

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Tenth International Conference of the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR)

Fondazione ForTeS - Fondazione Scuola di alta Formazione per il Terzo Settore

**July 10-13, 2012
Siena, Italy**

Democratization, Marketization, and the Third Sector

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 24TH OCTOBER 2011

This Tenth International Conference of ISTR marks the 20th anniversary of the formation of this 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.

In this era of far-reaching changes in the way that societies are organized, the Third Sector is playing a critical role and has significantly gained importance in many countries. Democratization and the role of civil society in social integration and participation are in the spotlight with recent mobilizations particularly in the Middle East and ongoing suppression of civil society under authoritarian regimes in parts of the world. New media, social networks and other technological innovations raise new opportunities and challenges for organizing collective action and the diversity of civil society. Marketization and its impact on the Third Sector is attracting renewed research interest as welfare budgets are cut and the role of nonprofits is called into question in difficult fiscal times in many nations. A second type of marketization is also attracting attention particularly the growth of corporate social responsibility (CSR), the emergence of social enterprises and changing philanthropic paradigms. International research toward a better understanding of the implications of these changes continues to gather momentum.

ISTR's Tenth International Conference in Siena, Italy offers an excellent opportunity for further dialogue on these and other changes in an environment of rigor, reflexivity, authenticity and creativity. Siena encapsulates a mix of tradition and innovation that is woven from ancient webs of social engagement and enduring beliefs in justice through periods of peace and conflict. It provides an excellent setting to explore the role of third sector studies as an integrative science with short and long term objectives geared towards understanding and addressing societal concerns. Three exciting plenary sessions will canvas major theoretical and practice developments in the Third Sector and highlight the rich history and accomplishments of the host nation's Third Sector.

Paper, poster, and panel proposals are invited in response to the overall conference focus as they relate to the many, diverse and interconnected theme areas that are characteristic of much third sector research.

Theme Areas

Philanthropy

Voluntarism and volunteering

Civil society, citizenship and democracy

Policy, politics and relations

Governance and leadership

Management and organizational practice

Social entrepreneurship, social enterprise, and social economy

Justice and development

Gender

Research and teaching paradigms, methodologies and practice

Evaluation, legitimacy, accountability and impact

Emerging areas of theorizing and practice

Related Conference Sessions

There will be meetings, special sessions and workshops at or before the International Conference.

A range of meetings will be convened in response to the excellent networking opportunity provided by the International Conference. Regional member meetings are conducted to support the important work of the ISTR Regional Networks in organizing ISTR Regional Conferences and other networking and publication opportunities. Affinity Groups meet to bring together researchers with shared research interests across the many disciplines of members to stimulate networking leading to joint research, publication and future conference panels and workshops. Those wishing to convene Affinity Group meetings or begin networking around new research interests are asked to

contact Margery Daniels, istr@jhu.edu, to enable early notification to members and conference participants. Meetings of journal editors and academic centers working on the third sector and civil society will focus on field-building initiatives and networking. The International Conference also presents an opportunity for other organizations or networks to convene meetings. Conveners are asked to contact Margery Daniels to discuss programming of meeting times.

Special sessions integrated into the conference program focus on developmental activities for the society's membership. Special panels and discussions on new research areas and research in new geographic regions are actively encouraged. New members are welcomed at a special reception prior to the opening plenary and PhD student networking and professional development opportunities are promoted. Ideas for special sessions and associated sponsorship possibilities can be directed to Margery Daniels.

Workshops are held prior to the conference opening and provide longer sessions for those wishing to promote research and development activities of value to the membership. Interested workshop organizers are asked to contact Margery Daniels to discuss programming.

We also hope to create opportunities for Italian academics and nonprofit personnel to interact with each other and with colleagues around the world. Additional information about these opportunities will be available closer to the conference dates.

General Information

For the purposes of the ISTR International Conference, the third sector is broadly defined, including, for example: NGOs, non-profit organizations, voluntary associations, social economy organizations, community organizations, self-help and mutual organizations, civil society organizations, philanthropy, and other manifestations of civil society globally and locally, for example networks and social forums, unions, religious organizations, co-operatives, and volunteering. Contributions are also welcome which discuss civic participation, community development and citizenship, social capital, social economy, social enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the application of research-based knowledge to policy and practice.

ISTR is keen to encourage contributions from all countries and disciplines, as well as contributions from practitioners carrying out research in and with the sector. Comparative papers and panels covering more than one country will be particularly welcome.

Forms of Participation: Papers, Panels, and Posters

Contributions may take the form of a **paper, a panel, or a poster**. Please indicate your choice of presentation when you submit your abstract.

Abstract Submissions

Abstracts (proposals for a paper, panel, or poster) are invited in English, French or Spanish. To be considered for review, an abstract must include:

- A working title that clearly identifies the conference theme being addressed,
- A statement of the empirical or theoretical concern,
- A short summary locating the concern within a wider literature,
- A concise account of the empirical or theoretical methodological approach.
- The main arguments of the paper and an indication of the supporting evidence.
- A statement of the main conclusions and their relevance to an international audience.

The abstract should be approximately 600 words in length, but no less than 400 or more than 800 words.

Abstracts not meeting these requirements will be declined by the ISTR Conference Committee.

Please note that while abstracts can be submitted in English, French or Spanish, the language of the conference is English and presentations are to be conducted in English.

Special Note on Panel Submissions

A panel submission is a proposal for a coordinated set of papers (a maximum of four in number) all dealing with a particular topic or issue. Please note that **panel proposals require an abstract identifying and justifying the theme of the panel as well as a full abstract for each panel paper**. Panel proposals that do not include full abstracts and author information for each paper will not be considered. The person submitting the panel proposal must be willing to act as the panel coordinator and ensure that all proposed paper presenters commit to attending the conference.

Special Note on Posters and Poster Abstracts

A poster proposal is an alternative to presenting a full research paper. New researchers in particular are invited to share work-in-progress by means of a poster if they wish. This is an opportunity to display a poster about completed and/or ongoing research. Posters will be displayed throughout the conference and a designated session will be scheduled

in which participants can meet with authors to discuss their work. Full instructions on poster formats will be provided to those accepted for presentation.

Submissions for Panels, Papers and Posters

All panel, papers and poster proposals for the Conference must be submitted using ISTR's online submission service.

Submission of multiple abstracts for review are encouraged but please be aware that each participant can only **appear as a presenting author twice in the final program.**

To submit your paper or poster abstract, go to the ISTR website – <http://www.istr.org/conference/siena/index.htm> -- and follow the link for 'Submit'.

Review of Submissions

All submissions satisfying the basic requirements (paper, panel, or poster) will be subject to a blind review by at least two independent reviewers who will not have knowledge of the name of the author or of other reviewers. Only submissions of sufficient academic quality and that are relevant to the conference themes will be accepted for the Conference.

Required Registration for All Presentations (panels, papers and posters) by March 15th

Authors will be advised by the end of January 2012 whether their abstract has been accepted.

AT LEAST ONE AUTHOR PER SUBMISSION MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE BY MARCH 15TH 2012, TO HAVE THEIR PRESENTATION SCHEDULED IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM.

Your completed paper must be uploaded to the online system by **June 1 2012**, to allow adequate time for moderators to read the paper.

Post-Conference Publication and Working Paper Opportunities

Following the conference, authors are invited to revise their papers in the light of conference feedback with an eye to an appropriate submission to *Voluntas*, the peer-reviewed official journal of ISTR. Publication decisions are the sole discretion of the journal and ISTR does not participate in the editorial decisions on submissions.

Authors will be invited to submit their revised papers after the conference to be double-blind reviewed for selection for publication in the *ISTR Conference Working Papers Series* to be published after the conference on the ISTR website.

Questions?

Any questions on abstract submissions for papers, panels, and posters, and any other aspect of the ISTR Tenth International Conference should be directed to ISTR at

E-mail: ISTR_Secretariat@jhu.edu

Telephone: 1-410-516-4678

Fax: 1-410-516-4870

The deadline for abstract submissions is October 24th 2011.