The conjoining of civil society and philanthropy automatically invokes an eclectic mix of analytic and philosophic questions. For example: how can civil society organizations promote a culture of giving? Does charitable giving boost or enervate the civic impulse? How and under what conditions do agents traverse the civic and philanthropic terrains, and what forms of collaborations are possible between the two? What, in a deliberate amplification of the canvas, are the proper limits of collaboration between the state and charities, and who gets to draw them? Last but not least, how have the histories of civil society and philanthropic organizations been entangled in Africa, and what are the possibilities for the transformation of the nongovernmental space on the continent?

Until now, these and other important research and policy questions have been more or less glossed over in the relevant scholarship. For one thing, not only is interest in civil society of recent vintage, its intellectual obsessions are radically different. For another, academic interest in the philanthropic sector in Africa remains, a recent surge notwithstanding, episodic, not least because giving, being deeply enfolded into the ample fabric of everyday African informality, is not generally seen as worthy of systematic analysis or theorizing.

The broad aim of this conference is to kick-start the process of taking seriously these and other critical questions occupying the civil society-philanthropy interface. To this end, we invite theoretical, philosophical and empirical submissions drawing on the best investigative traditions and approaches from the entire spectrum of the social sciences, including, but not necessarily limited to, economics, history, psychology, cultural studies, philosophy, sociology, political science, and anthropology. Papers may be ethnographic, comparative, statistical, regional, national, or strictly theoretical in their approach-
Dear friends and colleagues of ISTR:

What to say? I am still shocked about the political turmoil we are facing. How could this happen? In the midst of the ISTR Stockholm conference, Great Britain decided by referendum to exit the European Union. Some months later, Donald Trump managed to get elected to become the next President of the United States. For sure, the TV-debates featuring Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump clearly showed that this President will not be good for civil society. We have already talked about the “shrinking space for civil society” at the Stockholm conference. It seems that our societies are increasingly developing into a direction that provides ample room for all kind of uncivicness, violence and anti-democratic movements. Against this background, it is even more important that we – the scholarly community of civil society & nonprofit researchers—speak up in favor of democratic, participatory and indeed civic societies.

Stockholm has been the most successful conference ISTR had ever had in terms of papers presented and members attending. Also, thanks to our local hosts, there were many practitioners working in the sector who took interest in the conference and in ISTR as a scholarly community. These are for sure positive signs. Moreover, there is definitely a new generation of young scholars who have made civil society and nonprofit studies their main topic of interest worldwide. Again, there was a great demand for participating in the ISTR PhD-Seminar. Becoming a member of the club of the ISTR PhD-crowd is increasingly gaining momentum.

However, a conference will not change the world. Indeed, it has become increasingly difficult for ISTR and other scholarly associations to have an impact and to keep in touch with their membership. Like in business, ISTR is service oriented and wants to serve its members best. ISTR used the Stockholm conference as a platform for trying out new formats – such the round-tables – and for starting new initiatives – the mentoring program for emerging scholars. As always, ISTR farewell party was a big success: nice food, good drinks and great dancing.

But, we all know that it has become increasingly difficult to keep the spirit alive and to hold the community together. There are many reasons why this is the case. ISTR has always stressed that the organization is membership-based and that its members are the very core, indeed the soul of ISTR. But, in recent years the world of academia, including nonprofit and civil society studies has turned into a terrain for increased competition. There is no way of escaping neo-liberalism which has step by step left its troublesome mark also on the community of civil society and nonprofit studies. There is nothing wrong about competition. However, we – the community of civil society and nonprofit researchers – are still a relatively small group. And particu-

Annette Zimmer
far too charismatic and self-concerned to tolerate a lively civil society. By the way, those who are making this new wave of anti-civicness happen and thriving are all men.

Since this is my last column in Inside ISTR as president, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the current board and particularly our executive director, Margery Daniels, for their support, backing and sharing of ideas, concepts but also concerns. It has been an interesting and a challenging time of two (very short) years. In contrast to me as the past-president, there is no time to rest for the association which cannot take it easy and rest on its laurels of the great Stockholm conference.

ISTR has been the first association in the field to be truly international. It was the first one working around the globe by organizing conferences and programs in Africa, Latin-America & Caribbean and in the Asia-Pacific region. ISTR features a quite successful international journal – *Voluntas* - its book series “Nonprofit and Civil Society Studies” is well appreciated by the members and the scholarly community. I have already mentioned the PhD-Seminars and ISTR’s mentoring program. But, all these nice programs and initiatives do not make ISTR special any more. Going global has become very popular among all scholarly associations. The same holds true for experimenting with new conference formats. In the years to come, ISTR has to maneuver in troubled waters. Keeping the brand ISTR in place and trying to continue to be the first mover, innovative and edge-cutting constitutes a necessity. At the same time, ISTR will never forget that there is an important incentive for engaging in a scholarly community such as ISTR that definitely goes beyond studying civil societies and nonprofit organizations scholarly: We – the scholarly community of civil society and nonprofit researchers – should stand together and give civicsness a voice that speaks up against violence and uncivicsness and that also provides an alternative to the unbelievable nonsense that is increasingly disseminated through certain channels in the media and on the internet.

Annette Zimmer
President
zimmean@uni-muenster.de

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**Call for Papers**

**ISTR Africa Network (ISTRAN) Conference**

*Continued from page 1*

es. Whilst submitters are encouraged to take issue with and pursue the implications of the foregoing questions from their respective intellectual standpoints, it is also important that they see them (i.e. the questions) as mere provocations to thought, and not limits or constraints that the conference organizers seek to impose.

As such, we would be delighted to receive papers that trouble the consensus around the ‘goodness’ of charity, say, or propose to take us to the so-called dark side of philanthropy, with critical detours at the intersection of international aid and donor dependence. Other issues upon which researchers are invited to reflect are: the role of religion and spirituality in civic mobilization and charitable giving; the fundaments, possibilities, and contradictions of corporeal philanthropy; conditions of partnership among civil society organizations, charitable bodies, and the state; the relationship between formal and informal giving in Africa, and the distinctions between philanthropy in Africa and African philanthropy; time, temporalities and geographies of giving; the ways in which both civil society and philanthropic organizations can advance an intellectual and policy agenda to tackle the pressing challenges of our time, especially terrorism, climate change, and persistent gender inequalities; and finally, and within a strictly philosophic register, the ways in which charitable and civil society organizations can work towards the reshaping of the African political imagination.

Abstracts for papers that speak to these issues should be submitted to Dineo Seabe (dineo.seabe@vub.ac.be) by February 28, 2017. Authors of accepted ab-
Abstracts will then be invited to submit completed papers by May 15, 2017 at the latest.

A limited number of scholarships are available for graduate students in African institutions and will be awarded solely on the basis of need. Submitters of abstracts should indicate interest at the time of submission.

About ISTRAN
The ISTR Africa Regional Network specifically supports emerging African scholarship in civil society by holding conferences and professional development workshops once every two years. It is a community of over 120 scholars both working and living in African countries, but also includes members of the African diaspora in other parts of the world. ISTR Africa Regional Network remains true to the global network’s core mission, which is to increase, share, and apply knowledge about the third sector in all countries of the world. The specific goals and objectives of the African Network are to develop a critical mass of African scholars dedicated to the field of third sector research.

New Board of Directors

Welcome to Newly Elected Board of Directors
ISTR is pleased to announce and introduce our newly elected board of directors:

These members join continuing board members:
Steven Rathgeb Smith, President (USA)
Oonagh Breen (Ireland)
Lesley Hustinx (Belgium)
Hagai Katz (Israel)
Ola Segnestam Larsson (Sweden)
Bhekinkosi Moyo (South Africa)
Paula Chies Schommer (Brazil)
Stefan Toepler (USA)
Jiangang Zhu (China)

The term of office for the newly elected board members will commence on January 1, 2017. The directors have been elected to serve four year terms.

The Society is grateful to those members who allowed their names to be put forth for the slate of candidates. We are most fortunate to have had a slate of candidates comprised of the broadest representation of researchers and practitioners from various parts of the world, academic discipline and gender.

Special thanks to the 2016 Nominating Committee: Anabel Cruz, Chair (Uruguay); Oonagh Breen (Ireland), Dwight Burlingame (USA); Ronelle Burger (South Africa); Alfredo Carraquillo (Puerto Rico); Paul Dekker (The Netherlands); Lesley Hustinx (Belgium); Rita Mano (Israel); Stefan Toepler (USA); and Jiangang Zhu (China).

For Biographical Information on the newly elected board members click here.
Reflections on the 12th International ISTR Conference
By Lars Svedberg, Professor, Ersta Sköndal University College

Contemporary research on civil society and government policies
The conferences are intended to offer a space for interaction between researchers from many disciplinary backgrounds and traditions as well as from different countries. This interaction promotes positive and fruitful diversity, but with diversity also comes unavoidable fragmentation. The clear advantage is that people of different perspectives, disciplines, and context can make their voices heard. However, in order to find the common denominators and to be able to present a coherent summary requires a good measure of creativity and some ‘sleight of hand’. In the call for papers we as organizers suggested 11 important themes that the researchers might address, and in composing the programme we certainly tried our very best to link every session, panel debate and round table discussion to these themes.

Let us now briefly give an account of a few of the themes and presentations of particular importance, from a general Swedish perspective and from a policy point of view in particular.

Tendencies in the Nordic countries
The discussion in the plenary session on development tendencies in the Nordic countries centred on a number of key issues concerning Nordic civil society. By way of introduction the matter of Nordic specificity/uniqueness was in focus and the extent to which this may be changing under pressure from global trends and not least the influence of the larger Anglo-saxon countries. Opinions were divided as to whether rapid changes are in the making or whether “inflexible structures” will continue to maintain a hold, thus promoting continuity. An attempt at a middle ground perspective was the suggestion that the development was more about the emergence of new “mutations” than a radical break with the past. Which is to say that changes, even if understandable as global processes, not least the huge migratory flows, still essentially find local, regional and national expression within the framework of historically anchored structures in each country. Migration and economic globalization were also two pervasive themes. The civil society response to the refugee crisis and the rebirth of extreme nationalism were also discussed, as well as the fact that different solidarity ideals easily can collide, foremost when some embrace citizenship and the nation state while others stand for human rights and the global point of view. Nordic civil society, like the Nordic states themselves, appear deeply divided in this respect.

An ongoing professionalization process
Also discussed was how the West and not least Western European countries all seem to be going through a process where organizations previously categorized as purely idealistic are increasingly coming to resemble professional organizations, in the sense of adopting a more performance oriented character and acting as professional service provid-ers. This often means a new balance between professionals/paid employees, on the one hand, and unpaid volunteers, on the other, to the advantage of the former group.

This must be viewed in the context of a general professionalization processes taking place in our types of society. What also emerged was that this development must be understood against the background of an indisputable reorientation of the welfare states and the various welfare measures put in place in postwar Europe, and where interest in the potential of civil society to step in and fill the gaps has now become a matter of public sector interest in a distinctly different way than before.

Contemporary research shows that as part of this professionalization trend are processes of institutionalization and not least organizational development. This also means a
REFLECTIONS

notably growing interest in market inspired models, methods, and solutions rather than primarily public sector ones. In catchword terms one could say that the market is now what defines the interaction between the state and other organizations and that third sector organizations are merely adapting themselves to this new order.

Research presented at the conference also suggests that this development often follows the increased interest in management/leadership or what the research world sometimes refers to as ‘manageralization’, showing how also in this field inspiration and guidance are taken from the private sector.

A further important ingredient in this development is a growing focus on accounting and control. This is partly compulsory, as in accountability to public sector principals, but also self-imposed as part of the professionalization efforts. This has led to increased exchanges with and influence from both national and international accounting firms.

With greater emphasis on performance and increased leaning towards professionalism within the larger third sector organizations, current research also points to the risk for a general de-politicization of certain civil society sectors and a tendency towards demoting the voice function to a less prominent place. The contemporary research front and those researchers studying interplay and collaboration processes over time see the difficulties for third sector organizations to simultaneously maintain both roles within one and the same organization. The requirements by public sector principal to produce results tend to have a powerful influence on the organization as a whole, not least the ability and will to object or protest against the very same public authority for which one is providing a service. According to research findings, the development seems to be going in a direction where some organizations continue to maintain their voice and advocate functions, while others have become increasingly specialized in service performance of different kinds, as for example in the USA. Studies show that this is also a result of increased professionalization.

A further aspect of the professionalization tendencies, however, is that the voice function neither disappears nor has played out its role, but has rather instead become strongly professionalized and concentrated in certain organizations or in the person of certain professional executives, who so to speak deliver ‘voice’ and thereby end up in work of public outreach far removed from ordinary members.

In spite of the ‘prophesy’ of earlier research that Swedish civil society was firmly on its way from “voice to service”, current research rather suggests that Swedish civil society is continuing to be marked by both voice and service, but that this is taking place under partly different conditions than before.

Gender issues and gender equality

In the civil society research world there is clearly increased interest in gender issues, not least linked to the matter of equality. This was also manifest at the conference in Stockholm. From having been notably absent, given the clear division of the sexes and various forms of gender dominance that often characterize third sector organizations, activities and projects, this interest is now growing at a pace. A vital question concerns of course whether and in that case how large parts of the women’s liberation movement were sustained by civil society. Another is how the interplay between the state/welfare state and the third sector has evolved/is evolving in regard to these questions, and a growing issue concerns how these matters are being dealt with within third sector organizations. These are questions of direct political interest for all regimes/welfare state regimes where gender and equality are on the agenda.

Can we also from research front results detect a certain fixed gender order even in this context? “Female development” more often takes place in the civil society setting (while the financial and market sectors are male domains), often coupled to innovation in various social fields. This is clearly reflected in the third sector research of developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America, both in terms of the themes chosen to explore and the gender balance among the researchers themselves. There also seems to exist a widespread idea of civil society as the foremost arena for innovative solutions to social/humanitarian problems in developing countries and that the ones who operate in this arena are mainly women.

The growing importance of the Internet and of social media for and in civil society

The role of the Internet and the social media in our time and their growing influence on third sector organizations, activities and projects was discussed during the conference. Current research shows how the new communication channels are on their way to reshaping both the fundamental conditions of these organizations as well as their concrete activities.

How the presentation of organizations and activities
are formulated seems to be of increasing importance, both as manifestations of the organizations and for attracting and developing people's commitment. Studies also show that this is something on which much effort is expended, leading — among other things — to new professional categories such as communicators and press officers being added to the organizations, at least the larger ones.

Added to this is the growing share of civil society commitment that is being canalized and taking place directly on the Internet, as we have learnt from current Nordic studies, where it is important to underline that this new and less formally organized commitment is of considerable proportion, especially protests against the exercise and abuse of power, but also efforts based on purely humanitarian grounds. Here we now find a wholly political dimension. Current Nordic studies presented also show that ‘traditional’ and net-based commitment are seemingly not at odds but rather complement each other. However, it is clear that the new directions being taken are demanding a new kind of commitment, which at the same time is reducing the need for more traditional ones that older, long-time members often tended to stand for.

The consequences of the stronger role of the media from a purely political perspective are multi-layered and controversial. There is some scientific evidence to suggest that Internet commitment and activity are leading to positive geographical and social consequences, in the sense that some previous hindrances to communication have been eliminated. The time perspective being short, there is disagreement about whether this will also lead to a stable and permanently growing politically active citizenship in the West and/or in the various developing countries. Also discussed was how national governments handle their citizens' access to and activities on the Internet in terms of control and placing hindrances, and how the various third sector organizations are responding to and attempting to counter this.

**Reflections**

**Charity and philanthropy as growing phenomena**

Charity and philanthropy are not only growing concrete phenomena revived from long ago in the West, but also a rapidly growing research field, not least in Europe. These two approaches (hands-on and immediate vs. long-term, more institutional) have always been strong in the Anglo-American tradition whereas in the Swedish and the Nordic popular movement traditions they have been regarded as anachronistic and mostly approached with aversion. But in modern European civil society research they are again commanding increasing attention.

The research presented at the conference tells us that these phenomena have seldom been subjected to any real critical examination, nor has the possible shift in the balance between the state/welfare state and charity/philanthropy with all of what may be involved been paid much attention. The tendency instead is to focus on the fact of the rising expansion in this area. A sizable amount of research, for example in the Netherlands and in the USA, deals expressly with how public expenditure can be substituted for with private funding. Research also shows that this indeed sometimes is possible. Even this can be linked to the professionalizing process, where “professional fund-raising” is gaining growing status and is increasingly being followed in the research.

Also highlighted was the steady growth of foundations in the West and the mostly hidden but potentially serious power factor that these tend to become, since they often control and distribute large amounts of money. What the research further shows is that this type of third sector organization is seldom exposed to any democratic monitoring of transparency. Since these foundations often fall outside of any sphere of political control and influence (beyond the legislation that all in most countries must follow) they constitute a more independent counterweight to other third sector organizations that often have developed a dependent relationship with the state and/or local government/public authorities.

**The deliberative wave**

The attempt to get citizens in the West to take on a more extensive advisory role prior to political decision-making seems to be a growing phenomenon that is also being paid a certain amount of attention in the international research. In Sweden we have tested this using standard Swedish systematics with a certain amount of follow-up linked to these trials. No unequivocal conclusions could be drawn, however, either from the national or international research reports. What on the other hand is suggested is the risk of falling into a tendency to bypass traditional organized commitment when forming local, regional and national policies. This can also lead to taking shortcuts that undermine the very powerful Swedish/Nordic tradition of organized civil society having its say and being allowed to exert influence through the renowned consultative referral system. The very latest Swedish state investigation of civil society (SOU 2016:13) also points to these tendencies as an area of concern.
The role of civil society in giving voice and support to the vulnerable

Civil society has always filled a vital function in taking care of the poor and vulnerable and of making others aware of their conditions. At an international conference such as this, the studies presented not only by researchers from developing countries but even such countries as Russia and those of former Eastern Europe make this clear. But studies from these latter countries, it turns out, also largely adhere to the Anglo-American perspective, giving little expression to any European/Eastern European tradition, but rather tending to deal with how an American perspective and American practice can be applied to their quite unlike countries, often in terms of wishing to be better at such things as “fundraising”. This also bears a direct connection to Swedish development aid policy. A general conclusion of this research is that civil society fills all the different functions one can have as an aid donor vis-à-vis the public sector/welfare state, namely that of both pioneer, alternative, replacement and complement depending on historical and current conditions, and of course which countries are under review.

This brief presentation does of course no real justice to all the themes and presentations of this huge undertaking, but in offering this small review we hopefully have given an interesting glimpse into its broad scope and rich rewards.

2016 PhD Seminar Impression
by Santiago Sordo Ruz, PhD student at Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico

This past summer I had the opportunity to take part in ISTR’s PhD Seminar in Stockholm. I had attended some regional ISTR events but this year’s seminar and conference were going to be my first international events, so my expectations for both events were high.

It all started at the welcome meeting where I realized the event, in its third edition, had a much larger scale and diversity than I had imagined. Not only were there participants from every region of the world very diverse backgrounds, and stages of their programs, but also an interesting group of very qualified scholars that would lead the different sessions and activities. It seems the seminar is well on its way to becoming an ISTR institution.

The ice was broken from the start, as the organizers did a nice job at creating a very friendly environment for us. The first dinner, where we had the chance to try some delicious local food, allowed us to get to know each other and our research interests and expectations.

The following morning we split into groups of 8 to 9 participants that were created based on our research topics. Despite the diverse nature of our projects and profiles, my group’s topics were very closely related and we were able to get up to speed on each other’s research fairly quickly.

I chose to be the first to present as –I must admit– I was a little anxious about sharing my project with my colleagues and was looking forward to some relief. The participants listened carefully for about 10 minutes and what followed was a round of feedback from every other group member and leading faculty. Even when it is hard to provide valuable feedback based on an abstract and a 10 minute overview, the participants in my group provided me with useful insight, questions, tips and –what I consider most valuable- a fresh, qualified perspective on questions I have been asking myself for years. In the end, there wasn’t much to feel antsy about.

Unexpectedly, and thanks to the friendly and honest atmosphere under which the sessions were carried out, the seminar turned out to be a very nice space to vent our anxieties and worries. As many of you must know, life as a PhD student can be very challenging on a
personal level. It was nice to find that, despite our different cultural and academic backgrounds, we were able to relate and share not only our concerns but also strategies to achieve a better balance.

As you can see, the PhD seminar is a unique opportunity to get quality feedback, season your communication skills and meet fellow students and faculty with an interest in the Third-Sector. If you are considering applying for the next seminar or know someone that could, I definitely recommend it.

Finally, I would like to thank ISTR for organizing such an enriching experience for us students and for providing the much needed travel support without which many of us would not have been able to participate.

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**ISTR Member Insights**

*By Laura Scheiber*

*My path to ISTR began with its flagship publication, Voluntas. My dissertation study, which focused on the learning trajectories of social entrepreneurs in Brazil, was significantly shaped by a handful of Voluntas articles. My research straddled several fields and during the initial stages of my literature review I was pulling from diffuse publications in the areas of education, sociology, the third sector and social entrepreneurship. At times the literature felt rather disjointed, so much so that I questioned if the connections I was making across these fields made any sense. Then I discovered Voluntas, which, much to my delight, welcomes a wide breadth of topics and fields. What a relief to read a myriad of articles in the same volume that fluidly pulled together diverse areas of expertise. The articles inspired and reaffirmed the direction I wanted to take my work.*

After defending my dissertation from Teachers College, Columbia University, I was on the hunt for an intellectual community where I could share the findings of my research and contribute to professional fields near and dear to my heart. I was fortunate to have one of my articles published in Voluntas. What a thrill and honor to have the opportunity to publish the findings of my study in a journal that was so pivotal to my doctoral work. I found the review process to be a positive no-nonsense exchange, and I am grateful for the rigorous feedback from reviewers that ultimately made my article stronger.

Wanting to dive deeper into the ISTR community, I became a member in 2015 and attended the 2016 ISTR conference in Stockholm, Sweden. I must confess that I haven’t always had the best experience with conferences. I often find them a bit overwhelming and somewhat isolating. There never seems to be sufficient time or space for quality interaction or opportunities to really get to know fellow conference goers. I am happy to say that my first ISTR conference was a delightfully different experience.

Thanks to my wonderful colleague from Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais and fellow ISTR member, Armindo dos Santos de Sousa Teodósio (Téo), he introduced me to an outstanding group of Brazilian academics and practitioners. Marlei Pozzebon, Airton Cardoso, Mario Aquino Alves, Paula Chies Schommer, Lara Simielli, Gabriela de Breliáz, Carolina Anidon, Morgana Martins Krieger, Patricia Mendonça, and Vander Aquiar are just a number of new friends and colleagues I met in Stockholm. They generously invited me to join them at key conference events, sessions, and must-see sightseeing activities. Brazilian culture never ceases to amaze me in terms of its warmth and receptivity. Certainly ISTR’s Brazilian members are no exception.

The conference in Stockholm opened up opportunities for new friendships and professional partnerships. I am thrilled at the prospect of a number of proposed collaborations that evolved out of conversations following conference sessions. I really appreciated the diverse breadth of topics and fields that the ISTR conference sessions encompassed, as well as its balanced mix of practitioner and academic-oriented presentations, both of which were equally valued. Attending the sessions helped me gain a broader perspective...
on the many exciting topics and approaches currently taking place in the third sector. During my paper and roundtable sessions, I was grateful for the thoughtful questions and I learned valuable insights from colleagues’ comments that will help push my work forward. I came back from the conference feeling inspired and invigorated.

So now what? Having the opportunity to contribute to ISTR’s Member Insights has encouraged me to reflect on my prior work and future ambitions in the third sector and where ISTR fits into this path. I began my career over twenty years ago when I took a job as a case manager at a non-profit organization in Chicago. I worked with previously homeless families living in public housing projects. I will never forget the children and teenagers with whom I worked and the day-to-day injustices they faced, like inequitable educational opportunities, racism and incessant violence due to gang warfare and police violence. Since then, I have dedicated my career to social inclusion and education, third sector initiatives, and social movements aimed at empowering marginalized youth by resisting unfair and unjust social processes.

Most of my work has been situated in academia, thanks to wonderful research opportunities at Teachers College, Columbia University and Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais. Looking forward, my aim is to make meaningful connections between my research world and my practical work in the third sector. I am fortunate to be collaborating with a number of amazing non-profit organizations dedicated to empowering some of the world’s most vulnerable populations. Is the work challenging? Absolutely. But I am grateful to ISTR because I finally found my intellectual home, which will undoubtedly offer invaluable resources in my efforts to intersect my academic and practitioner worlds. I feel inspired by the ISTR community and am grateful to my “new home” for its invaluable supports that encourage all of us who make up this community to keep on.

Laura Scheiber is the Director of New Media Arts Workshop at Educational Video Center. From 2014-2016 she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais.

Mentoring Program

At the ISTR Stockholm conference, Carolyn Cordery (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand) and Danielle McConville (Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland) were paired as mentor/mentee in the Mentoring Pilot Project.

Carolyn reports: “Being paired with Danielle was a pleasant surprise as I had already organised a month at Queens as part of my Research and Study Leave. It meant Danielle and I had time to catch up following our meeting at ISTR and to discuss some matters about her career progression. Also, as part of my month’s visit it was planned that she and I were to be involved in a joint paper along with one or two others. In the event Danielle and I are the two collaborators and I think we have a very nice project that is relevant, comparative and may well turn into 2-3 papers with a funded component. While researching and writing together is not the main idea behind mentoring, it was almost inevitable in this situation. It means I need to be even more mindful of the need to partner, to ensure it does not harm our other conversations. Danielle is of course a lovely young woman with a real passion for the sector and it is a pleasure to have this extra connection.”

Danielle reports: “I was really hoping to get to know someone in the ISTR community better, and hopefully to have a few good conversations around publication and funding strategies that are front-of-mind for me at the moment. In actual fact, Carolyn and I have been able to have those conversations and more, talking about everything from career development to work-life balance. I’ve really valued her advice, which came at a good stage for me. As an added bonus, the more we talked - and we had the luxury that that was often over coffee and a treat in the mid-afternoon - the more we saw the potential to develop an interesting project together based on our common interests. I would whole-heartedly recommend the program to anyone thinking of getting involved next time.”

ISTR Mentoring Week February 1-7
All mentors/mentees are encouraged to schedule a time to connect the first week in February 2017. Whether you Skype, FaceTime, WHATSAPP, WECHAT or TANGO—please add this to your calendar!! Let the conversation continue….
2016 International Conference on Social Work and Philanthropy
Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China

The "International Conference on Social Work and Philanthropy" was held on September 29, 2016 at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangdong, China. This conference brought together domestic and foreign influential scholars and leaders of charitable organizations to share their viewpoints on issues such as community exploration, charitable organizations, and social welfare in hope of promoting the special services and research levels of social work and philanthropy, bringing new reflections to the professional construction of philanthropy.

During the conference, domestic and foreign senior scholars specializing in social work and philanthropy shared their viewpoints on the subjects such as the coordinated development of philanthropy and social work; the challenges brought by the new era and system of Charity Law; the new social environment and audience faced by social work in the context of the Internet and large data; the thought and power of the public service innovation in Taiwan; the industry development status; and the valuable experience of America and Germany from the international vision.

Professor Zhu Jiangang, Executive Dean of School of Philanthropy of SYSU, made closing remarks and shared his thoughts that universities should establish a social work and philanthropy system, and set a professional discipline of social work and philanthropy in the near future. He suggested giving full play to not only the institutional advantages but also the academic and cultural advantages, and leading the development of the discipline. China has entered into the critical period of social transformation and a prominent period of social contradictions, and should make efforts to carry out various social experiments about China’s future. These include efforts to summarize the local experience, promote the national and local policy innovation, and enhance the understanding and knowledge accumulation of social transformation, thus providing an experimental basis for the better governance of the society. Community-oriented approach, action research and social experiments are the future development directions of social work and philanthropy.

The conference was co-sponsored by School of Sociology and Anthropology of Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), Social Work Master Education Center of Peking University, South China Center of China Association for Social Work Education (CASWE), Rural Social Work Professional Committee, Disaster Social Work Professional Committee, and Ethnic Social Work Professional Committee, and undertaken by School of Philanthropy of SYSU and Southern Weekly (public version).

School of Philanthropy (SOP) of Sun Yat-sen University was founded on 1st April 2011, and authorized as a non-profit research organization. Professor Li Ping, Deputy Secretary of CCP Committee of Sun Yat-sen University, serves as the Dean. The predecessor of the SOP was the Center on Philanthropy, SYSU. The SOP is located in the Pearl River Delta, a region where philanthropy is comparatively well-developed and enjoys the participation of scholars and institutions from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and mainland China.
Social Justice, Social Enterprise and the Market: Challenge or Opportunity?
ANZTSR Sydney Conference: A Great Success
By Ruth Phillips, Co-convenor of the ANZTSR Conference

The Australian and New Zealand Third Sector (ANZTSR) group held its biannual conference on November 24th – 25th at the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Around 90 people attended the conference on day one and around 80 people attended on day two. There were 50 research papers presented and five workshops over the two days.

Keynote speakers on both days gave engaging pertinent presentations. On day one, Professor Matthew Hall, newly appointed Professor of Accounting at Monash University, Melbourne (after 10 years at LSE) was the first Keynote Speaker and sought to answer the question ‘Do business practices help or hinder the management of non-profits?’ In a very well researched paper, he gave particular emphasis to the possibilities and pitfalls of accounting techniques such as social-return on investment that seek to monetise the impact generated by non-profit organisations. The second keynote speaker was Professor Jon van Til, Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University and research scholar at the Budapest University of Jewish Studies. Professor van Til was a highly valued special guest and presented a very pertinent paper about ‘Our Sector: Confronting the Manifold Crises of our Time’. The paper was a call to the sector to become more activist, to be able to respond to the very challenging contemporary social, political and economic context in which we operate and confronted the more specific crisis of coping with Trump America. Both papers were very well received and set the tone for each of the two days.

On both days of the conference there were also excellent plenary panels. On day one, the panellists focused on the topic of ‘CSR: To what extent and how? We heard six panellists give 10 minute presentations on their engagement with CSR either as a non-profit or a corporate entity, including Derek Lath, Institutional Affairs Director from Ferrero Australia, who also ensured we had a lovely chocolate treat for all conference participants. This ended in an excellent discussion with provocative questions from the audience. The second plenary session was a response to the topic of ‘Social Justice and the Market’ and was comprised of CEOs and other leaders in the non-profit human services sector, including refugee, employment, social and health services. This was a very stimulating session with perspectives ranging from Indigenous organisations involved in social enterprise to the broad impact of the role of the third sector in countering the right wing, xenophobic turn in everyday politics. Again this was followed by some lively discussion.

The many papers displayed the very wide, interdisciplinary scope of third sector research and the quality of the papers was a comment often heard during the conference breaks. The organising committee also reflected the interdisciplinary nature of the academic side of things but also we had two representatives from the third sector to ensure that we focussed on areas of interest to the sector. This resulted in a good level of participation from third sector practitioners. A big vote of thanks goes to the very hard working organising committee and Rachel Payne who did all the hard organisational administrative work for the conference.
In Memoriam: Ferenc Farkas  
By Katalin Dobrai, Associate Professor, University of Pecs

At the age of 67, Professor Ferenc Farkas, one of the founders of ISTR, died on September 27, 2016. We lost a great scientist, an excellent professor, a reliable and open-hearted colleague and a good friend. His family has lost a loving and caring husband and father. His commitment to the Third Sector and to ISTR had a history of more than two decades.

After receiving his diploma as an economist, Dr. Ferenc Farkas was a Member of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Pecs from 1972 until his death. He was a full professor from 1996.

Professor Farkas held different positions at Faculty and University level and was driven all his life by the internal need to do something for the University and the education of the young generation. In the period of 1996-2002, he was Dean of the Faculty. He was Vice Rector for Strategy and Finance of the University of Pecs between 2007 and 2010. He was Chair of the Department of Organization and Leadership from 1996 till 2013.

His teaching areas included change management, organizational behavior, and leadership. He was able to align his academic career and his everyday experiences in the business and nonbusiness sector organizations. He was a visiting fellow at circa 40 various European and American Universities, among others Leicester University, London School of Economics, London College, Lancashire University, Preston University (UK), Helsinki University (Kuopio, Finland) and Case Western University, Berkley University, SUNY at Buffalo (USA), Ryerson University (Toronto, Canada).

He was very active as an advisor of national and foreign PhD candidates. Even in the last days of his life when he was already very ill, he advised his students about their manuscripts and dissertations.

His research interest covered non-profit management and leadership, human resource management and change management. He has been the team leader of several Hungarian and international projects, with special regard to research activities financed by the European Union. Professor Farkas published as author and/or editor over 250 papers and 15 books and numerous book chapters, both nationally and internationally, and participated in several international conferences in the field of management and non-profit organization management and published conference papers and articles in Hungarian and in different foreign languages.

For his outstanding performance and excellence in teaching, research and university management he received high ranked awards from the local government and the President of Hungary, and also from the Rector of the university. He also received the lifetime achievement award for his role in the establishment of consulting as a minor within management studies, and helping it become a successful product of management major. However, his death hindered that he attended the award ceremony.

He held positions of Board of Directors and Board of Trustees in profit- and nonprofit organizations. He was involved in numerous associations and foundations. In the Third Sector he focused on the young generation and disadvantaged groups of the society. In Hungary he was a Member of the Association of Educators for 12 years, and President of it for 8 years. The impact of the Association and the umbrella organization, House of Civil Communities, became enormous on the development and professionalization of other Third Sector organizations through organization development programs and other services provided by the organizations under his leadership. They won many projects to support the development of other organizations, and during his leadership the income of the Association was doubled. He also had been involved for a long time in the athletic club of the University of Pecs. For more than 25 years he was leader of the table tennis section, leading them to excellent results. The club now wants to make Professor Farkas’ dream a reality, to win the national championship. His impact for the club was a twofold impact, on one hand motivating them to good performance in table tennis, on the other hand to improve their knowledge in their areas of
IN MEMORIAM

study, to work on second diplomas or to receive PhD degrees. He belonged to founders of ISTR. In 1994, he organized the first international conference of ISTR in Pecs (Hungary), and participated in 9 conferences afterwards: 7 times with a presentation or in a panel session, or chairing sessions. He also contributed to the conferences as a member of the organizing committee, by reviewing abstracts. He also was a member of the ISTR Nominating Committee for several years. He found it important to present his research in the ISTR Working Papers, and so he had published 3 papers in the series.

He was member of numerous (both Hungarian and international) journals of management. He had reviewed a dozen manuscripts for Voluntas (the last ones not long before his death). For many years he was in Advisory Board of the Journal Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

His death is enormous loss for everybody: family, students, colleagues, friends, for the Hungarian Third sector. As for me, I could say, each of these apply to me, since I was a student of Ferenc Farkas, he was my boss for seven years, he was my colleague, and the colleague of my husband when they worked together in the university leadership in the Rector's team, we did research together for about 15 years, our families became close friends in the last 10 years.

MEMBER NEWS

An ISTR Africa Network member, Gideon Boako has successfully completed his doctoral research studies in Finance in shining colours at Africa’s leading tertiary institution – University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. The PhD research which was titled Studies on African Equity Markets and Global Shocks: Co-Movement, Contagion, and Diversification, addresses the impact of global economic shocks on African economies, harmonization of financial systems within regional economic groupings, as well as, the extent of interdependencies between African countries and the rest of the world. The results of the thesis help in pointing the right direction for policymakers to deepen regional integration while insulating fragile markets from global shocks contagion. The thesis advances existing theories in modeling the transmission of global shock to emerging markets, particularly Africa. In its stride, the thesis makes arguments and economic/econometric assumptions for the inclusion of “delayed-shift contagion” as a new theory in the contagion literature. Gideon’s thesis comes as the fastest in the history of the Wits Business School.

Gideon is a member of the ISTR Regional Advisory Committee for Africa and currently works as a Research Associate to the Chair in African Philanthropy hosted at the Wits Business School in Johannesburg.

Bhekinkosi Moyo, executive director of the Southern Africa Trust and chair of the Africa Philanthropy Network, has been awarded the fourth Olga Alexeeva Memorial Prize. This prize was established in memory of Olga Alexeeva, founder of Philanthropy Bridge Foundation, by former PFB trustees in honour of her memory and beliefs. The £5,000 prize is awarded annually.

In a continent where philanthropy has long been marginalized, where very little infrastructure exists to support its development and there is little understanding of its role, Bheki Moyo has consistently promoted African philanthropy locally and globally. He has led and supported efforts on both the practical and theoretical aspects of it. Most recently, he was instrumental in setting up a Chair in African Philanthropy at South Africa’s Witwatersrand Business School.

In choosing Bheki Moyo, the judges commented on 'his broad and long-term contribution to African philanthropy, playing different roles and critically contributing to building African institutions and networks … dedicated to strengthening philanthropy in Africa and helping to create the potential to achieve progressive social change in a sustained manner.'

Awarding the Olga Prize to Bheki Moyo is also a recognition that philanthropy should not be limited to the mobilization of private money, according to the judges. Bheki has contributed greatly to building stronger participation and more horizontal processes around philanthropic efforts in Africa, both through his direct interventions and through his academic and knowledge achievements.

Bheki Moyo also serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of ISTR.
MEMBER NEWS

ARNOVA presented the following awards to ISTR members at their 2016 Conference:

- Beth Gazley, Indiana University, received the Best Paper Award from the 2015 ARNOVA Conference
- Helmut Anheier, Hertie School of Governance, received The School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland – ARNOVA Global Philanthropy and Non-profit Leadership Award
- Pamela Wiepking, Erasmus University Rotterdam, received the Virginia Hodgkinson Research Book Prize
- Lehn Benjamin, Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, and David Campbell, University of California Davis, received the NVSQ Best Article Award
- Ram Cnaan, University of Pennsylvania, received the Best Reviewer for NVSQ for 2016
- Jeffrey Bradney, University of North Carolina Wilmington, received the NML Editor’s prize
- Tracy Shicun Cui, Georgia State University, Inigo Garcia-Rodriguez, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, and Svitlana Krasynska, University of San Diego, received the ARNOVA Emerging Scholars Award
- Stephanie Maas, Erasmus University and Seth Meyer, Rutgers University, received the Doctoral Seminar Fellows Award

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS

EFESEIIS: Enabling the Flourishing and Evolution of Social Entrepreneurship for Inclusive and Innovative Societies

The EFESEIIS (Enabling the Flourishing and Evolution of Social Entrepreneurship for Innovative and Inclusive Societies) project is one of the last projects funded by the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration (FP7). Geographically, the project covers ten countries: Albania, Austria, UK (England and Scotland), France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia and Sweden¹.

The project started in December 2013 and finished in November 2016. The key findings in relation to the overarching question of what determines an enabling eco-system for social enterprise (SE) are listed below:

- The relationship between SE and public institutions is fundamental in the development of a supportive ecosystem – particularly recognition of the role SEs have in a mixed economy, and enabling policies that are effectively and uniformly implemented within the administrative areas. Local authorities have a preeminent role in the configuration of the social enterprise ecosystem primarily because they provide opportunities for social entrepreneurship in conjunction with social services, or delivering health and welfare services. However, many local authorities are undergoing budget cuts which seriously challenge their capacity to sustain social entrepreneurship through procurement and funding SE networking activities.
- It also appears helpful to reduce the bureaucracy associated with delivering public authority services and improving procurement policies to recognise the value of including social and environmental outcomes. This

¹The consortium includes PIN Soc. Cons. A.R.L. University of Florence; Westfaelische Wilhelms University of Muenster, Germany; Syddansk University of Southern Denmark; Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig Onderzoek Alterra, Netherlands; Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland; Fondacija Za Razvoj Ekonomiske Nauke Fren, Serbia; University of Northampton, England; University of Warsaw, Poland; Impact Hub Austria; Science Po France; Nxitja e Biznesit Social, Albania.
would benefit both SEs and society and prove cost effective in the long term.

- Among the interventions that support an enabling ecosystem for social enterprise is improving tax benefits or providing preferential tax rates for activities or donations related to social entrepreneurship.
- The relationship between SEs and financial institutions is important to the development of a favourable ecosystem. Social investors could enable SEs to develop by increasing access to funding and providing financial advice.
- SEs should be supported to invest in measuring their impact more effectively. There are a variety of strategies that organisations can employ to evidence impact, and while many lament the complexities and difficulties of measuring social impact, it is widely recognised that recording and disseminating impact information is beneficial in marketing the activities and achievements of SEs.
- SEs’ capacity to network and speak with a single voice is another feature of an enabling environment, because it strengthens the sector's engagement and impact with stakeholders, citizens and the media.

The Scottish Team
Prof. Simone Baglioni, Dr Micaela Mazzei, Dr Michael Roy and Dr Stephen Sinclair

Giving the Third Sector the visibility it deserves!

The Third Sector Impact project (TSI) held its final conference in Brussels on 9 November, bringing together 80 representatives of national statistical agencies, third sector and social economy networks working at local, regional, national and EU level, as well as European and national policy makers ad researchers. Improving the visibility of the sector emerged as key demand and challenge that requires multiple stakeholders working together. Fundamental to this end is the capacity of the third sector itself to articulate its own counter-narrative that centres the public debate on the distinctive traits and values of the sector, based on the participation, self-expression and self-organization of citizens. Equally important is that statistical agencies gather data on non-profit and social economy activity - a task supported by the fact that TSI’s definition on the third sector will be included in the new edition of the UN Handbook on Third, or Social Economy (TSE), Institutions and Household Volunteer Activity. National governments that must implement supporting policies, and it is the combined advocacy power of third sector, researchers and committed statisticians who must hold politicians accountable.

Read the full conference report:

Call for Papers

The Journal of Entrepreneurial and Organizational Diversity (JEOD)
Carlo Borzaga, Giovanni Ferri and Silvia Sacchetti, Co-Chief Editors
http://www.jeodonline.com

JEOD is an international, online, open-access journal, published in English by Euricse (European Research Centre on Cooperatives and Social Enterprises). As a new editorial initiative, JEOD aims at playing a role in promoting new debates and analysis of different organizational types and enterprises, their aims, and socio-economic impacts. JEOD is distinguished by an interdisciplinary approach and covers questions ranging from determinants and effects of entrepreneurial diversity and governance models, to developments in new forms of enterprise, such as the social enterprises. JEOD aims at publishing new work on current issues confronting different types of organisations, entrepreneurial initiatives and impacts throughout the world. Being a new initiative, JEOD is currently indexed in SSRN and IDEAS/RePec.

The Editors welcome special issue proposals, manuscripts, and book reviews. For information contact: info@jeodonline.com
Special Issue: Nonprofit Management in Transition in Administrative Sciences

Nonprofit management is both an academic field of study and a profession. Nonprofit management is unique in a wide range of management issues, including accountability, networking, volunteer HR practices and recruitment, organizational change and crisis, performance, and lobbying.

Nonprofit management includes theories that explain the nature and the behavior of non-profit organizations and describe their role in society.

Nonprofit management reflects the effect of internal and external constraints. The relationship with the government and business settings, the application of for-profit practices and the adoption of efficient practices in times of economic crisis, as well as the development of HR practices.

In the present Special Issue, we seek to cover empirical and conceptual studies in the area of Nonprofit management. We welcome contributions—empirical, conceptual and case studies related to all the above and not only aspects of non-profit management. We are particularly interested on the evolution of management practices following the global economic crisis. How have non-profit organizations responded, what administrative changes have been introduced, and what measures of success they use to assess the degree of performance?

Prof. Dr. Rita Mano, Guest Editor
Deadline for manuscript submissions: 30 April 2017
Special Issue Information: http://mdpi.com/journal/admsci/special_issues/nonprofit_management

Administrative Sciences is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal, which publishes original theoretical and empirical work on organization studies.

“Social Enterprise for Sustainable Societies” to be discussed at next EMES Research Conference

The full call for papers of the 6th EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise, which will take place in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) July 3-6, 2017, was launched at the beginning of October. The call includes relevant information about how to submit a paper (the abstract submission period ends on January 9, 2017) and about Conference registration. Please note that abstracts can be submitted in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish, but the language for presentations at the Conference will be English.

The title of next year’s Conference is “Social enterprise for sustainable societies” and it includes the following ten thematic lines:

1. Concepts and models of social enterprise worldwide
2. Social innovation and social entrepreneurship
3. Governance, employment and human resource management
4. Financing issues of social enterprises, philanthropy and social finance
5. Social impact, value creation and performance
6. Institutionalization, scaling up and public policies
7. Informal sector, popular economy, microfinance and development
8. Social enterprises, sustainable transition and common good
9. Social and solidarity economy, third sector, civil society and social movements
10. Gender and diversity issues

Given the very wide scope of this 6th Conference and the relevance of sustainability for many disciplines, we hope to be able to expand the type of scholars who participate in the conference. Therefore, we look forward to receiving your submission.

Two support documents, “How to get there” and “Accommodation”, have also been created to help participants organize their trip to Louvain-la-Neuve. Regular updates on the Conference are published on the emes.net website and are sent via the EMES news alert, so you can check former issues and sign up for it here. Questions about any aspect of the Conference can be sent to 6emesconf@emes.net.
Call for Proposals

European Research Network On Philanthropy
8th International Conference, 13-14 July 2017, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark

Download Call for Papers

The ERNOP board is pleased to announce that the 8th international conference of our dedicated network of philanthropy researchers will be hosted by the Center for Civil Society Studies at Copenhagen Business School in Denmark on July 13-14, 2017. Theme will be “The changing face of philanthropy? Philanthropy in an era of hybridity and alternative forms of organizing”. Deadline for submitting proposals is February 17, 2017.

Recent years have witnessed a diversification of the “how” of philanthropy. Classic donations from individuals, foundations and commercial enterprises give way to hybrid forms of philanthropy. A distinction between giving and receiving organizations, foundations and commercial enterprise is no longer easily made. Hosted by the Center for Civil Society Studies at the Department of Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, the conference will bring together scholars from various disciplines sharing a drive to discuss the answers on questions of today’s philanthropy and generate new questions about the philanthropy of tomorrow. Participants are especially encouraged to send in proposals addressing the boundaries, new and alternative forms of philanthropy. Not only will the conference serve as a platform to discuss current research developments and to foster new insights about philanthropy today, it will thus also address the face of philanthropy tomorrow.

PhD workshop

The future of our field of research is in the hands of our students. Investing in the next generation of researchers is an important instrument to increase the quality of research. Therefore we are happy to announce that ERNOP is organizing a pre-conference workshop for PhD candidates. René Bekkers (VU Amsterdam), Anne-Claire Pache (ESSEC) and Maria Gallo (NUI Galway) will mentor a selection of PhD candidates who are in the initial stage of their dissertation research. The goal of the workshop is to help PhD candidates design their dissertation plans and provide them with feedback from the mentors and the other participants. Seminar activities will include a combination of feedback sessions and more formal panel discussions designed to help PhD students advance their dissertation work. Candidates from all nations and all disciplines are welcome to apply. A limited number of travel and accommodation grants (€250 each) is available for students who have no other funding to attend the workshop.

More information and guidelines for submitting proposals can be found here.

Pre-conference Event

On the day before the ERNOP conference, CBS Center for Civil Society Studies and the Carlsberg Academy will organize a pre-conference event on the societal significance of European foundations. At this poster based encounter among researchers and practitioners, CBS Center for Civil Society Studies will publish a report on the impact and role of European foundations.

Next to the presentation of the report, this pre-conference event will be supplemented by a wide variety of posters presented by a select group of researchers and informed practitioners studying foundations in different parts of Europe. This morning session is limited to a select group of 50 poster-presenters presenting in a seminar-style format. In the afternoon session (2-5 PM) the poster-presenters are supplemented by an invited group of academics and practitioners associated with philanthropic organizations. This mixed audience will be addressed by two keynote speakers, and given opportunities to discuss the invited posters in an interactive workshop fashion. Afterwards the posters can be exhibited in the main hall at the ERNOP conference. More information about this event can be found here.

All governments, in various ways, regulate and control nonprofit organizations. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), while hopeful of supportive regulatory environments, are simultaneously seeking greater autonomy both to provide services and to advocate for policy change. In part to counter increasing statutory regulation, there is a global nonprofit sector movement towards greater grassroots regulation - what the authors call self-regulation - through codes of conduct and self-accreditation processes. This book drills down to the country level to study both sides of this equation, examining how state regulation and nonprofit self-regulation affect each other and investigating the causal nature of this interaction. Exploring these issues from historical, cultural, political, and environmental perspectives, and in sixteen jurisdictions (Australia, China, Brazil, Ecuador, England and Wales, Ethiopia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Tanzania, Uganda, Scotland, United States, and Vietnam), the authors analyse the interplay between state control and nonprofit self-regulation to better understand broader emerging trends.


The relevance of the relationship between public administration, citizens and organized civil society (in the form of associations and associations) in the policy process is particularly evident at the local level. The local politicians are regarded as pioneers of social change, and administrative reforms are first implemented. It is the local level that regularly and consistently demands social and democratic innovation. The anthology aims to reflect from a transnational perspective the different national patterns of this particular actor relationship and to analyze current local debates, local patterns of cooperation and policy approaches (procedures, strategies).

The book is divided into two main parts: The first part covers the theoretical conception of the relationship between public administration, civil society and local democracy. In addition, the concept of innovation underlying this anthology is introduced. Methodological considerations on the measurability of innovations and the ability to innovate in the context of public administration from the bridge to the empirical part of the book. The second part presents innovations in local policy areas, such as city planning, housing market and child care.


The Social Enterprise Zoo employs the metaphor of the zoo to gain a more comprehensive understanding of social enterprise: the diversity of its forms; the various ways it is organized in different socio-political environments; how different forms of enterprise behave, interact, and thrive; and what lessons can be drawn for the future development and study of organizations that seek to balance social or environmental impact with economic success.

After setting the stage with a thorough introduction, top scholars explore the different ways that social enterprises can be classified, nurtured, and understood. The book
not only details the legal forms utilized in social enterprise and the social entrepreneurs involved in them, but it also addresses the reasons for the success or failure of these activities and looks at the ecologies in which they operate. The “zookeepers,” such as governments and the regulatory regimes they establish, are compared and the important roles they play are examined. The volume concludes with a look at the future of social enterprise, providing suggestions for further research and implications for policy and practice.


Communication in the public sphere as well as within organizational contexts has attracted the interest of researchers over the past century. Current forms of citizen engagement and community development, partly enabled through digital communication, have further enhanced the visibility and relevance of non-profit communication. These are performed by the civil society, which is ‘the organized expression of the values and interests of society’ (Castells, 2008) in the public sphere. Non-profit communication feeds the public sphere as ‘the discursive processes in a complex network of persons, institutionalized associations and organizations,’ whereas those ‘discourses are a civilized way of disagreeing openly about essential matters of common concern’ (Jensen, 2002).

Despite the relevance in the public sphere, non-profit communication was never properly defined within communication research. The aim of the present book is to offer an overview and report on Strategic Communication for Non-Profit-Organisations and the Challenges and Alternative Approaches. Considering the assumption that a key principle of strategic communication is the achievement of organisational goals, the majority of research developed in the field has used business environments to develop theories, models, empirical insights and case studies. Here, we take a step towards new approaches centered on the concept of non-profit in various dimensions and from various perspectives, showing the diversity and complexity around this subject and at the same time the need of further theoretical and empirical work that provides frameworks and also tools for further understanding of the phenomena.


We are often confronted with choices where morality and pragmatism seem to be at odds. In these situations, leaders are supposed to go with pragmatism—making “tough calls.” But Sasha Chanoff became a better leader—and saved lives—when he chose empathy and altruism. Through his extraordinary story and the stories of other brave leaders, this book inspires everyone to be guided by his or her deepest moral values.

All leaders face defining moments, crises that reveal their true character. Here, Sasha and his father, David, expand on Sasha’s defining moment, recounted on The Moth podcast as “An Impossible Choice.” Working in the violence-torn Congo, he was charged with evacuating a specific group of refugees. Then he and his colleague discovered a group of widows and orphans not on the rescue list. Leaving them behind would mean their deaths. Attempting to take them would jeopardize the entire mission.

From Crisis to Calling puts you with Sasha as he agonizes over what to do, revealing five principles for confronting critical decisions that emerged from this experience. The book tells the stories of eight other leaders—from business, government, the military, and nonprofits—who stayed true to their own moral values in the face of enormous pressure. They illustrate the power and fulfillment that come from investing your work with compassion, empathy, and an awareness of others.

Unequal Partners offers a nuanced analysis of a US-led foundation initiative of uncommon ambition, featuring seven foundations with a shared commitment to strengthen capacity in higher education in Sub-Saharan African universities. The book examines the conditions under which philanthropy can be effective, the impasses that foundations often face, and the novel context in which philanthropy operates today. This study therefore assesses the shifting grounds on which higher education globally is positioned and the role of global philanthropy within these changing contexts. This is especially important in a moment where higher education is once again recognized as a driver of development and income growth, where knowledge economies requiring additional levels of education are displacing economies predicating on manufacturing, and in a context where higher education itself appears increasingly precarious and under dramatic pressures to adapt to new conditions.


Nonprofits and Government provides students and practitioners with the first comprehensive, interdisciplinary, research-based inquiry into the collaborative and conflicting relationship between nonprofits and government at all levels: local, national, and international. The contributors—all leading experts—explore how government regulates, facilitates, finances, and oversees nonprofit activities, and how nonprofits, in turn, try to shape the way government serves the public and promotes the civic, religious, and cultural life of the country. Buttressed by rigorous scholarship, a solid grasp of history, and practical ideas, this 360-degree assessment frees discussion of the nonprofit sector’s relationship to government from both wishful and insular thinking. The third edition addresses the tremendous changes that created both opportunities and challenges for nonprofit-government relations over the past ten years, including new audit requirements, tax and regulatory changes, consequences of the Affordable Care Act and the Great Recession, and new nonprofit and philanthropic forms.


Thinking Small tells the story of how the United States sought to rescue the world from poverty through small-scale, community-based approaches. And it also sounds a warning: such strategies, now again in vogue, have been tried before, with often disastrous consequences.

It is common for historians to interpret the United States’ postwar development campaigns as ill-advised attempts to impose modernity upon poorer nations. The small-scale projects that are popular today mark a retreat from that top-down, heavy-handed approach. But Daniel Immerwahr shows that community-based development is nothing new: it has been present since the origins of international development practice, existing alongside—and sometimes at the heart of—grander schemes to modernize the global South. His transnational study follows a set of strange bedfellows—the Peace Corps and the CIA, Mohandas Gandhi and Ferdinand Marcos, antipoverty activists and Cold Warriors—united by their conviction that development should not be about engineers building dams but about communities shaping their own fates. The programs they designed covered hundreds of millions of people in some sixty countries, eventually making their way back to the United States itself during the War on Poverty.
Yet the hope that small communities might lift themselves up was often disappointed, as self-help gave way to crushing forms of local oppression. Thinking Small challenges those who hope to eradicate poverty to think twice about the risks as well as the benefits of community development.

When Grameen Bank was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, microfinance was lauded as an important contributor to the economic development of the Global South. However, political scandals, mission-drift, and excessive commercialization have tarnished this example of responsible or inclusive financial development. Politicized Microfinance insightfully discusses exclusion while providing a path towards redemption.

In this work, Caroline Shenaz Hossein explores the politics, histories and social prejudices that have shaped the legacy of microbanking in Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad. Writing from a feminist perspective, Hossein’s analysis is rooted in original qualitative data and offers multiple solutions that prioritize the needs of marginalized and historically oppressed people of African descent.

Politicized Microfinance convincingly deftly argues for microfinance to return to its origins as a political tool, fighting for those living in the margins.


While studies of policy analysis in other countries have assessed their needs and integrated them into training programmes for professional policy analysts, Japanese studies have been very limited. Policy Analysis in Japan brings together for the first time a detailed examination of the theory and practice of policy analysis systems in Japan, at different levels.

The book provides expert analysis to closely examine to what extent the Japanese government has succeeded in providing key policy actors with evidence-informed policy options, thereby improving the likelihood of better policies being adopted and implemented. The book also assesses Japan’s future policy directions, allowing policy researchers and practitioners to draw a number of lessons from the Japanese experience. The book includes empirical case studies to aid teaching and further research.


Whether you are a university professor, researcher at a think tank, graduate student, or analyst at a private firm, chances are that at some point you have presented your work in front of an audience. Most of us approach this task by converting a written document into slides, but the result is often a text-heavy presentation saddled with bullet points, stock images, and graphs too complex for an audience to decipher—much less understand. Presenting is fundamentally different from writing, and with only a little more time, a little more effort, and a little more planning, you can communicate your work with force and clarity.

Designed for presenters of scholarly or data-intensive content, Better Presentations details essential strategies for developing clear, sophisticated, and visually captivating presentations. Following three core principles—visualize, unify, and focus—Better Presentations describes how to visualize data effectively, find and use images appropriately, choose sensible fonts and colors, edit text for powerful delivery, and restructure a written argument for maximum engagement and persuasion. With a range of clear examples for what to do (and what not to do), the practical package offered in Better Presentations shares the best techniques to display work and the best tactics for winning over audiences. It pushes presenters past the frustration and intimidation of the process to more effective, memorable, and persuasive presentations.
A Guide to Community Foundations in Germany

The Country Guide presents community foundations in Germany.

Twenty years after the first community foundation was established in Germany, there is a great interest abroad in German community foundations. How do community foundations fit into their social context? What are their legal bases? What distinguishes them and how can their success story be continued? A Guide to Community Foundations in Germany examines all these questions.


Individual Giving and Philanthropy in Turkey Report

TUSEV published the Individual Giving and Philanthropy in Turkey report which presents comprehensive and up to date data on perception on philanthropy, trends and motivations in individual giving as well as providing a comparison on the change in the understanding of philanthropy and giving practices. Supported by the Anadolu Foundation, the Aydin Do an Foundation, the ENKA Foundation, the Hüsnü M. Özye in Foundation, the Sabancı Foundation and the Vehbi Koç Foundation; the research was carried out by Prof. Ali Çarkoğlu and Assoc. Prof Selim Erdem Aytaç from Koç University. The full report, executive summary prepared by TUSEV and infographics are available here.

A Shrinking Space for Civil Society? A Conference on Civil Society and Europe’s Political Culture: Wrocław, Poland, October 2016

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Claiming Agency: Reflecting on TrustAfrica’s First Decade


Claiming Agency. Reflecting on TrustAfrica’s First Decade takes an in-depth look at an African-led foundation that set out to do things differently. Founded in 2006, when solutions to Africa’s challenges were often developed outside its borders, TrustAfrica sought to practice a kind of philanthropy that both benefits Africans and actively supports their agency. Now, at the ten-year mark, the book asks, what does this kind of philanthropy make a difference? If so, how? What are its unique ways of working?

The answers are found in chapters that reflect on how TrustAfrica and its partners advanced a range of issues - from women’s rights, small-holder agriculture, and democratic reform in Liberia and Zimbabwe to international criminal justice and illicit financial flows. In a clear-eyed look at money and power, the authors observe that donor funds all too often come with strings that constrict African agency - and recommend ways in which donors from Africa and the global north can foster independent action and strengthen movements for change.

Philipp Sälhoff, Das Progressive Zentrum, Berlin, Germany
Dr. Maria Skóra, Das Progressive Zentrum, Berlin, Germany


Europa Bottom-Up is the occasional papers series of the Maecenata Foundation’s Europe Bottom-Up programme and contains both reports on activities within this programme and relevant reprints and original papers by foundation staff and outside experts.

You can now find the latest online publications on our website; please visit www.istr.org/onpub to keep up to date on the latest information regarding third sector publications.
EFC Latest Mapping of European Foundations Environmental Funding

The EFC launched its third environmental funding mapping, representing the most comprehensive study to date into the state of European independent funding for environmental issues. The 75 foundations covered in the study provided 2,913 environmental grants, amounting to 479.1 million in 2014. Most funding is going to nature/biodiversity issues and less to address “industrial” activities like transport and chemicals. Climate change funding was not the most significant theme in 2014, noting however that the data does not cover 2015 figures where some would expect an increased granting to climate change due to the Paris climate summit. Encouragingly, “sustainable communities” and “circular economy” are moving up the priority list. This tells us that environmental funders are adjusting their programmes in order to ensure better coherence with political priorities and general developments.


2016 Million Pound Donor Report shows “boom time” in UK philanthropy

The 2016 Coutts Million Pound Donors Report was researched and written by Dr Beth Breeze and Dr Kayleigh Flaxman. This year’s UK report finds growth in both the total number of gifts worth £1m or more: 355 in 2015, up 17% on 2014, and in the total value of those gifts: £1.83 billion, up 19% on 2014. Further cause for cheer is the identification of 44 ‘first time’ million pound donors. Higher Education remains the top choice for donors giving at this level, and all types of cause received some degree of support from these biggest donors.

You can access the full report here and jump straight to the United Kingdom report here.

INTRAC Publications

Special Series Paper 1. Exit strategies and sustainability. Lessons for practitioners

Recognising the demand in the sector for guidance on exit processes and support for sustainability after withdrawal, our first Special Series compiles blog posts on exit strategies and sustainability of civil society organisations and their work, published by INTRAC from 2014-16.

Working paper 2. Exploring the context for creating a local governance performance index in Tanzania

To help in selecting relevant and context-specific indicators for an index of local governance performance, this paper sets out the context of good governance, local governance, accountability and local service delivery in Tanzania.
Do you teach? Are you interested in an ISTR Teaching section?

At the Stockholm Conference, several participants and myself started talking about forming a teaching section for ISTR. We were certainly aware of "research" in the ISTR name but the reality is that research on teaching nonprofit/nongovernmental organization material is presented at ISTR Conferences. Moreover, many ISTR members either teach college and university classes or teach workshops and webinars. Teaching is not just done in the academy but also through consultation and other activities of ISTR members. If you are interested in joining with other ISTR colleagues to form a teaching section for the exchange of research and ideas about teaching, please contact me, Norman Dolch, at norman.dolch@unt.edu.

2017 EFC AGA and Conference “Courage to Re-embrace Solidarity in Europe – Can Philanthropy Take the Lead? will take place on 31 May-2 June 2017, Warsaw, Poland.

The 2017 EFC AGA and Conference will focus on the theme of ‘courage for solidarity’ and specifically how philanthropy should be involved in fostering, supporting and promoting it. It will offer a unique opportunity for delegates from around the world to reflect on their own work, learn from their peers, and discover how, by finding the courage to re-embrace solidarity, they can help shape a brighter future. Registration opens in January 2017. See details at http://www.efc.be/aga/2017-warsaw/

Research Grant Awarded on Board Performance

A research grant aimed at helping association executives and leaders refine or modify recruitment and selection practices that support optimal board performance has been awarded by the American Society of Association Executives Foundation. The research will include understanding how to anticipate, minimize, and resolve challenges in board selection so as to identify, cultivate and secure competent and capable board members. Dr. William Brown of Texas A & M University, along with Mark Engle and Ann Cordes of the Association Management Center received the grant award.