



Inside ISTR

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THIRD-SECTOR RESEARCH

June-August 2019

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

Guadalupe'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



Guadalupe 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 Medellin, 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