New Board of Directors

Welcome to the Newly Elected Board of Directors

ISTR is pleased to announce and introduce our newly elected Board of Directors:

- Oonagh Breen, President Elect, (Ireland)
- Mario Aquino Alves (Brazil)
- Susan Appe (USA)
- Daniel Barragán (Ecuador)
- Elizabeth Bloodgood (Canada)
- Carolyn Cordery (UK/New Zealand)
- Barbara Ibrahim (Egypt)
- Bhekinkosi Moyo (South Africa)
- Fengshi Wu (Australia)

These members join continuing board members:
- Ruth Phillips, President (Australia)
- Nana Asantewa Afadzinu (Ghana)
- Kin-man Chan (Hong Kong)
- Anna Domaradzka (Poland)
- Maria Nindita Radyati (Indonesia)
- Theo Schuyt (Netherlands)

The term of office for the newly elected board members will commence on January 1, 2019. The directors have been elected to serve four year terms.

Reflections

My two-year term as ISTR president concluded at the end of 2018; Ruth Phillips of the University of Sydney is now the current ISTR president. Thus, this column is my farewell to the ISTR board of directors. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to offer reflections on the recent past and future of the association and the field of research on civil society, nonprofits and philanthropy.

During the past year, ISTR has undergone a major organizational transition to an independent nonprofit organization. This change in organizational status offers ISTR more flexibility and autonomy in governance and strategic planning. This transition also is the product of years of discussion and planning by many members of the ISTR board and overall membership.

In particular, Oonagh Breen, the new president-elect of ISTR, chaired a by-laws reform committee that was central to the development of new by-laws and overall ISTR governance structure. Also, Paula Chies Schommer, as treasurer of ISTR from 2015 through 2018, chaired a newly constituted ISTR Finance Committee. The work of this committee during 2018 will ensure that ISTR, as a newly independent nonprofit, will be guided by sound and up-to-date financial policies and guidelines.

Margery Daniels, as the ISTR executive director, has also provided outstanding leadership and guidance for the board, the membership and our external partners during this complicated and time-consuming transition.
In 2018, ISTR had a very successful biennial International Conference at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam in July. Special thanks to ISTR board member Theo Schuyt, who led the host committee, to the program co-chairs, John Mohan and Ruth Phillips, (the new ISTR president), and to the program committee for their leadership and dedication in creating an excellent conference program.

In recent years, the ISTR regional networks have continued to grow and develop. Importantly, in Latin America, the host institution for Latin American Network moved from the Instituto de Comunicacion y Desarrollo (ICD), based in Montevideo, Uruguay which served as the secretariat since 1997 to Mexico City, Mexico, where two institutions will manage the secretariat: Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía A.C. and Centro de Investigación y Estudios sobre Sociedad Civil, A.C. The 2019 Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference and PhD Seminar will be in Medellín, Colombia. The Asia Pacific Regional Conference and PhD Seminar will be held in Bangkok in 2019 and the ISTR and the Africa Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment at the Wits Business School will co-host a PhD Seminar at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa in May 2019.

ISTR’s flagship journal, *Voluntas*, continues to grow in terms of submissions and its impact factor has been rising. The journal editors, Taco Brandsen and Ruth Simsa, have recently had their terms as co-editors renewed for another three years.

The good news is that the field of third sector studies is growing around the world. This growth is reflected in ISTR’s membership, attendance at the biennial conference and regional meetings and the keen interest in submitting to *Voluntas*. At the same time, many scholars also face increasing threats to their academic freedom. Indeed, the secretary of the ISTR board, Kin-man Chan, formerly of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was recently put on trial for charges related to his participation in the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong in 2014. The outcome of his trial will not be known for at least another few months. In the coming years, new challenges to academic freedom may intensify so it is especially important for individual scholars and the association to remain vigilant in protecting academic freedom.

ISTR was founded in 1992 to promote the study of the third sector in countries around the world. Over the years, ISTR has achieved this important goal through its many programs and initiatives including its bi-annual and regional conferences, its sponsorship of *Voluntas*, PhD Seminars, mentoring program, and the facilitation of scholarly networks. Yet challenges remain: research funding is scarce; higher education institutions are experiencing serious budget austerity; publication of academic research is becoming much more competitive as the market of academic publishing shifts and more scholars compete for space in academic journals; promotion in the academy has also become more difficult in many countries and institutions, threatening the pipeline for younger scholars in the field. Third sector scholarship also lends itself to inter-disciplinary research which is challenging to create and sustain, given the pressures for publication in discipline-specific journals. ISTR, as an association, helps members address these challenges by supporting their professional development including networking with colleagues with similar research interests. Through its journal, *Voluntas* and conference presentations, ISTR helps to call attention to the latest research and to new research opportunities. Given the challenges facing higher education in general, ISTR’s role as an academic association promoting the work of its members is increasingly valuable.

It has truly been an honor to serve at the President of ISTR. I look forward to continued participation and engagement in the association in the years ahead.

Best regards,

Steven Rathgeb Smith
Executive Director
American Political Science Association

Adjunct Professor
McCourt School of Public Policy
Georgetown University
12th ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference

The call for contributions for the 12th ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference, and the call for applications for the Regional PhD Seminar are now open. The theme for the conference is “Co-responsibility in building the public good in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The 2019 LAC ISTR conference creates an opportunity to showcase research and practice in the area of creating sustainable roles for Third sector CSOs and in explaining ways that connections can be made between sectors within this geographical region. A wide range of papers are being expected to cover these and other issues.

The deadline to apply is February 20, 2019

The conference is scheduled for July 3-5, 2019 and the PhD Seminar from July 2-3, 2019. The conference will take place at EAFIT University in Medellín, Colombia.

Proposals for papers, panels, and posters will be grouped by the themes listed below in the conference program:

- Democratization, Citizenship and Accountability
- Philanthropy and Volunteering
- Cross-Sector Partnerships, Collaborations and Interactions
- Governance and Management of Nonprofit Organizations
- SDGs: Poverty, Inequality & Sustainability
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise
- Social Innovation
- Emerging Areas of Theory and Practice, Research and Teaching

PhD seminar

A PhD seminar for doctoral students, at all stages of research, from the LAC Region will be held immediately prior to the Regional Conference July 2-3 at the EAFIT University. This is an excellent opportunity for research students to gain advice and broaden their research horizons with peers and experienced academics from a diverse range of countries in the region and to build important networks. PhD Students can apply for the PhD Seminar.

Please visit conference website the to download the full call for conference contributions and call for PhD Seminar applications in English and in Spanish.

I2.° Conferencia Regional del ISTR para América Latina y el Caribe

Corresponsabilidad en la construcción de lo público en América Latina y el Caribe

Fecha límite para recepción de resúmenes: Febrero 20, 2019

Conferencia
Julio 3-5, 2019

Seminario para Estudiantes de Doctorado
Julio 2-3, 2019
Universidad EAFIT
Medellín, Colombia
ISTR Joined the 1st Academic Forum at the 2018 Hong Kong Social Enterprise Summit

By Yanto Chandra, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

Social Enterprise Summit (SES) is the biggest annual event on social entrepreneurship in Hong Kong. This year, for the first time, SES hosted an Academic Forum featuring debate on the role of social entrepreneurship in solving social problems and a wide-ranging research sharing panel on ‘What’s Next in SE Research’ involving world renowned scholars in the field. This event aimed to strengthen the academic exchanges between Hong Kong’s SE scholars, practitioners, policy makers and ISTR and to explore future joint opportunities. The academic stream was a well-attended session that provoked interesting questions and discussion, demonstrating a high level of scholarly and research interest in the field. Due to the wide international representation of the panel it was well matched with the extensive diversity of other speakers in the SES, where an overall number of 3,000 delegates attended to exchange ideas and achievements in social enterprise.

Ruth Phillips, the President of ISTR, took part in the academic panel and shared perspectives from Australia about the development of SE as a field of research as well as proposing some future research agendas and questions. Other speakers included Alex Nicholls (Oxford University), Kate Cooney (Yale University), Simon Teasdale (Glasgow Caledonian University), Michael Roy (Glasgow Caledonian University) (both editors of the Social Enterprise Journal), Meng Zhao (Renmin University, China) and Norah Wang (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University). The event was initiated and moderated by an active ISTR member, Yanto Chandra (City University of Hong Kong), who set up an excellent, challenging scope for the debate, Tristan Ace (British Council Hong Kong) and Kevin Au (Chinese University of Hong Kong). In the debate, two teams of scholars (Nicholls and Wang vs. Teasdale and Zhao) debated the motion ‘Social Entrepreneurship Can Solve All Social Problems.’ Although lighthearted and entertaining, the debate allowed these experts to dissect the boundary conditions of SE and its potential contribution to society. Overall the addition of an academic stream was highly successful and hopefully there will be further opportunities for similar engagements between researchers and SE practitioners in Hong Kong and the wider East Asian region.
14th Australian and New Zealand Third Sector Research Conference 2018 – A Small but Significant Success
By Ruth Phillips, ANZTSR Conference Committee Chair, 2018, University of Sydney

Based on the theme of ‘Enabling Positive Impact: Philanthropy, Accountability and Good Governance in the Third Sector’ the 2018 ANZTSR Conference was a tightly organised presentation of excellent papers, important guest speakers and great networking amongst Australian and New Zealand researchers and practitioners. The conference was held on the 29th and 30th of November 2018 at the School of Business and School of Law, Notre Dame University in Sydney. In recognition that the Third Sector is crucial to creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant society and the provision of a critical foundation for holding governments accountable, ensuring good governance, promoting human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights and giving voice to the disadvantaged, we had guest speakers from all key sectors as well as a diverse range of research papers that resulted in dynamic presentations and engaged discussions. The two days reflected the diversity and interdisciplinarity of third sector research in Australia and the important intersections between scholarship and what large and small organisations do to contribute to well-being across Australia. There were a significant number of third sector organization CEOs attending and presenting research from their different fields of practice and expertise.

After a warm welcome from the Dean of Law at Notre Dame, Professor Michael Quinlan, we had the opening address from Keynote Speaker; Dr Cassandra Goldie, who heads up the largest umbrella organisation of human service organisations across Australia, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS). She gave a rousing introduction to key topics of concern for the third sector in Australia under the current government and highlighted important research done by ACOSS on the incidence of poverty in Australia. At the end of the first day we had a very exciting panel of three guest speakers, two of whom were Family Philanthropists. Each of the speakers represented unique and very specific targets for their philanthropy, revealing how passion for areas such as the arts, social justice and grass roots women’s action can be promoted and enhanced through philanthropy. The second day Keynote Speaker was Dr Gary Johns, who was a very important contributor to wider discussions regarding the relationship between the third sector and the state. Dr Johns plays a key role in regulation of the sector as the Chair of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and provided some deep insights into the current and future focus of the Australian government’s engagement with and regulation of the sector. In response to Dr Johns’ presentation the next panel of two prominent commentators on government policy and practice, Robert Fitzgerald AM, Commissioner on Productivity Commission and Richard Denniss, Chief Economist and former Executive Director of The Australia Institute, ensured a lively engagement with tensions and other issues for the sustainability of the third sector in Australia. This discussion focussed very much on a key theme that had emerged from other papers at the conference – the rise of marketization of human services and the impact of the neoliberal governmental agenda.

The conclusion of the conference was greatly enhanced by Professor Jenny Onyx, a long-time member of both the national and international community of Third sector Scholars and Patron of ANZTSR, giving a closing address that was focused on the ANZTSR and its current and future role for third sector research. It was pleasing that at the very end of the day a large number of attendees remained, and they were rewarded not only by Jenny’s thoughtful speech but also by a short performance by a wonderful volunteer Barber’s Quartet who wowed the audience with some beautiful singing.

Although small, the conference was heralded as a great success by those who attended from across Australia and a couple of people from New Zealand, it resulted in reinforced commitments to maintain a lively network of scholars. We had some enthusiastic younger scholars and early career researchers who were inspired by the conference and nominated themselves for positions on the management committee. We were also able to announce the appointment of new editors for the journal, Third Sector Review. The new editors are Dr Ian Murray and Dr Fiona McGaughey who are based in the Law School and Professor David Gilchrist who is based at the Business School, at the University of Western Australia, which is great news for reinforcing our network across Australia from East to West. The success of the conference of course depended very much on the hard work of a few people, especially Dee McGaughey who is the Conference Coordinator, Elizabeth Cham and Jose Gomes Sakakibara (ANZTSR Chair, based at Notre Dame) and a number of others on the organising committee.
Announcements

Asia Pacific Regional Conference and PhD Seminar
Bangkok, Thailand
July 14 - 15, 2019
Co-hosted by the School of Global Studies, Thammasat University and Center for Civil Society and Philanthropy, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)
Deadline to submit: February 11, 2019

ISTR Africa & the Africa Center for Philanthropy and Social Investment PhD Seminar
Wits Business School
Johannesburg, South Africa
May 14 - 15, 2019

First Annual Conference on Philanthropy
May 16-17, 2019
Wits Business School Africa Centre for Philanthropy and Social Investment (ACPSI) in collaboration with the Center for African Studies at Harvard University, TrustAfrica and Africa Philanthropy Forum.

Initially established as the Chair in African Philanthropy at the Wits Business School, the ACPSI seeks to teach, research and hold training workshops on philanthropy and social investment in Africa.

Working Papers Series Volume XI
CONFERENCE WORKING PAPERS SERIES-VOLUME XI - Amsterdam, The Netherlands- July 2018
Democracy and Legitimacy: The Role of the Third Sector in a Globalizing World
13th International Conference
Papers are now online from Argentina, Australia, Ecuador, Finland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, UK and USA. Additional papers will be added.