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 including Scandinavia, for-profit health and social welfare organizations are actively competing with third sector organizations for public funding. 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. Social innovation and the role of third sector organizations as vehicles for innovation and more effective programs continue to receive widespread international attention. These profoundly important trends call for research to inform scholars and practitioners on the implications of these trends for theory, policy and practice.

ISTR’s Twelfth International Conference in Stockholm, Sweden offers an excellent opportunity for further dialogue on these and other changes in an environment of rigor.
Dear ISTR Colleagues,

The Call for Papers for next year’s ISTR International Conference has just been issued. The first application for the third PhD Seminar has already arrived on the spot. For sure, Stockholm will be our prime destination in 2016. The members of the team who will host us are already pretty busy to get everything in place for the upcoming event at the Ersta Sköndal University College in Sweden.

But, the International Conference constitutes just one opportunity for ISTR members to meet and to exchange ideas. This year, it is the turn of ISTR’s Regional Networks to organize forums for the further advancement of nonprofit research. August and September are the two months when ISTR members are invited to conference in Latin-America, in the Asian-Pacific Region and in Africa. The ISTR regional conferences will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico (August, 5-7), Tokyo, Japan (August, 27-28) and in Accra, Ghana (September, 16-18).

Let me take the opportunity to send a big thank you to the members of the organizing committees who make the events possible. For sure, a thank-you also goes to the ISTR office in Baltimore that always takes care that preparations run smoothly and fundraising is being put in place on time.

But, “Inside ISTR” there is more going on than just conferences. At the beginning of August, just before the meeting of the Latin-America ISTR Network, the new board of the association will meet for the first time. It will also be my first time to chair an ISTR board meeting. Not an easy task, if you consider the interdisciplinary as well as regional and cultural heterogeneity of our Society.

Furthermore in due time, ISTR will address every member personally. An ISTR membership survey is scheduled for the summer. We are still busy with the preparations and the design of the questionnaire. After about ten years, it will be the second membership survey conducted by ISTR. The results of the survey will help the board to plan strategically with the aim of thoroughly meeting the needs of the ISTR membership. Many topics are at stake, amongst those for sure—membership development, co-operation with other scholarly associations, touching base with the international community of NGO professionals and definitely also the topic of how ISTR positions itself in a political and economic environment that has significantly changed during the last decades.

As nonprofit researchers, we all know that keeping members interested and affiliated with a particular organization has developed into quite a difficult task. All over the world, membership and in particular active membership is on the decline. The “devoted member” who lives for his or her association has turned into a very rare species. Specifically, scholarly associations are facing a tough time to keep their membership stable and involved.

The reasons for the declining interest in “active membership” are manifold: competition is certainly an issue. This is definitely the case with regard to ISTR. When the association was founded, back in the early 1990s, internationally ISTR used to be the only player in the field. Nowadays, many scholarly associations have picked up the theme by establishing sub-divisions - “nonprofit or civil society streams” – operating under their umbrellas. Furthermore, there has also been a foundation boom of scholarly associations in recent years. Today there are many more scientific associations active than was the case twenty years ago.

Against the background of significantly improved opportunities to participate in conferences that address non-
profit and civil society topics, what makes our members stay with ISTR? And more specifically, what can the board members of the association do to safeguard the further development of ISTR by keeping the association vibrant, interesting and at the frontier of nonprofit development? Or to put it differently, what is at stake for ISTR in order to maintain its stable membership that remains highly involved.

Hence, key topics of the questionnaire will be how to deal with the success story of nonprofit and civil society studies that have made inroads into many disciplines and sub-disciplines such as management, public administration, anthropology or political science? What should be done to get the members who are by now engaged in these societies interested in ISTR? And how should ISTR as a scholarly association be related to those other nonprofit scholarly associations which have become very strong in specific regions such as the Asia-Pacific region or Europe?

Furthermore, what kind of services should ISTR provide for its members: the typical conferences and possibilities to publish? Or should we think about something new and innovative such as setting-up a “sabbatical host program” that with a little help of ISTR members could provide advice and support around the world as to where he or she might go and stay during a sabbatical? Moreover, is there a need for and interest in a “mentoring program” for emerging scholars, graduate, post-graduates students and new faculty members? And if so, how should such a program be organized-- worldwide or by region?

ISTR could offer more and different services to their members: For instance, the association could provide virtual space for uploading and keeping up-dated teaching material such as collections of npo-organizational studies or “best practices.” Moreover, we could think about collecting syllabi of nonprofit courses. This might also be one of such “other services.”

We are also interested in changing the current format of ISTR’s international conference – to make it more innovative. As regards the set-up of the international conference there is plenty of room for experiment: It might be advisable to organize sessions more interactively; site-visits in order to get to know the regional nonprofit community might be a further option. Finally, the establishment of certain thematic streams such as “managerialism,” “social innovation” or “social investment,” just to name a few that currently are “hot” topics of research might enhance networking and continued co-operation among the participants even beyond the conference. The set-up of “thematic streams” constitutes for sure an approach of organizing sessions that might be worth considering.

We welcome your feedback on all of these topics! Make sure to complete the survey to ensure that we hear your voice and keep ISTR a vibrant Society in the years ahead.

Best regards,

Annette Zimmer
President
zimmmean@uni-muenster.de
reflexivity, dialogue, and creativity. Sweden has a very long tradition of voluntary associations that have had a significant impact on public policy. While their public services remain reliant on local government, the rise of for-profit providers has challenged the traditional Scandinavian welfare state model and raised questions on the future role of the third sector. Thus, the 2016 conference will be occurring in the context of a widespread debate and re-examination of the traditional Social-Democratic welfare state model. This ongoing debate resonates with the debate throughout Europe, North America and Asia on the increasing competitive environment for third sector organizations and the implications of heightened expectations for performance, transparency, and accountability.

Paper, poster, roundtable, 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 third sector research. 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, foundations, philanthropy, and other manifestations of civil society globally and locally, for example networks and social forums, unions, religious organizations, co-operatives, and volunteering.

The focus of the 2016 conference
The increasingly turbulent and complex environment for third sector organizations is the central theme of this conference. Thus the conference organizers are keenly interested in a wide range of submissions on topics related to the theme. Papers on the following topics would be especially welcome:

- The Third Sector and the Welfare state
- Civil society and Democracy
- NGOs and Globalization
- Accountability and Transparency
- Social Innovation and Social Enterprise
- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Philanthropy and Foundations
- Volunteerism and Co-production
- Managing Third Sector Organizations
- Emerging Areas of Theory and Practice

General Information
ISTR encourages contributions from all countries and disciplines, from researchers as well as from practitioners conducting research on the third sector.

Forms of Participation: Papers, Panels, Roundtable, and Posters
Contributions may take the form of a paper, a panel, a roundtable, or a poster. Please indicate your choice of presentation when you submit your abstract. The conference organizers are especially interested in innovation formats and presentations.

Abstract Submissions
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 must be less than 500 words in length. Abstracts not meeting these requirements will be declined by the ISTR Conference Committee.

Please note: Abstracts must be submitted in English, as the language of the conference is English and all presentations are to be conducted in English.

Submissions for Panels, Papers and Posters
All panel, papers and poster proposals for the Conference must be submitted using ISTR’s online submission service.

To submit your paper or poster abstract using this service, go to the ISTR website – www.istr.org/Stockholm - and follow the link for ‘Submit a Proposal.’

Special Note on Panel Submissions
A panel submission is a proposal for a coordinated set of papers (usually 3 or 4 in number) on 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
Call for Contributions

A 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.

Please note that papers which are part of a submitted panel cannot be submitted separately as an individual submission. If the submission is submitted twice by the same author it will be rejected.

Special Note on Posters and Poster Submissions
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.

Special Note on Roundtable Submissions
Roundtables encourage discussion and interaction among delegates. The roundtable format offers short (max. 10 minute) presentations around a common theme, with ample time for discussion. Proposals should include details on the theme or topic of discussion and its relevance, along with the names of the organizers/participants. Roundtables can include no more than 5 initial participants. Please describe what each participant is expected to contribute to the discussion.

Review of Submissions
All submissions will be subject to a blind review by at least two independent reviewers.

Authors will be advised by the end of January 2016 whether their abstract has been accepted.

All authors including all panelists must register for the conference by March 16, 2016, to have their presentation scheduled in the conference program.

The completed paper must be submitted to the session moderator by June 10, 2016, 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, or any other journals in the field. Publication decisions are the sole discretion of such journals and ISTR does not participate in the editorial decisions on such submissions.

Authors can also submit their papers to be 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 12th International Conference should be directed to ISTR at

E-mail: ISTR_Secretariat@jhu.edu
Telephone: 1-410-614-4678
Fax: 1-410-502-0397

PLEASE REMEMBER:
THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 26, 2015

Detailed information on travel arrangements, accommodations, and the conference schedule is available on the conference website: http://www.istr.org

Ruth Phillips, University of Sydney
Rupert Graf Strachwitz, Maecenata Institute
Conference Co-Chairs
PhD Seminar

ISTR is pleased to announce the third ISTR PhD Seminar preceding the 12th International Conference in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2016. The ISTR PhD Seminar is a recurring event that takes place bi-annually in conjunction with the international conference.

The ISTR PhD Seminar is open to all doctoral students in the field of third sector and civil society research, across the different regions in the world, and at all stages of their doctoral research. The aim of the workshop is to provide doctoral students with the opportunity to receive extensive intellectual and methodological advice on their doctoral research, to introduce them to main theories and developments in the field, to reflect upon publication and career strategies, and to provide a unique opportunity to network with junior and senior scholars within the international ISTR research community.

More specifically, the seminar will consist of both plenary sessions with presentations by leading scholars in the field, and parallel group sessions in which the participants have the opportunity to present and discuss their doctoral research with peers, junior and senior faculty. Participants will be grouped thematically, but the group composition will be heterogeneous in terms of concrete research topics, disciplinary background, research stage, method, and regional affiliation.

The seminar is limited to a group of (up to) 50 doctoral students. Applicants must be members of ISTR and register and attend the conference. The ISTR PhD Seminar will start with an afternoon session followed by an informal dinner on Sunday afternoon, June 26, 2016. Plenary and group sessions will take place on Monday, June 27 and Tuesday, June 28 (in the morning). Participants are expected to arrive on Sunday. ISTR will cover two nights of accommodation (Sunday June 26 and Monday June 27) as well as coffee breaks and meals during the Seminar. Travel costs will not be refunded. In addition, ISTR will offer conference registration subsidies. Applicants for discounted registration conference fees should go directly to ISTR. Efforts are under way to secure travel subsidies. Please check back for updates.

Eligibility and selection criteria

To be eligible for participation, possible applicants should consider the following criteria:

- To be enrolled as a doctoral student [all stages of the doctoral research are allowed]
- Working in the field of third sector and civil society research [all academic disciplines are invited]
- To be a member of ISTR and register and attend the 2016 conference
- To be able to participate in the PhD Seminar from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday around noon
- Be prepared to present and discuss their doctoral work with peers and faculty, and to participate in an active and constructive way in group discussions

Application process

Interested students should send their application directly to email: istr@jhu.edu c/o ISTR PhD Seminar 2016 by September 30, 2015.

ISTR will consider all applications that meet the eligibility criteria. In line with ISTR’s mission to build a global community of scholars and subscribe to the values of diversity and pluralism, participants in the ISTR PhD Seminar will be representative in terms of gender and region, as well as disciplines and stages in the PhD process.

For further inquiries, please contact the ISTR Secretariat (istr@jhu.edu). Selected applicants will be notified by November 4, 2015.
In March of this year, ISTR participated in the second edition of the Interamerican Forum of Strategic Philanthropy, FIFE (Fórum Interamericano de Filantropia Estratégica). The Forum took place in the city of Gramado, Brazil, and ISTR was represented by Paula Chies Schommer, member of the Board of Directors.

This yearly Forum is organized by Instituto Filantropia, a Brazilian organization dedicated to the democratization of technical information related to the Third Sector, especially by way of the Revista Filantropia, courses, conferences, and the Web.

The second edition of the Forum, from March 24 to 27, 2015, had 420 participants, from a diversity of third sector organizations from 25 Brazilian states. They engaged in an intensive program that consisted of 60 activities, including conferences, workshops and mini-courses. The topics included the culture of philanthropy and donations, changes in legislation, volunteering, transparency and accountability, communication, and many more.

Paula spoke about the relationship between research and practice in Third Sector management, presenting an international panorama and shedding light on different perspectives and tendencies. She emphasized the relevance of increasing the participation of Latin American researchers and third sector organizations in international publications and networks, such as ISTR. “Considering the vitality and dynamism of the third sector, we have many experiences to share and much to learn in the dialogue with colleagues from different parts of the world, facing challenges old and new,” she said.

The next FIFE Forum will take place in Fortaleza, Brazil, on April 5-8, 2016.

For more information:
FIFE: http://www.fife.org.br/
Instituto Filantropia: http://www.institutofilantropia.org.br/.

ISTR Regional Conference in Puerto Rico: Less than two months to go!

The 10th ISTR Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in the cities of San Juan and Ponce, in Puerto Rico from 5 to 7 August 2015. The theme of the conference is “Inequality, inclusion and social innovation” and preparations are well underway!

On March 16, the call for papers was closed with very satisfactory results. A total of 136 abstracts (including individual papers, panel discussions and posters) were submitted from more than 20 different countries. While proposals were received from 11 Latin American and the Caribbean countries, researchers from the United States, Canada, The Netherlands, Spain, Australia and China also submitted proposals. From that, a group of 65 reviewers evaluated the proposals and 95 papers were accepted (69 individual papers, 7 panels including 23 papers, and 3 posters). Papers in Spanish (51%), Portuguese (35%) and English (15%) were accepted.

The 3 hosting universities in Puerto Rico (University of Puerto Rico, Catholic University of Puerto Rico and
Sacred Heart University) are generously supporting the conference through different ways. The three Universities also mobilized local resources ensuring the support of the Municipality of San Juan, the Municipality of Ponce, the Community Foundation of Puerto Rico, among other local institutions.

Dr. Marcia Rivera, a renowned Porto Rican academic and activist and former Executive Secretary of the Latin American Council on Social Sciences will deliver the keynote address. Authorities from the hosting Universities and from the Government of Puerto Rico will also participate in the opening ceremony. The program of the conference will combine academic parallel sessions and plenary sessions and several cultural activities will also take place. The preliminary program is available at the Regional Network site at: www.istrlac.org

ISTR Ninth Asia Pacific Regional Conference: Tokyo, Japan, 27-28 August 2015

Civil society in the Asia Pacific region is thriving and vibrant in its structure and organization with its geographic and historical linkages, as well as each country’s unique institutional, economic, social, and cultural characteristics. At the same time, its large and dynamic nature leads us to reconsider the value and significance of civic engagement, emergence of new forms of social business or entrepreneurship, and the potential power of social capital in the national, regional and international contexts.

ISTR’s Ninth Asia-Pacific Regional Conference will be an opportunity to witness a dynamic panorama of research. Quite a large number of papers and panels will be presented in this conference, as well as a wide variety of topics around the third sector such as governance and laws, tax regime, policy impact and evaluation, wellbeing, welfare systems, social capital, CSR, fundraising, government and politics, public private partnership, environment, sustainability, social enterprise, and so on. The conference will thus offer an excellent opportunity for encouraging in-depth discussion on these key issues and advancing authentic and creative research works from multidimensional approaches.

The conference also presents two plenary sessions with keynote speeches by distinguished high-profile speakers. These sessions will give conference attendees time to examine and discuss how to challenge and cope with regional and global political insecurity, economic crisis and unexpected external shocks that our civil society is confronting.

The keynote speech for the opening plenary will be delivered by a prominent political scientist, Professor Yutaka Tsujinaka of Tsukuba University. Professor Tsujinaka specializes in political administrative perspectives of interest groups and also has worked on a large volume of research in civil society and social capital from a public policy perspectives. He is currently president of the Japanese Political Science Association and his publications include “Neighborhood Associations and Local Governance in Japan” (co-author), 2014, Routledge, “Nonprofits and Advocacy: Engaging Community and Government in an Era of Retrenchment” (co-editor), 2014, Johns Hopkins University Press, “The State of Civil Society in Japan” (co-author), 2003, Cambridge University Press. In his speech for the opening plenary, Professor Tsujinaka will address the role of civil society in local governance from unique and critical perspectives as well as respond to relevant “hot” issues.

The closing plenary will be another highlight of the conference. Mr. Katsuji Imata, board chair of CSO Network Japan and the former deputy secretary general of CIVICUS, will give a speech on the challenges and opportunities that the civil society of this region has encountered. With his outstanding career and achievements in international work and activities in this field, Mr. Imata will explore frontiers of these powerful but still uncertain values and impacts of civil society activities. We expect that he will even challenge us to foresee future new scenarios in civil society and possible emergence of new scenarios in new actors. It will be a good time to think together about constructive and collaborative ways for the future development of civil society in this region. We hope that all of the participants will be intellectually inspired during the conference.

The conference will be held in Tokyo, Japan, a city

ISTR Africa Regional Network Conference
Institute of African Studies
Yiri Lodge
University of Ghana
Accra, Ghana
16-18 September 2015
gearing up for and coordinating political, economic and sociocultural engagement both at the national and local level. It is also a city of exuberance and soaring ambition in convening roundtables and dialogues on arrangement of both policy and business domains in the civil society sector. The city’s energetic and borderless atmosphere with a fusion of modern culture and tradition of civil society will provide conference participants and presenters to research settings and conversation both in the international and regional context.

Lastly, this book argues for a stronger intercultural approach useful for the renewal of paradigms in CSOs research.

This book presents a unique collective work in bringing together 33 authors coming from 11 countries to share perspectives on civil society governance and will be of interest to an international audience of researchers and policy-makers.

For many years, Muslims have been involved in philanthropic activities focused on helping the poor and needy people through varied types of ‘third sector’ organizations (TSOs). Nevertheless, many people in Muslim majority countries (MMCs), face human security crises and not much is known about the TSOs in these countries or their human security provisions. To fill this knowledge gap, this volume documents and analyses philanthropy and other types of third sector organizations including the awqaf (Muslim endowments) vis-à-vis human security in MMCs. The study is comprehensive in treating the subject matter – examining the legal environment, characteristics, extent, and functioning of all forms of the third sector and their human security performances- and in geographic coverage, covering all forty-seven Muslim majority countries in Africa and Asia. It is also innovative as it expounds on TSO density analysis, state support score (SSS), and a third-sector capability measure (TCM) to study their interrelationships.
John Casey explores the expanding global reach of nonprofit organizations, examining the increasingly influential role not only of prominent NGOs that work on hot-button global issues, but also of the thousands of smaller, little known organizations that have an impact on people’s daily lives.

What do these nonprofits actually do? How and why have they grown exponentially?

How are they managed and funded? What organizational, political, and economic challenges do they face? Casey answers these questions and also, liberally using case studies, situates the evolution of the sector in the broader contexts of differing national environments and global public affairs.


Understanding the Social Economy of the United States is a comprehensive introduction to the operation and study of organizations with social goals – public sector nonprofits, civil society organizations, social enterprises, cooperatives and other organizations with a social mission – under the rubric of the social economy.

This text is rich in examples and case studies that explain the social economy framework in the context of the United States. The book not only highlights the differences between these organizations and traditional businesses, but also provides applied chapters on organizational development, strategic management and leadership, human resources, finance, and social accounting and accountability in social economy organizations.


LeRoux and Feeeny’s, Nonprofit Organizations and Civil Society in the United States makes a departure from existing nonprofit texts on the market: rather than focus on management, it focuses on nonprofit organizations and their contributions to the social, political, and economic dimensions of society. The book also covers the nexus between nonprofits and civil society. This text offers a theory-oriented undergraduate introduction to the nonprofit field and an examination of the multifaceted roles these organizations play in American society.


When we talk about voluntary giving today, we usually prefer the word philanthropy to charity. Why has this terminological shift taken place? What is its philosophical significance? How did philanthropy come to acquire so much prestige—and charity come to seem so old-fashioned? Was this change contested? Does it matter?
In *The Philanthropic Revolution*, Jeremy Beer argues that the historical displacement of charity by philanthropy represents a radical transformation of voluntary giving into a practice primarily intended to bring about social change. The consequences of this shift have included secularization, centralization, the bureaucratization of personal relations, and the devaluing of locality and place.

Beer shows how the rise of "scientific charity" and the "new philanthropy" was neither wholly unchallenged nor entirely positive. He exposes the way modern philanthropy's roots are entangled with fear and loathing of the poor, anti-Catholic prejudice, militarism, messianic dreams, and the ideology of progress. And he reveals how a rejection of traditional charity has sometimes led philanthropy's proponents to champion objectionable social experiments, from the involuntary separation of thousands of children from their parents to the forced sterilizations of the eugenics movement.

Beer's alternative history discloses that charity is uniquely associated with personalist goods that philanthropy largely excludes. Insofar as we value those goods, he concludes, we must look to inject the logic of charity into voluntary giving through the practice of a modified form of giving he calls "philanthrolocalism."
“These are troubled times, with more than 50 million people worldwide who are refugees. At the same time, we see that many die when they flee across the Mediterranean. The Red Cross fills, with its unique mandate, such an important function as we are in place before, during and after a disaster. I feel incredibly honored to be a part of such an organization” says Anna Carlstedt.

Today we have almost 150,000 members and more than 30,000 volunteers in Sweden who teach Swedish and help start up activities in asylum accommodations, give support to EU-migrants, visit jails, hospitals or arrange study-groups to help children with their homework. At the same time the need for more volunteers in the community is increasing.

We see a clear trend of increasing vulnerability in society. There is turbulence in areas of socioeconomic deprivation and the great fire in Västmanland last summer, showed us the strength of having great volunteers and how the help they were able to give made a big difference.

“The Red Cross needs to step up even more and be prepared to give instant support as well as plan ahead and contribute to long-term solutions” says Anna Carlstedt.

Debra Mesch will become the Eileen Lamb O’Gara Chair in Women’s Philanthropy at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy on July 1, 2015. This endowed chair is dedicated to research and teaching about women’s philanthropy. Mesch will expand research, understanding and awareness about women’s unique and powerful role in giving, volunteering and leadership of philanthropic organizations. Debra is director of the Women’s Philanthropy Institute (WPI), as well as professor of public affairs in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

Tribute to Peter Dobkin Hall

By Evelyn Brody (Chicago-Kent) provided the following tribute to Peter Dobkin Hall (Harvard Hauser Institute for Civil Society, Baruch College School of Public Affairs), who died yesterday. (April 30, 2015)

(Reprinted with permission from the Nonprofit Law Prof Blog)

Today, the academy lost a leading scholar of the history of the nonprofit sector – as judged not just by the quality of his output but also by the role he played in influencing the work of others, inside and outside his discipline, in both the academic and policy arenas. Today I lost a dear mentor, colleague, and friend, Peter Dobkin Hall.

I started my academic career as a tax lawyer, but as any nonprofit researcher quickly learns, nonprofit studies is a broad and multi-disciplinary business. I became aware of Peter’s work from his chapter in PONPO’s recently published compendium of the state-of-the-art nonprofit scholarship in political science, economics, law, history, sociology, management, and policy studies – The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook (Walter F. Powell, editor) (Program on Non-Profit Organizations, Yale University Press 1987). But I became hooked on Peter’s work when I read his collection of essays in Inventing the Nonprofit Sector (Johns Hopkins 1992). To some degree, the field of nonprofit studies suffers from “cheerleading” by some of its practitioners. As a lawyer, I was skeptical of claims of exceptionalism on the part of “unowned” organizations controlling vast sums of wealth, no matter how good their intentions. As a tax lawyer, I was baffled by the structure of the federal tax-exemption scheme and the variety of organizations it embraces. I found persuasive and eye-opening Peter’s account of a relatively recent “invention” of a “nonprofit sector” – in part initiated by those who sought to draw under a single umbrella a group of firms that had not previously identified with each other, in order to defend against congressional attack. Indeed, I found Peter’s overall analysis so compelling that I introduced my second nonprofit article with the following quote from Peter’s 1992 book:

[Nonprofit organizations’] crucially important function in the American polity [derives from] their concrete historical association with a particular institutional culture, a configuration of values, resources, organizational technologies, legal infrastructure, and styles of leadership. This institutional culture originated at the end of the eighteenth century, became dominant . . . in the twentieth, and entered a period of crisis – quite possibly a crisis of success rather than of failure – in our own time.
In Memoriam

So of course I was thrilled when Peter, then serving as PONPO director, invited me to join a project studying the changing dimensions of trusteeship. Pushed beyond my tax-law comfort zone, I found myself exploring issues of corporate and trust fiduciary law, ultimately leading to my writing the chapter on the legal framework for nonprofit organizations for the second edition of *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook* (edited by Richard Steinberg and Walter W. Powell) (Yale University Press 2006). In addition, at Peter’s invitation, I supplied a legal scholar’s perspective to the multi-disciplinary Symposium Book Review of Henry Hansmann’s *The Ownership of Enterprise*, published in the *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* (1999). Peter provided a historical perspective for both these projects. As a Research Scholar with the Urban Institute’s Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, I was delighted to reverse roles: I recruited Peter to contribute a chapter – on the history of nonprofit property-tax exemptions in his beloved New Haven – to the book I was editing, *Property Tax Exemption for Charities: Mapping the Battlefield* (Urban Institute Press 2002).

It was not always easy for Peter to meet every deadline he’d agreed to; his prolific research agenda was to a large extent driven by demands made by others. And readers outside his field, like me, appreciate the simplicity, drama, and beauty of his writing style and presentation. As a separate matter, Peter was one of the rare scholars in the nonprofit field to have taken seriously (and produced nuanced and serious) research on religious organizations.

Finally, I would like to praise the energy and intelligence that Peter brought to the formation and activities of the multi-disciplinary Association of Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Association (ARNOVA). From 1996, when I joined the association, for many years I thought Peter always was and always would be the book review editor, producing a plethora of thoughtful book reviews. As chair of the Annual Book Award Committee, Peter sought to identify the definitive meritorious publication by assembling a comprehensive list of the several dozen volumes published in the most recent five years on philanthropy, voluntary organizations, nonprofits, civil society, and related topics.

I always looked forward to spotting Peter’s dapper broad-brimmed hat and handle-bar mustache at ARNOVA meetings and other academic conferences. He loved nonprofits both as an intellectual subject and as a vehicle for social change. His enthusiasm, perceptiveness, and eagerness to right injustices served him not only as a leading nonprofit academic, but also as an inspiring community leader.

On Line Publications

Third Sector Impact (TSI) publishes Consensus Conceptualisation of the Third Sector in Europe

The first contribution of the Third Sector Impact (TSI) project, financed under the EU’s 7th Framework Programme, is a “consensus definition” published in under the title “The Third Sector in Europe: Towards a Consensus Conceptualization”. This working paper provides a foundation for documenting the third sector’s collective contributions and for designing policies that take greater advantage of unique strengths of the third sector. The proposed conceptualization of the third sector in Europe, to be understood as the definition of a “common core”, is the result of a bottom-up approach engaging researchers and third sector stakeholders from eight European countries representing a wide range of research disciplines approaching the field from different angles and methodologies, and is a first milestone towards TSI’s objective of making Europe’s third sector more visible - its scope and scale, existing and potential impacts, and barriers to full third sector contribution to the continent’s common welfare. [http://thirdsectorimpact.eu/documentation/tsi-working-paper-no-2-third-sector-europe-towards-consensus-conceptualization/](http://thirdsectorimpact.eu/documentation/tsi-working-paper-no-2-third-sector-europe-towards-consensus-conceptualization/)

New Briefing Paper: Civil Society Under Fire

Civil society is an important peacebuilding actor. Around the world, substantial resources are dedicated to strengthening local and national civil society groups as a means of developing peaceful societies and preventing a
Modern times have always been times of crisis ... In the turbulent waters we have to navigate, we could not help but continue interpreting the world where we live, generating explanations and proposals that allow us to continue acting to protect those values that are fundamental for us, and that, in our case, are expressed in the democratic ideal. It is within this perspective that the Plataforma Democrática offers this work to the readers, in which three Latin-American authors try to understand the impact of the Internet on communications and social mobilization at the public sphere, in general, and particularly on the civil society.

The Internet phenomenon gave rise to a wide bibliography that generally is divided into those authors who believe that the new cyberspace revolutionizes the ways of political participation, and that it may recreate the democratic institutions, and those who consider that the virtual world is characterized by simplistic messages, poor arguments, and isolated like-minded groups, which leads to polarization and disbelief in political life.

Each text included in this book provides different analysis, which are in a great extent complementary. Bernardo Sorj emphasizes the relationships of on-line and off-line worlds; Danilo Martuccelli deals with the internal logic of on-line world; while Nicolás Somma covers the impact of cyberspace in civil society actions. The three articles have as common trait the fact that they do not address Latin America as a reality that is separate from the rest of the world, but instead they transit between global and regional and national experiences.

We consider this publication to be particularly timely in view of the resurgence of activism in civil societies in different countries of the region in most recent years, whether in countries with consolidated democratic regimes, where issues about the relationship of citizens and political institutions are reopened after having being asleep since re-democratization, or in countries with hybrid regimes, where civil society seeks to keep alive in face of increasingly authoritarian governments.

This book certainly does not exhaust the universe of issues provoked by the resurgence of civil society in Latin America: what is the democratizing potential of new communication technologies in the fields of values and institu-
tions; to what extent the new social and political dynamics indicate the revitalization of the representative democracy or its weakening; what are the responsibilities and challenges imposed on political leaders? However, the book is one step in the search for answers to those questions, which are central to the agenda of research and public debate of Plataforma Democrática project.

Bernardo Sorj Sergio Fausto, Directors

http://www.plataformademocratica.org/Arquivos/Internet_y_Movilizaciones_Sociales_Transformaciones_del_Espacio_Publico_y_de_la_Sociedad_Civil.pdf


Editors note
Mammo Muchie, Seble Worku

The overall objective of scientific research is to generate new knowledge, new technology and enable innovative thinking. These in turn create future economic growth and wealth through entrepreneurship and availability of new technologies and new outputs. For the individual researcher, the purpose of research would be immediate satisfaction of intellectual curiosity, be at the forefront of potentially new technical field, to belong to a particular research group, or to be able to participate in conferences and be able to network with individuals with similar interests. The available research publications in Ethiopia including the stock of publications contained in the Ethiopian e-journal for Research and Innovation Foresight (Ee-JRIF) show that the research emphasis for Ethiopian researchers revolves around food security, climate change, infectious diseases and other health related issues. This is of course in line with the country’s development policy which is geared towards agriculture led industry given its large land and water resources. Furthermore, Ethiopia has planned to achieve middle income country level by 2025. This would need a successful system of innovation and the manufacturing sector would have to play a crucial role as a driver of innovation and productivity of growth.


Third Sector Impact (TSI) reaches important milestones towards greater visibility of third sector in Europe

The TSI project is picking up speed in its second year of financing under the EU’s 7th Framework Programme. Earlier this year it published the working paper “The Third Sector in Europe: Towards a Consensus Conceptualization,” providing the foundation for documenting the third sector’s collective contributions in Europe and for designing policies that take greater advantage of its unique strengths. In a high profile event on 1st of June, TSI met with nine national statistical agencies and representatives from four different Directorate Generals of the European Commission to propose appropriate data collection on NPOs, volunteering and social entrepreneurship, uncovering a statistical revolution on the third sector in Europe. With this event and forthcoming research and dissemination activities, TSI feeds directly into EU and national policy processes. 2015 promises to be a hot year for creating knowledge on the third sector to advance its contributions to the socio-economic development of Europe. For information: www.thirdsectorimpact.edu

EMES International Research Conference in Helsinki, June 30th to July 3rd, 2015

The EMES International Research Network, in partnership with the Finnish Network on Social Enterprise (FinSERN), is pleased to announce the 5th International
Research Conference on Social Enterprise entitled “Building a scientific field to foster social enterprise eco-system.”

This unique research conference will be held in Helsinki, Finland.

We are looking forward to four exciting days of panels and presentations, bringing together 400 researchers from across the globe. In order to allow academic debate across fields and disciplines, the conference will be structured along 15 main thematic lines. It will also include a “From research to practice and back” forum aimed at practitioners and policy-makers. EMES and FinSERN are looking forward to a truly international and interdisciplinary event! The deadline for regular registration is 22 June, 2015. For more information please refer to the conference page:

http://www.emes.net/what-we-do/events/conferences/5th-emes-international-research-conference-social-enterprise/

Appointments at Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State

Jason Franklin has been appointed the first W.K. Kellogg Community Philanthropy Chair at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy. As the Kellogg Chair, Franklin will help philanthropic leaders explore how to best mobilize donors to give together in a community and to specific communities amid the shifting economic, social, political and philanthropic patterns that are reshaping philanthropy. Franklin will partner with community and public foundations, giving circles, donor networks, crowdfunding platforms and others who are building and adapting vehicles for collective giving to move the field of community philanthropy forward.

Previously, Franklin served as executive director of Bolder Giving, which during his tenure refined its focus on promoting philanthropy for social, racial, economic and environmental justice and dramatically expanded its reach including launching its first programming outside the U.S. He also served as an adjunct professor at New York University’s Wagner School of Public Service.

Kyle Caldwell has been appointed as the new executive director of the Johnson Center beginning on August 1. Caldwell will provide overall leadership and vision for sustainable growth and strategic objectives by immediately focusing on the Center’s three main strategic goals, including:

- Providing accessible community data systems and community-based research with systems-perspective, designed for learning and action;
- Delivering applied knowledge for nonprofits and philanthropists, through training, publishing and online platforms, allowing nonprofits to operate more efficiently and help foundations make grants more effectively;
- Offering specialized expertise in family and community philanthropy grounding in scholarly research and designed for practical application, through transmitting knowledge about, and for, foundations and donors, in order to improve family and community philanthropy.

Caldwell currently serves as the director of Pathways to Opportunity grantmaking team at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Halley Movement – Global Day of Citizen Action 2015 in Mauritius

Halley Movement partnered with CIVICUS to launch a Global Day of Citizen Action 2015 Workshop in Mauritius. The workshop grouped NGO representatives from Halley Movement’s partner organisations and the launch ceremony was done by H.E. Dr. N. Nokwe, High Commissioner of South Africa. H.E. Dr. Nokwe spoke about the importance of citizen actions in the World and in particular in Mauritius which is to get people to think about civic space, understand their rights, increase awareness about the importance of civic space and our need to
mobilise and engage. Her address was preceded by a video projection showing civic space and action in the world.

During his welcome address, Mr. Mahendranath Busgopaul, Secretary-General of Halley Movement, pointed out that the Global Day of Citizen Action is a global event which took place on Saturday, 16th of May where ordinary citizens feel free to speak out, organize and take action. By participating, everyone is helping to understand what’s happening in the country and this will help create awareness about the importance of civic space. He also added that civic space exists when individuals and organisations have the freedom to speak out, organize and take action. In other words, to freely express, associate and assemble.

Two breakout group sessions were organized on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Child Welfare. More information: www.halleymovement.org