



Inside ISTR

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THIRD-SECTOR RESEARCH

January-February 2021

President's Column

Dear Members and Friends of ISTR,



Oonagh B. Breen

In the words of Charles Darwin, *"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."* And what a year of change and turmoil we have all come through in 2020! As we reach the last days of January and collectively

hope for better times in the months of 2021 that lie ahead, may I take this opportunity to wish you, in whatever part of the world this newsletter finds you and your families, a happy and, hopefully, a healthy New Year. Taking over the presidency of ISTR from my predecessor Professor Ruth Phillips this month, I'm conscious of the many unforeseen challenges that Ruth guided us through in 2020 and I want to acknowledge her hard work, her commitment to ISTR and most of all, her calm leadership, as ISTR pivoted from our planned international conference in Montreal last summer to our forthcoming virtual international conference in July 2021. We still face challenging times ahead, but I'm blessed to be aided in the tasks that lie ahead by a strong and talented board of directors elected by you, our members.

Responsiveness to change in 2020 found us all working from home, re-arranging our lives and reimagining our research projects, our teaching delivery, and our non-profit practice. Here at ISTR, Margery and her wonderful team sought to connect ISTR members in new ways: bringing us together for virtual seminars and discussions, informative "Conversations with . . .", book clubs and even managing to deliver the 2020 International PhD Workshop online despite the challenges of different time zones. And you, our members, deprived of travel opportunities, became adept at reaching out online to each other and to ISTR through more than 33 ISTR webinars since the pandemic started. Aside from the knowledge I gleaned at these sessions, personally, I found the opportunity to meet and chat informally with other ISTR members during and after

these sessions was just as valuable and cheering to me. ISTR's network and outreach opportunities throughout these dark days has reminded me in a very tangible way of just how important our research community is in these uncertain times and how we can all support each other without ever leaving our own homes.

Whether you act as a mentor to an ISTR member, whether you participate in an ISTR session (as a speaker or in the equally important role of audience member and questioner), or whether you share your knowledge or expertise with a young ISTR scholar of the future through our PhD workshops, your active presence in and your membership of ISTR matters. This year's virtual conference theme, *Global Civil Society in Uncertain Times: Strengthening Diversity and Sustainability*, resonates with our lived experiences in 2020. As the Call for Papers notes, civil society plays a crucial part in how the world responds to crises and in the last year we have seen just how important those responses have been. Every aspect of the third sector has been challenged and affected by recent transnational demands, including the challenges of the coronavirus and other pandemics, climate change and forced migrations. These challenges threaten democratic ideals and can result in the closure of civil spaces. I look forward with much anticipation to hearing all of your papers, voices, views and experiences when we convene (with a much smaller carbon footprint than normal!) from July 12-15, 2021. This conference is an opportunity to present important research and strategies that are central to the present and future of the third sector. We will miss not seeing you in person this summer but going virtual will open up new exciting opportunities for everyone to participate. I hope that if you have not already done so, you will register for this conference at the newly advertised reduced rates.

I finish with the wise words of Alan Watts who tells us that ***"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."*** So I reach out to you now in this time of change and ask you too to plunge in and make the most of your ISTR membership in the year ahead. Come along to a forthcoming online webinar; join

one of our conferences in the year ahead (whether it be our July Virtual Conference, our October Latin America Virtual Regional Conference or our December Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Malaysia) or simply reach out to a fellow ISTR member to say hello through our database of members. Encourage those in your field who are not currently members or who have allowed their membership to lapse to (re)join us, for together we can shine a research light on civil society, enriching our understanding of how

it works and informing thinking on the role of collective action in advocacy, philanthropy, volunteering, social enterprise and partnerships with states.

Kind Regards,

Oonagh B. Breen
 President of ISTR
 Oonagh.breen@ucd.ie

ISTR's Virtual Conference

Registration is now open! We invite you to join us for the 2021 ISTR Virtual Conference from July 12-15, 2021. We are looking forward to creating an engaging and high quality online experience in multiple time zones. Papers, panels, roundtables, posters on 11 themes –we have many opportunities for discussions ahead. We need YOU to make it a collegial, supportive, inclusive, and global academic experience.

All presenters must register by March 15 to be included in the program.

Fees have been reduced and scholarships are available. Subsidy applications are due by **February 26**.

We are pleased to offer reduced registration rates this year

ISTR MEMBERS	STUDENT/RETIREE
250 USD	150 USD
Early Bird rate	Early Bird rate
Registration is open	Registration is open
Click Here to Register	Click Here to Register

ISTR 2021 membership is required for Conference Registration.

If you are not a current paying member, please **JOIN** before you register. You must be logged in with your membership account at istr.org in order to register.

NEW: In response to member requests, our Membership/Conference fee combination option provides a single



invoice and payment process for conference registration with membership included.

Pay your conference dues & membership fees in one easy step!
2 in 1: Conference & Membership
CLICK HERE TO PAY BOTH

REGISTRATION SUBSIDIES: ISTR will offer a limited number of registration subsidies that will reduce the conference registration fee to US 100. Priority will be given to students and individuals from low-income countries. To apply, please complete **this form** by 26-February-2021.

We are looking forward to meeting you virtually at ISTR2021!

ISTR's 6th International PhD Seminar 2021

The call for applications for ISTR's 6th International PhD Seminar is now open. The deadline to apply is **March 15, 2021**. The PhD Seminar will be virtual and will take place at the end of May or early June (official dates will be announced soon).

The ISTR PhD Seminar is open to all enrolled doctoral students doing research in the field of third sector and civil society, across the different regions in the world, and at all stages of their doctoral research.

Please share this announcement with your students and colleagues. The pandemic has resulted in a compressed schedule and we want to ensure everyone is aware of the opportunity to apply.

The aim of the workshop is to provide doctoral students with the opportunity to engage with senior scholars and peers in extensive intellectual and methodological discussion on their doctoral research, to discuss the main theories and developments in the field, to reflect upon publication and career strategies, and to provide a unique opportunity to network within the international ISTR research community and civil society in general. While rigorous and serious, the PhD Seminar is also a supportive and affirming - and dare we say fun - experience for many who enjoy



interacting with other students and faculty in the field and hearing the different perspectives they have to offer. Our virtual PhD Seminar last year proved to be very successful. We are building on that success, improving the experience, and hope to accept more than the usual number of students.

READ THE FULL CALL FOR APPLICATIONS for more information about how to apply. If accepted, students will be required to become members of ISTR and register to attend the international conference.

More information, including reflections from past PhD Seminars, is available on our website: <https://www.istr.org/page/PhDInformation>

ISTR Appreciation

We thank the following ISTR members and colleagues for their generous gifts to ISTR's General Fund and Participation Support Fund. These donations help support emerging scholars, PhD students, and Society members from the Global South to advance their scholarly and professional goals through ISTR.

We are grateful for their support!

- Lesley Alborough, United Kingdom
- Susan Appe, USA
- William Brown, USA
- Masayuki Deguchi, Japan
- Anonymous, USA
- Julie Fisher Melton, USA
- Anonymous, Hong Kong
- Eleanor Woodward Sacks, USA
- Hans Peter Schmitz, USA
- Jacqueline Wood, France
- Anonymous, Australia
- Fengshi Wu, Australia

Voluntas Editors-in-Chief Appointed

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Appe and Fredrik O. Andersson as co-editors-in-chief of *Voluntas* for a three-year term beginning in January 2022.

This appointment was made by the board of directors Appe school logo of the Society following the recommendation of the *Voluntas* Editorial Search Committee in December 2020. The Search Committee was comprised of Mario Aquino Alves (Brazil), chairperson, Andrea Bassi (Italy), Shauna Mottiar (South Africa), Ruth Simsa (Austria), Sonia Tello Rozas (Canada), and Fengshi Wu (Australia).



Susan Appe

Susan is Assistant Professor, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany, SUNY, New York, and has formal affiliations with universities and NGOs in Latin America and East Africa. Susan's research is global in scope and has focused on development studies, nonprofit management, and philanthropy.

Fredrik is Associate Professor at Indiana University's Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Indianapolis, an affiliated faculty member with the Lilly Family



School of Philanthropy, and has formal affiliation with the Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden. Fredrik brings an interdisciplinary perspective in entrepreneurship and public affairs and his research areas include nonprofit governance, social enterprise and entrepreneurship.



Fredrik O. Andersson

This new team will build on the journal's past and current accomplishments and strengthen the academic standing of the journal. They will be informed by ISTR's goals to develop and implement an inclusive global research agenda and will focus on expanding the geographical coverage of the journal.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to Ruth Simsa for her term as editor-in-chief which concluded at the end of 2020. As outgoing ISTR President Ruth Phillips noted in the last ISTR Newsletter, Ruth Simsa was the first woman to serve in the role of co-editor-in-chief since the founding of *Voluntas* in 1990. And her leadership was felt at the journal! As co-editor-in-chief Ruth was both decisive and thoughtful and especially took care to entrust the editorial board in shaping the journal's goals and direction. Thank you, Ruth, from all of us at ISTR for your service and commitment to the Society and journal.



ISTR Best Paper in Voluntas 2018 & 2019 Available Open Access through March 2021

Purpose, Commitment and Coordination Around Small Wins: A Proactive Approach to Governance in Integrated Hybrid Organizations
By Miriam Wolf and Johanna Mair

2019 article: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11266-019-00116-5>

Defining the Scope of Aid Reduction and Its Challenges for Civil Society Organizations: Laying the Foundation for New Theory
By Christopher Pallas, Quinn Anderson & Mark Sidel

2018 article: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11266-017-9891-8>

ISTR News

ISTR's Ready to Present Program Launched

The student evaluations following the virtual PhD Seminar ISTR hosted in June 2020 made two things clear: 1) students valued the opportunity to connect with a group of scholars that are diverse both in terms of geography and in terms of their field of study, 2) students said they were seeking opportunities to remain engaged after the conclusion of the PhD Seminar.



Several suggested follow up activities were raised. One of these resulted in the development of ISTR's Ready to Present Program. This program offers our doctoral student members the opportunity to present works in progress or to practice conference-style presentation skills. Participants are requested to provide the speaker with feedback and constructive guidance.

On January 26, Iwona Nowakowska, a doctoral student at The Maria Grzegorzewska University Institute of Psychology in Warsaw, Poland, volunteered to be the first presenter in this program. She became interested during a discussion we hosted in November on mutual aid and "new" forms of volunteering when she realized her current research work might inform the discussion.

Just as she might during a conference, Iwona gave a 15-minute presentation on her research, titled "How do volunteers cope? Quantitative and qualitative research on regulation of emotion and behavior in young adult volunteers." The aim of her studies are to explore the differences between volunteers and non-volunteers in terms of individual differences important for self-regulation of emotion and behaviors, and coping styles utilized by them (Study 1) and the ways of coping with the demands of work used by volunteers working in stimulating, dangerous environments (i.e., firefighting, emergency services) and in non-stimulating, relatively safe contexts (volunteers working with the elderly) (Study 2).

The results indicate interesting features of coping among volunteers and may serve as an inspiration for practitioners, e.g., in terms of designing interventions to facilitate adaptive coping among volunteers, as well as for future research on regulating emotions connected to the volunteer work.

The session was small and collegial, and Iwona says it was valuable for her to hear feedback from others with an interest in research on volunteering from other parts of the world and in fields other than her field of psychology.

ISTR welcomes expressions of interest in presenting from other students. Please contact our program manager **Megan Haddock** with your ideas.

<https://www.istr.org/page/PhDInformation>

Publications

Our PhD Seminar alumna and member, Sevda Kilicalp, published an article in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*:

Household Generosity During the Pandemic

Social and behavioral sciences can help us understand how COVID-19 is changing giving practices: the localization of philanthropy, mutual aid, and social justice activism.



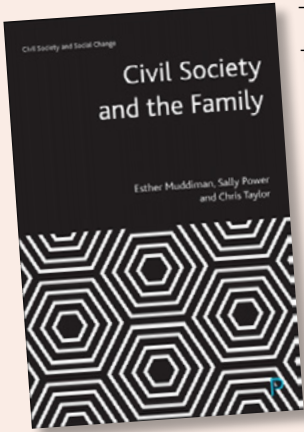
The Changing Dynamics of Government- Nonprofit Relations: Advancing the Field(s), by Kirsten Gronbjerg and Steven Rathgeb Smith.

The monograph is part the "Elements in Public and Nonprofit Administration" series edited by Andrew Whitford and Robert Christensen and sponsored by The Public Management Research Association (PMRA).

LINK



New BLOG about The Potential of Civil Society to Bring About Social Change



The publication of the first four titles in the new **Civil Society and Social Change** book series from **WISERD** marks a propitious juncture to reflect on the potential of civil society to bring about social change. On January 15, 2021, ISTR featured one of the books in the series, *Civil Society and the Family*, written by our member, Dr. Esther Muddiman, and her colleagues, Professor Sally Power and Professor Chris Taylor, in our online Book Series.

Members can view this session here www.istr.org/page/OnlinePrograms and follow to past events.

Member News



Dr Lesley Alborough has taken on a new role as Research Fellow at Nottingham Trent University. She will be joining a multi-disciplinary, cross-sector team who will be conducting a 12-month evaluation of the UK's National Emergencies Trust's first activation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lesley will be applying her knowledge of the UK voluntary sector and resource mobilisation, as well as her qualitative research expertise to the evaluation. She will be working within NTU's Social Sciences School as well as with Community Foundations, other National Emergencies Trust Funding partners and recipient communities to try to understand what has worked, what hasn't and the impact that funding has had on the groups and communities that have been supported during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Paula Chies Schommer has been named President of the Instituto Comunitário Grande Florianópolis. ICOM (Instituto Comunitário Grande Florianópolis) is an innovative Community Foundation established in Florianópolis, Southern Brazil. The organization

has become a model for local development, community engagement and participatory methods in the community foundations field. Besides working for strengthening civil society and promoting community philanthropy at the local level, the organization has developed experience designing, testing and implementing various projects, participatory methods and initiatives proven to increase a sense of belonging and community engagement at the municipal and regional levels. ICOM is a member of the Brazilian Social Justice Philanthropy Network, the Iberoamerican Network of Community Foundations (IANCF) and the Social Good Brasil movement. www.icomfloripa.org.br/



Two articles about "COVID-19 is a Social Justice Issue: How one Brazilian Community Foundation is Responding"

<https://globalfundcommunityfoundations.org/news/covid-19-is-a-social-justice-issue-how-one-brazilian-community-foundation-is-responding/>

<http://www.psjp.org/covid-19-is-a-social-justice-issue/>

Click [here](#) to read full newsletter