ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni Quarterly Newsletter

From the Co-Editors

By Lesley Alborough & Elaine Xu

Greetings from Australia and England, and welcome to the inaugural edition of the ISTR PhD seminar alumni newsletter. We are Elaine and Lesley and are honored to be appointed as the co-editors of this brand-new newsletter, which we hope will be a quarterly newsletter for the ISTR PhD seminar alumni network.

We are writing about what feels like a time of transition for ISTR and the sector we all study, as we all learn about what the post-COVID world looks and feels like. As co-editors, we each find ourselves in similar transitions as Elaine embarks on a new academic role, having graduated this year, and Lesley transitions from academia to research within the philanthropic sector. The lead up to and our pathways through these transitions have been, in part, enabled and supported by our respective participation in the ISTR PhD seminars and resulting PhD seminar alumni network.

As the number of alumni increases, so does the spread and diversity of our alumni network. This has made it difficult for some to remain in contact and access the resources within the network that have been so valuable for many of us.

We hope this newsletter will help address these issues. Our aim is to help keep our growing alumni network informed about the work and stories of colleagues researching and working in the third sector whilst keeping everyone up to date on developments in the field of third sector research. We also plan to spotlight research projects, books, publications, career pathways, research methodology, as well as members of the PhD seminar alumni network.

In this first edition, we introduce the columns that will make up the newsletter and introduce our contributing editors from across the globe. We hope to find out more about you and invite you to participate in our online survey for PhD seminar alumni. Finally, we are looking for additional contributing editors for two columns: Tips for Thesis Writing & Examinations; and Jobs Board & Advice.

You can get details of how to get in touch about taking part in these or contact us with any other queries and feedback on the last two pages of the newsletter.

We hope you enjoy this first issue, and we look forward to hearing from you.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Stay updated with what’s happening in ISTR and the ISTR PhD seminar alumni network!

A SNAPSHOT OF THE NEWSLETTER
Hear the newsletter co-editors share the vision and mission of the newsletter.

!! SPECIAL FEATURE !!
Meet the co-editors and contributing editors and read about the aims and content of our newsletter columns.

Columns in the Newsletter:

- Alumni Spotlight: Stories from the Field
- Third Sector Career Pathways
- Opportunities for Collaboration & Calls for Papers/Applications
- “Dear Faculty/Practitioner”
- Studying the Third Sector: Methods, Theories & Insights
- Tips for Thesis Writing & Examinations
- Jobs Board & Advice
News & Announcements

ISTR international conference in Montreal, Canada (July 12-15, 2022)

Remember to register for the international conference, confirm your accommodation and itinerary and, if necessary, request a visa support letter. Do also take note of the longer visa processing times, vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada, and requirements to qualify as a fully vaccinated person. Follow the conference blog as we count down to July!

- PhD seminar: July 10-12, 2022
- Conference: July 12-15, 2022

For more information regarding the conference, visit https://www.istr.org/page/2022.

PhD seminar alumni network meeting (July 13, 2022)

If you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus (from whichever year) attending the conference in Montreal, Canada, remember to RSVP to the 13th July meeting and meet other members of the alumni network!

Visit https://forms.gle/TH6uL9A1g9jqoWnKA to RSVP for the PhD seminar alumni network meeting.

PhD seminar alumni network survey (online)

If you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus (from whichever year), we want to hear from you because you are our target readers! Please take this short online survey (approximately 15 minutes) and help us tailor the newsletter to your needs and interests. Your feedback is invaluable and will inform the content of the columns and the interviewees we feature.

To take the online survey, visit https://bit.ly/PhDAlumniSurvey2022.

Call for contributing editors: ISTR PhD seminar alumni newsletter

Please email istr.phd.newsletter@gmail.com if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus and would like to serve as a contributing editor for the following columns: Tips for Thesis Writing & Examination, and Jobs Board & Advice.

Call for nominations: ISTR Board of Directors

The 2022 ISTR Nominations Committee invites the ISTR membership and global research community to submit nominees for President Elect and the Board of Directors of ISTR. The Nominations Committee encourages all ISTR members (including the PhD seminar alumni) to suggest fellow ISTR members for consideration. Self-nominations are also encouraged. Please submit names of nominees along with the reasons for nomination to Secretariat@istr.org on or before July 29, 2022.

To read the full call for nominations, please visit https://www.istr.org/news/news.asp?id=606340.

If you have questions, please direct them to Margery Daniels, executive director of ISTR, at mdaniels@istr.org.

ISTR Mentoring Program (September 2022 to June 2023)

Calling all PhD students, as well as PhD graduates and junior faculty who received their terminal degrees within the last five years! Apply to join the ISTR Mentoring Program and benefit from the advice, guidance, and experience of mentors who are further down the track in the academy or in the private and third sectors. All current, paying members of ISTR can apply to join the ISTR mentoring program. Based on the statement of interest you submit as part of your application, ISTR’s executive director will pair you with a mid-career or senior scholar, or a professional outside the academy.

To get more information on the application process and deadline, visit https://www.istr.org/page/Mentoring.
ISTR Asia-Pacific regional conference in Sabah, Malaysia (Dec 7-9, 2022)

If you study the third sector in the Asia-Pacific region, apply to join the PhD seminar and the regional conference!

**Conference theme: Active Civil Society: Post-crises Rebuilding, Mobilising and Innovating**

- Deadline for abstract submissions: August 1, 2022
- Notification of acceptance/rejection to authors: September 15, 2022
- Deadline for presenter conference registration: October 15, 2022
- Deadline for final submission of papers: November 26, 2022
- PhD seminar: December 5-6, 2022
- Conference: December 7-9, 2022

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**A Snapshot of the Newsletter**

The ISTR PhD seminar alumni newsletter is published quarterly and edited by ISTR PhD seminar alumni who volunteer as co-editors and contributing editors for a two-year period. The newsletter consists of four regular columns that include ISTR news and announcements, updates from our alumni and information on third sector research careers across the globe, as well as regular calls for papers, funding applications, and collaboration. There are three seasonal columns focusing on tips and advice on researching the third sector and preparing for your thesis examination. You will have opportunities to seek advice and guidance from our alumni/ISTR network to solve problems you encounter in your research, writing, or job search. In this first issue, we will introduce the columns and our wonderful team of contributing editors. Enjoy the read!

**Meet the co-editors**

**Lesley (she/her):**

Hello from the United Kingdom! I am currently a Research Fellow at Nottingham Trent University and an alumnus of the Stockholm (2016) PhD seminar. I was awarded my PhD in 2019 and have been working as a Research Fellow on various projects at the University of Kent and NTU. My research concentrates on gifting practices within in the third sector and in smaller civil society organizations, with a focus on the labour, processes, and wider societal implications associated with such practices. Prior to commencing my PhD, I had a 15-year career as a fundraiser in South Africa and the UK. In July, I will be returning to the philanthropy sector, where I will be a social researcher for a large global health research organization.

**Elaine (she/her):**

Hello from Australia! I am an alumnus of the Jakarta (2017) and Bangkok (2019) ISTR PhD seminars and completed my Ph.D. in October 2021. In my doctoral research, I analyzed how international water charities and companies conveyed human suffering and charitable actions using ‘charitable frames’. My study looked at the framing, communication, and meaning-making practices of consumption philanthropy and cause-related marketing, where individuals and companies bought or sold products to ‘solve’ water insecurity. Before starting my career in academia, I lived and worked in Southeast and East Asia for 11 years, managing media and communication projects and providing media consultancy services to clients in the private and public sectors.

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**Contribute to the newsletter!**

We are seeking expressions of interest from the ISTR PhD seminar alumni network and current members of ISTR to join our team or contribute to the newsletter.

Please email the **co-editors** if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus (from whichever year) and would like to serve as a contributing editor for a column in our newsletter.

Please email the **contributing editors** of the respective columns if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus and have a story to share. You can also nominate a current ISTR member or an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus to be featured in the newsletter.
Alumni Spotlight: stories from the field

By Ali Baker Hamoudi & Shiqi Peng

This column is all about our alumni—who they are, what they have done, where they have been, and where they are now. Each issue will feature interviews with alumni with practitioner and academic backgrounds who work in different fields and across different geographic regions. Featured alumni will share their experiences as ISTR members, attending the ISTR PhD seminars, and their career pathways. By sharing these stories, we hope our readers can benefit from the wealth of experiences that the ISTR PhD alumni network offers.

If you would like to be featured or would like to nominate another ISTR PhD seminar alumnus in this column, please get in touch with the column’s contributing editors.

Third Sector Career Pathways

By Rachel Biaz & Jessica Joy Gilles

Find out about job opportunities in the third sector, such as those in academia, government, or industry, and pathways to a career in the third sector. In this column, ISTR PhD seminar alumni and ISTR members will provide insights into the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to get started in or to excel in a particular career, as well as how to make best use of your doctoral journey to get a head start. We especially encourage those with less-than-traditional career trajectories to share their stories and insights with our readers.

Please email the contributing editors of this column if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus or a current ISTR member working in academia, the private sector, or the third sector, and would like to be featured. You can also nominate another ISTR PhD seminar alumnus or a current ISTR member to be featured in this column.

Opportunities for Collaboration & Calls for Papers/Applications

By Anna Reggiardo & Nur Azam Anuarul Perai

Have you always wanted to find collaborators to publish a journal article, work on a report detailing best practices, or apply for grants? Would you like to collaborate with other ISTR PhD seminar alumni to write a manuscript, submit grant applications, find guest speakers, or organize a symposium or workshop? Use our column as a resource to find collaborators! This column will list opportunities for our ISTR PhD seminar alumni to connect and collaborate with academic scholars and practitioners/professionals working in the third sector or researching the third sector and its activities.

Please email the contributing editors of this column if you would like to find collaborators for projects related to the third sector and its activities. Do contact the contributing editors if you want to disseminate calls for papers or grant applications, especially if they are aimed at PhD students or early career researchers 3-5 years post-Ph.D., and we will publish the information in the next issue of the newsletter.
Studying the Third Sector: methods, theories, and insights

By Elaine Xu & Nur Azam Anuarul Perai

Promote your third sector research and evaluation reports, journal articles, book chapters, or doctoral theses in this column, which will primarily showcase the works of our ISTR PhD seminar alumni. If you have developed tools or created resources to study the third sector and its activities, you are welcome to promote them.

Please email the contributing editors of this column if you would like to promote your publications about the third sector. We will prioritize the promotion of works by our ISTR PhD seminar alumni (self-nominations of your works are welcomed).

“Dear Faculty / Practitioner”

By Mercy Kibe

This column provides a space for young scholars and junior faculty to tap into the wisdom and experiences of both seasoned scholars and experienced practitioners/professionals as they advance in their career and scholarly journey. It is well known that PhD students, recent PhD graduates, and junior faculty face a myriad of challenges that can impact on the progress of their dissertation writing, research projects, or career development. Often, they do not find or develop the support system they need to excel in their academic or career pursuits. Through this column, we offer an opportunity for young scholars and junior faculty to ask questions and seek advice or guidance.

Please email the contributing editors of this column if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus and would like to submit a letter and seek advice from an academic or professional in the private and third sectors, or if you are a current ISTR member (academic or professional) and would like to respond to a letter.

Tips for Thesis Writing & Examination

We aim to use this seasonal column to provide guidance and advice on approaching writing up your thesis, whether this is a big book or papers. We also hope that contributing editors will be able to source guidance on how examination and preparing for your final defense differs from country to country.

This is currently our loneliest column, and we are looking for two contributing editors who can help us run and develop this column. Please email the co-editors at istr.phd.newsletter@gmail.com if you would like to be considered for the role.

Jobs Board & Advice

By Lesley Alborough

The aim of this column is to profile and highlight various existing and emerging jobs boards within academia and the third sector across various regions. We also hope that, in time, this space will become a “go to” for those seeking their first role post-PhD or just their next step in academia or research within the sector. We will also provide CV, resume and application advice that is relevant to the parts of the world the alumni will be job seeking in whether this is in your home country or further afield.

If you would like to share job opportunities related to the third sector (not necessarily in the third sector) or would like to dispense advice on job search and applications, please email the co-editors at istr.phd.newsletter@gmail.com.
Meet the Contributing Editors...

Ali (he/him):
I am currently completing my Ph.D. thesis entitled, “Civil Society Organizations Providing Social Services in Iraq: Structure, Accountability and Religion post-2003” at the School of Social Policy, University College Dublin. After completing my undergraduate and master’s degrees in the United States, I returned to Iraq to work for the Iraqi government. Disillusioned with this line of work, I found renewed interest in civil society initiatives. My current aims are to further practical research at the intersection between civil society and social policy in Iraq and beyond.

Shiqi (she/her):
Greetings from Hong Kong! I am currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Hong Kong. I have bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from China, and a double master’s degree in development studies from Sweden. As a registered assistant social worker, I interned in several social service agencies and foundations. My research interests revolve around nonprofit management, social innovation, and community-based social services. I look forward to joining the global ISTR PhD seminar alumni network and co-building a better third sector with all of you.

Rachel (she/her):
I participated in the ISTR PhD Seminar in 2021, at a time when stay-at-home orders and increased childcare obligations significantly decreased my interaction with my local doctoral community. The ISTR PhD seminar connected me to a brilliant group of third-sector scholars, and I hope we can grow and connect to this supportive global community through the newsletter. At present, I am a Ph.D. candidate in law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where I research legislative restrictions on civil society organizations in higher-income economies. I hold a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology from York University in Toronto, Canada, a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, and a Master of Laws in International Law and Human Rights from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jessica (she/her):
I am a first-in-family Aboriginal woman with ancestral ties to the Gamilaraay people. I am currently a teacher at Southern Cross University teaching undergraduate psychology units such as Fundamentals of Career Success and Cross-Cultural Psychology within the Bachelor of Psychological Science program. I have a first-class honours degree in Psychological Science and am preparing to submit my Ph.D. thesis at The University of Sydney. My Ph.D. research examines the state and third sector post-trafficking support services in Australia and Thailand, focusing on the opportunities for women to gain social and physical mobility, and the often-precarious social status of women with lived experiences of trafficking.

Anna (she/her):
Greetings from Genoa in northwest Italy! I am a post-doctoral fellow in political sociology at the University of Turin, and I am currently working on the project entitled, “The Italian third sector in the pandemic scenario”. My Ph.D. thesis was focused on advocacy organizations in Italy. Specifically, I analyzed how these organizations’ hybridization impacted on their political role. My research interests include participatory approaches to environmental policy making, youth policies, and the politics of human rights.

In 2018, I participated in the ISTR PhD seminar, where I met many wonderful people. I hope that this column I co-edit with Azam will build and maintain relationships with our ISTR PhD seminar alumni network!

Azam (he/him):
Hello everyone! I am Azam and, together with Anna, we are the contributing editors for this column. I am an alumnus of two ISTR PhD Seminars, namely, Jakarta 2017 and Amsterdam 2018. Attending the ISTR PhD seminars was an enriching experience for me. They were where I met many great people, and I hope this column will enable us to reconnect and work on interesting projects together. My current research focuses on examining the ‘who’, ‘what’, and ‘why’ in the Malaysian third sector, including its regulatory environment and financial reporting.

Mercy (she/her):
My name is Mercy Kibe, a seasoned human resource professional, as well as a lecturer, at Tangaza University College in Kenya. I am currently doing my doctoral studies. My research is entitled, “The Relationship between Human Capital Development and the Innovative Capabilities of Faith-Based Universities in Nairobi, Kenya”. Attending the ISTR PhD seminars in 2021 was an eye opener and gave me more opportunities. I hope to continue forging more collaborations with members of ISTR.
Generic contact email: istr.phd.newsletter@gmail.com

Please write to us if you have feedback regarding the newsletter or would like to suggest story features.

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Please email the contributing editors if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus or current ISTR member and would like to be featured or contribute content. You can nominate a current ISTR member or an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus to be featured in the newsletter.

**Alumni Spotlight: Stories from the Field**

Our column features:
- ISTR PhD seminar alumni from whichever year.

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**Third Sector Career Pathways**

Our column features:
- ISTR PhD seminar alumni from whichever year.
- Current ISTR members (academics/professionals).

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### Opportunities for Collaboration & Calls for Papers

You can contribute content:
- ISTR PhD seminar alumni from whichever year.
- Current ISTR members (academics/professionals).

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### “Dear Faculty/Practitioner”

You can contribute content:
- ISTR PhD seminar alumni from whichever year can submit letters.
- Current ISTR members (academics/professionals) can respond to letters.

**Dr. Mercy Kibe**  
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### Studying the Third Sector: Methods, Theories, and Insights

You can contribute content:
- ISTR PhD seminar alumni from whichever year.
- Current ISTR members (academics/professionals).

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### Tips for Thesis Writing & Examination

We are looking for two contributing editors.

### Jobs Board & Advice

You can contribute content:
- ISTR PhD seminar alumni from whichever year.
- Current ISTR members (academics/professionals).

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We are looking for another contributing editor.
About ISTR (https://www.istr.org/)

Founded in 1992, the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) is a major international association promoting research and education in the fields of civil society, philanthropy, and the nonprofit sector. ISTR is an organization committed to building a global community of scholars and interested others dedicated to the creation, discussion, and advancement of knowledge pertaining to the third sector and its impact on human and planetary well-being and development internationally. As an organization, ISTR is recognized and respected for its global vision, its commitment to excellence, its collaborative approach, and the values of diversity and pluralism with which it pursues its mission.

About the ISTR PhD Seminars and Our Alumni Network (https://www.istr.org/page/Emerging)

ISTR aims to nurture early career third-sector researchers and practitioners through targeted mentorship and investment in their development. We also present the biennial Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award to dissertations contributing to the comparative study of civil society organizations, philanthropy, voluntarism, non-governmental organizations, and related issues. Through the PhD seminars and mentoring program, we support young scholars and practitioners who examine the role and functions of third sector organizations in their countries and communities. We know our efforts will bear fruit in the social, humanitarian, policy, scientific, and cultural spheres. It is our hope that our PhD seminar alumni will continue engaging with the ISTR network, become lifelong members of ISTR, and build the field of third sector studies.

ISTR Regional Networks and Affinity Groups

- ISTR Africa: African Civil Society Research Network
- ISTR Asia Pacific: Asia Pacific Researchers Network [also publishes a monthly newsletter, which is available online]
- ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean
- ISTR Post Soviet Regional Network
- ISTR European Regional Network
- ISTR Affinity Groups (Gender; Law and Regulation; Research on Volunteering; Teaching and Learning)