

ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni Quarterly Newsletter



From the Co-Editors

By Anna Reggiardo, Nur Azam Perai & Shiqi Peng

Greetings from Genoa, Kuala Lumpur, and Hong Kong!

For those of you joining us for the first time, we are Anna, Azam, and Shiqi, the co-editors of this newsletter. Here is the edition that closes our first year as co-editors!

Rachel highlights the inspiring career of Dr. Keratilo Mogotsi, who bridges academia and practice in the Third Sector, offering advice on leveraging PhD studies and balancing dual career paths. Anna discusses with Carlotta Besozzi, Director of Civil Society Europe, the shrinking civic space and polarization in Europe, offering key insights for researchers and practitioners. We're also thrilled to present Rashed's detailed guide to thesis writing with LaTeX, a valuable resource for anyone navigating academic writing challenges. Meanwhile, Shiqi's curated job board and Anna's compilation of calls for papers and collaboration opportunities provide valuable resources for discovering professional growth and academic engagement within the Third Sector.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate the new Board of Directors and the President-Elect of ISTR, Allison Youatt Schnable, as well as to warmly welcome Megan Haddock as the new Executive Director. Our deepest gratitude goes to Margery Daniels for her years of outstanding service and dedication, which have greatly shaped the Society. As the first honorary member for life, Margery's legacy will continue to inspire us.

Lastly, we warmly thank Rachel for her invaluable contributions to the newsletter. As this marks her final piece, we are grateful for her dedication and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Happy reading, and best wishes for a successful year ahead!

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PHD PROGRESS



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.

Third Sector Career Pathways

In this column, ISTR PhD seminar alumni and/or ISTR members provide insights into the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to get started in or to excel in a particular third sector career following completion of a PhD.

By Rachel Biaz

Interview with Dr Keratiloe Mogotsi

[Dr Keratiloe Mogotsi](#) (ISTR PhD Seminar Alumni, 2020) generously agreed to chat with me earlier this year about her experiences bridging the academic and practitioner divide, both during and after PhD studies. [Assistant Professor at the School of Business & Enterprise at Chatham University](#), located in Pittsburgh, USA, Keratiloe obtained her PhD in African Philanthropy in 2021 from the University of Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, South Africa. She has extensive experience in the corporate, government, and nonprofit sectors, and is a certified Project Management Professional with the Project Management Institute and a LEAN Six Sigma Coach. Keratiloe has served as the President of the Women in Nielsen's CSI initiative and as the African heritage programme lead for MINDS (Mandela Institute for Development studies) and Nielsen Cares programme in Africa. She was awarded the 2024 International Collaboration award and the 2024 Female Academic Leaders Fellowship Spirit award from the Chancellor of Wits University's Female Academic Fellowship at the University of Witwatersrand. Along with teaching and providing advisory services for non-profits, Keratiloe researches and publishes on various aspects of corporate social responsibility and African philanthropy, including [Disaster philanthropy in Africa](#), [Social investment, civil society in Africa](#), [Lean thinking in philanthropic organizations](#), and [Participatory grantmaking in Africa](#). A passionate educator and coach, she is dedicated to "Kindling" greatness in people and organizations.



How would you advise making the best use of the doctoral journey to get a head start on a career path in both practice and academia?

It is important to remember that the reason one pursues a PhD is to try to contribute knowledge to a certain sector that you have chosen to study. With this in mind, you should be active in that particular sector. Even if the research you want to contribute through your PhD is very much theoretical, you still need to be active in the sectors relevant to your study. For example, my PhD research was on management and philanthropy and, more specifically, centered on taking business principles and using that to explore how nonprofit organizations respond to disasters within the southern African context. I would not have been able to write about this subject without knowing who the nonprofit organizations in that field are. Similarly, I would not be able to write about this topic without knowing what happens when disasters occur and how certain dynamics come together on the ground. In other words, you cannot contribute knowledge to something that you do not know much about. In this sense, it is very important to try and engage yourself and take advantage of the numerous opportunities that may present themselves during your PhD journey.

In this respect, I was overwhelmed by the number of opportunities that were available during my doctoral journey. I participated in about three PhD seminar sessions during my PhD studies: one was with ISTR in 2020; one through the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA); and, one through the Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa (AROCSA). The point of these seminar sessions was to meet and discuss with other people that were studying similar concepts but also, and importantly, to be where the practitioners were. As I mentioned, I have never responded to a disaster in my own capacity but, for my research, I needed to speak to the leaders of the nonprofit organizations that do this. Therefore, I needed to be in their spaces, attend their conferences, and experience the dialogues that they participated in, so that I could have meaningful conversations with them. One piece of advice I always give to people who are doing their PhD is to try not to just sit, put on blinkers, crunch numbers, and type all day. You need to be very realistic and aware of what is happening in the sector that you are studying.

Another piece of advice I like to give is to be present in the moment. Somehow, our studies must fit into our life, with all that we are juggling, and not the other way around. I am a mother and a wife, and I was working full time while completing my PhD. It is important to be present in the moment so that when you are with your family, you are there and present with them. When you are at work, you are there and present and working. Try to avoid multitasking in this respect.

Have you experienced challenges in balancing your career in academia with your career as a practitioner? Are you pulled in different directions? If so, how do you resolve this?

I think that the big challenge is that many people who are full time practitioners end up not finishing their PhDs, or those who are fully focused on their PhDs end up giving up their careers. It does seem difficult to have both. The only way you can try and make it gel together is to fit them into each other's space. If you are going to do a study, then do it in your frame of work where you will have access to the data and where you can incorporate your study into some of your day-to-day work. Similarly, from a practitioner's angle, try and find spaces for your work to be used in dialogues and in conferences. Try and work-in your PhD study into your day-to-day work. I feel like that is the only way you can avoid choosing between these two spaces that are both very important. The PhD journey is a long one, as it takes years to finish, so try and make practice and academia speak to each other and complement each other where possible.

I also found it very important to work on my PhD every day even if only for a little bit each day. When you skip a day, it can quickly become a week, and that can quickly turn into a month. Time flies. If you allow this time to pass, then when you log in to your computer to look at your research again, you will have trouble remembering where you left off. Then you may likely spend two hours trying to reflect or refresh your memory as to what you were last trying to work on. I spoke with my supervisors about this while working on my PhD. I had two wonderful supervisors, and they said to try and keep up the momentum so that you avoid procrastination and delays. There is always something to do with respect to your PhD research, whether that be editing or fixing a sentence here and there. If all you have strength to do that evening is to insert a full stop where it belongs, place a comma in an appropriate space, or update a reference that you just read, then that is certainly okay. What matters is that you do not lose the momentum.

Do you bring your perspective as a practitioner to your students when you are teaching?

I always do this. I am teaching nonprofit topics now, but my practice is in for-profit work. Before I became an academic, I was working for corporate organizations. I find it so funny how all of my experiences are currently applicable, because I am able to reflect on projects that I used to work on in my previous jobs. I am even able to reflect on corporate social responsibility initiatives that I experienced in my for-profit work.

I use these experiences because I find that there is something about the human brain that tends to pay more attention to juicy, real-life stories compared to something in a textbook. I teach my students the content in the textbooks and then illustrate it with real life examples. Ninety percent of the time, when I meet students later, all they remember is the example that I shared. They will forget everything else, but they will remember the illustrative example because stories really help people remember. They help people engage, and these illustrations sit in their long-term memory which, as an educator, is what we aim to achieve.

What advice would you offer to early career third sector practitioners and/or academics with respect to social media use?

I have two points to share with respect to social media use. First, be careful, as social media is a public domain. Be careful with how you portray yourself. Try not to say things that do not really reflect what you mean to express or what you really stand for. It is so easy to be tempted to enter debates or share opinions on topics, but be careful not to get embroiled in discussions that have nothing to do with you or your career progression. Ask yourself, is it necessary for me to write or say this? If the answer is no, then let it be.

Second, however, realize the advantage that social media can bring. It is free publicity. You can use it wisely to develop and promote your brand and to air the perspectives that are relevant, and beneficial, to your career path.

Any final words of advice to early career practitioners and/or academics?

It is important to enjoy your work. Whether you are in the midst of your PhD or are working in the sector, just make sure that you enjoy what you do. And if you are not enjoying it, then perhaps you are doing the wrong thing. It should not be too painful. I like using the analogy of a river. Have you seen how a river just flows? It is graceful and peaceful to watch. Trying to swim upstream, however, is not pleasant. You should hopefully be swimming downstream, just moving along, enjoying the process and the views that you get along the way. If you are already in this phase of your research journey or career path, then be sure to make the most of every single day. All we have is today. We do not know what tomorrow is going to look like, so take the opportunity to make every second count.

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Inside the Third Sector: Voices and Insights

In this column, we engage with individuals holding key roles in the third sector to explore its challenges and transformations, aiming to better understand its future, inform research, and guide practices. In this edition, we feature a conversation with Carlotta Besozzi, Director of Civil Society Europe, discussing the shrinking civic space in Europe, the impacts of polarization, and the changes affecting advocacy organizations in the EU, while suggesting potential areas of research for young scholars.

By Anna Reggiardo

Inside Civil Society Europe: A Conversation with Carlotta Besozzi

In the 9th issue of our newsletter, I had the privilege of chatting with Carlotta Besozzi, Director of Civil Society Europe (CSE). CSE brings together 22 European networks of civil society organisations (CSOs) aiming to facilitate and enable horizontal and vertical dialogue between European civil society organisations and policymakers, and strengthening their activities and relations with the institutions ([Civil Society Europe - Who We Are](#)).



When CSE was born and what are its main objectives?

“Civil Society Europe was officially established in 2016”, explained Besozzi, “but its origins date back to the European Year of Citizens in 2014. During that time, various organizations cooperated informally, but it became clear that there was a lack of structured collaboration at the European level. Civil society organizations were often weak in their interactions with European institutions because they relied on ad hoc coalitions, focused on specific topics, rather than having a formal, structured representation of all organizations”. CSE was founded to address this gap, serving as a platform for representation, exchange, and advocacy for civil society organizations across Europe.

What projects are you working on at the moment?

Besozzi shared several initiatives that are currently shaping the work of Civil Society Europe. One of the main projects is the **2024 European Election Manifesto, “For Better Civic Space and Civic Dialogue”**, which serves as an open call for the European Parliament and Commission to adopt an EU-wide civil society strategy and an agreement on civil dialogue. She noted that almost 100 elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have already signed the “Civil Society for EU” campaign pledge, committing to support European civil society. “Now we are working on consolidating these relationships and establishing an informal working group with MEPs to address the manifesto’s themes during the parliamentary term”, she explained.



Another key focus is on advocating for a strong mandate for Michael McGrath, the Commissioner-designate for Democracy, Justice, and the Rule of Law, to ensure that civil society issues remain a priority in EU policies. This ties into broader efforts to establish a **Civil Society Platform**, which would create a structured dialogue mechanism between civil society organizations and European institutions.

Furthermore, the organization advocates for **human rights defenders**, promoting initiatives to support and developing protective mechanisms to safeguard their work in this challenging times. Other areas of focus include EU funding policies for civil society.

How would you describe the current situation for civil society in Europe?

“There is an issue of polarization and it has made our work more complex”, Besozzi noted. She highlighted that political polarization affects advocacy efforts. For instance, of the 100 MPEs that signed their manifesto, only one was part of the European People’s Party (EPP). Despite that, there is an opening, as Ursula Von Der Leyen, the re-elected President from the EPP, committed in her mission letter to protect civic space.

Besozzi expressed concern over the use of transparency regulations as a double-edged sword, instrumentalizing scandals such as the Qatargate, a corruption scandal involving members of the European Parliament by the end of 2022, to restrict civic space. For example, the [EU’s Transparency Register](#) — a database listing organizations that try to influence EU institutions – could have unintended consequences. Besozzi stated that the idea behind the register was to better control the influence of third parties but this measure could stigmatize any organizations receiving funding from outside the EU, even from allies. “A general transparency register without distinguishing funding sources would be more effective”, she argued. “Moreover, cases of corruption like Qatargate wouldn’t even appear in such a register, because, of course, no one planning illegal acts would register”.

The situation is then complex. Besozzi observed that on the one hand, there is growing awareness within European institutions of the importance of protecting civic space, which has led to official reports from the Parliaments and Commission and recommendations of the Council. “But at the national level, we are seeing a worrying trend of shrinking civic space in many countries”, for example for organizations working on migration or on environmental advocacy.

Some debates arising in European countries reflect on the European level. For example, now environmental organizations are perceived as a problem because they are the perfect alibi for avoiding responsibility for real urgent problems, such as climate change, and shifting the blame onto civil society organizations.

Besozzi pointed to more troubling trends, such as disinformation campaigns and online threats targeting CSOs as part of a broader strategy of weakening civil society.

Based on your insights into European civil society and its global relationships, what research themes would you suggest for young scholars?

1. **Funding Dynamics and Civil Society:** Besozzi suggested to focus on the evolution of public funding and the implications for civil society organizations. Key questions may be: Is the third sector involved in the co-design and planning of these funding, or it is adapting to externally imposed framework?
2. **Transparency Regulations and Their Impact:** Besozzi suggests exploring how transparency measures affect civil society, comparing the effect of the same regulations on the market or public institutions. As an example, she mentioned the unintended consequences of anti-money laundering legislation on local initiatives like crowdfunding campaigns. “The lack of clear definitions in these regulations risks making even small, community-based initiatives subject to stringent requirements that are impossible to meet”, she warned.

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Tips for Thesis Writing An Introduction Guide to LaTeX

By Rashed Al Jayousi

This guide introduces PhD students and alumni to LaTeX, its uses, benefits, functions, and limitations. While too brief to provide a full tutorial, it points to reliable guides and sources to help you set up LaTeX on your device and get started effectively.

What is LaTeX and Why Should I Use It?

LaTeX (*Lah-tech*) is a document preparation system for high-quality typesetting. It is widely used for scientific documents, publishing, and medium to large technical documents. Unlike word processors like Microsoft Word or Google Docs, which use WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) interfaces, LaTeX uses coding to define a document's layout and appearance. Word processors are user-friendly and easy to learn but struggle with consistency and complex layouts, especially in large documents like a PhD thesis. LaTeX excels in these areas, producing lightweight, professional-quality documents while handling mathematical equations and bibliographies with precision. However, it has a steeper learning curve and requires more effort to set up.

The LaTeX logo is rendered in a classic serif font, with the letters 'L', 'A', 'T', 'E', and 'X' spaced out. The 'L' and 'X' are significantly larger than the other letters, and the 'A' and 'E' are also larger than the 'T'. The logo is black and stands out against the white background.

LaTeX for Publishing and Thesis

LaTeX encourages authors to focus on content rather than formatting. Many publishers offer predesigned templates, such as Springer's LaTeX support templates available at [Springer LaTeX Support](#). These templates handle formatting, section numbering, and bibliography styles, saving authors significant time. Free PhD thesis templates are available online, like the one at [LaTeX Templates](#). Authors can also create their own custom templates, offering flexibility while maintaining precision and consistency.

Example of How LaTeX Works

Below is a basic LaTeX example:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{graphicx} % Allows including images
\title{Cartesian Closed Categories and the Price of Eggs}
\author{Jane Doe}
\date{September 1994}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
Hello world!
\end{document}
```

In this example:

- The document is an *article*.
- The line 'usepackagegraphicx' is an example of importing a package. Packages extend LaTeX's functionality. In this case, 'graphicx' allows the document to include images. You can add packages by using the command '[slash]usepackagepackagename' at the beginning of your document, before 'begindocument'.
- The title is "Cartesian Closed Categories and the Price of Eggs."
- The author is Jane Doe, and the document was written in September 1994.
- The output consists of a title followed by the text "Hello world!"

How to Set Up LaTeX

LaTeX is not standalone software but runs on the TeX typesetting system. You can either use cloud-based tools like Overleaf or offline tools like TeXstudio with MiKTeX.

To use Overleaf, sign up at [Overleaf](#), create a new project (template or blank), and start writing. Compile the document to preview and download it as a PDF. Overleaf allows real-time collaboration and preview but requires an internet connection and has some features behind a paywall.

For offline use, download MiKTeX ([MiKTeX Download](#)) and TeXstudio ([TeXstudio Download](#)). After installation, configure TeXstudio to use `pdflatex` as the default compiler. Write your document or use a template and compile it using the green play button to generate the PDF. Offline tools are more flexible and reliable for large documents but have a steeper setup process.

For visual guides, check this video tutorial: [YouTube Guide](#). You can also learn LaTeX from the online tutorial at [LaTeX Tutorials](#). If you encounter issues, online forums and AI tools can assist with coding. For more information, You can contact me via email at rashed.nedal.rashed.al.jayousi.b1@tohoku.ac.jp.

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Jobs Board

Job Announcements

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.

By Shiqi Peng

1. Project Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Philadelphia Urban Research at the University of Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia Urban Research Project at the University of Pennsylvania, directed by Professor Michael Jones-Correa, seeks to appoint up a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the 2025-2026 academic year. This opportunity is for a one-year, full-time residential postdoctoral research fellowship, with potential to renew for one year, conditional on successful performance and availability of funding. The appointment will begin on July 1, 2025. Housed in the Department of Political Science, the Philadelphia Urban Research Project will focus on questions around urban space and politics. The postdoctoral researcher will 1) conduct geo-spatial analyses of urban demographic trends, land use, service provision, civic engagement, and voting, and 2) aid in the design and fielding of a new survey of residents in metropolitan Philadelphia. The postdoctoral fellow may also be asked to contribute to projects in other areas/ongoing projects on a variety of different topics related to the broad theme of “urban space and politics.”

Application Deadline: January 30, 2025 (rolling review starts January 15, 2025)

For more information, click [here](#).

2. Postdoctoral Fellow in Social Work at the University of Gothenburg

The Department of Social Work is located at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg, is looking for a postdoctoral research, whose tasks mainly consist of own research, which covers 80% of the employment. The research must have a clear focus on social work with a focus on social services practice and client-oriented research. Teaching of 20% in social work at various levels is also included in the position. Teaching also includes course responsibility, examination, supervision and course administration. Postdocs are expected to contribute to the department's research environment and actively participate in seminar activities. The applicant must have good teaching and communication skills in Swedish and/or English.

Application Deadline: February 20, 2025

For more information, click [here](#).

3. Assistant Professor in Public Policy Administration, University of Missouri-St. Louis

The University of Missouri-St. Louis invites applications for a 9-month, tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level with expertise in Public Policy Administration beginning in August 2025. They seek a candidate to strengthen their MPPA program emphasis areas in local government management, nonprofit leadership, or policy research and analysis. The ability and willingness to teach a graduate or undergraduate course in quantitative methods is desirable, including in areas related to machine learning or geographic information systems. The person filling this position will have an appointment in the Political Science department and the NASPAA-accredited Public Policy Administration program within Political Science.

Application Deadline: January 30, 2025

For more information, click [here](#).

4. MPA Director (Associate or Full Professor), University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Public Administration invites applications for a Program Director, at the associate or full professor rank, to lead the Gerald G. Fox Master of Public Administration Program, NASPAA-accredited (reaccredited until 2028) and nationally ranked. We seek an exceptional colleague, scholar, and leader for our urban-serving program, ranked #21 in Local Government Management. This 9-month position.

Start Date: August 11, 2025

For more information, click [here](#).

5. Assistant Professor of Social Work, Grand Valley State University

Grand Valley State University's (GVSU) School of Social Work seeks one tenure track – assistant professor, full-time, 9-month contract teaching in generalist BSW & MSW courses. Preferred areas of expertise include anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Salary for faculty positions is commensurate with experience. This position may include opportunity for spring/summer teaching with additional compensation. We are seeking an innovative educator who is excited about the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues who teach in this program.

Application Deadline: Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the positions are filled.

For more information, click [here](#).

6. Chair Professor / Professor / Associate Professor / Assistant Professor, Lingnan University

Lingnan University is one of the eight publicly funded institutions in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and has the longest established tradition among the local institutions of higher education. It is widely recognised for providing quality education with a focus on whole-person development and conducting high-impact research for a better world. Moving forward, Lingnan University is well positioned to take lead as a comprehensive university in arts and sciences in the digital era, with impactful research and innovations. As its 60th anniversary approaches, Lingnan University has launched the Lingnan-60 Global Talent Recruitment and will recruit over 60 outstanding scholars from around the globe to join the University as tenured or tenure-track Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, or Chair Professor in all academic fields. Interdisciplinary areas will be focused on that would spearhead a digitalized future for the University's teaching and research capabilities.

For more information, click [here](#).

7. Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professor in Public Administration, University of Hong Kong

The Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Hong Kong is hiring the Tenure-Track Assistant / Associate Professor in Public Administration in the Department of Politics and Public Administration (Ref.: 530773), to commence in August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter, on a three-year fixed-term basis, with the possibility of renewal and consideration for tenure before the expiry of a second three-year fixed-term contract. Exceptionally outstanding candidates at the Associate Professor level may be considered for appointment on direct tenure terms subject to University's approval.

Application Review Begins: February 1, 2025 (closes March 31, 2025)

For more information, click [here](#).

8. Researcher in Organizational Democracy, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business

The Research Institute for Cooperation and Cooperatives seeks a part-time (30 hours/week) project staff member (pre-doc), starting January 15, 2025, for a three-year term.

For more information, click [here](#).

9. Research Facilitator in Education and Social Work, University of Luxembourg

The Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (FHSE) at the University of Luxembourg brings together expertise from the humanities, linguistics, cognitive sciences, social and educational sciences. We like hire a Research Facilitator who provide effective and efficient support for the research activities of the Department and undertake facilitating and liaison activities related to research strategy implementation, funding, and external relationships, as well as contribute to synergies between entities. Early applications are encouraged as they will be processed upon reception.

For more information, click [here](#).

10. Associate Senior Lecturer in Public Administration, University of Gothenburg

The University of Gothenburg is looking for an Associate senior lecturer in public administration within the research project Social Work as Police Work. The post of associate senior lecturer is a career-development position aimed at giving the employee an opportunity to improve their teaching and academic capabilities.

At the end of the term of employment, an associate senior lecturer may apply for promotion to the post of senior lecturer. If the associate senior lecturer is judged to be suitable and to meet the criteria for promotion, they will be employed on a permanent basis as a senior lecturer.

Application Deadline: January 27, 2025

For more information, click [here](#).

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Opportunities for Collaboration & Calls for Papers/Applications

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.

By Anna Reggiardo

Calls for Papers and Applications

1. Call for Practitioner Experts: ERNOP.EU

Deadline for submission: Open call.

Most academic research is underutilised, while on the other hand, there is a need for practitioners to learn from academics. Given limited resources within the academic and philanthropy community, academic insights should be used as much as possible. However, practitioners rarely have time and access to the work published in academic journals. Besides, not all content of academic papers is relevant for practitioners. At the same time, academics often do not have time and/or skills to make their work accessible for practitioners and, what's more, they get little rewards for doing so as the number of individual publications is often too limited to build a constituency.

The European Research Network On Philanthropy (ERNOP) - the academic network of philanthropy researchers in Europe - aims to develop the ERNOP Research Notes. Here their call: "Are you passionate about advancing philanthropy? Do you have expertise in fundraising, impact measurement, NGO management, volunteering, or other philanthropy-related topics? We invite you to join our Practitioner Expert Database and contribute to ERNOP Research Notes - short, easy-to-read, and visually engaging two-pagers summarising academic articles by ERNOP members".

For the first 2025 issue of the ERNOP Research Notes, they are looking for Practitioner Experts in the areas of volunteering and NGO leadership and governance.

Focus for 2025 Issue: Volunteering and NGO Leadership and Governance

More information at: <https://ernop.eu/information-for-practitioner-experts/>.

2. Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship at Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Deadline for submission: 17th January 2025

Lake Institute on Faith & Giving is pleased to announce the 2025-2026 Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for doctoral students whose research engages issues at the intersection of religion and philanthropy or faith and generosity. While the intersection of faith and giving is key to our mission, we are glad to receive a broad range of proposals that consider these topics together. Lake Institute helps to build the field of faith and giving by supporting the work of emerging scholars. This one-year fellowship is given annually to support the final year of dissertation writing for a doctoral candidate at a U.S. graduate school.

For more information, visit: [Lake Institute Fellowship](#).

3. Call for Papers: Special Issue of Cosmopolitan Civil Societies

Deadline to Submit Abstracts: 30th January 2025

Special Issue of Cosmopolitan Civil Societies vol. 17 no. 3, December 2025. This special issue of [Cosmopolitan Civil Societies](#) takes up this challenge. Its focus is on indigenous knowledges, as they are understood in their own societies and as they are represented in the majority culture. It considers government policies and local efforts to share the knowledge of First Nations people in the context of civil society; it explores the implementation of indigenous law and justice; it examines the ways in which indigenous culture and art are shared in a society; it investigates how indigenous documents and artefacts become part of a national heritage; and it documents efforts to maintain and expand the use of indigenous languages.

More information at: <https://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/mcs>.

4. Call for Papers: Voluntary Action History Society's 8th International Conference

Deadline for abstract submission: 31st January 2025

The Voluntary Action History Society invites submissions for its 8th International Conference, "New Ways of Doing Voluntary Action History?" to be held at the University of Liverpool, UK, from 2-4 July 2025. The conference aims to explore the historical development of voluntary action from various perspectives, including local, national, international, and transnational viewpoints, across different time periods and locations. This year, the conference will focus on sources, methodologies, and challenges in voluntary action history, encouraging new and innovative approaches. Topics may include the significance of voluntary action, motivations, philanthropy, social justice, and community-building.

Abstracts (max 500 words) and a short biography (max 50 words) should be submitted via the online Google form by 31 January 2025. Proposals for panels of up to four papers are also welcome. More information at: <https://www.vahs.org.uk/events/conferences/>.

5. Call for Papers: Special Issue of Progress in Development Studies – "Exploring Legitimacy of Civil Society Advocacy in the Global South"

Deadline for abstract submissions: 1st February 2025

This special issue, edited by Margit van Wessel (Wageningen University & Research) and Maaike Matelski (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), seeks to explore, compare and synthesize conceptualizations of legitimacy in civil society advocacy in the Global South. The editors invite papers that discuss legitimacy in the context of civil society advocacy at levels ranging from local community organizing to national-level CSOs and INGO activities as perceived by constituencies. Given that local constituencies are the unit of analysis closest to the ground, their views and perspectives should be centralized. The editors encourage contributions that look beyond traditional civil society organizations to include social movements, informal groups, and individual activists, as well as those that question dominant conceptions of 'the local'. Articles challenging assumptions, theories, and practices around the legitimacy of civil society advocacy are particularly welcome. Scholars from the Global South are explicitly invited to contribute to this special issue.

For submissions, contact: margit.vanwessel@wur.nl and m.matelski@vu.nl.

6. Call for Contributions: Nordic Conference on Civil Society Studies

Deadline for abstract submission: 15th February 2025

Researchers working on civil society studies are invited to Bergen, Norway for a working conference. The Conference will be held on 28-29 April 2025 in Bergen, Norway. The Centre for Research on Civil Society and Voluntary Sector, a collaboration between NORCE Norwegian Research Centre in Bergen and the Institute for Social Research in Oslo, will be this year's hosts. The conference will take place in NORCE's offices in Bergen. It is their aim that the conference will facilitate quality academic discussions on contemporary civil society in European societies. They are looking for papers that cover a broad range of topics, including but not limited to studies on engagement and volunteering, organization and mobilization, cross-sector collaboration and co-production, social movements and NGOs, power and resource inequalities between civil society actors, as well as advocacy and philanthropic actors and activities. Papers may be theoretical or empirical in nature. More information at: [here](#).

7. Call for Papers: 10th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise

Deadline for abstract submission: 6th April 2025

You are invited to submit your research for the 10th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise, titled "Scaling Through Communities: The Role of Social Entrepreneurs and Social Enterprises in Boosting Societal Transitions". The conference, organized in partnership with the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, and Utrecht University, will take place in the Netherlands. This significant milestone follows EMES's 20th anniversary in 2022 and aims to bring together an international community of scholars and practitioners to share and learn about topics related to social enterprise, social economy, solidarity economy, social entrepreneurship, and social innovation.

More information at: [EMES Conference Website](#).

8. Call for Papers: ERNOP Conference 2025

Deadline to Submit Abstracts: 10th May 2025

12th International Research Conference of the European Research Network On Philanthropy *Philanthropy by the people, for the people? The roles, organizations and motivations of philanthropy in contemporary democracies and social structures* will be held at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Pre-conference and PhD Workshop: 24th September 2025. Main Conference: 25th-26th September 2025.

More information at: <https://ernop.eu/conference2025/>.

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News & Announcements

14th ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference

The conference, titled "Governance, Innovation, and New Collaborative Forms for the Common Good in Latin America and the Caribbean /Gobernanza, innovación y nuevas formas asociativas para el bien común en América Latina y el Caribe" will be held at Anahuac University, Mexico. North Campus, Mexico City Metropolitan Area. The conference dates are July 2-4, 2025, and the PhD Seminar will take place on July 1-2, 2025. The event aims to explore how governance, innovation, and new collaborative forms can contribute to the common good in the region. The call for abstracts is open, and submissions are welcome in Spanish, Portuguese, or English. The conference will cover a broad range of topics, including voluntary actions, social movements, governance and management of civil society organizations, critical philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, and more. More information at: <https://www.istr.org/page/LACRegional>.

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!

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About ISTR

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

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.

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