

The ISTR Africa Network meeting took place at the University of Ghana Business School in Accra, Ghana (21-23 June 2017) with 21 papers presented on the theme of “Civil Society and Philanthropy in Africa: Contexts, Contradictions, Possibilities.” Parallel sessions included African Traditional Giving and Philanthropy, Religious and Nonprofit Giving, Ethics and Philanthropy, and Service Delivery and Philanthropy. Sessions included Lightning Talks on Promoting an African Philanthropic Culture from a Foundation and Technology Perspective as well as panel on Mobilizing African Giving to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. [Link to Program](#)

The Keynote address, “Giving in Africa,” was given by Professor Adam Habib, Vice Chancellor, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Professor Habib focused on the need to improve the role of civil society and philanthropy in Africa and encouraged researchers to challenge the current African narratives. The full speech can be found [here](#). [Link to speech](#)

A full day PhD workshop prioritized young African researchers by providing knowledge and tools to develop their research capacity. The workshop provided the opportunity for PhD students to engage with other researchers and receive mentorship from a broad spectrum of experienced researchers and scholars. One session focused on career, networking and alliance building with presentations on how to get into a PhD programme, surviving a PhD programme and what to anticipate during and after a PhD programme. Additional sessions focused on how to connect with scholars and professionals in their respective fields of study, as well as tips for writing and publishing in academia. There were also small groups working on PhD research questions as well as larger groups organized by PhD year to address their questions and concerns.

The highlight of the conference was the space provided in an African University for researchers to meet and exchange ideas and knowledge about civil society and philanthropy.