obaid’s address was integration and collaboration of actors across sectors of society in response to the complexity of challenges in human development. She commented from her 35 years experience within the United Nations and international aid environment. She noted the greater role of non-state actors in influencing national, transnational and regional agendas and the transformation of civil society and its role in development. She provided examples where third sector organisations, individually or in partnership, were the prime movers in tackling critical issues particular in program implementation. She stressed the need to exchange perspectives and build respect for different types of knowledge and capabilities through recognising the power of diversity. Finally she emphasised local control and knowledge growth and exchange across all levels of development communities.

The conference’s second plenary, “Seeking to Strengthen Democratic Practice, Participation and Civic Engagement: The Roles of the Third Sector in Turkey,” was chaired by Ahmet Evin of Sabanci University in Turkey. The session included panelists, Ahmet İçduygu, Koc University; and Üstün Ergüder, Sabanci University and Chairman TUSEV, and explored the past, present and future of civil society in Turkey. Both panelists highlighted that Turkey’s third sector today is a burgeoning movement going through a period of transition.

In his speech, Prof. Ergüder aimed to give a better understanding of current philanthropic practices in the country by providing a detailed background to their rich past. He also hinted to possible transformations the philanthropic sector is likely to go through in the next decade and shared his optimism, as well as some words of caution, about recent developments such as social polarization, public reform, and the European Union integration process. Prof. İçduygu focused on the last two decades and gave an overview of the development of civil society in Turkey as a sphere contributing to public participation and democratization on a voluntary basis.

The work of TUSEV was also mentioned during Prof. Ergüder’s speech. Established by the leading non-profit organizations in the country in 1993, TUSEV has been a leader in improving civil society laws, generating research and policies for the sector’s future, and encouraging dialogue and cooperation among private, public and third sector actors. Today, TUSEV’s members - consisting of over 100 foundations and associations - continue to share a vision of strengthening civil society in Turkey.
Regaining Civil Society Spaces: Reconnecting Knowledge and Action

In the well-attended final plenary session on Saturday, the chair, Samiul Hasan, introduced Rajesh Tandon, as the plenary speaker. Dr. Tandon has been head of PRIA, the Society for Participatory Research in Asia, a New Delhi based nonprofit that supports grassroots initiatives in South Asia. An electronic engineer by training, he has become an internationally known theorist and activist in participatory development and social change. He was founding member and chair of Civicus and is the author of many books, the latest just published this year: *Globalising Citizens: New Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion* (Zed Books).

Rajesh Tandon started his inspiring speech with comparisons of the present time with that of the ISTR meeting in Dublin ten years ago-- From global economic boom to severe financial downturn, from food surplus to nutrition deficits, from peace dividends to anti-terror investments, from Rwanda to Greece, from New York/London to Shanghai. The world has really changed, and so have the expectations of civil society and the practices of NGOs. BINGOs (business-oriented international NGOs) have become more influential worldwide and civil society organizations have become important partners in sub-global formations such as ASEAN, MERCOSUR and NEPAD. At the national level, we see contradictory developments of a growing political impact of self-organizing citizens, mainstreaming of civic action, hybridization of third sector organizations, growing influence of for-profits on social agendas, and a repressive restoration of faith in economic growth.

Dr. Tandon devoted special interest to the tensions inside the field of civil society and of third sector research. Among these are the mix of conflict and cooperation between internet activism (‘dot.causes’) and grassroots mobilization, between celebrity advocacy and sustainability of social movements, between private capital philanthropy and second sector business on the one hand and the politics and voluntarism of civic engagement on the other. He also addressed the conflict between citizen-driven global action and missing social society voices in new formations of global authority such as BRIC and G20. Dr. Tandon suggested that these should be topics for international and transnational third sector research and education, and ISTR should play a role in their development.

The impressive and genuinely global speech of Rajesh Tandon raised a number of issues, from the democratizing effects of the spread of mobile phones via the dominance of western business models in third sector higher education worldwide, to concerns about the role of Indian investors in Africa.

Paper, Panel and Poster Sessions

The program included 145 paper and panel sessions. Papers were organized into session by theme and a list of sessions by theme was included in the program. Sixteen posters were displayed during the conference.

The themes related to the traditional areas of third sector inquiry such as management, governance, evaluation, accountability and democracy; and philanthropy, volunteering, corporate social responsibility and social capital; and the post-welfare state, liberalization, neo-liberal policies, and social contracting were heavily subscribed. There were significant increases in the number of papers in the growing areas of social economy and solidarity-based economy; social entrepreneurship and social enterprise. Newer theme areas of government regulation, counter-terrorism, and related constraints; and global civil society, South-North cooperation and development assistance were able to generate multiple paper sessions.

Woven within these themes were analyses of the
impact of: the current economic and financial crisis; environmental crises; poverty, health, education and other social crises; and conflict, crises of hope and human displacement.

The conference abstracts can be found on the ISTR website at http://www.istr.org/conference/istanbul/index.htm. Many of the papers presented in Istanbul will be reviewed for Volume 7 of the ISTR Conference Working Paper Series and we also anticipate that some papers will be published in Voluntas.

Special Sessions

For the first time at the International Conference five special sessions were integrated into the conference program. The sessions were organized to stimulate research interest and agendas in thematic or geographic areas that have traditionally been under researched or offer new ideas and thinking to support members’ efforts to build infrastructure and processes for third sector research. While these sessions were outside the standard peer review process the conference committee was very pleased to include them and believe that each brought significant value to the conference program. The large attendance at the sessions and the feedback demonstrated that they were an excellent addition to the program.

The Status and Impact of Research on Civil Society Organizations in the Broader Middle East and North Africa Region (BMENA) provided an overview of the status of research in the region with the dual aim of highlighting the gaps in research, and exploring the impact that research has or could have on policy-making in the region and on the effectiveness of CSOs.

Getting Published

This sessions was a “must attend” by junior researchers who were very interested to learn from both journal editors and book publishers who discussed how to get through the publishing process. The session was a success both in terms of attendance, interest and interaction between the audience and the panel.

PhD Networking

This very well attended session focused on PhD students and ways that ISTR can help organize support for their work and contribute to their future careers. A report on a past European PhD network was presented and, although the network no longer receives funding, it is clearly missed--to the extent that there are efforts now underway to organize an alumni network for this group. Students from outside Europe, often isolated from peers and colleagues in similar areas of study, expressed an even greater need than the Europeans to develop a network which could offer professional development and networking opportunities over the course of their years in a PhD program, and possibly into the first years of their academic careers. Elements identified as being of interest included feedback on research proposals and manuscript; job and career advice; help with research grant writing; and sessions on how to present academic papers, navigate the review process, and get published.

As a result of this meeting, ISTR proposes to hold a PhD consortium in conjunction with the 2012 international conference as well as to establish an online network for PhD students within the next year. At the first meeting of the new ISTR board in 2011, a working group will be established to plan the first PhD consortium.

Archives as Tools of Understanding

Ken Rose of the Rockefeller Archive Center chaired the session which focused on the value of archives for understanding the process of philanthropy and for assessing its role in an increasingly intertwined world.

How Can Transnational Philanthropy Impact Social Development: Experiences of Donors was organized by the Turkish Philanthropy Fund. This session explored whether transnational giving – by individuals and groups—can help to reduce inequality, poverty and injustice, and strengthen social development.

Networking

Authors of recently published books were invited to sign and sell their books on Friday afternoon held jointly with a session highlighting the posters. This was a wonderful opportunity for delegates to showcase their publications and for poster authors to discuss their research in progress. It was a very well attended session with lots of great Turkish snacks included.

Third Sector Research, the new book to mark the 20th Anniversary of Voluntas, International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations by editor, Rupert Taylor, was launched at the conference. The first global compendium of third sector research, it provides an international, multi-disciplinary, and state of the art overview of the field. Many ISTR members contributed to this volume across a wide range of topics. The volume is available at www.springer.com
Opportunities to Meet

The conference provided the opportunity for regional and affinity groups to meet face to face. Details of these meetings are found under regional networks and affinity groups.

An ISTR Center’s Directors meeting was held during the conference in partnership with the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC). This meeting was most beneficial for the 35 center directors from 16 countries who found new or renewed friendships and discussed opportunities for collaboration on research and the impact it can have on governments and academia. Plans for future meetings are under discussion.

Conference Evaluation

The diversity of topics, themes, research methods and the “enormous engagement” of the delegates received the most comment. Delegates were pleased with the opportunity to meet so many academics and researchers from related and diverse fields, excellent multi-faced perspectives, and the exceptional internationalism of the conference. One delegate from the UK noted, “All in all I think that this was one of the best ISTRs I’ve been to both in terms of content and debate.” Another noted the interdisciplinary reach of the papers and that they got new ideas for their own research.

Numerous suggestions for 2012 were also shared which primarily focused on posting the conference papers on the website, listing all of the authors and their papers for the panels, and distinguishing between panel sessions and paper sessions. Other recommendations included more sessions on major conceptual issues, more theoretical plenaries, and more instruction for the session moderators.

Numerous conference delegates shared details of their particular experience through their blogs post Istanbul. They are very well done and bring a variety of perspectives. Links to the blogs can be found on the conference homepage at http://www.istr.org/conference/istanbul/index.htm

Conference Support

The Conference would not have been possible without the support from generous funders and our hosts, TUSEV and Kadir Has University. Supporters include Black Sea Trust, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, Ford Foundation Office for Mexico and Central America and India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Prime Minister Fund – TC Başbakanlık Tanıtma Fonu Kurulu Sekreterliği, Springer, Trust Africa, Turkish Airlines, US Consulate General, Istanbul, and Vodafone Turkey Foundation.

We also thank those organizations who supported the conference through placing advertisements in the conference program. These include: AIM Alliance (Arizona State University, Indiana University, and Grand Valley State University); The Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC); NGO Research Center at Tsinghua University; Nomos Publishers; RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service, The University of Texas at Austin; Schulich School of Business, York University; The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University; Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, The Graduate Center, City University of New York; Turkish Philanthropy Funds; The Policy Press; The Centre for Social Impact (Australia); and Springer.

We thank our Istanbul hosts for their special efforts and the exceptional support from the onsite team from Etiks, TUSEV, and Kadir Has.

In the spirit of voluntarism the strong academic program was made possible by the scholarly contributions of a team of reviewers and the conference committee and we thank them for their ongoing support.

We also thank the wonderful community of colleagues for creating an enlivening and energizing atmosphere and celebrating this dynamic academic and social experience.

ISTR now looks ahead to the 10th International Conference where we hope again to have high quality research papers from the same international range of contributors and multiple opportunities for networking and meeting.
Latin America and the Caribbean Network (LAC)

During the Istanbul conference approximately 30 researchers from Latin America and Caribbean Network met to endorse the next regional meeting in Buenos Aires. The Board of ISTR approved with enthusiasm the joint proposal of the Catholic University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Communication and Development Institute (ICD) from Uruguay, to hold the Ninth Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Buenos Aires in July 2011.

The Catholic University of Buenos Aires and the ICD offered to establish an international committee, comprised by academic institutions from Argentina and Uruguay and also other countries of the region, in order to give guidance and support the organizational and academic aspects of the ISTR Regional Conference.

And the work has already started!

The Catholic University and ICD convened a meeting in Buenos Aires (at the Catholic University premises) on August 2 in order to launch the initiative. The meeting was attended by representatives from the CEDES (Center of Studies of the State and Society), the University of San Andrés, the National University San Martín, the National University General Sarmiento, and from the Silataj Foundation. It is the second time a regional conference will take place in Buenos Aires: the last one was hold in September 2001, also at the premises of the Catholic University.

In the meeting in Buenos Aires, the discussion was about aspects regarding the agenda and the format of the 2011 conference, as well as the challenge that implies for the institutions to raise enough funds to ensure the attendance of researchers from the entire Region. Possible core themes of the Conference were discussed, and volunteerism and solidarity practices emerged as very relevant topics, since 2011 the United Nations will celebrate the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) +10. The importance of including studies about the relationships of civil society and the State, especially in the new governmental configurations currently in office in the Region.

A meeting with Uruguayan academic institutions is to take place on September 24, at the premises of ICD in Montevideo, and several institutions have already accepted the invitation. Universities and academic centers from Mexico and Brazil will also join the preparatory works.

For more information please contact: Dr. Beatriz Balián, Vice-president for Academic Affairs, Catholic University of Buenos Aires (beatriz_balian@uca.edu.ar) or Anabel Cruz, Directora del ICD de Uruguay (acruz@lasociadadcivil.org)

Middle East Network

Ten people from eight different countries in the Middle East met during the regional meetings. Some people already knew each other from working together, but most didn’t know each other. Each person had a chance to introduce themselves and talk about their organisations, area of work and interests. Vision for education to be a tool for empowerment, women, relationship of geography with the way
people interact, social change, role of technology in capacity building, and use of mind maps were some of the topics that were mentioned.

It was discussed that there wasn’t an opportunity or enabling environment for people to share their views very much and the group decided to form an email group to keep in touch and share information.

During the meeting, Barbara Ibrahim from the American University of Cairo, invited participants to send abstracts to the upcoming conference of the centre for philanthropy and civic engagement. The conference will focus on regional research in areas related to civic engagement and philanthropy. It will be held in Amman and currently foreseen to take place either in April or May 2011.

Foundation of the Future is also organising conferences with the first one on the role of Civil Society Organizations in combating human trafficking in the BMENA region in Amman, Jordan. The second conference will address assessment of the impact of donor assistance on democracy development in the BMENA region in 2011. A Middle East listserve will be set up and in place shortly.

Asia Pacific Regional Network

During the regional meeting in Istanbul, attended by some 35 attendees from the Asia-Pacific region, we determined that the 7th ISTR Regional Conference which will be held in 2011, should be held in Indonesia. The host will be CECT (Center for Entrepreneurship, Change and Third Sector) which is a research center under an umbrella organisation of Post Graduate Study at Trisakti University. That university is the oldest and largest private university in Indonesia. Dr Sami Hasan and Professor Jenny Onyx will be the academic co-chairs, while Dr. Maria Radyati will lead the host committee. We hope that this regional conference will be as successful as our previous regional conference, held in 2009 in Taiwan. The conference themes will be

- broad based
- inclusive of the entrepreneurship focus of the hosting centre
- focus on social justice, responsibility and change
- include service delivery, advocacy and constituencies as strands

A call for papers will be sent in the next few months.

Africa Regional Network

The conference workshop organized by Trust Africa and ISTR, kick-started discussions on actions needed for African civil society scholars and practitioners to come together and take forward ideas on strengthening and expanding the ISTR African regional network. A volunteer steering group – made up of Ronelle Burger, Stellenbosch University; Victor Isunonah, University of Ibadan; Jacob M. Mati, CIVICUS and the University of the Witwatersrand; Ebenezer Obadare, University of Kansas; Richard Wamai, Northeastern University; and Alan Fowler, University of KwaZulu-Natal – was then constituted and is exploring various initiatives for the future. These include training, workshops, scholarly communication including publishing and a virtual library of civil society research. The idea is to expand on the capabilities and horizons of researchers and activists of African civil society as well as promote collective efforts and agendas on the continent.

The aim of the network is to help advance knowledge of civil society in Africa in all its ramifications through cutting edge research. Previous efforts to create such a network stalled because of limited interests from researchers on the continent and funding. We therefore believe that if these ideas are to come to fruition, we will need the support and participation of each of us (researchers and activist) engaged in African civil society research and practice to come out of our individual cocoons and network in order to support each other in our individual and collective endeavours. If you would like to join us and share in these endeavours, please email Ronelle Burger at rburger@sun.ac.za.
Affinity Groups Meet in Istanbul

Affinity Group on Gender

At the ISTR international conference in Istanbul, Turkey, the Affinity Group on Gender (AGG) took large steps towards spreading the circles to think about what we can/should do in order to tackle social exclusion of women in terms of research and activities on the Third Sector.

One of the achievements we are proud of is the fact that on the initiative of the AGG, the ISTR Board invited Dr. Thoraya Obaid, executive director of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), as the keynote speaker for the Opening Plenary Session.

Our activities at the conference included a pre-conference workshop, four panels, and the AGG meeting. All four panels, which the AGG had submitted to ISTR, had been accepted. In the first panel entitled “Gender, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship,” moderated by Patrick Kilby (Australia), Sachiko Nakagawa (Japan) presented her paper on the “Influence of ‘Gendered NPOs’ on the lives of female mentally challenged,” Triparna Vasavada (US/India) presented on “Feminist Values in Nonprofit Leadership: A Comparative Analysis,” Carmen Marcuello Servos (Spain) on “Participation in Spanish Civil Society: Differences Across Gender Contributors,” and Jason Ketter (US) on “Women Leaders and Management of Public Relations in Nonprofit Organizations.”

The second panel, moderated by Triparna Vasavada, dealt with “NGOs and the Focus on Gender: Does it really have an Impact?” Glòria Estapé-Dubreuil (Spain) discussed “Microcredit and Women Empowerment: An Empirical case-study based in Catalonia;” Patrick Kilby spoke on “Gender in Civil Society: a driver or an afterthought in the discourse – some reflections from India,” and Joyce Wu (Australia), on “Democracy is a Club and Women are Not Invited: The Sexual Politics of Legitimacy, Civil Society and Women’s Collective Agency in Afghanistan.” Thus we approached the critical questions on what kind of impact the Third Sector could have for women in the social and political sphere and how women’s participation could impact the Third Sector.

The third panel, moderated by Christina Schwabenland (UK), was dedicated to the issue “Looking After Each Other: The Role of (Invisible) Care Work in the Community.” In lieu of two contributors who were unable to attend the conference, there were two presentations: Rosemary Leonard (Australia): “Mapping the role of gender in caring networks of older people receiving services from Third Sector organizations” and Stina Johansson (Sweden): “Elderly people’s voluntary participation in care work.”

The fourth panel, moderated by Patrick Kilby, focused on “Gender and Migration.” Latika Mangrulkar’s (US/India) input was on “Moving Beyond the Model Minority: the realities of gender issues in Asian immigrant populations in America,” Sisay Gebre-Egziabher’s (Ethiopia) on “Ethiopian Women Migrating to the Middle East,” and Rekha Gaonkar’s (India) on “A Study of Migrant Women in Goa.” The discussion centered on how the Third Sector may be essential to release women from traditional gender expectations as mere care takers, and to enable women’s participation in society, as well as how the Third Sector may contribute to protecting human rights of female migrants.

In the AGG meeting we briefly evaluated our activities in Istanbul and then raised ideas on topics for the next ISTR international conference under the general headline “Gender and Third Sector.” As a result of the very lively discussions, we have several ideas for a pre-conference workshop and for panels such as “How to do Gender Research in the Third-Sector?”, “Social Media,” “Head Scarf / Gender, Religion and Identity / Gender as Contested Ground in Different Cultural Settings,” “Micro Finance,” “Men as Agents of Chance in Gender Relations.” In addition, we have several
“volunteers” to take on the role of moderators of the pre-conference workshop and panels, respectively.

We face numerous challenges in gender issues because many women suffer from social and economic isolation, as well as violence, and they are exposed to dangers of life due to the increase of food prices, global financial crises, continuous wars, and the expansion of the income gap. However, through ISTR we have a wonderful opportunity to share ideas, opinions and experiences of different countries. By utilizing this great opportunity, we will continue to make an effort to build an “inclusive society” in terms of research and activities on Gender and the Third Sector.

If you are interested in our group, please contact Sachiko Nakagawa (bear751@sfc.keio.ac.jp). She will include your email address in the AGG mailing list, our main communication tool.

ISTR Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award 2010

In 2010, the Selection Committee received 47 submissions from countries all over the world. The majority of the dissertations were of excellent quality and provided not only an overview of our growing scholarly expertise but also accentuated the fact that Nonprofit / Third Sector research is now at the frontier of science. This award is presented biennially for an outstanding dissertation that contributes to the field of comparative study of civil society organizations, nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, voluntarism and related issues. The purpose of this award is to encourage young scholars to enter the field of nonprofit and anthropic studies throughout the world.

The Selection Committee consisted of Barbara Ibrahim (Egypt), Mark Sidel (USA), and Annette Zimmer (Germany) who served as the Chairperson. The Committee was further supported by Lesley Hustinx (Belgium), Leilah Landim (Brazil), and Sarit Bensimon-Peleg (Israel).

Due to the high standard of submitted dissertations, the review process was intense, time-consuming but simultaneously rewarding. The criteria of evaluation ranged from the assessment of the originality of the research to a judgment of the research’s contribution to the advance-

Legal Interest Group

The Legal Interest Group met over an informational lunch and provided brief updates on their work. The group also discussed developing a mechanism (listserve and/or webpage) to exchange information on developments in the field, conferences, events and publications; the possibility of more law and regulation panels at the 2012 ISTR conference; a possible Voluntas special issue on issues of law and regulation; continuing and deepening the ISTR/ICNL project to develop an index of non profit law teachers in various countries and their teaching syllabi; and other possibilities.

Those you are interested in joining this listserve, please contact: mark-sidel@uiowa.edu

Dirk-Jan Koch: Aid from International NGOs: Blind Spots on the Aid Allocation Camp

The work of Dirk-Jan Koch challenges a widespread myth of the sector on the allocation of grants specifically by nonprofit organizations working internationally. Traditionally, NGOs are intrinsically linked to motivations aimed at
helping the poorest of the poor who are living in countries which operate under the spirit of democracy and good governance. NGOs are the good-doers per se. Appreciated by the general public and the policy-making communities in the Northern Hemisphere, they are perceived as being highly independent from the ‘back donors’ in their home countries. They are furthermore considered to make decisions on grant allocations independently and without being influenced by the grant-making communities worldwide.

In his doctoral thesis, Dirk-Jan Koch puts these premises to a distinctive and scientific test. The outcome of his analysis is striking and it simultaneously puts our knowledge of how NGOs work, particularly with respect to grant allocation decisions, into a different perspective. According to the analysis of Dirk-Jan Koch, in contrast to the widespread belief, NGOs tend to follow the latest trends in development action. In effect, neither the neediness of the population nor good governance of public administration and the state significantly influence the decisions of NGOs on where to invest and how to allocate their grants. Indeed, there are countries which are highly fashionable or popular in the international scene and hence attract many NGOs while others lose out and end up being thoroughly overlooked by the international NGO community. Similar to other fields of activity, NGOs also tend to be influenced by verbal propaganda. There are countries and areas of activity that are considered trendy while others tend to remain in the shadows. Although NGOs are not “puppets on a string,” they, nevertheless, are indubitably influenced and thus dependent on the moods and preferences of their “back donors.” If those are embedded in a certain normative or ideological environment such as i.e. the Catholic milieu, it is most likely that NGOs being part of this milieu will become engaged in countries and projects which are somehow reflective of the specific normative background.

The work of Dirk-Jan Koch is remarkable in many respects. From a methodological point of view, it is a sophisticated analysis which addresses the topic through the utilization of both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study is at the frontier of science with respect to the applied research methods, simultaneously, it is at the interface of the daily life and decision-making procedures of nonprofit organizations. His analysis is grounded in original research and the volume contributes significantly to our field of nonprofit studies. Hence, the study is directly related to the Third Sector and it highly adds to the advancement of Third Sector research. It is also worth mentioning that the book is elegantly written. However, Dirk-Jan Koch’s work goes beyond the realm of science. His recommendations are highly practical and down to earth, addressing a policy community that should be more careful with respect to the design of its funding strategies worldwide.

Francoise Montambeault
Models of (Un)changing State-Society Relationships: Urban Participatory Governance and the Deepening of Democracy in Mexico and Brazil

The dissertation advances a deeper understanding of processes of democratization in fast developing countries such as Brazil. By investigating the socio-political conditions that are necessary to make local participatory governance work, the dissertation highlights the capacity of civil society actors to become agents of the deepening of democracy at the local level.

Johan Hvenmark
Reconsidering Membership. A study of Individual Members’ Formal Affiliation with Democratically Governed Federations

The dissertation focuses on the changing relationships between members and voluntary nonprofit organizations. Worldwide, we are witnessing a downgrading of membership, which is increasingly being replaced by other, more modern forms of affiliation. The dissertation crucially adds to the ongoing debate about the future of memberships in organizations by analyzing those trends and tendencies within nonprofits – increased bureaucratization as well as commercialization respectively – that more and more put a threat to traditional modes of affiliation that were significantly linked to reciprocity.

Mona Ali Atia
Building a House in Heaven: Islamic Charity in Neoliberal Egypt

The dissertation provides a new and innovative approach towards charitable giving by analyzing philanthropy through a neoliberal lens based in microeconomics. Against the background of contemporary narratives of modernity, the dissertation draws our attention to the fact that cultural, economic and political factors have a deep influence on how giving is perceived and how philanthropy is exercised. What makes the work particularly interesting is the fact that changes in giving and philanthropy are analyzed in Egypt, a traditionally Islamic country, which is simultaneously af-
affected by both religious fundamentalism and economic neoliberalism.

Georgina Brewis

The Making of an Imperial Ideal of Service: Britain and India before 1914

The dissertation takes a fresh look at the relationship between former colonial Britain and India, the diamond in the crown of the British Empire by exploring how colonial encounters shaped patterns of giving and service in the Empire. Hence, the dissertation focuses on the coming into being of “social service” as a special attitude of the middle-class worldwide by setting the development discourse within a colonial environment. Accordingly, India serves as a case study and textbook example. However, “social service” in the sense of philanthropic and voluntary engagement was a common trend in the late 19th and early 20th century which was at that time closely connected to both concerns of nation-building and citizenship.

10th Mexico Congress on Third Sector Research

by Jacqueline Butcher, Vice-President and Research Chair of CEMEFI, Co-Chair of the Seminar.

The Mexican Center for Philanthropy (CEMEFI) and the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla organized the 10th Congress on Third Sector Research, this time, focusing its attention on social change and looking into 10 years of annual seminars that have allowed this meeting to become a national congress for researchers and CSO leaders in Mexico. The three day seminar, held 1,2,3, of September, 2010 was entitled: Civil Society and Citizenship within Social Change and it brought to the table a myriad of interesting academic outlooks, from accessing information to creating public policy, to the importance of citizenship and participation to create stronger democracies.

There were more than 150 researchers in attendance, plus an equal number of students and members of Mexican CSOs, along with the presence of distinguished international academics. The inauguration was held in the historical center of the city of Puebla, Mexico at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. The following day, Dr. James Allen Smith, Vice-President and Research and Education Chair of the Rockefeller Archive Center, presented his keynote, which was commented by Dr. Aurora Gómez, the Director of the Mexican National Archives.

In this address, Dr. Smith spoke about the importance of the history of civil society in a country such as Mexico and the need to preserve its origins through retelling its story and how its strength of moving forward into the future will have to be reflected on the efforts of individual citizens acting in collective ways. He spoke about the structures that need to be in place for the advancement of civil society and the relevance of bridging all sectors for the public good.

The second day, in a panel called New Technologies in Social Communication, Dr. José Antonio Meyer, from the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla and Dr. Octavio Islas from the Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus, Edo. De México, presented their views on the importance of projecting the perspectives and work of CSOs and their activities to the public, as well as the need of being abreast to learn and implement new technologies to advance civil society initiatives.
Regional News

The themes that were touched upon on this occasion were:

- Citizenship in Latin America: its actual state and evolution
- Activity in civil society to strengthen citizenship
- Contributions of civil society to the public agenda
- Interactions of citizens and government for social change
- Citizenship and social responsibility

Over one hundred papers were presented from all regions of the country. There are now 17 co-sponsors of this event, along with the organizers, including Mexican universities and government entities; the universities and research institutes include: Universidad Iberoamericana; El Colegio Mexiquense, A.C.; Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Ciudad de México; Universidad Anáhuac; Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, ITAM; Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana; Universidad del Valle de México; Universidad Panamericana; Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales de la UNAM; Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José María Luis Mora; Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales de la UNAM; Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud and the government dependencies participating included The National Institute for Social Development, INDESOL, the Federal Institute of Access to Public Information, IFAI and the Secretaría de la Función Pública.

There were poster presentations on research in progress, as well as four workshops held on the first day for CSO practitioners. For more information on this Congress, please contact Lorena Cortés at CEMEFI: lorena.cortes@cemefi.org or visit the Cemefi website: www.cemefi.org

Scaffolding the Third Sector Field of Research in Australia and New Zealand

By Wendy Earles, Associate Professor, Research Fellow, Cairns Institute, James Cook University

Reflections from the Cairns Meeting June 10-11 2010

Australia and New Zealand third sector researchers have formed a community of scholars over the past two decades that engages on average 100-150 members and 200-250 conference attendees. This community has been able to sustain a scholarly association (The Australian and New Zealand Third Sector Research Association ANZTSR), a bi-annual academic journal (Third Sector Review TSR) and a biennial conference series. Despite the emergence and maintenance of such a community of scholars, the ‘third sector’ does not as yet constitute a recognised field of research in any Australian government data collections. Such data collection classifications include recognised academic disciplines and related major sub-fields taught at universities or tertiary institutions, major fields of research investigated by national research institutions and organisations, as well as emerging areas of study.

The Australian Government has been working towards a research assessment framework for a number of years and this was realised with the implementation of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) in 2010. In this exercise, journals were ranked as one measure of research quality. Third sector journals both regional and international did not rate highly in rankings despite efforts by the scholarly community. There is great concern that low rankings for third sector publications and no field of research classification for the third sector will mean that university managers will not support scholars to research, publish and attend conferences in this area. There is anecdotal evidence that this is already the case.

Despite the government imposed research assessment exercises or at least alongside it, third sector research groups or centres are having to reinvent themselves in broader research coalitions across diverse interests, and new research centres are taking up broad research mandates. The common ground in such agglomerations is the focus on change in society and the importance of interdisciplinarity in tackling societal problems. The old ‘third sector-ness,’ while being distilled in these processes, is absorbed within the broader focus on societal change. However a more diverse community of scholars is being created especially across the old social science and business divides.

In these contexts, leaders of the scholarly community met in Cairns in June 2010 to discuss how third sector research has been supported over the past two decades, the changing contexts of research, and a process to promote ongoing support for third sector research(ers). The call to meet was made to directors of research centres, journal managing editors, and scholarly association executives. Seven third sector research leaders were able to meet in Cairns with the support of their universities, but unfortunately none from New Zealand. A facilitator was engaged with funding from ANZTSR and the Cairns Institute at James Cook University hosted the meeting. The term ‘scaffolding’ was used initial-
ly and tentatively to describe the plethora of supports that might be needed to engage and sustain a field of research. Such supports were considered to include, but were not limited to, publication opportunities, networking spaces, formalised field of research codes in national data collection for classification and external recognition, strands within disciplines and cross-discipline spaces such as research centres.

The group began a process of reflection around where we have come from, where we are, and where we are going in scaffolding third sector research that will be expanded to involve the wider membership at the ANZTSR at the November Conference to be hosted by the University of Technology Sydney.

The past experiences of participants coalesced around shared understandings of why people chose to stay within a third sector scholarly community. Participants felt that there was a shared yearning for openness, boundary-spanning, creativity and broadening understanding of the social, and increasingly the ecological, alongside the economic and political. Accompanying this there was a rejection of existing discipline silos and the valuing of collaborative spaces for research, spaces that included practitioners and applied research. These coalesced through efforts to bring the third sector into the political and policy space.

Participants felt that scholarly community members embraced relational ways of working in shared scholarship. It was noted that the third sector scholarly community contained a core membership, but was also in a state of membership flux. Those that stayed were able to identify themselves institutionally or individually as researching the third sector over time while those that moved through tended to remain within their own field of research (disciplinary-based or policy field) even while researching the third sector at times. Those that did share this consciousness/identity, tended to be researching what was called the ‘back office’ of non-profit organisation such as legal forms, accounting and accountability, ways of organising, and evaluation and impact.

The specification of third sector research as a field of research was deemed by participants to have a core but was also ‘fuzzy’. The core was considered to be a unifying consciousness of a ‘third sector’ and in the broader sense of civil society. This commons in what we research was considered to be under-researched when compared to research on the state/politics and the market/economy, and indeed individuals/psychology. The commons was not just civil society/social but also the interdependencies and unifying forces for change. There was a concern that the focus of what we research may be too restrictive focusing on big organisations and government funded organisations, and less open to new forms and policy fields. The level of focus was also raised as a concern in that the instrumentalism of non-profit activity might be crowding out bigger societal issues of concern and the link to the values-base aspect of third sector activity. A further concern was the distraction of a quest for ‘non-profit purity’ rather than an acceptance of non-profit type as an ideal and hybridity within and without as the norm.

Two contexts were considered critical for ongoing support for third sector researchers that of the third sector itself and of third sector research. The frailty of the invention of the third sector and the lack of a sole national body for third sector organisations was considered to impact the potential for collective advocacy for the sector as did change in the level of legitimacy with government. The third sector and third sector research as such can go in and out of public policy favour. Similarly research is something that might have strategic unity at times but more often is fractured, and is in many cases an individualistic endeavour. Research is also conducted within a changing university context and a competitive information environment. Third sector research is at risk of ‘not showing up’ in new research counting schemes within universities.

There was general agreement that the focus to date had been on creating a community of scholars rather than creating a field of research. Such an internal focus had been necessary in the first wave of third sector research in this region, to create a shared third sector research identity. Any second wave of ‘third sector’ research consciousness-raising needs to focus on external recognition as a field of research while sustaining a scholarly community that supports and collaborates with each other.

The first challenge in external recognition is the need for a firm core for the field of research and a name for it. Pragmatically this could be just a ‘non-profit’ code in national data collection systems within existing categories. The overall goal is to count politically and bureaucratically so as to continue the research endeavour for organising for social change. It was recognised that other interdisciplinary areas may also be considering sustainability issues and it was important to share in their learning. The consciousness, behaviours, culture and systems required of a field of research need to be considered. Some examples were large collaborative research bids, a common set of reviewers, systematic use of connectedness, active promotion of key words and selective field of research codes in national data collections, and
increased status for journals. Like any collective endeavour a field of research will need to have resources (constituency, connectedness, centres etc), activity, outcomes and impact.

The process in Cairns enabled those present to revisit their passion for the third sector research community of scholars and reassess the contribution they can make to efforts to scaffold a field of research not just a community of scholars. It was desired that such reflective and collective opportunities be made available to the wider community of scholars. In light of the deliberations and with a view to action, some proposals were raised related mainly to the opportunity extended by the 2010 ANZTSR Conference organisers. Their offer was to use the second conference plenary as a means to engage more researchers in these discussions and ongoing action. A proposal for preparatory work prior to the conference was that a scholarly community scoping project be implemented to map the wider constituency with a view to broadening the community of scholars as a first step to energising action to gain external recognition as a field of research.

**Regional News**

Consultants Needed for UNV Background Paper for the State of the World’s Volunteerism Report

The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) is the UN programme that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism and the mobilization of volunteers.

Organizational Setting: The State of the World’s Volunteerism Report

This first State of the World’s Volunteerism Report produced by the United Nations will present an alternative vision to the one widely prevailing today as regards what volunteerism is and why it is important. Using a broad brush, it will address first what is meant by volunteerism, why people volunteer their time, what are the manifold ways people choose to volunteer, and the impact of this volunteer engagement. Under the general guidance of the UNV Office of the Executive Coordinator, the researcher is responsible for producing a synthesis background paper that will be used to inform and strengthen the State of the World’s Volunteering Report.

How to apply

Applications should be submitted on line and include an up to date CV using the apply now option at http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?job_id=19103. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted. The applicant should clearly specify the paper s/he is interested in writing (e.g. SWVR: SIP-6: Volunteerism and Governance). Please note: not all papers are listed on the website link.

If you submit an application, UNV expects that you have read and agree with the TOR and the UNV Terms and Conditions, available online: http://unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2008/SSATerms2007.pdf

**Call for Papers**

**BenchMark 3.5**

The Fourth Conference on Nonprofit/Nongovernmental Management, the Third Sector, Social Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy and Voluntarism as a Field of Study in Higher Education

The Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC), in partnership with the Arizona State University Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation and the University of San Diego School of Leadership and Education Sciences, is pleased to present BenchMark 3.5 in March 2011. BenchMark 3.5 is the fourth conference on the development of nonprofit/nongovernmental management, voluntarism and philanthropy as a field of study in higher education. The theme for BenchMark 3.5 is “Nonprofit Educators: Learning, Leading and Creating the Future.”

Registration is now open for BenchMark 3.5, please click on this link to register: http://www.naccouncil.org/benchmark.asp.

The call for proposals for presentation at BenchMark 3.5 is also open and will close on October 4, 2010.

Proposals will be accepted around the following topical categories: curricular structure and content, educational programs (mapping the field in the U.S. and internationally),
in institutionalization and sustainability, practice linkages, disciplinary linkages, and external forces (the environment in which the sector operates), and can be conducted in a number of session formats (debate, expert presentation, colloquium, paper panel, think tank or any other innovative format you desire). Detailed descriptions of these topical areas and formats can be found on our website. We encourage and welcome proposals from the U.S. and internationally from all levels and disciplines of academia focused on the nonprofit/nongovernmental sector, third sector, voluntarism, social entrepreneurship and/or philanthropy. NACC would like to take this opportunity to welcome your abstract proposal submissions and we look forward to seeing you in San Diego in March 2011. To learn more about BenchMark 3.5 and to submit your proposal, please visit our website at http://www.naccouncil.org/abstracts.asp.

**Workshop on the Challenges of Managing the Third Sector**

In June 2011, the 8th Workshop on the Challenges of Managing the Third Sector, organised by the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management, will be held in Galway, Ireland.

The call for papers and all further details can be found on http://www.eiasm.org/frontoffice/event_announcement.asp?event_id=761

Deadline: March 3, 2011

**Public Management Review (PMR) Special Issue ‘Philanthropy and Public Policy’**

(To be published November 2011)

This special issue seeks to explore, encourage debate, and help shape understanding on the multiple ways in which philanthropic action (perceived in its broadest sense and including charitable giving and action) engages with, supports, and/or challenges public management and policy. Reflecting the international and interdisciplinary nature of PMR, we encourage a pluralist approach. We welcome submissions that address all national contexts as well as cross-national comparisons. Papers can be empirically based - using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method approaches - or theoretical.

The guest editors of this special issue are Dr Tobias Jung (Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy, University of Edinburgh Business School and Cass Business School, UK) and Prof Jenny Harrow (Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy, Cass Business School, UK). Please contact Tobias.Jung.1@city.ac.uk for any questions regarding this special issue. The deadline for submissions is 4th March 2011, and authors should submit their articles online at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rpxm.

All submissions should meet the PMR author guidelines available at http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1471-9037&linktype=44
Books Notes


The purpose of this research is to develop a series of indicators in order to test the effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations in the Arab region. The research is part of a wider project adopted by the Arab Network for NGOs seeking to enhance the Arab Civil Society. The first phase of the project was devoted to analyze the current status of Civil Society Organizations in several Arab countries. During the second phase, the project worked on the evaluation of the role played by Civil Society Organizations in confronting the challenges of human development during the third millennium. The third and crucial phase attempted to identify the means allowing testing the effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations as well as their impact on the Arab societies. It also sought to develop theoretical approaches adequate to the Arab reality with all its complexity and diversity.


The market, the state, and the third sector have all been heralded as central agents in civilizing modern societies. It has been claimed that participation in voluntary associations enables people to learn civic skills and, in effect, to become more “civilized.” Likewise, there are claims about the civilizing effects of doux commerce - the ability of trade and commerce to mitigate conflicts and convert them into peaceful competition. And, according to many political and legal theories, democratic states and their institutions are the final bulwark of civil virtues. However, the voluntary sector can be a source of particularism, market exploitation, or state oppression. This book, which brings together contributors from across Europe, argues that such sector perspectives should be set aside. It examines how the civicness and civility of organizations and individuals can be identified and encouraged in any institutional setting. Crossing traditional spheres and disciplines, the book explores the concept of “civicness” to search for the source of our modern civil society.


The United States has a long history of citizens rendering service to their communities. Examples of government-sponsored voluntary service organizations include the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Peace Corps, and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). During the Clinton administration, the national service movement was advanced by the establishment of AmeriCorps, a large-scale national service program designed to place young people in community service positions across the country. More recently, the Obama administration has set in motion a major program expansion of AmeriCorps over the coming decade.

Many decades, billions of dollars, and hundreds of thousands of volunteers after the creation of the first national service programs, it remains unclear who benefits from service, under what conditions these programs work best, and how exactly these service efforts contribute to the strengthening of communities. Serving Country and Community
answers each of these questions through an in-depth study of how service shapes the lives of young people and a careful analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of these programs. Based on years of field work and data collection, Serving Country and Community provides an in-depth examination of the aims and effects of national service and, in the process, opens up a conversation about what works and what needs reform in national service today.


Although civil society is definitely not a panacea for all challenges of the modern state, the contributions in this anthology show that national paths and patterns of civil society and third sector developments can be used as important benchmarks and examples of the best (and sometimes worst) practices for the successful development of governance. By analyzing theoretical and empirical evidence from local, national, and international contexts, the book contributes to a transfer of knowledge between national discourses and the practices of civil society. The book illustrates what civil society can and cannot achieve.


The international development community invests billions of dollars to improve organizational capacity. But real-life practice is poorly understood and undervalued as a distinct professional domain. Written by practitioners, this innovative publication is designed to make capacity development more professional and increasingly effective in achieving development goals.

Practical illustrations draw on experiences from the civic, government and private sectors. A central theme is to understand capacity as more than something internal to organizations. This book shows how capacity also stems from connections between different types of actors and the levels in society at which they operate.


This study offers a brief counter-note to the dominant functional analyses of voluntary action present in much of the current Civil Society discourse. It is argued that a functional approach, while explicating the structure of voluntary action at sector and organizational level, is challenged in offering a sufficient explanation of voluntary action at the level of the individual. Definitional difficulties regarding the volunteer and the voluntary organisation, and the demand-sided emphasis in the presentation of the relationship between organisation and individual are seen as symptomatic of this problem. A paradigmatic barrier to the exploration of the relationship between human agency and voluntary action is argued to lie at the core of the issue. Despite an increasing body of research into volunteering which draws attention to individual reflexivity, value expression, and a concern with self-enactment, such work is not gathered yet as a coherent and alternative voice.

In this study the ‘putative agency’ of the...
individual is placed at the centre of the research proposition so as to examine the subjective experience relative to engagement in voluntary action. An interpretative approach is used for gathering the life-stories of individuals who have contributed significantly to the establishment and development of a variety of Civil Society Organisations. From an analysis of these narratives, a complex and multi-faceted image of the individual as ‘voluntary actor’ is proposed. Some of the implications of such an image for our understanding of the relationship between the individual and voluntary action are examined.

With *The Essence of Strategic Giving*, Peter Frumkin distills the lessons of his comprehensive, award-winning study, *Strategic Giving*, into a concise, practical guide for everyone involved in private philanthropy, from donors to managers of nonprofits to fund-raisers. He defines five critical challenges that all donors must address if their philanthropy is to amount to more than indiscriminate charity, including being aware of the time frame that guides a gift, specifying the intended impact being pursued, and recognizing how a donation fits with a donor’s own identity and style. Acknowledging and understanding these fundamental, strategic aspects of giving, Frumkin argues, will help ensure philanthropy that more effectively achieves its aims—and at the same time builds a lasting relationship between donors and the institutions they support.


Globalization, demographics, changing consumer preferences, and public finances are driving the emergence of an “Impact Economy” for the first time in human history. Analogous to the New Economy, the *Impact Economy* will fundamentally transform business, civil society, and the public sector. A multi-trillion dollar social capital market; companies who seek authentic engagement instead of PR-focused corporate responsibility; and private risk capital funding public goods are around the corner. Many new ventures and projects are under way. Some will succeed. Many will fail without reaching scale. Beyond both profit and philanthropy, what does it mean to be a part of the Impact Economy? A practitioner analyzes how it will change the way we consume, invest and work.
Report on Volunteering in Germany

In 2009, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth commissioned the third round of the Representative Survey of Volunteering and Civic Engagement. The full report is to be published in the end of September 2010. For an English summary of the main findings in the “Voluntary Activities Monitor,” please go to http://www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Broschuerenstelle/Pdf-Anlagen/ Monitor-Engagement-Nr-2-englisch, property=pdf,bereich= bmfsfj, sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf

According to the Survey, the voluntary rate is at 36% in Germany. The total rate has not increased in the last five years. Nevertheless, the data shows occasionally growing commitment of voluntary activities: Engaged citizens spend more time for their activities. One remarkable development is the major increase in volunteering among elderly people. For the over-65s, the figure rose constantly from 23% in 1999 to 28% in 2009. In nearly all age groups, gender differences in voluntary activities persist.

Report on International NPO-Colloquium

The NPO-Colloquium is a bi-annual conference on Third Sector Research in Germany, Austria and Switzerland since 1994. The conferences are organized by three researchers heading university institutes with special research focus on nonprofit organization and management:
- Prof. Dr. Reinbert Schauer, University of Linz (Austria)
- Prof. Dr. Markus Gmür, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)
- Prof. Dr. Ludwig Theuvsen, University of Göttingen (Germany)

The 9th conference on “Stakeholder-Management in Nonprofit-Organisations” with 75 participants and 40 presentations took place March 2010 in Göttingen. The 10th conference will be organised Spring 2012 in Fribourg, prospectively with a special focus on Performance Management in Nonprofit Organisations. While the official conference language is German, papers and presentations in English are also cordially invited.

For further information, please contact: markus.gmuer@unifr.ch

8th Workshop on the Challenges of Managing the Third Sector

Galway, Ireland, June 9-10, 2011

Chairpersons: Bernd Helmig, Marc Jegers, Irvine Lapsley

The Third Sector - such as the voluntary, charitable, financial co-operative, religious, health and educational organisations which sit outside the confines of the private (‘profit’) and public sectors - is facing a rapidly changing environment which challenges its efficient management and continuation. This research workshop seeks to examine current influences on the effective operation of these non-profit organisations. We are interested in high quality research papers which address the managerial challenges facing this sector. The organisers are particularly interested in the results of managerial, economic and inter-disciplinary approaches. This workshop will be of interest to researchers active in this area but also to policy-makers, senior managers and practitioners from all disciplines.

http://www.eiasm.org/frontoffice/event_announcement.asp?event_id=761

UK Seminars

In the UK the main event is the annual conference organised by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NVCO) and the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN). This year its “Researching the Voluntary Sector” conference took place on 6-7 September 2010 – details at http://www.vssn.org.uk/conf2010/index.htm. VSSN also has day seminars – details at http://www.vssn.org.uk/events/index.htm. The next day seminar is being hosted by IVAR in London 1st December 10.30 - 4.00 (see www.ivar.org.uk)

Colleagues are running an interesting Seminar series ‘Rethinking Voluntary Action’ at Roehampton June - Dec 2010. They are invites only at present, contact: S.Howlett@roehampton.ac.uk.

The Voluntary Action History Society remains very active www.vahs.org.uk/

Third Sector Research Centre based in Birmingham are running events including an April event on Evaluation/Impact.
**2010 Annual Conference, “Are We Running out of Talent? The Role of European Foundations in Building Human Capacity in Research”**

7-8 December, Stuttgart, Germany

Hosted by Robert Bosch Stiftung

Good research needs good people. European research foundations support many thousands of researchers in the sciences and humanities. The 2010 Annual Conference of the European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding will focus on how foundations and other funders work with the researchers they support to foster creativity and innovation, and encourage mobility, international networking and the development of research leaders of tomorrow.

Registration and further details at the following link: www.efc.be/ResearchForumConference2010

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**Members News**

Rekha Ramish Gaonkar, received the Silver Jubilee Best Teacher Award of Goa University at the hands of His Excellency, the Governor of Goa and Chancellor of Goa University, Dr. S. S. Sidhu.

This award was presented on the 26th Foundation Day of Goa University i.e., on the valedictory function of the Silver Jubilee celebration of Goa University held at Kala Academy, Panaji, Goa, India. The selection Committee selected Rekha Gaonkar, taking into consideration her sincere contribution in innovative teaching, learning methods, research projects, publications and extension activities. She is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Economics.

Bernard Enjolras, received the 2010 Best Article Award from the Academy of Management Public and Nonprofit (PNP) Division for his paper entitled, “A Governance-Structure Approach to Voluntary Organizations,” published in 2009 in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly.

Some comments given by the Committee members: “This article breaks new ground in our understanding of voluntary organizations. Using the governance structure of nonprofits as a way to understand why nonprofits, in contrast to market and government failure theories, exist and perform. We get a more complete picture of how reciprocity or donative gifts are exchanged through nonprofits and how governance structures may result in undermining trustworthiness and efficiency. A case study is also provided to enhance our theoretical understanding of this approach.”

“I think this article makes a huge contribution that the conceptualization offered here—stressing the governance structure as well as the role of reciprocal coordination—provides a corrective to these theories while synthesizing them in a unified framework by introducing a plurality of action rationale of coordination mechanisms and of coordination failures.”

Bernard Enjolras, is the editor of Voluntas, Research Director at the Institute for Social Research (ISF), and Director of the Norwegian Centre for Research on Civil Society and Voluntary Sector.
October 20-22  
Independent Sector Annual Conference, “Forging a Stronger Future Together,” Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Contact: www.independentsector.org/2010_conference

October 29-30  
UCLA School of Public Affairs/Ben Gurion University, “Exploring Social Enterprises.” Contact: zekeh@ucla.edu

November 3-5  

November 18-20  
ARNOVA’s 39th Annual Conference, “Governments and the Voluntary Sector: Redefining the Relationships?” Alexandria, Virginia, USA. Contact: www.arova.org; conference@arnova.org

November 15-16  
10th Biennial Australia New Zealand Third Sector Research Conference, “The Third Sector as Civil Society in Australasia: Identity, Role and Influence in the New Century.” University of Technology, Sydney, Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, Sydney, Australia. Contact: Melissa.Edwards@uts.edu.au

December 7-8  

December 29-30  
Redefining the Roles of Business, NGOs and Governments: A Mission for a Better Global Society. Organized by Justice K.S. Hegde Institute of Management, Nitte, India. Contact: conference@jkshim.ac.in

February 15-18  
1st Academic International Conference ‘Exploring Leadership & Learning Theories in Asia ’ (ELITA). The Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Malaysia  
Contact: inquiries@elita.org

March 23-24  
4th World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, “Defining the Roadmap for the Next Decade,” Morocco. Contact: www.thewcmp.org

March 24-27  
Benchmark 3.5 – Fourth conference on the development of nonprofit/nongovernmental management, voluntarism, and philanthropy as a field of study in higher education. Organized by Nonprofit Academic Centers Council and University of San Diego School of Leadership and Education Services. Hilton San Diego Resort and Spa, San Diego, California. Contact: www.naccouncil.org

April 6-8  
3rd International Research Conference on Social Economy of CIRIEC, Valladolid, Spain. ‘The Social Economy, Prop of a New Model of Sustainable Economic Development.’  
Contact: http://www.ciriec.ulg.ac.be/

April 11-13  

June 9-10  
8th Workshop on the Challenges of Managing the Third Sector. The European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM), Galway, Ireland.  
Contact: http://www.eiasm.org/frontoffice/event_announcement.asp?event_id=761