



13th ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference
Civil Society in Times of Democratic Reconstruction and Climate Crisis

9-11 October 2023

Submission Deadline: 22 May 2023

PhD Seminar 7-8 October 2023

Application Deadline 15 June 2023

São Paulo, Brazil

Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo da Fundação Getulio Vargas
(FGV EAESP)

Conference Theme:

Democracy in Latin America faces contemporary challenges that affect civil society in various dimensions. On the one hand, some governments elected with a popular mandate have been responsible for reducing rights, and persecuting opponents and civil society organizations in the name of supposedly reformist agendas. On the other hand, the rise of far right and neo-fascist groups has challenged the construction of a more inclusive and fair civil society. These groups use repertoires of collective action that often incite hatred and violence, amplifying societal tensions and conflicts. As a result, the relationship between public administration and civil society experiences an intense crisis and democratic setback, which are especially significant when governments violate rights, undermine social participation, and weaken channels of dialogue and cooperation with civil society. In this context, progressive and conservative agendas compete in constructing public opinion amidst the spread of "fake news," making it difficult to expand the public sphere and which are essential for democracies. This scenario is further complicated in the current global climate crisis, of which the main challenges in Latin America are preserving biomes such as the Amazon and Gran Chaco, which are threatened by crimes/disasters of grand proportions and with irreparable effects on ecosystems.

These problems are intensified in the global context of the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the growing escalation of regional conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine, which represents a threat to the world.

In light of the above, challenges arise for civil society in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Intersectionality, especially about overcoming structural racism in Latin America, is one of them. The contribution of Latin American studies and analyses may be fundamental to this process.

Bioeconomy, sustainability, and enterprises that value cultural and natural heritage are also becoming increasingly important. The particularities of its territories and the geographic

conditions of Latin America with its diverse biomes, especially the Amazon, can offer valuable clues in this area, especially for constructing a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

Companies and markets also have relevance in sustaining democracy, sustainability, and equity. Civil society must be attentive to the impacts of these corporations on the structuring and de-structuring of civil society.

Finally, the fight against poverty, hunger, inequalities, and vulnerabilities continues to be a relevant topic for the region's civil society in light of the tradition of Latin American studies and analyses. These studies can contribute to confronting these challenges, which, although familiar, remain current and increasingly robust.

One of the strategies for expanding and strengthening the public sphere advocated and practiced within the International Society for Third-Sector Research is the articulation between teaching, research, and practice in the third sector and civil society. Engaged research that can help establish relationships between universities and communities, allowing for the articulation between practitioners and academics and, where possible, producing positive impacts on public policies, by adopting non-extractive and action-research methodologies.

In this spirit, the Thirteenth Regional Conference of ISTR for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in São Paulo, Brazil. Our goal is to create space for reflection, exchange, and learning about the diversity of discussions in different disciplines and countries in the region. São Paulo is a Latin American metropolis marked by contrasts and social inequalities and by the intense and diverse activities of civil society and social movements, networks, and collectives in various areas. The conference will be a forum for academic discussion on non-profit organizations, NGOs, volunteering, philanthropy, civil society organizations, and their relationships, focusing on "Civil Society in Times of Democratic Reconstruction and Climate Crisis" and related themes.

For the ISTR Regional Conference, the third sector is broadly defined, including NGOs, non-profit organizations, voluntary associations, social economy organizations, community organizations, mutual and self-help organizations, civil society organizations, foundations, philanthropy, hybrid organizations (social businesses), collectives, and other manifestations of global and local civil society, for example, social networks and forums, unions, religious organizations, cooperatives, and volunteering.

Invitation to submit by 22 May 2023:

Proposals by researchers, activists, and professionals in the sector focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean are invited in response to the general focus of the conference, as they relate to the many, diverse, and interconnected thematic areas that are characteristic of third sector research.

In your submission, you will be asked to identify one of the themes listed below.

1. Civil Society, Social Movements, and Uncivil Groups

2. Institutions and Regulation of Civil Society: Transparency and Accountability
3. Management and Sustainability of Civil Society Organizations
4. Socio-state relations: Old and New Forms of Civil Society Participation in Public Policies and Collaborative Governance, Collaborations, and Conflicts
5. Social Innovation, Social Impact, and Co-Production
6. Civil Society in the Face of Climate and Environmental Crises
7. Civil Society and the Confrontation of Racial and Gender Inequalities and the Promotion of Diversity and Equity
8. Forms of Organization of Indigenous Peoples
9. Corporate Social Action and the Challenges of Sustainability
10. Networks, Digital Space, and Third Sector
11. Teaching, Research, and Practice-Oriented Research on the Third Sector
12. Other topics

Submission types:

1. **Papers** by individual or multiple authors. If the abstract is accepted, authors will proceed to prepare papers. The length of the papers will be maximum 8,000 words. The document will include the title of the work, full name of author (s) and summary in Spanish and English. The text will be presented in Times New Roman, size 12, spaced 1.5 lines.
2. **Panel discussions** A panel submission is a proposal for a coordinated set of papers (usually 3 or 4 in number) on a particular topic or issue.
 - Note: panel proposals require an abstract identifying and justifying the theme of the panel as well as a full abstract for each panel paper. Full abstracts and author information for each paper are required. The person submitting the panel proposal must be willing to act as the panel coordinator and ensure that all paper presenters commit to attending the conference. Papers which are part of a submitted panel cannot be submitted separately as an individual submission.
3. **Posters** to be exhibited during the entire conference.
4. **Roundtable discussions** that encourage discussion and interaction among delegates.
 - Note: The roundtable format offers short (max. 10 minute) presentations around a common theme, with ample time for discussion. Proposals should include details on the theme or topic of discussion and its relevance, along with the names of the organizers/participants. Roundtables can include no more than five (5) participants. Please describe what each participant is expected to contribute to the discussion.
5. We also welcome **new scientific presentation and dissemination formats, such as videos and podcasts**. Please identify the type in the submission.

Language of submission:

Proposals must be made in Spanish, Portuguese or English. Oral presentations must be in Spanish or English. Submissions by practitioners, emerging scholars, and Masters and doctoral students engaged in research are very welcome.

Submission content:

The proposal must include a title of the work, applicable thematic area (as listed above), submission type (as described above).

Do not include the name(s) of the author(s) in the abstract. For complete panels, the titles of all papers that comprise it must be included (maximum of four) with their corresponding abstracts.

Where relevant, abstracts should include:

- a. Research objectives
- b. Hypothesis or research question
- c. Methodology
- d. Principal results or contribution
References (background, bibliography, etc.)

Essential topics that should be considered when submitting new scientific presentation and dissemination formats for the conference:

- a. Relevance and Scientific Value: The new formats should be relevant to the conference theme and contribute to the field of study in a meaningful way, with a clear scientific value.
- b. Clarity and Accessibility: The formats should be well-designed, with a clear message that is easy to understand, and should be accessible to a wide range of audiences with different levels of expertise and learning styles.
- c. Originality and Innovation: The formats should be original, innovative, and not previously published or presented elsewhere, demonstrating new approaches to scientific communication.
- d. Practicality and Appropriateness: The formats should be practical and applicable to real-world scientific contexts, appropriate for the intended audience and level of scientific communication, and take into account any necessary prerequisites or background knowledge.
- e. Evidence-Based and Ethical Considerations: The formats should be grounded in empirical evidence or research, and consider ethical issues related to scientific communication, such as transparency, avoiding plagiarism, and respecting intellectual property rights.

Maximum abstract length is 500 words. Excluding bibliography

Submission review:

All submissions meeting the requirements will be subject to blind review. Only proposals of sufficient research quality and that are relevant to the aforementioned conference themes will be accepted.

Reviewers will be asked to grade submissions based on the following questions:

1. Is the topic related to the conference theme?
2. Is the topic relevant to a regional and/or international audience?
3. Is the research question, or purpose of the submission, clearly articulated?
4. Are the theories and concepts that inform the research clearly articulated?
5. Are these supported by relevant literature?
6. Is the research methodology and design (empirical or theoretical) clearly articulated?
7. Are the key theoretical and/or empirical findings summarized?

The accepted abstracts will be sent to the organizers of the Conference for inclusion in the program for the participants.

Submission Portal:

Please submit your conference abstract online

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/5483/submitter>

Key Dates:

Deadline for abstract submission for Conference: **22 May 2023**

Notification of acceptance/rejection to conference submissions: **23 June 2023**

Deadline for conference registration for conference presenters: **31 August 2023**

Deadline for submission of conference presentations (papers, PowerPoints, videos, etc.):
15 September 2023

PhD Seminar: Call for Applications

Deadline 15 June 2023

A PhD seminar for doctoral students at all stages of research from the LAC Region will be held immediately prior to the Regional Conference October 7-8, 2023 at FGV EAESP (the conference venue). Hotel and meals will be provided for accepted students. Students are required to pay for registration to attend the regional conference, but there is no additional

cost to participate in the PhD Seminar. Applications to the PhD Seminar are considered separately from those for the conference.

The PhD Seminar is an excellent opportunity for doctoral 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.

Full call for the PhD Seminar and online application

<https://www.istr.org/page/PhDSeminar>

KEY DATES:

PhD Seminar Applications Due: **15 June 2023**

PhD Seminar application notification: **15 July 2023**

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Conference Chair: Humberto Muñoz Grandé, Mexico

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QUESTIONS? Email:

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