ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni Quarterly Newsletter

From the Co-Editors

By Lesley Alborough & Elaine Xu

Greetings from Australia and the United Kingdom, and welcome to the second edition of the ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni Newsletter. For those reading the newsletter for the first time, we are Elaine and Lesley and together we co-edit this newsletter from opposite ends of the world.

Our newsletter aims to help keep our growing PhD seminar 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 do this by highlighting relevant research projects, books, publications, and the career pathways of members of our PhD seminar alumni, as well as more experienced ISTR members. Our newsletter also offers advice on researching and working in practice- and research-based roles in the third sector.

In this edition: Shiqi and Ali provide insights into our PhD seminar alumni and where they come from; Rachel and Jess speak to alums from 2000 to 2021 about their journey to academia; Elaine and Azam interview an alum about the challenges faced when conducting third sector research; and Lesley, Ana and Azam focus on opportunities across the globe and what to look out for when embarking on a research career in the UK. We also introduce two new contributing editors who will provide tips and advice on completing your thesis.

We hope to continue to find out more about you and invite you to take part in our online survey for the ISTR PhD seminar alumni.

You can get details about how to get in touch with the contributing editors to participate in future editions of the newsletter and how to send us queries and feedback on the last two pages of this newsletter.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and we look forward to hearing from you!
News & Announcements

ISTR Asia-Pacific regional conference in Sabah, Malaysia (Dec 7-9, 2022)

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

- Deadline for presenter conference registration: October 31, 2022
- Deadline for final submission of papers: November 30, 2022
- PhD seminar: December 5-6, 2022
- Main Conference: December 7-9, 2022

Register to attend the conference @ https://www.istr.org/page/AsiaPacific.

Save the Date: ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean regional conference in São Paulo, Brazil (Oct 9-11, 2022)

- PhD seminar: October 7-8, 2022
- Main Conference: October 9-11, 2022

Stay up to date with calls for contributions and apply to attend the PhD Seminar @ https://www.istr.org/page/2023LatAm.

Presentation: Lester M. Salamon Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award Winner (“When do non-profits produce social innovations? Exploring determinants of social innovation among non-profit organizations, based on Russian survey data”)

Join us for a conversation with Irina Krasnopolskaya, a recipient of the 2022 ISTR Lester M. Salamon Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award, and Philipp Erpf about her award-winning research.

- Wednesday, October 12, 2022 (9:00 New York; 15:00 Fribourg; 16:00 Moscow)

Register online @ https://www.istr.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1673284&group=.

Presentation: A Global Perspective on Generosity, Giving and its Impact

Join us for a conversation with Woodrow Rosenbaum, Chief Data Officer of Giving Tuesday and Sevda Kilicalp, Head of Research & Knowledge Development at Philia, the Philanthropy Europe Association, to discuss the report’s findings, the challenges in international measurement, data collection, and reporting, and what it means for work in fundraising and prospect development.

- Wednesday, October 19, 2022 (10:00 Toronto; 16:00 Brussels)

Register online @ https://www.istr.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1674902&group=. 
Roundtable: Records, Archives, and Resources for Scholars: Taming Your Third-Sector Organization’s Ocean of Information

This roundtable will introduce key concepts of information governance and archives as ways to manage, leverage, and share the vast quantities of data and information created by your organizations and by the organizations you research. The conversation will include suggestions for resources for researchers, best practices within organizations, and the perspectives of information management professionals and users of philanthropic archives.

- Tuesday, November 1, 2022 (10:30 New York)

Register online @ https://www.istr.org/page/OnlinePrograms#Nov%201.

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 the column on Jobs Board & Advice.

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 seminar alumni network offers.

An overview of our PhD seminar alumni community

Since 2012, we have co-created excellent memories in the nine international and regional ISTR PhD seminars. Do you still remember the alumni networks you met in the seminars? In this issue, we provide a general overview and descriptive analysis of the data we have from previous PhD seminars, including the number of participants, gender distribution, and number of countries where each alumni completed or were doing their Ph.D.

In total, we had 305 participants who attended the ISTR PhD seminars through the years. As shown in Figure 1, we started with 14 participants in our first PhD seminar in 2012 and had the largest PhD seminar turnout, with 47 participants in 2022.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19, 39 participants attended the virtual ISTR PhD seminar in 2021 and the 2022 PhD seminar, which was conducted in a hybrid mode, had 47 participants. Notably, the data showed that 30 alumni (8.5%) had attended two PhD seminars, while three alumni had attended three PhD seminars.

As for the gender composition of our PhD seminar alumni, more than a third of them are female (60%) while the remaining are male (40%). PhD seminar participants who did not indicate their gender were not included in this analysis. Our PhD seminar alumni come from all over the world. Most participants in the ISTR PhD seminars are students completing their doctoral degrees in the US, UK, Australia, Germany, Belgium, and Brazil, as shown in Figure 2 below.

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Figure 1. Number of Participants in Each Seminar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>PhD Seminar</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>47</td>
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We have a diverse community of PhD seminar alumni and the number of countries represented in the ISTR PhD seminars has grown steadily through the years (see Figure 3). From the second international PhD seminar, more than 15 countries were represented in the international PhD seminars, with the number of countries represented peaking in 2020 when the PhD seminar was held virtually due to COVID-19.

![Figure 3. The number of employer countries in each seminar](image)

In the next issue, we will interview PhD seminar alumni with different academic, professional, and geographical backgrounds to gain insights into how ISTR has helped them to progress academically and professionally and what others may gain from their experiences.

**Note from the column’s contributing editors:** Please do get in touch with us if you would like to share your experience about how attending the ISTR PhD seminars and being part of the PhD seminar alumni community have benefitted your research or career. We look forward to amplifying your voices!
Third Sector Career Pathways

By Rachel Biaz & Jessica Joy Gilles

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, we speak with two experienced third sector researchers at different stages of their academic journeys — Dana Doan (ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni 2021) from Indiana University (USA) and Associate Professor Ruth Phillips from the University of Sydney (Australia).

Why we pursued an academic career: Perspectives of a PhD student and an Associate Professor

For our column’s interview, we spoke with Dana Doan (ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni 2021) who began her academic career after extensive work in the nonprofit field and re-entered academia to pursue a doctorate degree in philanthropy at Indiana University (USA). We also interviewed Dr. Ruth Phillips, an Associate Professor at the University of Sydney (Australia) and a past president of ISTR, who spent two decades in academia.

Dana has over 20 years’ experience leading, advising, and conducting research on the nonprofit sector in the United States, Latin America, and Southeast Asia and is a current PhD Candidate at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University in the United States. The desire to help bridge theory and practice and elevate her research and analysis skills prompted Dana’s decision to pursue a doctoral degree, with a particular focus on pressing practice problems, such as measuring social change and organizational performance. In her words:

“I observed dynamics in organizations I supported that, despite following best practices, seemed to be heading down the wrong path. Resources available to these organizations were not addressing the underlying causes leading to poor performance or mission creep. I got involved in international dialogues and efforts to come up with new ways of working and measuring impact. Many of us had similar experiences and were asking similar questions. I thought it might be helpful to dig into the academic literature and identify relevant theories that could potentially support practitioners like me and the people I came across in my work.”

Dr. Phillips walked into a job in academia straight out of her PhD and went on to be the president of ISTR. She described her career as a fortunate one, suggesting it was her experience as the head of policy with the Western Australian government, rather than her PhD, that made her competitive for a lecturer position in the Social Work and Policy Studies Program:

“I submitted my thesis on a Friday and started work on the Monday ... It was just extremely lucky ... I’ve been there 20 years this year. The reasons why I wanted to be an academic were initially self-interested. I wanted a job that I could work at home and be flexible ... the intellectual independence, you very much have to be highly self-motivated, and you don’t really have close supervision — [these were] a really big attraction for me.”

Dr. Phillips’ journey with civil society began in her youth as an activist feminist and environmentalist and later on, in her PhD research. In terms of finding an academic home, during her PhD candidacy, attendance at her first ISTR international conference in Dublin in the year 2000 provided this:

“My teaching position in social policy came together with the third sector research and I started to combine the two and publish in both, so I was able to make that my academic home and I have been a member since 2000. I think deciding where your academic home is, is really important and making sure that your work is engaging with all the research coming out in the field... A whole range of disciplines have a home there [ISTR] so it’s not an exclusive disciplinary domain ...

As an academic, if you want to contribute to your discipline then it’s important to find the right research identity and the other great thing is if you stick to one organization, go to the conferences regularly, you build a really good network of other scholars across the world and because ISTR is so international it offers a lot in that respect... hopefully lifelong network friendships and relationships between the scholars which also means when you go to a conference you know people and you can develop collaborations, it has long-lasting effects.”

Our interviewees described very different challenges in making the shift to academia. Dana describes language use as a pressing challenge in bridging the academic and practice fields. Words used in practitioner circles often mean different
things to scholars and vice-a-versa. “Impact”, for example, is broadly understood by practitioners to signify change, while scholars use the term when demonstrating a causal relationship. Additionally, research methods and academic writing can sometimes disempower the individuals and communities that philanthropy aims to serve. Dana shared, “It hurts me to hear about academic studies that extract knowledge from minoritized communities and then produce articles using language that is inaccessible to those communities.”

The translation of research to practitioners poses certain challenges, with presentation styles requiring tweaking depending on whether the audience is primarily made up of practitioners or scholars. Returning to Vietnam after completing her academic coursework in the US, Dana shared the feedback she received following a panel discussion on philanthropy: “It was very academic.” A friend explained that her presentation was a bit remote and “pie in the sky” to them. Learning how to communicate with both practitioners and scholars is an important and necessary skill to bridge the academic/practice divide. It is Dana’s hope to collaborate with other academics to support ongoing efforts to foster meaningful research collaborations between practitioners and scholars.

Reflecting on her vast experience in academia, Dr. Phillips stated that administrative tasks have become particularly burdensome, primarily due to changes in programs and software in academia. The loss of administrative assistants shifts these responsibilities to academics and compromises time left for quality teaching and research. Dr. Phillips manages this by keeping her research and teaching expertise very much in alignment with one another and utilizing publications for readings:

“I’m very interested in politics, which is really important for social policy. And that means my teaching is always up to date, which I think is really important as well ... it becomes who you are, and it keeps me very much in touch with the whole field ... in relation to the role of NGOs and the impact on social issues, it’s a really gratifying aspect of it.”

In her final words of wisdom, Dr. Phillips reminds us that the journey of an academic looks very different in every country. A very low percentage of PhD graduates are employed in academia. She adds:

“... the alternative is that there are lots more really good research positions in the world. All the big NGOs, for example, now have high-level researchers, so there are more diverse opportunities for people with PhDs and these alternatives didn’t really exist before. It’s very rewarding if you can get a job where you have proper research time.”

Note from the column’s contributing editors: Please email us if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alum 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 alum 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.

Calls for Papers and Applications

1. **Call for Applications: Jos Berghman Welfare Studies Stipend (2023 Call)**
   
   **Deadline: 1 October 2022**

   The Jos Berghman Welfare Studies Stipend offers young or early career scholars the opportunity to spend a research term with the Social Policy and Social Work research group in the Centre for Sociological Research at KU Leuven (Belgium). KU Leuven is one of the oldest and most high-ranked universities in Europe.

   Twice a year, the Social Policy and Social Work research team welcomes a young scholar for 2-3 months for mutual inspiration and learning. The stipend covers accommodation in one of the university’s guesthouse, travel expenses (up to a limit), a working space with computer and Internet connection, as well as access to the KU Leuven libraries.

   Candidates are international PhD-students, post-docs, or early career researchers whose research is situated in the broad fields of social policy and social work. Projects can be quantitative or qualitative in nature, preferably (but not exclusively) from a sociological perspective. The research term should result in a paper, which will acknowledge the stipend when it is publicly presented and published.

2. **Call for Papers: ERNOP Conference 2023 — “Philanthropy and crises: Roles and functioning of philanthropy in times of societal upheavals”**

   **Deadline for abstract submission: 12 February 2023**

   How come that a societal phenomenon that is defined as ‘private action for the public good’ and literally is translated as ‘love for mankind’ often has to deal with negative perceptions in the public opinion? How can philanthropic organisations and initiatives remain better connected with their constituency and societal stakeholders? And to what extent is philanthropy able to overcome its shortcomings and can it live up to its potential? What can we learn from history in the role philanthropy can play in transforming our society to address the crises of tomorrow? What is the relevance of alternative sources of philanthropy like data and to what extent can this be used by philanthropic organisations?

   Against the background of these crises and developments—we invite contributors of papers to reflect and share their work on the roles that philanthropy in its different forms can play during and after crisis and social upheavals. What is needed to make philanthropy live up to its potentially catalytic capacities? How does philanthropy develop during crises and how can philanthropic behaviour be sustained when a crisis fades away? To what extent does this vary depending on individual, organisational or national contexts?

   Hosted by the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, the conference will welcome scholars from all disciplines and practitioners of philanthropy who share a motivation to discuss the purpose and practice of philanthropy in the present day, and to generate new questions about how philanthropy might develop in the future. The conference will also offer participants the opportunity to learn about the developments in philanthropic practice in Europe and especially in the context of Central and Eastern European Countries.

   More information and the full call for paper submissions can be found at [www.ernop.eu/conference2023](http://www.ernop.eu/conference2023).
Opportunities for Collaboration

1. **Project on distrust toward the third sector in Italy**

One of our contributing editors, Anna, is working on a project concerning trust in advocacy organizations. The project explores distrust toward the third sector and analyses the change in public opinions and the increasingly restrictive policies concerning NGOs, associations, and volunteers in Italy. She is interested in collaborating with other alumni who are working on this area of research in different countries.

For more details, please contact Anna at anna.reggiardo@unito.it.

2. **Project on donors and recipients of humanitarian aid in the Global South**

One of our contributing editors, Azam, is currently involved in a project about ‘localizing’ humanitarian response through strengthening local, national, and regional capacities to prevent, manage, and respond to crises. The project explores the changing landscape of international humanitarian aid, in which the Global South and their organizations are no longer merely recipients of aid but are also donors contributing to international aid and relief operations. The study also looks at how third sector organizations, particularly those in Malaysia, support disaster prevention, as well as disaster preparedness activities and programs.

For more details, please contact Azam at nurazam@utm.my.

*Note from the column’s contributing editors: Please email us if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alum or a current ISTR member and would like to find collaborators for projects related to the third sector and its activities. Do also contact us if you want to disseminate a call for papers or grant applications, especially if it is aimed at PhD students or early career researchers who are 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 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 the third sector.

Q&A with Dr. Chris Milora (ISTR PhD Seminar Alum 2018)

In our Q&A with ISTR PhD seminar alum, Dr. Chris Milora from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, University of East Anglia (UK) shares about the challenges and dilemmas he faced when researching volunteering and youth activism.

What third sector projects or publications are you currently working on?

I am working on a 3-year post-doctoral project funded by The Leverhulme Trust, entitled ‘Literacies of Dissent: youth activism, learning and social change’ (www.literaciesofdissent.com) that explores the learning and literacies dimension of young people’s social movements in the Philippines and in Chile. Through investigating the role of literacies in young people’s voices and acts of dissent, the project hopes to contribute to critical conceptualization of the links between youth activism, learning and social change within shrinking civil society spaces. The project will employ a youth-led participatory approach and will have a strong community engagement component. I am also working on a manuscript on volunteering, learning, and social change in the Philippines, which will be published by Bloomsbury Academic.

What challenges or dilemmas did you face while conducting your research, and are they unique to the third sector?

I am interested in implementing various methods to understand phenomena in the third sector, for instance, volunteering—the focus of my PhD—and social activism. These are complex social practices that mean and look different in different contexts. In my research, I go for a deepened, nuanced understanding of specific cases and experiences. My colleagues and I have experienced dilemmas in terms of our positionality. Our dilemmas stemmed from us being volunteers, activists, and researchers at the same time and having to navigate different and ever-changing roles and relationships while conducting research in the third sector. We wrote about our experience in a Voluntas article entitled Ethnographies of Volunteering: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11266-021-00389-9. My co-authors and I met when we were PhD students and started discussing the dilemmas we faced while researching about volunteering, which led to the publication of this article.

How did you overcome the challenges and dilemmas you faced?

I give myself the time and space to understand methodological approaches I can use (or have not used) to unpack and understand the complex social practices and phenomena that I study. For example, during my PhD, using a learning and literacy lens to understand volunteering practices made me realise that much of what youth volunteers had to do was to challenge intergenerational knowledge hierarchies. Youths are often seen as ‘less knowledgeable’ or ‘non-experts’ by adults. This ‘learning lens’ added an insightful layer to my understanding of volunteering as a social practice. I am particularly excited about youth-led participatory projects because it has the potential to make young people’s ideas central to the research process. For my post-doctoral fellowship project, I hope to employ a youth-led participatory approach to give young people a central role in refining the research questions, choosing the methods, and analysing and deciding on the research outputs. I hope to model youth participation rather than only talking and researching about it. Wish me luck!

What advice would you offer researchers who are studying the third sector and its activities?

Collaborate! Most of my publications and research projects were written and developed with others. I also benefited from the mentorship of inspiring thinkers in the field, such as Professor Matt Baillie Smith, who has been so generous with his time and ideas. I met him in person through ISTR in 2018! I also had the privilege of working with institutions outside academia—for
example, UN Volunteers, International Association for Volunteer Effort, Global Campaign for Education which helped developed my research and thinking and made them more accessible to a wider audience.

Originally from the Philippines, Dr. Chris Millora is currently Senior Research Associate and Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow with the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation at the University of East Anglia, UK. His research work explores the learning and literacy dimension of youth social action. He is open to research collaborations with colleagues who share the same interests or offer a different perspective on volunteering and youth social action. He can be contacted on Twitter (@chrismillora), by email (C.Millora@uea.ac.uk), or via his website (www.chrismillora.com).

Works Published by Our PhD Seminar Alumni

JOURNAL ARTICLES


REPORTS / ANALYSIS / WORKING PAPERS


BOOK CHAPTERS


Theses on the Third Sector by Our PhD Seminar Alumni

PhD Theses


**Note from the column’s contributing editors:** Please email us 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 are welcomed).
Tips for Thesis Writing & Examination

By Jeonghwa Yang & Peiyao Li

This column aims to provide valuable information and beneficial suggestions for doctoral students to better prepare for both the thesis examination and writing their thesis. Graduate programs show significant diversity around the world. We plan to describe different systems of doctoral examination and thesis in multiple countries/contexts by checking program descriptions in different countries and collecting information from ISTR PhD seminar alumni. Additionally, postgraduate students sometimes have difficulties obtaining sufficient information related to these tasks and struggle with moving on. In order to better understand their challenges in preparing for examinations and developing theses, we plan to interview junior PhD students to collect their needs and then interview senior PhD students and faculties to provide tips for them. Recommending books or articles about how to write a thesis is also part of our column.

Meet the Contributing Editors

Jeonghwa (she/her):
Hello everyone! I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Askew School of Public Administration at Florida State University. I participated in the PhD seminar in ISTR this summer and had a great experience with wonderful people. I am originally from South Korea, and I have a bachelor’s and master’s degree in public administration in Korea. I have been in the US for approximately 3 years, since 2019. My research area includes nonprofit management, community sustainability, and local collaboration. For my dissertation, I am researching the relationship between social capital and community: the role of social capital in community construction, community resilience, and social equity. I am really happy to join this ISTR PhD alumni newsletter team and excited to contribute to this newsletter as an editor.

Peiyao (she/her):
I am currently a PhD candidate at Arizona State University. I have my bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public administration in China. My research interest is nonprofits’ engagement in emergency management and prosocial behaviors in disaster settings. Regarding my dissertation, I use mixed methods to explore the adaptation of disaster relief nonprofits. I look forward to collaborating with other editors and building a close-knit PhD community through our ISTR PhD seminar alumni network.

Note from the column’s contributing editors: Please email us if you would like to be interviewed or share your experience with thesis writing, defense, and examination with the PhD students and faculty in our alumni network.
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.

Finding your next research post in the UK

Starting to look for your first or next early career research role, post PhD can be daunting. In this column, I will touch on what type of third sector research roles exist and provide links and resources to job boards and advice where this is available. I stay close to home and share the resources I have used in my search for a research role in the United Kingdom.

A little about me: I obtained my PhD in 2019 and was fortunate to secure a funded post-doctoral position in the department where I studied. My next role was an 18-month contract as a Senior Research Fellow on a funded research project at a different university. I subsequently moved on from academia and recently took on the role of Social Research Specialist at a global, UK-based foundation which funds bio-medical research. In my current role, I use my expertise and knowledge of the third and philanthropic sectors to research and develop more effective giving mechanisms for the organization I work for.

The difficulty in the UK, as with many other regions worldwide, is that we produce far more PhD’s than there are roles in academia. Securing a full-time lectureship, the closest thing we have to a tenure-track role, is tricky. And academic role titles do not necessarily tell you what the nature of the job will be, as these are not standardized across the sector. Further, the UK academic sector does not have a tradition of annual recruiting rounds like the USA, for example.

However, there are some useful resources out there to help the newly qualified researcher navigate this space. The most useful for me has been Vitae, a local UK organization that helps researchers to develop their careers. Vitae’s website provides access to a wide range of guides and resources, and I would advise anyone seeking a role in academia to start their search there. The website provides overviews of research and teaching roles in the UK higher education sector across disciplines and offers guidance on how to write academic CVs and personal statements and where to seek academic posts.

Another go-to website is jobs.ac.uk—the main space where UK-based academic roles are advertised. Searching beyond your discipline will open up more opportunities. A note that third sector/non-profit studies roles are mostly advertised in the Social Sciences section. The Guardian and Times Higher Education are also useful job search websites.

Universities also advertise posts on their websites, so it is worth mapping out universities in the UK and checking their websites regularly. Most posts for lectureships are advertised from January to June but job advertisements are posted throughout the year. Research-only posts are also advertised throughout the year, so make sure you keep checking the universities’ website.

There is a thriving research community in the UK’s third/voluntary sector. Research posts in the non-profit, charity, or third sector vary widely, and they are advertised in the sector’s foremost job board, www.charityjob.co.uk. You can use “research” as your search’s keyword, but it is also worth looking at other advertised posts to broaden your job search.

Third sector research roles are also advertised at https://jobs.theguardian.com/jobs/charities/. It is advisable to join the Voluntary Sector Studies Network. It has a vibrant community of third-sector researchers comprising academics and practitioners, and members of the network often share job opportunities.

Research roles can be found in the very active governmental and philanthropic grant-making sectors in the UK. These roles are advertised on the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Association of Charitable Foundations websites, respectively. If you wish to take on research roles in the UK government or civil service, try https://civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk.

For research roles across all sectors, LinkedIn is really useful. I use search terms like “social research” or “research” to start my search. LinkedIn’s algorithm is very good at suggesting similar roles once you have searched for a few roles. Finally, having consistency in your search and building connections and relationships are key. Opportunities emerge when you are conduct 14regular job searches and let your networks know you are seeking a role!
Note from the column’s contributing editor: If you would like to share job opportunities related to the third sector (though not necessarily in the third sector) or would like to dispense advice on job search and applications, please email me. We are also looking for another contributing editor for this column. If you are interested in taking on this role, please email the newsletter’s co-editors at istr.phd.newsletter@gmail.com.
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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Please email the contributing editors if you are an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus or a current ISTR member and would like to be featured or contribute content. You can also nominate a current ISTR member or an ISTR PhD seminar alumnus.

Alumni Spotlight:
Stories from the Field

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Third Sector Career Pathways

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### Opportunities for Collaboration & Calls for Papers/Applications

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### “Dear Faculty/Practitioner”

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### Studying the Third Sector: Methods, Theories, and Insights

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Tips for Thesis Writing & Examination

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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.

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- 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)