



# Inside ISTR

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THIRD-SECTOR RESEARCH

December 2018 - January 2019

## 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:

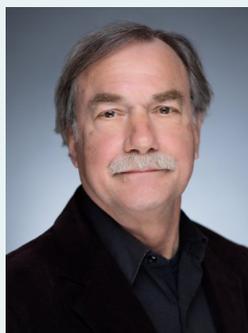
Ruth Phillips, President (Australia)  
Nana Asantewa Afadzinu (Ghana)  
Kin-man Chan (Hong Kong)  
Anna Domaradzka (Poland)  
Maria Nindita Radyati (Indonesia)  
Theo Schuyt (Netherlands)

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 non-profit 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 interdisciplinary 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