



Latin America and the Caribbean Regional PhD Seminar

July 5-6, 2027

**Centro de Filantropía e Inversiones Sociales (CEFIS)
Universidad Adolfo Ibañez
Viña del Mar, Chile**

Application Deadline: December 1, 2026

Call for Applications

The International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR), in collaboration with the Centro de Filantropía e Inversiones Sociales (CEFIS) at the Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, will host a seminar for PhD students from any country at all stages of their doctoral research in topics directly related to the Third Sector, i.e., civil society, the nonprofit sector, philanthropy, social economy, social investment, third sector social innovation, corporate social investment and volunteerism, among others.

ISTR will cover the cost of shared room accommodation for 2 nights and meals during the PhD Seminar meetings. Approximately 20 doctoral students will be accepted. This PhD Seminar will be conducted primarily in Spanish. Depending on the applications, we may also organize one of the small groups in English or Portuguese.

About the PhD Seminar

ISTR hosts PhD Seminars in conjunction with its biennial international and regional conferences. The aim of the workshop is to provide doctoral students with:

1. the opportunity to receive extensive intellectual and methodological advice on their research from peers and scholars,
2. an introduction to main theories and new developments in the field,
3. information about publication and career strategies, and
4. an opportunity to network with scholars within the international ISTR research community.

The central focus of the seminar will be on the research of individual students. Applicants submit an abstract outlining their doctoral topic, research questions, theory, and methods. During the seminar, the students' research projects are discussed in small working groups. Participants are grouped thematically, but the group composition will be heterogeneous in terms of concrete research topics, disciplinary background, research stage, method, and regional affiliation. The seminar will also include workshops with presentations on professional development topics by leading scholars.

Application guidelines

Approximately 20 doctoral students will be accepted. Past participants of ISTR Seminars are welcome to apply. **Students must be currently enrolled in a university and must be able to attend both the entire PhD Seminar and Regional Conference.** The PhD Seminar is expected to start on the morning of July 5, 2027, and conclude on July 6, 2027. The Regional Conference begins on July 7. **PhD Seminar participants must arrive on the evening of July 4, 2027.** An informal social meeting is to be held the evening of July 4.

ISTR will cover the cost of shared room accommodation for 2 nights and meals during the PhD Seminar meetings.

Accepted students must become members of ISTR and register and attend the Regional Conference.

To apply to the PhD seminar, please complete the online form

<https://www.istr.org/page/LACPhDSeminarApplication> before December 1, 2026:

The application process includes 3 written portions, 2 of which will be included as attachments. Please ensure your name is part of the file name for each attachment as indicated in the instructions below.

The 3 written portions are:

1. Student Status

- Provide a document confirming your status as a doctoral student. **We prefer this document to be a letter from your faculty advisor or other university official, and it is best if they can include a statement of personal recommendation** as well as specific information about how participation in the PhD seminar would benefit your doctoral studies. This letter should provide information about any financial support available to you from the university for the cost of membership and conference participation. Applications will be accepted on a need-blind basis, but this information will help ISTR to allocate any additional support it is able to provide to those requesting support.
- **Please save this document as Student Status_LAST NAME, before you upload the attachment.**

2. Statement of Motivation

- Prepare a brief description (100-150 words) of **your motivation to participate** in the ISTR PhD Seminar. Please also use this space to provide additional detail/clarification on information requested in the application or in the letter from the advisor/university. This statement is written directly in the PhD Seminar application. You do not need it as an attachment.

3. Abstract

- Write an abstract as a separate document. The abstract should be min. 500 – max. 800 words and must include research questions, theoretical framework, methods, results if applicable, bibliography (partial okay), keywords, and your name. **Please ensure that the abstract makes a direct connection to the field of Third Sector and Civil Society-related studies.** This abstract will be shared with your small group and is what they will use as the basis to provide you with the feedback you seek.

- At the end of your abstract, please include **1-3 key questions/areas of support** related to your doctoral research that you wish to discuss during the seminar. These questions will be shared in advance with the faculty and students in your small group. In thinking about these questions, please consider academic questions related to theory, literature review, methodology, as well as non-academic questions related to your life as a doctoral student, including questions about dealing with your advisor, your institution, networking, and career development.
- **Please save this document as Abstract_LAST NAME, before you upload the attachment.**

For further inquiries, please contact Beth Lovelady, Program Manager at blovelady@istr.org

Selected applicants will be notified after January 29, 2027.