ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni Quarterly Newsletter

From the Co-Editors

By Anna Reggiardo, Nur Azam Perai & Shiqi Peng

Greetings from Genoa, Indianapolis, and Kuala Lumpur For those reading the newsletter for the first time, we are Anna, Azam and Shiqi and we are the co-editors of this newsletter.

In this edition, we worked with our collaborating editor Maurice on a survey for PhD students and early careers scholars in Third sector studies. We wonder what motivated you to start this career, what were the major challenges and what were the high points during the research journey. We hope you will participate in the survey, and share it with other third sector doctoral students or early career researcher. We will share the results of our survey in the next edition of this newsletter, and we hope it will shed more light on the experiences of aspiring third sector researchers.

In this edition: Shiqi gives us some tips on traveling to Belgium, where the upcoming conference will be held, including some interesting information on the Third sector in Belgium. Rachel interviewed Dr Domenico Carolei about his path in academia. Anna offers an exclusive recap of the last ISTR Book Club on Nicole Bolleyer’s “Civil Society’s Democratic Potential”. Peiyao and Jeonghwa shared some tips on thesis writing and examination in Asia. Azam offers us an interesting reflection on different classification methodologies of Third sector organizations.

At the end of the newsletter, you will find also the most recent job applications and call for papers.

We hope you’ll enjoy this edition, and we hope to meet old and new ISTR PhD seminar alumni in Antwerp!

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

Columns in this edition:
- Tips on traveling to/in Belgium
- Third Sector Career Pathways
- ISTR Book Club: Civil Society’s Democratic Potential
- Tips for Thesis Writing & Examinations
- Studying the Third Sector: Methods, Theories & Insights
- Jobs Board & Advice
- Opportunities for Collaboration & Calls for Papers/Applications
Tips for Traveling to Belgium

By Shiqi Peng

Belgium, known for its medieval towns, Renaissance architecture, and vibrant cultural scene, offers a unique blend of history and modernity. In this special column, I would love to provide a guide for PhD students to travel in Belgium and a brief introduction of the country’s third sector, with the purpose of helping people better know and get prepared for the coming 16th ISTR International Conference.

Travel Tips for Belgium: A Guide for PhD Students

1. Exploring Major Cities
   - **Brussels:** The capital city, Brussels, is not just the administrative heart of Europe but also a cultural hub. Key attractions include the Grand Place, Atomium, Manneken Pis, and numerous museums like the Magritte Museum and the Museum of Natural Sciences. Don’t miss the European Parliament for a glimpse into the workings of the EU.
   - **Bruges:** Often referred to as the “Venice of the North,” Bruges is famous for its canals, cobbled streets, and medieval buildings. Key sites include the Belfry of Bruges, Basilica of the Holy Blood, and the picturesque Markt square.
   - **Ghent:** A lesser-known gem, Ghent boasts a rich history with landmarks such as Gravensteen Castle, Saint Bavo’s Cathedral, and the vibrant Graslei harbor area. The city also has a lively student population, adding to its vibrant atmosphere.
   - **Antwerp:** Known for its diamond district and as the birthplace of Rubens, Antwerp combines a rich artistic heritage with modern urban flair. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady, the MAS museum, and the bustling Grote Markt.

2. Cultural Etiquette and Language
Belgium is a multilingual country with three official languages: Dutch, French, and German. In Brussels, both French and Dutch are widely spoken. In Flanders, Dutch is predominant, while in Wallonia, French is the main language. Learning a few basic phrases in the local language can be very helpful and appreciated.

Belgians value politeness and punctuality. When greeting, a handshake is common. In more formal or social settings, people might greet with a kiss on the cheek, usually three kisses.

3. Getting Around
   - **Public Transportation:** Belgium has an efficient and extensive public transport system. Trains are the best way to travel between cities, with the national railway company, SNCB, offering frequent services. Within cities, trams, buses, and metro systems are reliable and easy to use.
   - **Cycling:** Biking is popular in Belgium, especially in cities like Ghent and Bruges. Many cities have dedicated bike lanes and bike rental services, making it a convenient and eco-friendly way to explore.
   - **Driving:** If you prefer driving, renting a car is an option. However, be aware that parking in city centers can be challenging and expensive. And familiarize yourself with local driving laws and road signs.

4. Food and Drink
Belgium is a paradise for food lovers!

Don’t miss these culinary delights: world-renowned Belgian chocolate; Belgian waffles, which come in two main types: Brussels (light and crispy) and Liège (sweet and chewy); Trappist beers, lambics, and local brews at bars and pubs; Belgian fries and this dish of mussels.
5. Useful Tips

- **Currency:** Belgium uses the Euro (€). Credit and debit cards are widely accepted, but carrying some cash is advisable for small purchases.
- **Weather:** Belgium has a temperate maritime climate. Pack layers and be prepared for rain, especially in the fall and winter.
- **Time Zone:** Belgium is in the Central European Time (CET) zone.
- **Safety:** Emergency numbers are 112 for all services.
- **Health:** Ensure you have travel insurance that covers medical expenses.
- **Electricity:** The standard voltage is 230V, and the frequency is 50Hz. Plug types C and E are used.

**Exploring the Third Sector in Belgium**

The third sector has existed in Belgium for a long time, even if it is not generally referred to by this term. It has always found legal structures to develop its activities and to foster its prosperity (Culot & Defer, 2023). Like many European countries, Belgian law allows for **two basic forms of non-profit organizations, the association and the foundation.** Associations can take a number of legal forms: the non-profit association (in French: ASBL or in Flemish: VZW) and the international non-profit association, (in French AISBL or in Flemish: IVZW). Charitable activities can also be exercised through a de facto association (association de fait/feitelijkevereniging); this type of organization is not incorporated and has no legal personality. The foundation is the result of a legal act from individuals or entities that assign assets to a non-profit objective, and it has no members. The public benefit foundation has to utilize its financial resources for educational, cultural, religious, social or other public benefit purposes. The private foundation, which has been introduced by a recent law, is not required to serve the general interest; it may also pursue private purposes, such as estate planning (Philanthropy Impact, 2011).

Starting from a rigid distinction between companies and associations, structures more adapted to the **social economy or third sector have gradually emerged.** Belgian legislation has also created a hybrid entity, the social purpose company, which can be considered as an alternative to non-profit associations. Unlike these associations, a social purpose company may perform a commercial activity, but this activity should be carried out in a non-profit context. The reforms of 2018 and 2019 have further reshaped the law of enterprises, companies and associations. There is now a wide range of structures that can host social economy activities. These can be non-profit associations, which may engage in any economic activity, companies, which need not be only devoted to the enrichment of their shareholders, or cooperative companies, which can receive an accreditation in recognition of their specificities.

The country's nonprofit landscape is diverse and robust, addressing a broad spectrum of social needs. Five main social issues addressed by these organizations: **Arts and Culture, Basic Needs, Environment, Health and Medical Research, and Youth and Family** (Van Durme, 2022). The Belgian government, alongside private donors and international bodies, provides substantial support to these organizations, fostering a collaborative environment that enhances their impact. The sector is also characterized by its strong regulatory framework, ensuring transparency and accountability. Nonprofits in Belgium are required to adhere to stringent reporting and operational standards, which helps maintain public trust and encourages more significant contributions from donors and volunteers.

**References:**


Third Sector Career Pathways

By Rachel Biaz

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. Interested in a career in academia? In this issue, Rachel speaks with Dr. Domenico Carolei, a lecturer in Public International Law and Public Law at the University of Stirling. He gives us an important tip: set clear goals and don’t give up if you receive rejections, everybody, even older professors, face them!

Getting started on a career in academia:
A chat with Dr Domenico Carolei

In this issue’s “Career Pathways” column, I had the privilege of chatting with Dr Domenico Carolei, a lecturer in Public International Law and Public Law at the University of Stirling in the United Kingdom. Domenico holds a doctoral degree from the University of Aberdeen, sponsored by the Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law. With a background as a human rights lawyer, Domenico’s scholarship focuses on the accountability and regulation of NGOs and has been published in Nonprofit Policy Forum (De Gruyter), Human Rights Law Review (Oxford University Press), and the Journal of Human Rights Practice (Oxford University Press), amongst other leading peer-reviewed journals. He authored the book, “NGOs and the Law: Self-Regulation and Accountability” (Routledge), which utilizes a legal approach to examine NGO accountability issues and problems with self-regulation. Domenico kindly agreed to chat with me in May 2024 for this issue’s column regarding both his experiences completing his PhD and entering a career in academia in the United Kingdom.

What was a significant challenge you faced as a PhD student, and how did you respond to this challenge?

First, it’s important to note that I completed my PhD during a different era as it was pre-COVID. It was a different era in the sense that there was more human interaction, including interaction with other peers, senior academics, and supervisors. There was a sense of community, and that was something really positive.

In terms of the greatest challenge I faced as a lawyer, it was certainly learning research methods beyond doctrinal research, methods that I wasn’t yet familiar with. This included organizational research and gathering data from organizations. This can be difficult when you deal with accountability where there could be some resistance from organizations in sharing data. Therefore, getting access to research participants was challenging.

How did I overcome it? When you go into the field, conduct fieldwork, and gather data, I think you must give yourself an imaginary deadline. Otherwise, you could go on forever collecting data. In this respect, learning how to deal with organizations is important. If I had the impression that I had no chance of obtaining access to the data, then I would move on and not insist further. When I overcame the challenge and I collected all my data, I was proud. I learned something new alongside learning a new skill. And I had data of the kind that I never had before.

Looking back, do you have advice on how to make best use of the doctoral journey to get a head start on a career path in academia?
That really depends on where you want to pursue your academic career. Gaining an understanding of how academia works in the country you see yourself in is important. For an academic career in the UK, gaining some teaching experience is important as is getting a teaching qualification. I gained my teaching qualification as I was doing my PhD. Some people do it at a later stage, but I did it straight away.

Also, PhD candidates are not often taught how things work after their PhDs. Having a chat with academic mentors or supervisors in which you make very clear what you want is important, so they can help you in achieving your goal. Make sure your supervisors or whoever is mentoring you knows your ambition.

And then, of course, publications. It is important to look at how research is assessed in certain countries. In the UK we have the Research Excellence Framework (the REF), so impact, for example, matters. I suggest trying to publish as much as possible even before you end your PhD and, in particular, try and publish a monograph. If you can turn your monograph into a book proposal or a book, particularly in the UK, that can give you an advantage.

Additionally, try and create a network of people across universities and with various practitioners. Being part of international associations such as ISTR helps.

Lastly, make as many applications as possible. I got rejected many times. Try not to let yourself get down about it. You should be tremendously lucky to get the first position you apply for. It is highly competitive in the UK. All of this is hard work.

**What are your strategies for social media use as a professional tool along your career path?**

I use social media. I use X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. I use social media as a database sometimes. News circulates fast on X. Even with respect to a document that has been released by a United Nations body for example, the first place I would find out about it is X. The same goes for a judicial decision. X is an ideal place to follow your research stakeholders, which could be a court or an organization for example.

It can also be beneficial to follow the people you work with or those you would like to work with, because they might see your publications. I co-authored one of my publications with a co-author I met on X during COVID. There was no possibility of making connections at conferences at that time. My co-author read one of my papers and suggested we work together. We actually met in person for the very first time in order to present the paper that we wrote entirely online after a year. That was fun. It was an interesting way of making a connection.

However, apart from sharing my work, I don’t really engage in any conversation or with anyone that attacks me on social media. Recently, I was attacked on social media because I was defending, in a newspaper article, the work NGOs do by rescuing migrants at sea. I saw a comment that was pretty offensive. But I just had a laugh about it, because social media can increase your visibility, but it can also undermine you. I would suggest being careful about how you use your words and your voice. In that sense, be very conscious of the power of your voice.

**Name one skill that you found integral when moving along your career path.**

Never give up. Behind every success there are seven or eight rejections. Everyone gets rejections, not just early career researchers. It’s likely that you get more rejections at the beginning of your career, but even well-established professors do too. Also, knowing what you want is integral, as is being very clear about what you want to achieve.
ISTR Book Club:  
Civil Society’s Democratic Potential  
By Anna Reggiardo

In this edition, we provide a recap and a commentary on the discussion held at the ISTR Book Club seminar the 15th of May. Nicole Bolleyer presented her latest book, "Civil Society’s Democratic Potential: Organizational Trade-Offs between Participation and Representation," and Max Stephenson moderated the discussion. Nearly 30 people were present and happy to discuss the content of the book. Here you can find the recording of the event.

Book content

The content of Bolleyer’s book revolves around an interesting question: “Which civil society organizations (CSOs) contribute to democracy, how, and why?”

While this relationship is often taken for granted, the author proposes a deeper examination. Phenomena such as NGOization, marketization, and professionalization of advocacy organizations are typically considered the primary issues that impact the ability of CSOs to foster political engagement. Conversely, grassroots and less professionalized organizations are generally believed to be more capable of political activism.

Bolleyer challenges these assumptions in her book. The objective is to distinguish the potential contribution of advocacy organizations to democracy (often suggested in a normative view of CSOs) and their actual and diverse contributions. In fact, the intermediary role of CSOs as “democratic linkage” or “transmission belt” between people and institutions has been challenged by many societal changes such as “societal individualization, digitalization, financial crisis, populism, the increasing state dependency and professionalization of CSOs and, most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic” (pp. 1-2).

In order to do so, she proposes to disentangle the “transmission belt”. She identifies three normative yardsticks through which membership-based CSO’s democratic contribution can be approached: (1) participation, (2) interest representation and (3) societal responsiveness. Moreover, she identified two different governance templates: voluntary association and professionalized voluntary association. These different models provide different contributions to democracy considering different dimensions of analysis (which correspond to the three yardsticks): member activism, staff control, CSOs goal reorientation, and political engagement.

Bolleyer pointed out that neither of the two models is clearly “superior”. Both models, although considering different analytical dimensions, can contribute to democratic development.

To test the theoretical framework, she developed a mixed-method analysis, using survey data from in Germany, Norway, Switzerland, and UK, helping their interpretation thanks to three qualitative case studies: the National Activity Providers Association (NAPA), a service-oriented organization; the interest group Surfers Against Sewage (SAS); and the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW).
Discussion

Max Stephenson, who reviewed the book, engaged in a discussion with the author, posing some thought-provoking questions. The discussion revolved around this question: Bolleyer suggests that we should all be more positive about the professionalization trend?

Bolleyer’s conclusions seems to imply that an organization’s internal structure does not need to be democratic to yield democratic effects. In this sense, the author disentangles the “transmission belt”: a professionalized NGO, even if less democratic on the inside (both concerning decision making accountability and organizational identity), is more likely to engage in political activities. This paradox can be explained by the wider resources they can count on: paid staff, bigger funding, efficient procedures. This is also related to the size of the organization: the bigger the organization, the worse the results in terms of democratic contributions concerning member activism and societal responsiveness. However, larger organizations perform better in terms of political engagement.

Key takeaways

The discussion really sparked my interest for this research, and I recommend that readers who are intrigued download the book. This research can be a valuable resource for young researchers to navigate the vast literature related to the advocacy role of CSOs.

What useful ideas did I take away?

1. **The importance of dialogue between subfields.** While specialization is necessary and beneficial for testing specific ideas, the ability to navigate different literature, as Bolleyer did, can help create a systematic vision and connect the dots that various scholars have made from different perspectives on the link between CSOs and their democratic contributions. Significant changes such as individualization, professionalization, and bureaucratization affect different organizational structures, and an interdisciplinary approach can help identify similarities and transversal changes.

2. **A broad-spectrum view doesn’t mean losing the ability to see fine-grain specificity.** The research demonstrates the relevance of considering CSO organizational diversity, including factors such as whether they are voluntary or professionalized, smaller or bigger, older or younger, advocacy or service-oriented, etc.

3. **The importance of separating a normative (positive) view of CSOs from an analytical analysis.** As society changes, it is crucial to reflect on our current understanding of the Third sector and how contemporary changes are reshaping it in order to comprehend its actual and potential impact on society.
Studying the Third Sector: methods, theories, and insights

By 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 also welcome to promote them. Write to us if you would like to be part of our column’s Q&A on the methodological, legal, and ethical aspects related to studying in the third sector.

Third Sector Classification

There are many ways to classify third sector organisations (TSO) and it differs from one jurisdiction to another. In the United States, subsection 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code 501(c) identifies nonprofits that are tax exempt, and organisations listed under this subsection are classified as nonprofits or third sector organisations. In the UK, efforts are currently undertaken by a team of voluntary sector data specialists to improve the classification of charitable activities in the UK. The International Classification for Nonprofit Organisation (ICNPO) has been further improved through research by the European Third Sector Impact project, as well as advanced classification of hybrid organisations by Professor Lester Salamon in the 2018 Handbook on Nonprofit Satellite Accounts.

While these efforts are crucial towards the understanding of the third sector, its organisations and activities, they remain Western-based and hence may not be universally applicable. However, having multiple typologies could lead to challenges in making like for like or lateral comparison, as each would be unique to the worldview it represents. At the same time, could a single classification be able to incorporate the multitude of worldviews from different cultures and schools of thought across the world.

To obtain accurate classification of third sector organisations, indigenous characteristics must be incorporated into the design. This criterion would inevitably lead to multiple types of TSO classification. Nevertheless, this outcome would help to further understand the unique characteristics, origins, and regulation of the sector in different parts of the world, especially the Global South where little is understood about the sector.

The third sector and its organisations are products of its environment, culture and politics. While objectives may be very similar across the globe, the means may be different. Some may be organised while others could be informal and ad-hoc. A well-defined and structured third sector may not be common in certain communities where welfare assistance is undertaken informally. Some third sectors may be dominated by a few large national organisations while others may be made up of many small, local community-driven organisations. Drivers of third sector activities may also differ in different parts of the world. A standardised classification, therefore, has many shortcomings when attempting to categorise TSOs in different parts of the world, especially when present classification system is mainly based on Western worldviews.

There is a lot of room for research on TSO classification, following through the foundation laid by early researchers, particularly at The Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project (CNP) and elsewhere. Recent work such as Tavanti (2019, 2023) and Casey (2020) can be taken further and expanded to deepen the knowledge on the intricacies of third sector organisational classification by including indigenous knowledge.
References


Tips for Thesis Writing & Examination

by Peiyao Li and Jeonghwa Yang

Following last year’s summer issue of the ISTR PhD Alumni Newsletter, which discussed Ph.D. programs in the United Kingdom, this summer issue explores Ph.D. programs in Asia, especially in Hong Kong, within social sciences. As part of the program to examine the diversity of Ph.D. program structures and requirements worldwide, this article aims to provide a detailed overview of the doctoral journey and dissertation writing in Hong Kong. We spoke with Shiqi Peng, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Hong Kong and now a visiting PhD student at Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Process of Ph.D. Programs in Hong Kong

Ph.D. students in Hong Kong typically engage in programs lasting three to four years, starting with an initial draft of the research proposal and one or two supervisors who guide them throughout their Ph.D. journey. Ph.D. students are suggested to complete their compulsory and elective course requirements from both the Department and the Graduate School within the first two years. For the full-time 4-year PhD program, there will be an oral qualification examination/probation to qualify Ph.D students as Ph.D. candidates 18 months after the program starts. Shiqi mentioned that applicants for Ph.D. programs in Hong Kong should submit their initial proposal as important application materials. The supervisor and co-supervisors are generally assigned when they receive an admission offer.

After passing the probation, students will apply for ethical approval of the data collection and focus on their dissertations. They can choose to organize the dissertation as either a traditional monograph or as a series of three to four publishable papers with a coherent logic throughout the papers. The selection depends on the agreement between the main supervisor and students. Professional goals and Departmental requirements are also considered.

Probation Period

In the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Hong Kong, the probation period, which is similar to the combination of comprehensive qualification examination and proposal defense in the U.S., is an important phase of the Ph.D. program. During this time, students must demonstrate their capability to conduct doctoral-level research. This includes developing a research proposal, conducting preliminary or pilot research, and presenting their findings in an oral presentation. The probation period is a checkpoint to ensure that candidates are prepared to continue with their Ph.D. studies. Completion of this period leads to full Ph.D. candidacy, allowing the student to process their data collection and dissertation.

Shiqi also mentioned that supervisors, cohorts, and junior Ph.D. students are all involved in the oral probationary presentation. Interestingly, two cohorts are invited to be the discussants for one’s probationary presentation, providing peer reviews and comments on the proposal in a 10-minute presentation. At the same time, as a compulsory course, junior Ph.D. students are required to attend the probation of senior students and ask questions. The diversity of attending colleagues significantly improves the quality of proposals.

Comparison with U.S. Programs

Shiqi pointed out several differences between Ph.D. programs in Hong Kong and the U.S. programs, the former of which is more intense, focusing on research from the start and encouraging publications during the PhD program, allowing a more tailored training experience as an emerging scholar; the latter of which is generally more structured, especially in the early stages, focusing on coursework and a comprehensive qualification process. She mentioned that she already had a clear idea of the dissertation proposal before being admitted to the program. During her program, she kept working on the research proposal and finally started her dissertation under the strong support and guidance of her dissertation committee. Her dissertation committee has been formed in her first semester of the program. For the Viva, external reviewers are required to join the committee.
Associated with the different designs, the program duration also shows differences. Students get a Ph.D. degree in about 3-4 years in Hong Kong, while it is not uncommon for students to spend more than five years in the U.S.

**Funding Situations**
Most Ph.D. students in Hong Kong receive a 12-month stipend as part of their scholarship, covering tuition fees and basic living expenses. The scholarship can be internal or external, including university funding, government funding, nonprofit organizations, or private institutions. This financial support is important for students to dedicate themselves fully to their research.

**Managing the Dissertation Process**
Shiqi mentioned that pursuing a Ph.D. in Hong Kong involves dedicated research, effective time management, and ongoing communication with supervisors. She shared that one of the significant challenges in her dissertation process is effectively managing time between research and fulfilling academic obligations such as coursework and teaching assistantships.
Managing the relationship with the dissertation committee is critical for accomplishing a Ph.D. degree. Shiqi shared her strategies for communicating with the committee, including setting regular progress meetings with supervisors and maintaining a disciplined writing schedule. Shiqi emphasizes the importance of being proactive and keeping organized records of meetings and feedback. She suggests sharing a meeting agenda with the supervisor and preparing for the meeting slides before the meeting. She also advised sending a summary note after the meeting to record all the critical points for current and future work. The summary notes can also help students recall some discussions and save time.

**Other Suggestions and Book Recommendations**
Through Shiqi Peng’s experience, we learn that while there are challenges in the intense program, managing time effectively and navigating academic requirements can benefit those who thrive in a self-directed environment. The supportive relationships with supervisors and the opportunity to tailor one’s educational journey to personal and professional goals emphasize the unique advantages of pursuing a Ph.D. in this academic setting. As we continue to explore doctoral studies across different regions, it becomes clear that each region provides distinct experiences and opportunities, influencing scholars in diverse ways.
This column aims to showcase and promote different job boards in academia and the third sector, both established and up-and-coming, spanning various regions. Over time, we aspire for this space to become a primary resource for individuals embarking on their initial career post-PhD or those navigating their next academic or research endeavor within the sector. Additionally, we will offer tailored CV, resume, and application guidance pertinent to job seekers, whether they are exploring opportunities in their home country or abroad.

1. **Part-Time Lecturer - Nonprofit Management at the Northeastern University**
   **Post 30+ days ago**
   The College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University invites applicants for part-time positions in the Nonprofit Management program as an Adjunct Lecturer in one or more of the following areas: nonprofit legal governance, nonprofit financial management, nonprofit human resources, nonprofit grant writing and nonprofit fundraising.

2. **Senior Lecturer (holding the title of Project Director) at the University of Hong Kong**
   **Applications close: Jul 5, 2024 (HK Time)**
   Applications are invited for appointment as Senior Lecturer (holding the title of Project Director) in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration (Ref.: 526938), to commence as soon as possible thereafter, on a two-year fixed-term basis, with the possibility of renewal subject to satisfactory performance and funding availability.
   More info @ https://jobs.hku.hk/cw/en/job/526938/senior-lecturer-holding-the-title-of-project-director
Opportunities for Collaboration
& Calls for Papers/Applications

By Anna Reggiardo

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.

1. Call for Contributions: Special Issue International Review of Philanthropy and Social Investment
   Deadline for abstract submission: 30th June 2024
   For a special themed issue of International Review of Philanthropy and Social Investment, edited by the Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI) and the Resilient Urban Communities Project (RUC), we are looking for articles exploring African civil society, social entrepreneurship, and philanthropy through the lens of economics, social sciences, nonprofit, or development studies.
   Find more information @ https://resilient-urban-communities.eu/

2. Call for Proposals: The Impact of Restrictions on the Non-Profit Sector: Economic, Development, & Social Harms Resulting from Closing Civic Space
   Deadline: 30th June 2024
   The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) seeks individuals or organizations to undertake research on specific impacts resulting from authoritarian and restrictive approaches to the non-profit sector, focused on the Indo-Pacific region. The proposed consultancy period is from July 1, 2024 through November 15, 2024. Applications are due June 30, 2024.
   More info @ https://www.icnl.org/work-with-us/grants-fellowships

3. Call for Editors: Voluntary Sector Review
   Deadline: 1st July 2024
   Voluntary Sector Review (VSR) invites applications for the editorship of the journal to run for a period of 3-5 years from 1 January 2025. VSR is a journal with a growing international profile that publishes accessible, high-quality peer-reviewed papers on all aspects of the voluntary, community, civil society and third sectors. A unique feature of VSR is the combination of papers aimed at academic, policy and practice audiences, across Europe and beyond.
   Applications are invited for Co-Editor(s) who reflect the multi-disciplinary and increasingly international scope of the journal in their expertise. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape and develop the Journal.
   Find more information @ https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/journals/vsr/vsr-overview.xml?tab_body=call-for-papers

4. Call for application: New Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Philanthropy at the University of Geneva
   Registration deadline: 31st July 2024
   Find more information @ https://www.unige.ch/formcont/en/courses/mas-philanthropy
5. **LO PÚBLICO EN CUESTIÓN: la sociedad civil argentina en estos tiempos inciertos**  
**Deadline for abstract submission, 13th August 2024**

Nuestro país está enfrentando, en estos meses, un proceso de cuestionamiento y retracción de los ámbitos e instituciones públicas. La embestida apunta principalmente al Estado, pero también avanza sobre los espacios de la sociedad civil. Como en otros momentos de crisis, como fue la pandemia COVID, la trama asociativa argentina responde activamente para sostener las condiciones de vida y respaldar los derechos sociales y políticos de la población, especialmente, la más vulnerable. A la vez, es desde este universo donde aparecen las voces y las experiencias que alumbran posibles futuros más igualitarios y democráticos.

En este marco, consideramos necesario promover un debate amplio acerca de la trayectoria y el desarrollo actual de la sociedad civil organizada en sus múltiples dimensiones.


More info @ [http://xn--territoriosenaccin-61b.org/](http://xn--territoriosenaccin-61b.org/)

**Deadline to submit: 15th October 2024**

You are cordially invited to the 13th ISTR Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, hosted by the National College of Public Administration and Governance at the University of the Philippines-Diliman in collaboration with the College of Social Sciences at the University of the Philippines-Cebu. The conference is scheduled to take place from April 23-25, 2025. A PhD seminar will be held on April 21-23, focusing on “Civil Society in Sustainability: Innovations, Challenges, and Practices.” Submissions for papers, panels, and other formats are open until October 15th, 2024.

For submission guidelines and more details, please visit the ISTR website/Asia Pacific Regional Network [https://www.istr.org/page/asiapacific](https://www.istr.org/page/asiapacific).
News & Announcements

ISTR international conference in Antwerp, Belgium (July 16-19, 2024)
Remember to register for the international conference, confirm your accommodation and itinerary and, if necessary, request a visa support letter. Follow the conference blog as we count down to July!

- PhD seminar: July 14-16, 2024
- Conference: July 16-19, 2024

For more information regarding the conference, visit https://www.istr.org/page/ISTR2024.

5th African Philanthropy Conference, Victoria Falls

The African Philanthropy Conference attracts institutions and stakeholders to progressive platform where participants share experiences, reflect as a collective and map the future of development through a sectoral lens.

The theme for the 5th APC is “The Next Frontiers of African Philanthropy”, and marks a critical point in the exploration of the evolving philanthropic landscape on the continent. It represents a collective response to the dynamic and significant changes that are reshaping African philanthropy, and enables delegates to participate in in-depth examinations of emerging trends, innovative strategies, and their potential impacts on traditional philanthropic models. Encompassing a wide array of topics, from the role of digital technologies and community-centric approaches to climate science and innovative financing models, the 5th APC aims to map out the new terrains of African philanthropy. Therefore, the theme reflects a forward-looking perspective, acknowledging the dynamic changes reshaping the African philanthropic landscape.

More info @ https://africanphilanthropyconference.com/

PhD Student and Early Career Scholars in Third sector Research: Joys, Challenges & Completion Rates (online)

This survey aims to gather insights from international PhD students and early career scholars on their experiences, including the joys and challenges they face, as well as their completion rates. This information will be invaluable in shaping our understanding and supporting our PhD community more effectively.

Please reply here: https://forms.gle/jj1TtAwwnqJufNUM6

Thank you for your time and participation!

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.
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 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.

About ISTR ([https://www.istr.org/](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](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 African Civil Society Regional Network [publishes a monthly newsletter, available online]

ISTR Asia Pacific Regional Network [publishes a monthly newsletter, available online]

ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Network [publishes a monthly newsletter, available online]

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Network

ISTR Europe and Neighbors Regional Network

ISTR Affinity Groups (Critical Perspectives; Decolonized Research; Gender; Law and Regulation; Research Centre Directors; Research for Practice; Research on Volunteering; Social Innovation and Impact; Sustainability; Teaching and Learning — each has a Google group)
Co-Editors of the Newsletter

Please write to us if you have feedback to share or want to suggest story features.

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*We are looking for new contributing editors!*  

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