

Growth of Research Associations and Journals in the Emerging Discipline of Altruistics

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Abstract

This article sketches the development of the organized, interdisciplinary, global field, and emerging academic discipline of altruistics, focusing on academic journals and mainly on researcher associations founded since the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) in 1971. About 55 similar interdisciplinary altruistics researcher associations have been founded worldwide (48 described here; including 9 defunct), 25 of them national in geographic scope, but seven covering a world region and 11 global. Over 100 academic journals that publish research on altruistics or its sub-topics have been published, with 95 active ones described here. The author estimates that there are at least 8,000 active altruistics researchers worldwide, and perhaps as many as 20,000.

The author devised the neologism “altruistics” (or alternatively, “voluntaristics”) to refer to all the phenomena of our field, individual and collective. Included are philanthropy, nonprofit sector, third sector, voluntary sector, civil society, social economy, volunteering, associations, and nonprofit organizations, among other topics. The term is similar to the term *linguistics*.

Keywords

Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Research, Altruistics; Voluntaristics, Growth of interdisciplinary research on nonprofit organizations and voluntary action, Academic journals and researcher associations on civil society, philanthropy, social economy, voluntarism, nonprofit organizations, and voluntary action

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This paper provides a brief overview of the development and present scope of the organized, interdisciplinary, global field and emerging academic discipline of altruistics. The author recently devised the neologism *altruistics* as a single term to refer to all the phenomena of our field of Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies, individual and collective, with the study of altruism being central. This term does not mean to imply that all the phenomena studied involve altruism, let alone *only* altruism (Smith, 1981). Altruism seems like a common theme in most topics of our field, but not in all. An alternative neologism is *voluntaristics*, emphasizing voluntary action rather than altruism, which some may prefer (see definition of *voluntary action* in Smith, Stebbins, & Dover, 2006). No other single-word terms seem appropriate to cover all the phenomena of our field, and such terms characterize nearly all established academic disciplines.

Topics included are the nonprofit sector, voluntary sector, third sector, civil society (sector), social economy, solidarity economy, social enterprise, social entrepreneurship, social investment, solidarity, philanthropy, giving, grants economy, foundations, volunteering (both formal and informal), civic engagement, community engagement, engagement, citizen participation, participation, nonprofit, not-for-profit, nonprofit organizations (NPOs), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), voluntary associations, associations, sodalities, self-help groups, mutual aid groups, support groups, interest groups, pressure groups, cooperatives, nonprofit agencies, civil liberties, democracy, democratization, social movements, social protest, and mobilization, among other topics. The term *altruistics* is structurally similar to the term *linguistics*, which refers to the academic discipline that studies all human languages. *Altruistics* (or *voluntaristics*) refers to the interdisciplinary field and emerging academic discipline that studies all forms of altruism (and voluntary action), individual and collective, past and present, human and nonhuman (animal), with attention also to related nonaltruistic influences and activities of individuals and groups.

In the 40+ years since ARNOVA was founded (Smith, 2003), the altruistics interdisciplinary field has spread worldwide to every continent. About 55 similar interdisciplinary altruistics researcher associations have been founded worldwide (with 48 described here; including nine now defunct). Most of these have been national in geographic scope, but some cover a world region or a sub-national area (e.g., a municipality or region of a nation). Several additional global researcher associations have been formed, the most important of which is the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR; www.istr.org). Over 100 academic journals on altruistics or its sub-topics have been published, with 95 active ones described here. In the 21st century, the growth rate of both altruistics associations and of altruistics academic journals has become exponential. These growth rates far exceed the base rates of either association or academic journal growth globally.

Historical Background of Altruistics Research

Published research on altruistics goes back three millennia. Historians wrote accounts of voluntary associations in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, Greece, and Rome,

among other places (Smith, 1997; Smith, Stebbins, & Grotz, 2014: Chap. 2). Social scientific research on nonprofit *associations* by sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, and economists arose mainly in the early 20th century (Smith et al., 2014: Chap. 1). Similar research on hospitals, universities, museums and other nonprofit *agencies* became common mainly in the second half of the 20th century (Smith, 2014).

Current Scope of Altruistics Research: Researcher Associations

Altruistics first became an organized field when the author formed ARNOVA (www.arnova.org) in 1971 as an intentionally international and interdisciplinary association of individual researchers (Smith, 2003). At present, ARNOVA has members from 30+ nations. At the same time, the author founded the *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ)* as the first interdisciplinary, core (primary), generalist, academic journal on altruistics.

Since 1971, both ARNOVA and *NVSQ* have been “founding models” for many later interdisciplinary altruistics associations of researchers and for many generalist as well as specialist altruistics academic journals. As noted above, about 55 independent, interdisciplinary, altruistics researcher associations have been formed on all continents, most of these national rather than multinational in geographic scope (see Table 1; to be updated periodically on www.icsera.org, under Resources). Some have subsequently dissolved, but the vast majority of them still exist. Many of them publish their own academic journals, and nearly all have their own websites and newsletters for members. All active ones have meetings, seminars, or conferences at least biennially, usually annually, but sometimes more often.

The *first national* altruistics researcher association was the Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector (ARVAC; www.arvac.org.uk), formed in the United Kingdom in 1978. Subsequently, two other national altruistics researcher associations were also formed in the United Kingdom: The Voluntary Action History Society in 1991, as the *second national* altruistics association (VAHS; www.vahs.org.uk), and later the Voluntary Sector Studies Network in 1996 (VSSN; www.vssn.org.uk) as the *fourth national* altruistics association. VSSN has published its own academic journal, the *Voluntary Sector Review*, since 2010.

The *third, quasi-national*, altruistics, researcher association to be formed (in 1993) was the binational Australia New Zealand Third Sector Research (ANZTSR; www.anztsr.org), publishing its own journal, *The Third Sector Review*, since 1995. The *fifth, national*, altruistics, researcher association to be formed (in 1999) was the Japan NPO Research Association (JANPORA; www.janpora.org). JANPORA has published its own journal, the *Nonprofit Sector Review*, since 2000. The fact that only five of 19 active, national, altruistics, researcher associations had been formed by 1999 indicates in part the exponential growth of the field. About 74% of such active national associations have been formed in this century. A similar percentage of all other active altruistics researcher associations have also been formed in the 21st century.

Table 1. ICSERA List of Altruistics Researcher Associations Worldwide.

Name of association in English/acronym-initialism	Website	Geographic scope	Founded	Base nation	Activity
Arab Philanthropy Researchers Network	In Development	WR = World Region	2012	Saudi Arabia	F = Forming
Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research Canada/ANSER-ARES	www.anser-ares.ca	N = National	2007	Canada	A = Active
Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector/ARVAC	www.arvac.org.uk	N = National	1978	UK	A = Active
Association for Research on Civil Society (Finland)	http://kans.jyu.fi/esittely/seura	N = National	2009	Finland	A = Active
Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action/ARNOVA	www.arnova.org	G = Global	1971	USA	A = Active
Association for Social Economics/ASE	www.socialeconomics.org	G = Global	1941	USA	A = Active
Association for the Development of Documentation on the Social Economy/ADDES	www.addes.asso.fr	N = National	1990s	France	A = Active
Association for the Study of the Grants Economy/ASGE	www.grantseconomics.org	G = Global	1968	USA	A = Active
Association for Third Sector Research in India/ATRI	Defunct	N = National	1990s	India	D = Dissolved
Association for Voluntary Action Research in Ireland/AVARI	www.ulster.ac.uk/cvas/avari	N = National	1990s	Ireland + No. Ireland	I =Inactive
Association on Social Movements (France)	Defunct	N = National	?	France	D = Dissolved
Australia New Zealand Third Sector Research/ANZTSR	www.anztsr.org.au	B = Binational	1993	Australia/New Zealand	A = Active
Boston Area Nonprofit Researchers Group (USA)	Defunct	M = Municipal	1980s	USA	D = Dissolved
European Civil Society Ph.D. Dissertation Network	None	WR = World Region	2001	Belgium	D = Dissolved
European Research Network on Philanthropy/ERNOP	www.ernop.eu	WR = World Region	2008	Netherlands	A = Active
European Research Network/EMES	www.emes.net	WR = World Region	1996	Belgium	A = Active
Greater Manchester Civil Society Research Network (UK)	www.gmcvo.org.uk/researchnetwork	M = Municipal	2008	UK	A = Active
INGO Scholars	ingoscholars.ning.com	G = Global	2000	New Zealand	A = Active
International Association for Public Participation/IAP2	www.iap2.org	G = Global	1990	USA	A = Active
International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement/IARSLCE	www.researchslce.org	G = Global	2001	USA	A = Active

(continued)

Table I. (continued)

Name of association in English/acronym-initialism	Website	Geographic scope	Founded	Base nation	Activity
International Association on Public and Nonprofit Sector Marketing/AIMPN	www.aimpn.org	G = Global	2002	Spain	A = Active
International Council of Voluntarism, Civil Society, and Social Economy Researcher Associations/ICSERA	www.icsera.org	G = Global	2010	USA	A = Active
International Society for Third Sector Research/ISTR	www.istr.org	G = Global	1992	USA	A = Active
International Voluntary Action and Voluntary Organizations Research Organization/IVAR-VOIR	Defunct	G = Global	1978	Belgium	D = Dissolved
IRIS Network (Italy)	www.irisnetwork.it	N = National	2006	Italy	A = Active
Israeli Third Sector Researchers Network	Defunct	N = National	2000s	Israel	D = Dissolved
Japan NPO Research Association/JANPORA	www.osipp.osaka-u.ac.jp/janpora	N = National	1999	Japan	A = Active
KLON/Jawor Association (Poland)	www.klon.org.pl	N = National	2000?	Poland	A = Active
Korean Association of Nonprofit Organization Research/KANPOR	www.nporesearch.or.kr	N = National	2000	South Korea	A = Active
Korean Association of Nonprofit Scholars	Defunct	N = National	1990s	South Korea	D = Dissolved
Mexican Network of Studies of Civil Society/REMISOC	Defunct	N = National	2000s	Mexico	D = Dissolved
National Network of Studies of the Third Sector/RENAETS (Mexico)	mx.groups.yahoo.com/group/renaets/	N = National	1999	Mexico	A = Active
Netherlands Nonprofit Researchers Association	None	N = National	2000s	Netherlands	A = Active
Non-profit & Voluntary Sector Network/NVSN (Canada)	Defunct	N = National	1990s	Canada	D = Dissolved
Nonprofit Organization Korean Researcher Association/NPOKRA	groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en&fromgroups#!forum/npokr	N = National	2008	South Korea	A = Active
Nordic Civil Society Researchers Network	None	WR = World Region	2011	Sweden	F = Forming
Oxford Society for Third Sector Research	Defunct	M = Municipal	1990s	UK	D = Dissolved
Society for the Study of the Nonprofit Sector/SSNS (Czech Republic)	www.e-cvns.cz	N = National	2006	Czech Republic	A = Active
Taiwan Association for Third Sector Research/TATSR	None	N = National	2011	Taiwan	A = Active
Third Sector European Policy Network/TSEP	www.kent.ac.uk/tsep	WR = World Region	2002	UK	A = Active

(continued)

Table 1. (continued)

Name of association in English/acronym-initialism	Website	Geographic scope	Founded	Base nation	Activity
Third Sector Research Group India/TSRGI	www.uni-mysore.ac.in/tsr/TSRGI.html	N = National	1990s	India	A = Active
Transnational Histories Network of Voluntary Action History Society(VAHS)	www.vahs.org.uk	G = Global	2012?	UK	A = Active
UK Society for Cooperative Studies	www.co-opstudies	N = National	1960s	UK	A = Active
University Network for Social and Solidarity Economy/RIUESS	www.riuess.org	N = National	2000	France	A = Active
University network for Social Entrepreneurship/UNINET (Europe)	www.universitynetwork.org	WR = World Region	2000	?	I = Inactive?
Voluntary Action History Association/VAHS	www.vahs.org.uk	N = National	1991	UK	A = Active
Voluntary Sector Studies Network/VSSN	www.vssn.org.uk	N = National	1996	UK	A = Active
Western Network of Social and Solidarity Economy Researchers (France)/RgoRESS	None	R = Region of Nation	2004	France	A = Active

In the late 1990s and 21st century, similar *national*, interdisciplinary, altruistics researcher associations have been formed in Canada (NVSN; VSKN; ANSER-ARES), France (ADDES; RIUESS), Ireland (AVARI), Italy (IRIS Network), Poland (KLON/Jawor), Czech Republic (SSNS), India (ATRI; TSRGI), Mexico (REMISOC; RENAETS;), South Korea (NPOKRA; KANPOR;), Taiwan (TATSR), Finland, Israel, and the Netherlands, among other nations. Some 14 of these are still active, which makes a total of 19 known national associations active at present (and eight more that are now defunct), out of a total of about 26 national (or bi-national) altruistics researcher associations ever founded.

Several nations are presently attempting to form national, altruistics, researcher associations, including China and the Russian Federation, where the author is assisting with this development in both nations. A few altruistics researcher associations have also been formed for sub-regions of nations and are still active (e.g., Western Network of Social and Solidarity Economy Researchers-France/RgoRESS), or for metropolitan areas and are still active (e.g., Greater Manchester Civil Society Researcher Network-United Kingdom).

Several independent, multinational, altruistics, (world) *regional* associations have also been formed in the past decade or so and are active. Some examples are the “Network of Latin American Researchers on Social and Solidarity Economy” (in Spanish, Red de Investigadores Latinoamericanos de Economía Social y Solidaria; RILESS; www.riless.org); the European Research Network on Philanthropy (ERNOP; www.ernop.eu); the European Research Network-Social Economy Europe (EMES;

www.socialeconomy.eu.org), and the Third Sector European Policy Network/TSEP (www.kent.ac.uk/tsep). Other, independent, world region associations of altruistics researchers have been recently formed for the Arab nations of the Middle East and North Africa (at least two are in development) and for the Nordic nations of Europe, but their details are lacking now.

At least 10 *global*, altruistics, interdisciplinary, associations of individual researchers have been formed, plus the International Council of Voluntarism, Civil Society, and Social Economy Researcher Associations (ICSERA) as a global, altruistics, interdisciplinary association of researcher associations (as a federation or umbrella organization). Two *global*, altruistics, individual researcher associations were formed in the discipline of economics before ARNOVA—the Association for Social Economics/ASE in 1941, and the Association for the Study of Grants Economics/ASGE in 1968. Several, more *interdisciplinary*, global, altruistics researcher associations have been formed after ARNOVA (see Table 1). The two most important, broad focus, global, altruistics, researcher associations of individuals formed after ARNOVA were the following:

- (a) The International Voluntary Action and Voluntary Organization Research Organization (with a parallel French name), IVAR-VOIR, was formed in 1978 by the author and colleagues from 15 nations as the *second global*, interdisciplinary association of altruistics researchers. IVAR-VOIR held its First World Congress in Brussels, Belgium, in 1980, but dissolved in 1983 for lack of financial resources.
- (b) The International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR; www.istr.org) was formed in 1992 as the *third global*, interdisciplinary association of individual altruistics researchers. The ISTR academic journal, *Voluntas*, has been published since 1990 (initially independent). ISTR holds biennial conferences in even years, and has networks for several world regions that also hold conferences.

In 2010, the author formed ICSERA (www.icsera.org). With *organizational (collective) members only*, ICSERA seeks to become a global association of existing, national and regional, altruistics, researcher associations. ICSERA is a global, non-profit, infrastructure and support organization for altruistics that is unique in its central purposes: (a) to gather and share relevant information on altruistics researcher associations, research centers, academic journals, departments, etc. (such as in Tables 1 and 2 here) through its website; (b) to foster new, independent, national and regional, altruistics, researcher associations and to strengthen existing ones everywhere; (c) to strengthen and help foster the growth of the global field of altruistics collaboratively by providing a discussion forum for leaders of interdisciplinary altruistics researcher associations; and (d) to collaborate with and help build the global memberships of both ARNOVA and ISTR as the principal global associations of individual altruistics researchers.

Table 2. ICSERA List of Active Altruistics Academic Journals Worldwide.

Altruistics academic journals *	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
3Cmedia: Journal of Community, Citizen's and Third Sector Media	1832-6161	www.cbonline.org.au/3cmedia	1/year	English	2005	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
American Journal of Community Psychology (of SCRA)	0091-0562	www.springer.com/psychology/community+	8/year	English	1973	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Annals of public, social, and cooperative economics	1370-4788	onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/	4/year	English, French	1908	Y	N	N	Both	Y
Association-Management (Switzerland)	1424-9189	www.vmi.ch/?lhnav=335	3/year	German	1976	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Australasian Journal of University-Community Engagement	1833-4482	www.engagementaustralia.org.au/shared-resources/	2/year	English	2005	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Canadian Journal of Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (of ANSER)	1467-8292	www.anserj.ca	2/year	English, French	2010	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
China NonProfit Review (Chinese Edition)	None	None	2/year	Chinese	2006	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
China NonProfit Review (English Edition)	1876-5092	www.brill.com/china-nonprofit-review	2/year	English	2009	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
China Third Sector Research	None	None	2/year	Chinese	2011	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Community Development Journal	1468-2656	www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/cdj/about.html	4/year	English	1966	Y	Y	T	Both	N
Contention: The Multidisciplinary Journal of Social Protest	None?	www.contentionjournal.org/issues/	1/year	English	2013	Y	Y	N	Print	Y

(continued)

Table 2. (continued)

Altruistics academic journals *	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
Democratization	1351-0347	www.tandfonline.com/toc/fdem20/curr	6/year	English	1994	Y	Y	Y	Both	Y
Disasters	0361-3666	www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-DISA.htm	4/year	English	1960	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Economy and Solidarities	1923-0818	www.ciriec.uqam.ca/pages/revue_accueil.php?	2/year	French, English	1996	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Experimental Economics	1386-4157	www.springer.com/economics/economics+theory/journal.10683	6/year	English	1998	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Foundation Review	1944-5660	www.gvsu.edu/jcp/the-foundation-review-117.htm	4/year	English	2009	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Games and Economic Behavior	0899-8256	www.journals.elsevier.com/games-and-economic-behavior	6/year	English	1989	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement	1836-3393	epress.lib.uts.au/ojs/index.php/ijcre/index	1/year	English	2008	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Giving - Thematic Issues in Philanthropy and Social Innovation	None	www.giving-journal.com/	2/year	English	2007	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Global Journal of Community Psychology Practice/GJCCP	None?	www.gjcpp.org/about.php	4/year	English	2009	Y	Y	N	Online	N
Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Review	0017-8039	www.harvardcrcl.org	2/year	English	1966	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Industrial & Labor Relations Review	0019-7939	www.ilr.cornell.edu/ilrreview	4/year	English	1947	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
International Journal of Civil Society Law	1556-5157	www.iccsil.org/pubs/index_journal.html	4/year	English	2003	Y	N	N	Print	Y

(continued)

Table 2. (continued)

Altruistics academic journals *	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters (IJMED)	0280-7270	www.ijmed.org	3/year	English	1983	Y	Y	N	Print	N
International Journal of Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Marketing	1465-4520	onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1479-103X/issues	4/year	English	1996	Y	Y	N	Both?	Y
International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law	1556-5157	www.jcnl.org/knowledge/ijnl	4/year	English	1998	Y	N	N	Print	Y
International Journal of Public Participation	1992-6707	www.iap2.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=177	2/year	English	2007	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement	None?	www.researchslce.org	1/year	English	2013	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
International Journal of Self-Help and Self Care	1091-2851	www.baywood.com/journals/previewjournals.asp?id=1091-2851	2/year	English	1999	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
International Journal of Social Economics	0306-8293	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/products/journals/journals.htm?id=ijse	12/year	English	1974	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
International Journal of Volunteer Administration	1942-728X	www.ijova.org	3/year	English	2006	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
International Organization	0020-8183	www.iojournal.com	4/year	English	1947	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
International Review of Social Economy/ RECMA	1851-4716	www.recma.org	4/year	French	1921	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
International Review on Public and Nonprofit Marketing	1865-1984	www.springer.com/business+%26+management/marketing/journal/12208	4/year?	English	2004	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion	0021-8294	onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-5906	4/year	English	1962	Y	Y	Y	Both	N

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Table 2. (continued)

Altruistics academic journals*	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
Journal of China Philanthropy Studies	None	None	2/year	Chinese	2012	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Journal of Civil Society (JCS)	1744-8689	www.tandfonline.com/toc/rcis20/current	4/year	English	2005	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology	1052-9284	wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1099-1298	6/year	English	1991	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education	None?	discovery.indstate.edu/jcehe/index.php/joce/index	1/year	English	2009	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship	1944-1207	www.uapress.ua.edu/pages/JCES.aspx	2/year	English	2009	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Journal of Community Practice	1070-5422	www.acosa.org/jcpwhat.html	4/year	English	?	Y	Y	N	Print	N
Journal of Community Psychology	1520-6629	wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1520-6629	8/year	English	1973`	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Journal of Democracy	1045-5736	www.journalofdemocracy.org	4/year	English	1990	Y	Y	Y	Both	Y
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization	0167-2681	www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-economic-behavior-and-organization	12/year	English	1980	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Journal of Governmental & Nonprofit Accounting (JOGNA)	2155-3815	aaahq.org/aaforms/journals/jognasubmit.cfm	3/year?	English	2010	Y	N	N	Print	Y
Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement/JHEOE	1534-6102	www.uga.edu/ihe/jheoe.html	4/year	English	1997	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Journal of Human Resources	0022-166X	uwpress.wisc.edu/journals/journals/jhr.html	4/year	English	1965	Y	Y	Y	Both	N

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Table 2. (continued)

Altruistics academic journals *	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
Journal of Labor Economics.	0734-306X	www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/journals/journal/jole.html	4/year	English	1983	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Journal of Labor Research	0195-3613	link.springer.com/journal/12122	4/year	English	1980	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Journal of Labor Studies (Taiwan)	None?	www.ccnix.ccu.edu.tw/~labor/english/journal%20of%20labor%20Studies.htm	1/year	Chinese	2003	Y	Y	N	Print	N
Journal of Leisure Research	0022-2216	www.sagamorepub.com/products/journal-leisure-research	5/year	English	1993	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Journal of Nonprofit & Public Sector Marketing (JNPSM)	1049-5142	www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t792306939~db=all	4/year	English	1993	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership (JNEL)	2157-0604	www.jnel.net	2/year	English	2010	Y	Y	N	Print?	Y
Journal of Public Economics	0047-2727	www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-public-economics	2/year	English	1966	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Journal of Public Scholarship in Higher Education	None?	www.jpsh.missouristate.edu	1/year	English	2011	Y	Y	N	Print	N
Journal of Social Entrepreneurship	1942-0676	http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjse20/current	2/year	English	2010	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Korean NPO Review	None?	www.nporesearch.or.kr	2/year?	Korean	2000?	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Labor History	0023-656X	www.tandfonline.com/toc/clah20/current	4/year	English	1960	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Labour History Review	0961-5652	liverpool.metapress.com/content/122320/	3/year	English	1960	Y	Y	N	Both	N
Le Mouvement Social (France)	0027-2671	www.lemouvementsocial.net/la-revue	4/year	French	1962	Y	Y	Y	Both	Y

(continued)

Table 2. (continued)

Altruistics academic journals *	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
Leisure Sciences	0149-0400	www.tandfonline.com/toc/ulsc20/current	5/year	English	1977	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Leisure Studies	0261-4367	www.tandfonline.com/RLST	5/year	English	1982	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
MEDAD Journal	5151-1658	www.medadcenter.com/MedadMagazine	2/year	Arabic	2009	Y	Y	N	Both	N
Mobilization	1086-671X	www.mobilization.sdsu.edu/volumes/volumes.html	4/year	English	1996	Y	Y	Y	Both	Y
Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ; of ARNOVA)	0899-7640	nvs.sagepub.com/	6/year	English	1972	Y	Y	Y	Both	Y
Nonprofit Management and Leadership	1048-6682	onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1542-7854	4/year	English	1990	Y	Y	Y	Both	Y
Nonprofit Policy Forum	2154-3348	www.degruyter.com/view/j/npf	1/year	English	2010	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Nonprofit Review (of JANPORA)	1346-4116	www.jstage.jst.go.jp	2/year	Japanese	2001	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Other Economy-Latin American Review of Social and Solidarity Economy (of RILESS)	1851-4715	www.unisinos.br/revistas/index.php/otraeconomia	2/year	Spanish	2007	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Prism: A Journal of Regional Engagement	2160-892X	encompass.eku.edu/prism	2/year	English	2012	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Progress in Community Health Partnerships	1557-0541	www.press.jhu.edu/journals/progress_in_community_health_partnerships	4/year	English	2007	Y	Y	N	Both	N
Public Choice	0048-5829	www.springer.com/economics/public+finance/journal/11127	2/year	English	1966	Y	Y	Y	Both	N

(continued)

Table 2. (continued)

Altruistics academic journals *	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
Public Finance Review	1091-1421	www.uk.sagepub.com/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodid=journal200768&ctp=title&crossRegion=asia	2/year	English	1973	Y	Y	N	Both	N
Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change	0163-786X	www.emeraldinsight.com/products/books/series.htm?ld=0163-786X	1/year	English	1978?	Y	N	N	Print	Y
Research Journal of New Social Movements (Germany)	None?	www.forschungsjournal.de	4/year	German	1988	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Review of International Organizations	1559-7431	www.springer.com/social+sciences/journal/11558	4/year	English	2006	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Review of public, social and cooperative economy (of CIRIEC Spain)	0213-8093	www.ciriec-revistaeconomia.es	3 or 4/year	Spanish	1987	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Review of Religious Research	0034-673X	onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/28ISSN%291468-5906	4/year	English	1958	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Review of Social Economy (of ASE)	None?	www.socialeconomics.org/division.php?page=review_of_social_economy	4/year	English	1942	Y	N	N	Print?	Y
Review on China Non-profit Organizations	None?	www.amazon.com/Review-Non-profit-Organizations-Chinese-Edition/dp/7509713129	1/year	Chinese	2007	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Science Education and Civic Engagement	None?	www.seceij.net/	2/year	English	2007	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Social Enterprise Journal	1750-8614	www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?issn=1750-8614	3/year	English	2005	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Social Movement Studies: Journal of Social, Cultural and Political Protest	1474-2837	www.tandfonline.com/loi/csms20	4/year	English	2002	Y	Y	N	Both	Y

(continued)

Table 2. (continued)

Altruistics academic journals*	ISSN	Website	Frequency	Languages	Began	Active	INTERDISC	SSCI	Format	Core
Social Networks	0378-8733	http://www.journals.elsevier.com/social-networks/	4/year	English	1978	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Spanish Review of the Third Sector (RETS)	1886-0419	www.fundacionluisvives.org/rets/	3/year	Spanish	2005	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Stanford Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	1553-7226	sjcrcl@stanford.edu	2/year	English	2005	Y	N	N	Print	Y
Studies in Conflict & Terrorism	1057-610X	www.tandfonline.com/toc/uter20/current	12/year	English	1977	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Teknokultura: Journal of Digital Culture and Social Movements	1549-2230	www.teknokultura.net	2/year	Spanish	2004	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Terrorism and Political Violence	0954-6553	www.tandfonline.com/FTPV	5/year	English	1989	Y	Y	Y	Both	N
Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	1930-2045	www.utexas.edu/law/journals/tjclcr/index.html	2/year	English	1992	Y	N	N	Print	Y
The Protection Project Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society	None	www.protectionproject.org/	1/year	English	2008	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
Third Sector Review (of ANZTSR)	1323-9163	www.anztsr.org.au/pubns.html	3/year	English	1995	Y	Y	N	Print	Y
TSRRC journal	None	www.uni-mysore.ac.in/tsr/E-Journal.html	1/year	English	2011	Y	Y	N	Online	Y
Voluntary Sector Review (of VSSN)	2040-8056	www.policypress.co.uk/journals_vsr.asp?	3/year	English	2010	Y	Y	N	Both	Y
Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations	0957-8765	www.springer.com/social+sciences/journal/11266	4/year	English	1990	Y	Y	Y	Both	Y

Note: *Peer-reviewed.

As part of the growing worldwide scholarly and professional attention to altruistics, many national and also international professional associations for researchers, scholars, and practitioners now have developed *special sections (official sub-groups)* focused on some aspect of altruistics. Some examples from the United States are the following:

- (1) The American Sociological Association (ASA) now has two different Sections relevant to the Altruistics field: There is a new (2011) Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity (AMSS Section; over 300 members), and also an older Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM; over 800 members).
- (2) The American Anthropological Association has a Special Interest Group (SIG) on NGOs and Nonprofits, which is now the largest SIG, with over 1,000 members.
- (3) In economics, the Association for the Study of the Grants Economy (ASGE) is a relevant independent association that is affiliated with the Allied Social Sciences Association in the United States (about 100 “members” on its mailing list recently).
- (4) The American Accounting Association has a Section on Government & Nonprofit accounting, with well over 500 members (estimated, based on 432 in 2008).

The various sections/sub-groups of national academic discipline associations above add up to over 2,700 members. This is more than the combined memberships of ISTR and ARNOVA as the two main global interdisciplinary altruistics associations of individual researchers, without eliminating overlapping memberships. Other American social science discipline associations have still more members in altruistics-relevant sections.

The following are examples of sections in *professional* associations rather than academic discipline associations:

- (1) The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) has a new Section on Nonprofit Policy, Practice and Partnerships, just now recruiting members.
- (2) The Academy of Management, a U.S.-based but international association of management researchers, has a Public and Nonprofit Division with 814 members at present, of which 726 are active academics or PhD students.
- (3) Other professional associations in America also have similar sections related to altruistics. All these and the two above will likely total well over 1,000 members, perhaps 2,000 members.

There are some similar sections or sub-groups, formal or informal, of social science discipline associations or professional associations in other nations (e.g., France, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom). Most of these are small groups (less than 50 members), but the relevant research on such associations has not yet been done systematically.

Current Scope of Altruistics Research: Academic Journals

There are now at least 95 academic journals being published in various languages on altruistics in general (generalist journals), or on special topics of the field (specialized journals), such as on management/leadership, law, policy, education, marketing, social economy, community/civic participation, social movements, labor history, leisure, accounting, and other topics (see www.icsera.org, under Resources). The *core* or *primary* altruistics journals have relevant terms like *civil society*, *third sector*, *social economy*, *philanthropy*, *social movements*, *nonprofit organizations*, *participation*, *engagement*, and so forth, in their titles or subtitles (see a more complete list above in the second paragraph of this paper). The final column of Table 2 indicates which journals are considered core journals (61 of 95, or about 64%). More than 10 similar core journals have been published in the past but are now defunct.

Secondary altruistics journals ($N = 34$ in Table 2) often publish articles relevant to the altruistics field, but usually publish a majority of their articles on other topics related to their journal titles. The titles of secondary journals tend to reflect relevant altruistics topics or interests, but not always. The set of secondary journals in Table 2 could easily be expanded. They currently reflect the author's qualitative judgments based on journal content, with inputs from various colleagues.

Current Scope of Altruistics Research: Other Elements

In addition to associations of altruistics researchers, sections on altruistics in other researcher associations, and academic journals, the altruistics field globally has developed various other elements of an academic discipline:

- over 250 research and information centers/institutes, and many university-based education/training centers/institutes;
- hundreds of research departments on altruistics or its subtopics within major nonprofit organizations or government agencies;
- college- and university-based courses, certificates, and degree programs at hundreds of institutions;
- a handful of university departments, and also some college/schools within universities, focused on all or part of the altruistics field;
- thousands of published books and tens of thousands of journal articles on altruistics research;

Conclusion

Although research on altruistics goes back at least three millennia, the *organized* field of altruistics began in 1971 with the formation of ARNOVA. Since then, the original form of ARNOVA as an interdisciplinary association of individual altruistics researchers has spread to all continents. Table 1 lists and describes 48 such associations, and at least an additional seven exist or have existed as well. This total of 55 is doubtless an underestimate. Finding **all** such groups is difficult, even with the best of intentions.

The membership totals of all, independent, altruistics researcher associations can be added to the similar numbers of members of sections within other academic discipline or professional associations. This produces an estimate of at least 8,000 academics worldwide active in independent altruistics researcher associations or in sections on aspects of altruistics within national or multinational academic discipline associations and professional associations. More precise estimates in the future will eliminate duplicate names of persons who are members of two or more altruistics researcher associations or also in altruistics sections of other associations. Some correction will also be made for nonresearchers who are members of such groups (e.g., the majority of JANPORA members are not researchers or graduate students, according to its website).

If we further add academics who have published an article recently (e.g., in the past 5 years) in an altruistics academic journal (see Table 2) or on a core altruistics topic in other academic journals, the estimate of total “active” altruistics academics worldwide would be upwards of 20,000, and growing rapidly as the number of journals and associations grows quickly. Adding presenters, let alone attendees, recently at any conference of an altruistics researcher association or section presentation/meeting (see Table 1) would likely add thousands more active altruistics researchers.

The altruistics research field has been growing exponentially in the 21st century, based on the present data and on related data not reported here because of space constraints (see Smith et al., 2014: Chap. 1; also, www.icsera.org in the near future). This exponential growth is very striking when the founding dates are plotted for the *core* set of journals ($N = 61$, or 64% of the total), rather than for all journals in Table 2 ($N = 95$). Journals in this core set have relevant words like *nonprofit*, *third or voluntary sector*, *philanthropy*, *civil society*, *social economy*, *social movements*, and so forth, in their names. These association and academic journal growth rates in the present century are much greater than the global average growth rates for either type of entity. Data not reported here on founding dates of altruistics research centers and for other indicators of the growth of the field further support very rapid recent global growth of altruistics research.

This rapid growth of altruistics is likely to continue. Such growth seems faster than the rapid growth of the voluntary, nonprofit sector itself in many nations of the world. However, most of the significant influences on voluntary association and nonprofit agency growth in nations of the world currently drive such expansion (Smith & Shen, 2002). Why altruistics is growing much faster than the phenomena it studies is a topic for future research and theory.

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Author's Note

This paper summarizes a longer paper that is Chapter 1 in Smith, Stebbins, and Grotz (2014). Lacking space here, full references are given there.

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Author Biography

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