

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 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 who 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 Quinn our conference organiser, Elizabeth Cham and Jose Gomes Sakakibara (ANZTSR Chair, based at Notre Dame) and a number of others on the organising committee.

