

Call for ISTR 2019 PhD Seminar July 5-7, 2020, Montréal, Canada



PhD Seminar Dinner in Bangkok, July 2019

The ISTR 2019 PhD Seminar is open for applications to all enrolled doctoral students in the field of third sector and civil society research, across the different regions in the world, and at all stages of their doctoral research.

Call for Applications PhD Students

IF YOUR RESEARCH CONSIDERS non-profit, social economy, community, civil society, or self-help and mutual organizations, NGOs, foundations, philanthropy, networks and social forums, unions, religious organizations, co-operative, and volunteering...

Then apply to participate in the International Society for Third Sector Research PhD Seminar

July 5 - 7, 2020 Montréal, Canada

Deadline to Apply: September 30, 2019

Read the full call and apply at istr.org/PhDInformation

This call is open to all enrolled doctoral students in the field of third sector research, across all regions in the world, at all stages of doctoral research.

If you participate in our PhD Seminar, you will:

- engage with senior scholars and peers in extensive intellectual and methodological discussions regarding your research
- discuss the main theories and developments in the field
- reflect upon publication and career strategies
- network within the global ISTR research community
- form friendships with other students and colleagues in the field

Regional PhD Seminar 2019 Reflections

Guadelupe's reflections

The knowledge and opinions from exchanged different perspectives during the ISTR PhD Seminar in Medellín, Colombia made for simply the best of academic experiences I have ever had. It allowed me to be able to share questions and concerns with colleagues from Latin America who promote the development of the third sector in similar contexts, with their particularities at the local level, with common needs, obstacles, opportunities and objectives.

From my experience as a PhD student in Innovation and Social Responsibility at Anáhuac University, Mexico, the PhD Seminar has been an extraordinary learning and feedback platform that has allowed me to hear different



Guadelupe López Aguilar



ideas that strengthen and expand the theoretical framework, focusing research with a different and appropriate vision to the needs of the third sector and even improving the level of confidence regarding the research process, giving us certainty, tranquility and the security of continuing to build contributions to social responsibility.

There is no better motivation in life than to be able to do what you are passionate about and in this have the opportunity to travel, know a new country and its traditions, cultures, people who pursue similar dreams, be able to write and research on a subject to which I have dedicated part of my professional and academic life, and to collaborate from a participatory approach to the construction of knowledge.

I am fully satisfied with my participation in the seminar, grateful to ISTR for its outstanding organization, support, and follow-up, its commitment to the third sector and its linkage with universities, firstly with EAFIT University in Medellín, the best hosts, and also for the generation of research that promotes the achievement of joint goals for the common good, in particular the Faculty of Social Responsibility of Anáhuac University that awarded scholarships to students accepted to participate in the 12th ISTR Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

I will look forward to the next International conference, which I hope to have the fortune to attend and again have this experience which - on an academic and personal level - has undoubtedly been invaluable and unrepeatable.

Guadalupe López Aguilar
PhD Student
Anáhuac University, Mexico



Qihai Cai, PhD Student, City University of Hong Kong

Reflections on ISTR PhD Seminar from Qihai CAI

The two-day ISTR PhD Seminar offers an opportunity to exchange research ideas, receive valuable feedback, and fostering long-term collaborations with cohorts and leading scholars in the third sector research. The seminar itself is well-organized, which provides training to cover publication suggestion, career strategy and cross-border research. I found the session on career strategy extremely useful for early-stage scholars. As for my own dissertation, I received substantive suggestions and comments from the mentors and cohorts in the group discussion. Moreover, one noteworthy event is the "3MT" competition. It is never an easy task to clearly articulate one's dissertation in just three minutes. Participating in this challenging yet rewarding event helps to clarify my thoughts. Building on all those above-mentioned merits, I strongly recommend all the cohorts conducting research on the third sector to participate in the forthcoming ISTR PhD seminars.





Reflections on the ISTR Asia Pacific Regional PhD Seminar 2019

Qianjin Zhang, PhD Candidate, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne

My first ISTR journey in Bangkok was amazing. I attended the PhD seminar that was designed specifically for current PhD students in the related research fields. The two-days workshops were intensive. I have learned a great deal from different sessions that would be very helpful for both my current study and future career development. I am glad that Dr Fengshi Wu recommended the conference to me and insisted on my attendance to the PhD seminar.

The most valuable part is the small group discussion, which gave us a unique opportunity to share our research with two experienced mentors and other students. We had an in-depth discussion on specific questions or problems that we currently encounter in the PhD period. For instance, I finished the fieldwork last year, and now I am working on data analysis and writing up the thesis. The process is slow and challenged because the collected data force me to make new reflections on my initial proposal. Dr Fengshi Wu and Prof. Mark Sidel gave me some great suggestions on how to focus on variable measurements and interpretations. More importantly, they taught me the practicality of doing critical thinking.

In addition to the small group discussion, the PhD Seminar faculty organised several workshops about publications, careers strategies, and across border research. The faculty members shared their rich experience with

us. Very excellent sessions! I appreciate their positive attitudes towards doing research, which inspire me a lot. Our three to four years' PhD study is not just finishing a 100,000 words' thesis but learning how to prepare for future academic career.

Another interesting story during the PhD seminar is the three minutes thesis competition. It is not easy to present your thesis within three minutes and using only one slide. I signed up for the competition and unexpectedly won. I want to thank my friends, Qihai and Zhihong. They

encouraged me to attend the competition when I was hesitant because of my presentation anxiety. I would recommend current PhD students to have a try. Summarise your thesis within three minutes not for attending any competitions but clarifying your research. The preparation process helped me a lot to review and rethink my dissertation in a more structural way. It was hard, but I appreciate the opportunity to push myself.

My first ISTR trip is far more than attending different workshops and paper sessions. I have known a group of

excellent friends from different countries doing different research. We shared our different working or research experiences and tried to find any possible common interests that may bring future cooperation.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all faculty members who planned and organised the PhD seminar so well. I also want to thank NIDA, the conference host, and all volunteers who provided us with such a beautiful place, warm services, and delicious food!



Click [here](#) to read the full newsletter

ISTR Mentoring Program: 2019- 2020

Call for Participation -

Deadline September 12, 2019

ISTR's Mentoring Program draws naturally from the friendliness and collegiality of its members, and is designed to provide students with career, publishing, funding advice and professional and networking development.

We hope you will consider participating this year from October 2019 through July 2020. All mentors and mentees must be current paying members of ISTR. Program details are provided below.

Mentors

Mid-career or senior scholars, as well as professionals from outside the academy.

Mentees

Graduate students at any stage of their careers or post-graduates and junior faculty within five years of receipt of their terminal graduate degree (including PhD, MA, and JD).

How it Works

- Mentors and mentees submit a short statement of interest to ISTR before the deadline and are subsequently matched by ISTR's executive director based on mutual interests.
- This one-year mentoring relationship is intended for October 2019 to July 2020. Matches will have a chance to meet at a meet-and-greet at the **14th International Conference in Montreal**.
- Mentors and mentees are expected to have 3-4 conversations over the course of the duration of the program, either electronically or in person, and will include an exchange of experiences and advice. More regular communication or additional engagement is at the discretion of the mentor. ISTR will provide periodic reminders to maintain communication, however mentees are expected to initiate communication with the mentor.
- Mentors are not substitutes for the mentees' formal supervisors or advisers. While reading of dissertation chapters or grant proposals is helpful to every junior scholar, this program defers that labor to the mentee's local networks. No commitment to reading is required of the mentor in ISTR's mentoring program.
- Instead, mentoring conversations should focus on career advice, professional advancement, publishing/funding strategies, and facilitating contacts.



How to Sign UP (September 12 deadline)

If you are interested in serving as a mentor to a student, please complete this **short registration form**.

If you are a student interested in being a mentee, please complete this **short registration form**.

If you are currently in the program and would like to continue your relationship with your current match, please do mention this in your application.

Note: ISTR is grateful to the American Society for Environmental History for providing a template for this program.

A Mentor's Reflection



I will be frank, I did not initially respond to any calls to be a mentor for ISTR. I likely missed the call, or if I considered it thought maybe I was too early in my career to be a valuable mentor. As it turned out, colleagues at the ISTR Secretariat reached out with a possible match, considering my research and regional interest in Latin America.

So I gave it a go, and am so glad I did! I was paired with Ana P. Borges Pinho from the University of São Paulo. What a great experience it has been. She is a doctoral student of international relations and exploring civil society, nonprofit organizations, and philanthropy on the international and transnational stages. My work—as someone in the field of public administration—has looked the role of regulation and government-nonprofit relations more generally.

Some of what I have admired about Ana as a men-



tee, and something that I think makes these types of partnerships so rich, is her initiative. We have started a joint project that was 100% the result of Ana's initiative. She presented me with a short paper written by her, from one of her final courses in her doctoral program. She requested feedback and asked if it might be something that I or someone I knew would be interested in continuing to research. Once reading the paper—about democracy and civil society in global governance, I jumped at the chance. We have come to look at transnational policymaking and its implications for the nonprofit sector. It has been a great merging of our interests.

Both of us committed to the research topic, and in a handful of months we have two papers in the works. One paper is on civil society participation in global governance through a case study of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and a second looking at counter-terrorism legislation and its implications for nonprofit organizations in Latin America, likely with an eventual case study of Brazil. The first paper was presented in three conferences during June and July of 2019, once by Ana at the British International Studies conference and twice by myself at ISTR regional conferences in Bangkok, Thailand and Medellín, Colombia. We have gotten great feedback and hope to get a final draft of the first paper completed very soon. It has been a productive partnership indeed!

As previous mentors have reflected [istr.org/Bridges2019], there is important learning on both sides of the mentor-mentee spectrum. I think it offers both partners important opportunities to consider new academic ideas and for the mentor to contribute to fostering third sector scholars globally. I would encourage all of my ISTR colleagues who have been in the field a bit to sign up and become a mentor!

Susan Appe, Assistant Professor, University at Albany (SUNY), USA

A Mentee's Reflection



When I applied for the ISTR mentoring program during the Amsterdam conference I did not really know what to expect. After years working for civil society organizations I decided to do a PhD and it was my first presentation at an academic conference. Mentorship looked like a

good opportunity to meet people during the conference and talk to someone with more experience about research on the third sector, but it ended up being so much more than that. Professor Susan Appe and I met during the mentoring reception held during the conference, and immediately had a great connection. She was very open and welcoming, and answered all my (very many) questions about research opportunities, how to best take advantage of the conference and life in general in academia. We kept in touch after the conference, when she gave me pointers on my PhD research project and shared articles that proved to be very helpful.

What called my attention the most about Prof. Appe's work was that it looked at civil society and nonprofits from different perspectives, and showed me the many different paths research can take. When I wrote a coursework paper about the role of civil society in global governance, it felt like a topic that could be further explored for an article. Although the paper started with an international relations perspective, I thought it could benefit from another angle. I needed advice from an experienced researcher, and Prof. Appe was the first person that came to mind. I could not be happier to have reached out to her. Susan was very open to and enthusiastic about the idea, and brought in all her expertise in public administration. This has enriched the paper way beyond my expectation – so much that one article turned into two!

Working closely with an experienced researcher has proven to be the best way to learn about methodologies and the nitty gritty of research work. Coming from an international relations/development studies background, I could see the importance of interdisciplinarity when studying the third sector, but was finding it hard to put it into practice. Working with Susan has helped tremendously, and I am now taking an interdisciplinary approach to my thesis as well. We will meet again at the University of São Paulo, where Susan is teaching a course which I am helping organize. This journey has been so fruitful and joyful that I have also applied to similar programs in other conferences. Through the ISTR mentoring program, I met a great mentor and person, and cannot recommend the program enough.

Ana P. Borges Pinho, PhD Student at University of São Paulo, Brazil

Click [here](#) to read the full newsletter



Conference News

KEYNOTE ANNOUNCEMENT



ISTR is thrilled to announce that Dr. Jane Jenson will be the keynote speaker for ISTR 2020 Montréal.

Dr. Jenson is Professor Emerita in the Department of Political Science at the Université de Montréal, and Associate Fellow of the Canadian Institute for

Advanced Research Successful Societies Program.

Dr. Jenson's research interests and publications cover a wide spectrum of topics, including citizenship, social policy, social movements, diversity and gender studies. More recently, her research has focused mainly on the ongoing changes in social investment and social citizenship in Canada, Europe and Latin America.

Her theoretical approach is derived from historical institutionalism, with a particular emphasis on reciprocal influences among ideas, institutions and interests. The premises underpinning social policies introduced in the three decades after 1945 have been upset. Combined with neo-liberal politics in the 1980s and 1990s, these societal transformations have called for a political analysis of new social risks and given rise to other perspectives. These include the social investment perspective which now underlies many social citizenship regimes. Ideas relating to social investment and social innovation have been institutionalized, often at the initiative of ministers of finance, international financial institutions or international organizations.

Reflecting these changes, Dr. Jenson's work has focused on the shared responsibility of, and relations among public, private and third sector actors in policy development and implementation, as well as the role expected of the family. She describes this as the welfare diamond (relations between state, market, community groups and family for social policy), perhaps best outlined in "Social innovation: redesigning the welfare diamond," in *New Frontiers in Social Innovation Research* (2015, Palgrave Macmillan).

Dr. Jenson is frequently consulted on these matters by governments, NGOs and research groups in Quebec, Canada and the European Union. She is the author of several publications, including "Defining and Measuring Social Cohesion," and *Who Cares? Women's Work, Child Care and Welfare State Redesign*. She is a graduate of McGill University, holds a Masters in Political Science from the



University of Rochester, and a Political Science PhD, University of Rochester. She was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1989.

CONFERENCE REMINDER

Reminder: the deadline for conference submissions is 26 October 2019. Abstracts for papers, panels, posters, and roundtables (including innovative new formats) will be accepted. See the full call in **English** and **French** for details.

The link to the submission portal is **here**. Note: you must be logged in at istr.org in order to submit your abstract. Having trouble? Submission tutorials are available in **English** and in **French**.

What are reviewers looking for?

- Sample abstracts are available **here**.
- "How to Write a Conference Abstract" worksheet

available **here**.

ARIMA CALL



The **ARIMA partnership** announces that it will hold an international conference entitled **REPERTOIRES OF INTERACTION: Cross-sector collaboration and confrontation in service delivery, governance and advocacy** at ISTR 2020 Montréal.

Researchers, students and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts that open the "black box" of micro-level interaction between civil society actors and those in the public or private sectors, for example, in situations of co-production, network governance or advocacy.

Proposals can be submitted in French or in English and must be submitted before October 26, 2019 to: arima.partenariat.recherche@gmail.com

- See the complete call for papers

ARIMA is a Québec-based research partnership supported by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). It focuses on knowledge development and knowledge mobilisation with respect to social action and intervention networks. It unites researchers and practitioners from the public and community or third

sectors, who together to explore the methods and ramifications of new forms of governance that mandate local service and planning networks for dealing with complex social problems, and their impact on the development of social innovation and alternative practices.

For more information, contact Maryse Rivard at: maryse.rivard@umontreal.ca

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Latin America and the Caribbean

Universidad EAFIT hosted the 12th ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference 3-5 July 2019 on their beautiful campus in Medellín, Colombia. About 120 people from 15 countries attended the conference to present their research and participate in plenary sessions. The conference theme was *Co-responsibility in building the public good in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which was well reflected by the keynote speaker, Julieta Lemaitre, who is a judge at the Justice Chambers of the Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace, created in 2018 to implement the transitional justice component of the peace agreements. In her presentation she discussed her recently published book *The State is Always Late*, which explores the process after violence and the role that family networks and neighborhoods play for the construction of these new societies in which the government arrives once they are already organized. Her research was familiar to many countries in this region that are experiencing similar social situations, whether due to problems of violence, forced displacement



or lack of opportunities.

The conference also featured the recipient of the GENEROSAS (Generous women) award. The EL-LAS-Women and Philanthropy program –based at CEDES in Argentina- launched the award this year to give visibility and support to women in Spanish speaking Latin America and Latino women in the U.S. that are leading initiatives in their communities with other codes of cooperation, action, consumption and production, and mobilizing local resources for that. The winner Lucinda Mamani Choque (Bolivia) was present for the award ceremony during the conference in Medellín.

You can read the full conference report [here](#).





ISTR Asia Pacific Conference, Bangkok 2019
Shifting Sands? The Challenges of Regulatory Change and Its Impact on the Third Sector Environment in the Asia Pacific Region

The Bangkok ISTR Asia Pacific Conference was a highly successful event for all involved. We had the pleasure of experiencing true Thai hospitality in every way, not least due to the wonderful location of the conference at the NIDA Campus and the exceptional Thai cuisine that we were offered for each morning and afternoon tea, lunch and at the fabulous conference dinner. There were 150 delegates: 92 papers and 4 panels were presented throughout the two days of the conference. The diversity of the countries represented provided the conference with an extremely rich palate of research fields, geographies and ideas. The quality of the papers and panels was impressive and due to highly engaged audiences there were great discussions after each panel. Highlights from the conference are outlined below, however it should be emphasized that there were many important papers presenting a wide range of exciting and engaged research from across the entire region. The conference abstracts are located at istr.org/2019APAbs

Keynote Presentations

In keeping with the broad theme of the conference around regulatory change in the Asia Pacific region, an inspiring keynote address was presented by Dr Anthony Spires, of the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies at University of Melbourne, Australia. Titled *Civil Society Regulation and Organizational Culture: Reflections on Theory and Practice in China*, Dr Spires discussed situations of regulatory regimes' use of power both over and within civil society organizations. He described the results of regulatory and

culture intersections and questioned the need for new charity law in China.

From his research and observations, Dr Spires discussed lessons learned from voluntary associations, which present opportunity for democratic cultivation. Those lessons include the need for active listening, respect for opposing viewpoints, equality and diversity, self-efficacy, and civic consciousness.

Dr Spires concluded that laws regulate not simply organizations, but also the art of association. By channeling 'societal energies' into nonprofit service organizations with formal, hierarchical and pyramidal structures, new laws legitimize organizational structures and practices that preclude horizontal decision-making and narrow the possibility of realizing an egalitarian ethos and nurturing a culture of democracy. Unless we see a separation of form and practice, even idealistic grassroots groups will struggle to ensure that all members' voices will be heard and allowed to influence decisions.



Dr Anthony Spires



We were also honored with a second keynote on the second day of the conference from Professor Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao entitled *Reflecting on My Research Journey of Social Movements and Civil Society in Taiwan and Beyond* with a thoughtful reflection on his forty-year career as a sociologist. Professor Hsiao is an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica; Chairman of the Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation, and Senior Advisor to the President, Taiwan. Professor Hsiao began his academic career with research on agricultural policy and development in South Korea. We were apprised with a short history of a very long career as a scholar and academic beginning in 1979, when the transformation of Taiwanese society became his focus. That expanded to research on citizens' concerns and advocacy – consumer activism --which then transitioned to environmental and anti-nuclear issues. Finally, his research culminated on social movements and civil society activism.

Professor Hsiao noted that “The historical and comparative studies of Taiwan social forces and its civil society's organizational strength that I undertook in the 1990s and early 2000s have really equipped me not only to theorize based on my previous research on social movements and civil society, but also to move further to develop the tripartite links of middle class, civil society and democracy both empirically and theoretically since the mid 2000s.” Since the mid-2000s: Professor Hsiao has researched theories on the tripartite “middle class - civil society –democracy” links. In 2019 he published *Middle Class, Civil Society and Democracy in Asia*, expanding beyond Taiwan's tripartite links to compare Asian democracies on how the respective tripartite links appear. Three classifications of the links include the positive tripartite links in Taiwan and South Korea; the dubious tripartite links in the Philippines and Indonesia; and the negative tripartite links in Thailand.

Board Panel

Given that the Board of Directors of ISTR had been meeting in Bangkok prior to the conference it was decided to take advantage of our researchers on the Board who had overlapping research interests with the conference theme. The panel presented by the Board of Directors on a panel entitled: *Regulator Impositions on the Third Sector: International Perspectives*, chaired by ISTR President, Ruth Phillips, of the University of Sydney, Australia. The participants on the panel included Elizabeth Bloodgood, Concordia University, Canada (co-author Joannie Tremblay-Boire, Georgia State University, USA); Carolyn Cordery, Aston Busi-



From left to right: Kinman Chan, in absentia (Hong Kong); Mario Aquino Alves (Brazil); Oonagh Breen (Ireland); Ruth Phillips (Australia); Elizabeth Bloodgood (Canada); Carolyn Cordery (UK)

ness School (United Kingdom); Oonagh B. Breen, UCD Sutherland School of Law (Ireland); Mario Aquino Alves, (co-author Natasha Caccia Schmitt Salinas), Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brazil.

Elizabeth Bloodgood presented *NGO Regulatory Backlash? A Cross-National Examination of State Motives for NGO Regulation*. Professor Bloodgood discussed the explanations behind government regulation of NGOs and whether internal or external factors have any notable effects. Their research revealed that higher values of government accountability, capacity, increased authoritarianism and foreign aid, along with increased international trade and integration contributed to an increase in NGO regulations.

Oonagh Breen presented findings from the publication *Riding the Regulatory Wave: Reflections on Recent Explorations of the Statutory and Non-Statutory Non-Profit Regulatory Cycles in 16 Jurisdictions* (2017, co-edited with Alison Dunn and Mark Sidel). Professor Breen explored various issues that addressed which factors influence changes and choices, whether there are regulatory cycles and predictable regime waves, and what is the nature and subject of regulation.

Carolyn Cordery presented *What Can We Expect of Charity Regulators? Charity Scandals, Declining Public Trust and Confidence ... and Regulator Accountability*. Professor Cordery explored the efforts of regulatory accountability to government and assessed the UK Charities Act of 2011. Despite a mandate to increase public trust and confidence in charities this has not been the result, according to her findings.

Mario Aquino Alves presented *The Shifts in the Regulatory Regime of State and Civil Society Organizations Partner-*



ships in Brazil. He explored whether the characterization of regulatory space of NPO-State partnerships in Brazil is one of potentially clashing legal regimes. The research focused on the causes of such high fragmentation and the overlap in participatory, clientelistic, bureaucratic and managerial logics.

At the close of the board panel session, Dr Anthony Spires shared a letter from prison written by Professor Kinman Chan (Hong Kong) who is still a member of the Board but was imprisoned for his actions as the leader of the Umbrella democracy movement in Hong Kong five years ago. We were very pleased to have a contribution from Professor Chan as he was sentenced after we had included him as a panel presenter. We are very pleased to be able to share his letter below.

Letter from Prison – Kinman Chan

Dear Colleagues and ISTR conference participants:

This is a letter from prison. I was sentenced to 16 months of imprisonment by the Hong Kong Court on April 24, 2019 for “inciting” people to join the pro-democracy Umbrella Movement in 2014. More than one million people took part in that movement by occupying some main roads for 79 days, protesting against Beijing for not keeping its promise to allow the election of the head of Hong Kong’s government through universal suffrage. All along, we promoted non-violent civil disobedience. Though the nine defendants were charged with “conspiracy,” “incitement,” and “incitement to incite others” to cause a public nuisance, our real “crime” is to spread love, peace and hope when the regime wants people to retreat to their private lives due to fear and despair.

The chilling effect the regime had attempted to create through our trial proved futile when 130,000 people took to the street a few days after our sentencing. It was a protest against a proposed “extradition law” that people could be sent back to China for trial there. The number of protestors reached two million people in June, and the Hong Kong government was forced to suspend the bill.

Notwithstanding some physical confrontations when young protestors stormed the parliament (Legislative

Council), the movement was tremendously powerful due to the spirit of love and peace. People sang hymns for 9 hours in front of the riot police; hundreds of thousands of protestors made way for the ambulance trucks to pass through the occupied roads, like the scene of “Moses Parting the Red Sea”; and people cleaned up the garbage before they ended the occupation. This extraordinary mobilization was made possible by a vibrant civil society, a strong spirit of non-violent civil disobedience, and extensive use of social media to break the information barriers created by the pro-Beijing mainstream media.

Hong Kong people understand pretty well that civil society is not only for providing services to the needy but also for defending civil rights and promoting social and policy changes. It takes time for people in China to understand the latter two functions, though the regime has begun to embrace the role of NGOs as service providers. In the past two decades, I have been promoting a more holistic idea of civil society in China and Hong Kong through research, teaching, and practice. I see the potential of the theory of civil society in creating a more sustainable governance in an era of uncertainty. Apparently, I ran into trouble for advocating for change in both China and Hong

Kong. But it is something inevitable when the change involves a fundamental reconfiguration of power. As a matter of fact, theory of civil society is “theory of power.” I also witnessed the “power of theory” when disseminating the knowledge of civil society under an authoritarian regime!

Life in prison is of course not very pleasant. But for the sake of democracy and open society, I endure it with no regret.

Sincerely,

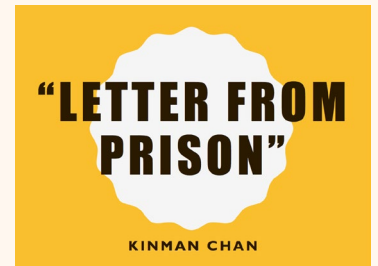
Kinman Chan

Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong (Retired)

Board of Directors, ISTR

22-06-2019

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Closing Plenary

The Bangkok conference's closing plenary focused on *The Third Sector Environment and Regulatory Change in the Asia Pacific Region*.

The speakers included Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Diep, Team Leader/Civil Society, British Council (Hanoi) (speaking on Vietnam); Professor (Ms.) Jia Xijin, Institute of Philanthropy, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University (Beijing) (speaking on China); Professor (Ms.) Ingrid Srinath, Director, Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy, Ashoka University (Delhi) (speaking on India and South Asia); Professor (Ms.) Juree Vichit-Vadakan, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA, Bangkok) (speaking on Thailand); David Moore, Vice President for Legal Affairs, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL); and Professor Mark Sidel, University of Wisconsin-Madison and ICNL (chairing).

David Moore of ICNL spoke on trends in the region in the regulation of the third sector, including a variety of restrictive measures affecting registration, activities, use of foreign funds, and other issues. Moore also introduced the second edition (2019) of an ICNL report written by Sidel and Moore on *The Law Affecting Civil Society in Asia*, and Sidel distributed the executive summary of that report (which will shortly be available on the ICNL website, www.ICNL.org).

Ms. Diep and Profs. Jia, Srinath and Vichit-Vadakan spoke on the specific situations in their countries. Among



From left to right: Mark Sidel (USA); Juree Vichit-Vadakan (Thailand); Nguyen Thi Bich Diep (Vietnam); Ingrid Srinath (India); Jia Xijin (China); David Moore (USA)

the themes mentioned for many of the countries were the cumbersome and bureaucratic nature of compliance with nonprofit regulation; difficulties in registering and operating certain kinds of nonprofits; in some countries, suspicion of and resistance to advocacy activities by nonprofit organizations; in some countries, increasing difficulties in bringing in and utilizing foreign funds; and other regulatory difficulties for the third sector. The specialists also mentioned emerging regulation of social enterprise; how governments are beginning to regulate new forms of fundraising; and other emerging themes.

Click [here](#) to read the full newsletter

