



Inside

ISTR

The International Society for Third-Sector Research is an international and multidisciplinary scholarly association to promote research and teaching about the Third, Voluntary, or Nonprofit Sector.

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CONFERENCE REPORT

ISTR's Stockholm Conference Attracts Largest Attendance: 785 Delegates from 62 Countries

ISTR's Twelfth International Conference was held at Ersta Sköndal University College from June 28 to July 1, 2016, with 785 delegates from 62 countries. The conference venue was a stunning campus on the water with amazing views of the City, which provided a relaxed and warm atmosphere for open exchange and dialogue. To accommodate the large number of participants tents were set up on campus for registration, exhibits, coffee breaks and lunches and provided excellent additional meeting space.

For the Opening Reception, the City of Stockholm hosted all of the participants in the beautiful Stockholm City Hall. The City Hall is famous for its grand ceremonial halls and unique art pieces and is the venue of the Nobel Prize banquet held on 10th of December each year. The venue at the Blue Hall which is also the place for the Nobel festivities will be remembered as a very special evening. After the Closing Plenary Session on the last day of the conference, the Swedish hosts invited conference participants to Gala Reception at Norra Latin Conference Center in the Stockholm City center and included drinks, buffet, live music

and dancing. It was a fun and festive way to close the conference.

Plenary Sessions

Alice Bah Kuhnke, Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy, welcomed the delegates to Sweden at the Rival Hotel Theatre, where we gathered for the plenary sessions.

Minister Bah Kuhnke stressed that "... we want a civil society that challenges the Government to do more, to do better. We want their strong critical voices. When other countries want to silence civil society when they raise their voices, we invite them to the table. It is what any responsible Government should do – in my opinion."

She concluded, "Finally, of course in order for us politicians to make better decisions on regula-

tions for civil society, the dialogue between research, civil society and the public sector are necessary. In this way this conference is contributing to the creation and strengthening of contacts between academia and practice, which we believe to be value to all involved."



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Annette Zimmer gave this introduction at the 12th International Conference in Stockholm on Wednesday, June 29, 2016

Dear members, friends and colleagues of ISTR, dear guests and participants,

It is a great honor and a tremendous pleasure for me to welcome all of you. Today, we start the 12th International Conference of ISTR at the Ersta Sköndal University College in Stockholm.

It is the first time that we are that far in the north. And it is impressive to see and to experience the openness, the vigor and the dedication of the Scandinavian and in particular the Swedish civil society.

To begin with: Let me take the opportunity to send a big thank-you to the local host and the organizing committee here in Stockholm under the guidance and leadership of Prof. Lars Svedberg. I know from experience how difficult it has become to convince sponsors that we – the community of civil society researchers - do the right thing and therefore – have to be funded.

However, thanks to your efforts and thanks to the generosity of Ersta Sköndal University and the city of Stockholm, we are all here now looking forward to the next days of interesting panels, round table discussions, key-note speeches, and inspiring conversations among new and old members and friends of ISTR.

Getting prepared for Stockholm, I took the opportunity to go back to the roots, and I checked the bylaws of the society. What ISTR is supposed to do is to advance knowledge about civil society, nonprofit organizations, voluntarism and philanthropy internationally and globally. Also, the association is truly interdisciplinary, working with the aim of encouraging research in all disciplines that are relevant for civil society.

The Stockholm Conference is the largest one we ever had. With more than 750 participants from around the world, with more than 400 papers, and more than 40 panels, it is obvious that ISTR did a good job the last years in building and attracting a growing community of scholars interested in and working on topics and issues related to civil society and the third sector.

However, it might also be the case that the success story of this association and also of the other associations and organizations with a similar focus such as ARNOVA, EMES or ERNOP – just to name a few - that have grown significantly in the last decades has a flipside. Indeed, growth almost always comes with a caveat.

Let us speculate or work with the hypothesis at least for the moment that the “big interest” in the field and area of investigation could also indicate that there is something wrong and that the development of civil society and the sector is not that secured and safeguarded as we assume or even might take for granted. In public debates, the phrase ‘The Shrinking Space for Civil Society’ is being heard more and more frequently.



Annette Zimmer

It could mean that there is a definite need for more research and investigation. Civil society is endangered and might not be able to keep to its promises. The third sector might no longer be a societal sphere of hope, glory and a bright future. In many ways, we are confronted with an endangered sector, and with nonprofit organizations that are no longer primarily civil. Over the last decades nonprofits may have become more and more commercial in order to safeguard their survival.

Right – this is indeed the case, in particular in the western hemisphere and in the “old” democracies with their fairly established welfare states. Here in Europe, the US, Canada and some other “rich countries” adaptation to a thor-

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oroughly changed environment constitutes a key feature and a prime area of interest of third sector research nowadays. This stream is clearly reflected in our flagship journal, *Voluntas*. Studying the marketization of the field, the changes of governance and the growing trend towards managerialism have developed into prime topics of nonprofit research. The shift of focus is also clearly reflected in how we in the northern hemisphere talk about the sector, civil society and nonprofits. It seems as if somehow clandestinely the idea that nonprofits are supposed to be different, distinct from the business world as well as from the state and hence providing an alternative to both corporations and government entities has lost attractiveness. Now, these organizations – the nonprofits – stand for “Social Return on Investments”, for a more effective and efficient service production, and for a better fit between the demand and the supply side of service provision, in particular in the social domain.

It is thoroughly o.k. being efficient and embedded and working as “third party government” within welfare state arrangements. However, it is time to clearly spell out that the current tete-a-tete with government in social service provision comes with a price. Cheap labor and a tremendous increase of so called “odd jobs”- poorly paid and highly flexible – and by and large feminized are the price that nonprofit organizations working in the social domain are currently paying for keeping on board and holding their sometimes pool position in the markets of social service provision.

If we look at this scenario and development of nonprofits that become even more business-like than the old fashioned enterprises, we should not be surprised that critics of third sector studies argue: Hey folks – you are missing the point! What you are doing has nothing to do with the study of civil society anymore. You have crossed the Rubicon.

And indeed, those who study the very new forms and peculiarities of the most recent expressions of civil society activities – such as internet-based lobbying, ad hoc forums and loosely coupled issues specific networks – are looking out for different forums of exchange of ideas and concepts than our association ISTR is currently providing. Our research community is unfortunately not always the place researchers primarily turn to when they think about presenting their work. It is not always the scholarly community with which they like to stay attuned. Sadly, we have to admit that in this respect ISTR and our conference is not at the front of science. Yes, we managed to touch base with social movement research, although this has never developed into a very intense and fruitful co-operation. But, what goes

beyond partly old-fashioned concepts and approaches of social movement research – such as the investigation of the so-called dot.com-organizations – has up until now not thoroughly been featured by the ISTR community.

We must be sensitive to the more liberal, left wing, innovative and most recent expressions of civil society being covered by our research. We must reach out to the new topics and not miss and not neglect trends, initiatives and societal developments that are crucial for our field.

A further aspect: When you look at our conference and the organization at large, you can see: Well, as an organization focusing on civil society we are doing fine in the wonderful city of Stockholm. But the world around us looks as if it were falling apart. And indeed, we are faced and confronted with a paradoxical situation. Since the beginning of ISTR more than twenty years ago, “doing the right thing”, research and scholarly investigations that might help to make the world better and that might contribute to the democratization of societies, has been a strong incentive as well as point of reference for our research community. And indeed, when ISTR first started to operate, perspectives used to be very bright and promising. On purpose, the first ISTR international conference took place in Hungary. That was a good choice of location after the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and the end of the so-called Soviet bloc. Civil society, the point of reference of our association, seemed to on the move almost everywhere. Prospects were bright, and widely shared was the belief that through social capital, civic activities and citizen participation, we might envision a world in which societal solutions come first, conflicts are solved peacefully and the economy works on behalf of the people and not exclusively for shareholders.

More than twenty years later, ISTR is confronted with thoroughly changed international perspectives. In international relations and politics, while civil society as a term and concept is now used by politicians, law makers, administrators and business leaders, its real contribution to the development of democracy and to the well-being of citizens is questioned and indeed fought. Violence and cruelty in the name of whatever “strong leader” or “ideological myths and final destination” are back on the international agenda. The roll back to dark times of deficient statehood, no consciousness of the rule of law, superstition and wars for the sake of religion are no longer fiction stories; instead they are very real and increasingly threatening the very foundations of civil society world-wide.

Also, there seems to be no easy solution and no quick

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stepping away from the acceptance of non-civic behavior in many regions around the globe. Some of us might have thought that international civil society is in a position to stop atrocities and genocide. Today, we cannot be at all sure this is true. If the world around us is falling apart, it will be increasingly difficult for civil society to keep alive and to function properly.

Since we are living currently in a world in which our key beliefs are put into question and in which civil society as an attitude, a way of life and first and foremost as an approach to struggle for a better future is endangered, this might be the case and indeed the true underlying reason why our field of research has become so attractive for many disciplines and researchers all around the globe. Our attractiveness indicates that societies and communities in many regions are currently confronted with massive difficulties and significant political and economic challenges. Indeed, in some regions – very close to Europe – un-civic behavior has taken hold of the country to an extent that citizens no longer able to cope with the situation leave their communities in order to safeguard a future for their children and themselves. The refugee crisis is – as I see it – a strong indicator for a world falling apart and for civil societies which are providing help and support but which simultaneously searching for solutions.

Against this background, it becomes obvious that we as the community of civil society researchers have to re-set our mind-set and get focused on topics and issues that might provide a way-out of this critical state of art or at least provide some guidance as to how to cope with the current problems. We, the researchers, have a responsibility to our field, and to society as a whole. In order to meet this responsibility, we have to work in the direction that civil society becomes an “independent variable”. For sure, civil society has to become a power of its own with the capacity to influence its political, economic and social environment for the better, instead of being in a constant mode of adjustment to its context.

In order to address these urgent questions and topics, we have to continue to be interdisciplinary. It is not a good idea to focus just on one trend such as managerialism. Our focus of research has to be adjusted and the scope of investi-

gation has to be broadened. The topic of resilience and how nonprofit organizations are capable of holding on to civiness and hence to their specific culture has to be brought back in and put up front of civil society research. Also, openness to new initiatives and new forms of civic engagement should be part of our scientific spirit as a scholarly community investigating civil society. Finally, we – the scholarly community – might come to the conclusion that producing knowledge exclusively for the others who are also populating the ivory tower of academia might be not the most satisfactory way of professional life. It might be the case that keeping attuned with the real world and staying in touch with those who are working for and on behalf of civil society out there in the real world should become a genuine goal of our society and our meetings. It will be necessary to think about more specifically how to begin and to keep alive a dialogue with those who at the frontier of civil society action. These might be representatives of international organizations, program officers of foundations, government officials as well as policy expert or enlightened representatives of the world of corporations.

I am convinced that here in Stockholm, we will address some of the topics I mentioned and start a fruitful discussion. In order to make this happen, this conference provides new formats such as Round Tables and launches new initiatives such as the Mentoring Program for Emerging Scholars and Professionals. It is of vital importance that the ISTR community takes part in the process of turning civil society into an independent variable that significantly impacts on the advancement of social justice and democracy worldwide. To put it into a nutshell: It is of key importance that we as a global scholarly community make the voice of civil society heard around the world.

With this appeal, I wish all of you an interesting conference, and a good time in Stockholm. ■



(l to r) Stanley Katz (USA), Annette Zimmer (Germany), Per Nilsson (Sweden)

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ISTR’s Stockholm Conference

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The panel, *Nordic Civil Societies: Mutations and Continuity*, was chaired by Lars Trägårdh, Professor at Ersta Sköndal University College, and included the following prominent scholars from Nordic countries and the US: Kari Steen-Johnsen, Kirsten Grønberg, Per Selle, Lars Skov Henriksen and Eeva Luhtakallio. They provided a series of insightful reflections in response to the question of Nordic exceptionalism; can we speak of a Nordic civil society regime or are we perhaps witnessing a trend towards convergence as Nordic countries adjust to changes that affect not just the Nordic countries but global civil society more generally? Much of the discussion then concerned patterns of change vs continuity and enduring “sticky structures” that continue to shape and set Nordic civil society apart in long-standing historical patterns of path dependency. Some suggested that it would be more helpful to speak of “mutations” rather than drastic change or sharp discontinuity. Finally, observations were offered regarding challenges and opportunities ahead, not least those associated with transnational migration flows.

One of the conference highlights was the keynote speaker, Theda Skocpol, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology at Harvard University and Director of the Scholars Strategy Network, a national organization that encourages public engagement by university-based scholars in the U.S.

Professor Skocpol’s address, *Changes in American Civil Society and the Rise of Political Extremism*, addressed the trend that America is growing rightward tilted with partisan and ideological polarization and racial and ethnic tensions on the rise. She posed 3 questions: 1) What is the nature and roots of Trumpism and its takeover of the Republican presidential politics; 2) Why are challenges from the right more potent than the left and 3) Will Trumpism in the US follow the path of Brexit in Britain? She then examined recent shifts in societal trends and civil society networks—as they interact with the US federated, two-party political system. It was a timely, thought-provoking and highly engaging lecture.



Theda Skocpol (USA) and Carlos Martinez (Mexico).

Professor Skocpol’s presentation is posted at istr.org/stockholm.

Conference Innovations

We introduced several so-called “conference innovations” such as “round tables” that allowed scholars and/or practitioners to discuss a “hot topic” without presenting elaborated papers. This innovation resulted in 21 roundtables as well as a new teaching theme. These sessions brought rich and vibrant added content to the conference and worked well as a new addition. The evaluations included the following suggestions: limiting the number of discussants to allow for more time for discussion; making sure that they are distinguished from panel sessions; and having all of the roundtables at the same time.

A Conference Blog was introduced and proved to be a great source for information about Stockholm, the host University and its researchers, as well as providing background on sessions. Session moderator Angela Eikenberry provided an overview about the roundtable discussion on *Finding a Place for Critical Perspectives in Non-profit Management Education*. We look forward to continuing and expanding the blog! Click [HERE](#) to read our Stockholm conference blog.



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Lecture Award

The inaugural “ISTR Lecture Award” was launched in Stockholm and is intended to serve as an honorary award and acknowledgment for scholars who as members and friends of ISTR have significantly contributed to the growth and scientific development of our multi-disciplinary field of research.

Our first ISTR lecturer, Stanley N. Katz from Princeton University, a long-time member and supporter of ISTR, addressed, *Can We Save the World Through Generosity? Philanthropy in the Age of the Megafoundation*. Prof. Katz reflected on a period of forty years, where he moved from a narrow academic interest in the history of large philanthropic foundations in the United States to a much broader concern with philanthropy and the Third Sector as factors in the viability of democracy. His story has two interwoven narrative threads. The first is the history of organized scholarly research on the Third Sector; the second reflects his current research interest in the emergence of what he terms “mega-philanthropy,” and his concern that the emergence of huge grant-making organizations poses a threat to democracy in the United States and elsewhere. His full lecture is located at istr.org/stockholm.

Sessions and Publications

The program included 126 paper sessions, 48 panels, 21 roundtables and 20 posters. A report on the Roundtable session organized by the Rockefeller Archive Center follows on page 8. The program and conference abstracts can be found on the ISTR website. Many papers presented are currently being submitted for Volume X of the ISTR Conference *Working Paper Series* and we anticipate that some papers will be published in *Voluntas*.



Conference Evaluation

The evaluation results provided insight into the conference, which received excellent or very good marks overall from 85% of attendees. Many responses focused on the opportunity to hear from a variety of international and disciplinary perspectives. Delegates enjoyed being around researchers from so many disciplines, all looking at the same thing through different lenses. Suggestions for 2018 included having the affinity group and regional network meetings earlier in the program and making the full papers available on the website and app. In addition, some suggested a more concentrated campus and we are pleased to report that we will be in one building for the majority of the conference in Amsterdam.

Conference Support

The Conference would not have been possible without the support from generous funders and our hosts, Ersta Sköndal University College, Ministry of Culture Government Offices of Sweden and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences. We thank our many other Swedish sponsors and patrons as well as our great onsite team at Ersta Sköndal.

In the spirit of voluntarism the strong academic program was made possible by the scholarly contributions of many, many reviewers and the Academic Conference Committee and we thank them for their continuing commitment and support for the Society!

The Society’s goal is to welcome every participant in a friendly academic environment and with thanks to our hosts—we believe that a supporting and welcoming atmosphere was achieved in Stockholm! ■



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A REPORT ON THE PLENARY SESSION AT THE ISTR CONFERENCE, STOCKHOLM, 29 JULY, 2016

What the Field Needs from the Researchers: Listening to the International Civil Society Community*by Sarah Albrecht, Maecenata Institute, Berlin, Germany*

The plenary panel “What the Field Needs from the Researchers: Listening to the International Civil Society Community” took place on Wednesday afternoon in the Ersta Church on Ersta Campus. Amidst the impressive and vibrant gathering of civil society researchers the ISTR Conference has become, this panel had the explicit aim to confront scholars not only with one another’s arguments and findings, but in particular with potential beneficiaries

of their research in the field: the civil society practitioners. The panel was facilitated by Rupert Graf Strachwitz (Maecenata Institute) and featured a diverse group of participants, namely Lia van Broeckhoven (Human Security Collective), Gerry Salole (The European Foundation Centre), Elisabeth Field (Amnesty International) and Balthazar Bacioni (Croix-Rouge Burundi). In the run-up to the conference the panelists had been asked by Strachwitz not to prepare a formal presentation, but to offer an informal insight into their unmet needs as practitioners instead – even at the risk to seem provocative in front of an audience mainly consisting of academics.

First up was Ms. Van Broeckhoven who began by outlining the Human Security Collective’s field of work by describing how national and international counterterrorism policies led to a continual narrowing of the civic space. She then inquired about the current status of research on this topic, and if such research was purely academic or somehow involved with policy makers. The next panelist to speak was Mr. Salole who emphasized his general belief that research could be successfully deployed to help the field. In his experience however, he had observed that often ill-fitting methodologies and the excessively abstract terminology academics tended to apply, made it difficult for practitioners to put the results to any use. He went on to express the wish that academics enhanced the practicability of their results by co-designing their research with practitioners, instead of maintaining an attitude he described as “I have the knowl-



edge, come to me for it.” Ms. Field stated that in her daily work research literature often was of little help when it came to finding explanations for specific questions, such as the sometimes unexpected dynamics of conflicts. In a similar perspective Mr. Bacioli recalled being in charge of implementing a volunteer network in post-conflict Nigeria, that was to replace outside funding. He was therefore particularly interested in research findings regarding such political and financial constellations.

The discussion with the highly engaged audience reflected the main aspects of the panelists’ statements: First, a facilitated access to already existing research for practitioners, second the questions of relevance and applicability

of said research, and finally the willingness of both researchers and practitioners to co-operate and listen to each other. Members of the audience affirmed the existence of research on the topics that had been inquired about. It was additionally pointed out that some research databases, blogs as well as specific organizations were already in place to facilitate civil society actors’ access to research. But there were also critical observations about the CSO’s way of dealing with all sorts of unpleasant findings and critique. A very open and self-reflexive conversation about this aspect ensued. Various panelists admitted the lacking willingness of foundation to admit failures, often in order to protect their reputation. Instead, improvisation and failures should be perceived and accepted as part of an evolutionary process, best summed up under the concept of “bricolage,” coined by Lévi-Strauss. As a member of the audience then conceded, researchers as well were not overly receptive for the practitioners’ objections, even if their increasing specialization often led to findings that lacked a general overview and thus were of little value for the field. All those present agreed that opportunities to co-operate and co-create should be facilitated not only by creating platforms and special programmes, but first and foremost by keeping up an open and constructive dialogue.

Feedback from panelists and the audience after the session was very positive. It was generally agreed that this dialogue between academia and the field should become a regular feature of ISTR conferences. ■

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A ROUNDTABLE HELD ON JUNE 30, 2016 IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN AS PART OF THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THIRD SECTOR RESEARCH

Human Rights Crises in Europe and Beyond: Understanding the Historical Responses of Philanthropies and NGOs for Advancing Contemporary Civil Society Actions

An archival repository and research center dedicated to the study of philanthropy, the Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC) organized a roundtable this year on human rights and humanitarian assistance. Swedish Red Cross President Anna Carlstedt, human rights scholar Bart De Sutter, University of London Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice co-director Stephen Hopgood, and University of Toronto Trudeau Center for Peace, Conflict and Justice director Wendy Wong joined RAC Senior Fellow Patricia Rosenfield and Historian/Project Director Rachel Wimpee to offer historical and contemporary perspectives on this field. Even as state and civil society support is decreasing, human rights practitioners are identifying ever-increasing needs, especially in light of the current refugee situation in Europe.

The Roundtable was envisaged as a first step to raise the issues, and an invitation for others to take up research and action in this field. The questions raised contribute to our understanding of the path that has led to the present moment. Their findings illuminate the impact of the declining support nationally and internationally – a trend which has limited the work of policy makers and practitioners. At the same time, there may be new ways to inform civil society organizations (CSOs) dedicated to protecting and promulgating basic human rights under the current crisis conditions.

Patricia Rosenfield introduced the themes based on two questions: How have human rights organizations and other actors and civil society addressed such challenges in the past? In what ways can this understanding of the past inform the work of today's scholars, practitioners, and policy makers? Rosenfield invited the Roundtable participants to explore

questions of effectiveness and sustainability, especially in the absence of supportive state policies. Drawing on the historical record, she noted, researchers have raised concerns about the past and current relationship between local and international CSOs, and queried whether and how they learn from each other. Today, as happened earlier, for example, are international CSOs shutting out local ones?

Rachel Wimpee began the presentations with her research on early work of the Ford Foundation in supporting refugees in the post-war period – an unusual activity for a philanthropic organization attempting to tackle “root causes.” Rather than bill the activity as a relief effort, Foundation support for the newly-appointed UN High Commissioner for Refugees was instead framed as an issue of international peace and security. Because there were so many ethnic German refugees who had been excluded in other relief programs, Ford supported, for example, vocational training for youth who may otherwise engage in more volatile, “undesirable” political activities. Although the Cold War context no longer applies, the interplay of political frameworks and refugee problems is salient for today. Wimpee situated these early efforts as the precursor to the Foundation's more extensive and explicit support for global human rights beginning in the 1970s.

Bart De Sutter drew on archival research on Ford Foundation support for the global architecture of human rights in the 1970s and 1980 – using RAC collections among many others – to highlight what he calls the “Neier doctrine.” That is, CSOs engage powerful states to advocate for human rights throughout the world. Pressure from states that exert influence over violating states provided an important incentive for local human rights activists. He noted, however, that this works only as long as powerful states are committed to human rights – even if for geopolitical, not humanitarian, reasons. He posited that the declining support for human



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rights of the key national actors, namely the United States and European countries, was possibly due to their waning geopolitical influences, with the concomitant consequences for human rights activism.

The Endtimes of Human Rights author Stephen Hopgood assessed the sustainability of the global human rights architecture in light of the expanded role and increasing activities of local civil society organizations.

In the context of “Brexit,” and comparable nationalistic backlash against rights in European countries and elsewhere, he discussed the constraints on local civil society organizations to address the legitimacy of international human rights norms. International, national, and local organizations feel a sense of being “under pressure” because, in fact, human rights is not a “movement.” Activities relating to “human rights” manifest many inequalities and competing priorities. These disparities, Hopgood noted, are more than socioeconomic versus civil and political rights, or refugees versus citizen rights. They comprise important differences of wealth and influence across the human rights community.

Furthermore, there has been too much focus on international human rights norms. Like De Sutter, Hopgood was concerned that human rights were not situated in a collective social movement and not reflected in modern political parties. He provocatively stated that human rights was somewhat amateur in the 1970s and became more professional in the 1980s and 1990s. But he, too, felt it was falling apart by 2000 and more recently it was hard for human rights organizations to provide legitimacy within donor countries in Europe and the United States. The result is not only the lack of state support but also a lack of dialogue between local civil society organizations and human rights activists from international institutions.

Both digging more deeply into the past and fast-forwarding to the present, scholar and Swedish Red Cross president, Anna Carlstedt, discussed a comparable crisis in the 16th century while also bringing to the fore the challenges she and her organization face today. Carlstedt described the June 2016 meetings in Istanbul of the United Nations Office of for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA). She concluded that, while OCHA focuses on hu-



manitarian values, the Office is not receptive to political decision-making. From extensive travel to work with Red Cross partners and others in areas of crisis and conflict, Carlstedt concluded that it is the local CSOs not governments that respond to the human humanitarian needs. She gave examples from Sudan and Syria where even the dysfunctional governments knew that the only infrastructure was that provided by

the CSOs. To respond to Wimpee’s earlier comment about the interplay of political and humanitarian frameworks, Carlstedt concluded, “there are no humanitarian solutions to humanitarian problems. There are only political solutions to humanitarian problems.”

The presentations stimulated considerable discussion about citizen versus immigrant rights. All of the participants addressed these concerns in their papers but the issue is again salient not only because of the egregious refugee situation from the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria but also because of the recent Brexit vote mentioned in the opening comments about the session. Several discussants focused on the failure of leadership to protect and promote human rights.

Further work – and perhaps future ISTR sessions – could usefully address the following questions this Roundtable identified:

- Under which frameworks and through which strategies have civil society actors – donors and activists organizations – conducted their human rights activities, and how have they changed over time?
- What meaning does the human rights concept have today, when international structures and civil society organizations have faltered?
- How best can we draw on several disciplines’ findings in order to advance the implementation of human rights policies and actions?

Prepared by Rachel Wimpee and Patricia Rosenfield, with contributions from all the Roundtable participants, Anna Carlstedt, Bart De Sutter (who also kindly helped to draft the introductory parts), Stephen Hopgood and Wendy Wong. Support from the Ford Foundation contributed in part to the travel expenses for the Roundtable.

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ISTR AWARDS 2016

ISTR Best Paper Award in *Voluntas* 2015

Surreptitious Symbiosis: Engagement Between Activists and NGOs” by Marlies Glasius and Armine Ishkanian received the Best Paper in *Voluntas* Award 2015.

The committee focused on empirical and analytical rigor, originality, wide applicability and important policy implications in selecting this paper.

What “Surreptitious Symbiosis: Engagement Between Activists and NGOs,” does is to brilliantly address a missing link- between civil society organizations and street protests. Through interviews in Athens, Cairo, London and Yerevan, Marlies Glasius and Armine Ishkanian have illuminated the complex, varied, and often nuanced connections and collaborations between individual street activists and NGO staff in four very different cities.

The authors’ most original contribution is to put aside assumptions of what formal cooperation between civil society and activists should look like. Instead, they looked at reality and found that in all four cities there were activists who both criticized the formality and financial ties of NGOs but also made use of NGO offices for meeting space, and/or relied on NGO research. In other cases, paid NGO employees participated in street protests as individuals. These common patterns generally prevailed, despite differences between, for example, London, where civil society organizations are well established, and Yerevan, where civil society organizations were often created by foreign donors.

A related contribution is that the article illuminates the connections within civil society. Many definitions of civil society, such as “more than a collection of NGOs” list other players such as a “sphere of public debate” [1] Glasius and Ishkanian manage to connect the players, and they also widen the sphere of public debate beyond journalism and even public talk to include street protests.

London, Athens, Cairo and Yervan all experienced “extensive and sustained mobilization, including street demonstrations,” a condition widely applicable to many other cities. The article, and particularly its research methods— based

on semi-structured interviews in 2013 with 12-20 respondents— could be duplicated elsewhere. Since the tension between activism and organizational/financial imperatives is highlighted throughout the article, it would be interesting to test the methodology in more cities, perhaps in Latin America or Asia, where civil society organizations were created locally before foreign donors were fully organized and where NGOs tend to have longer histories and be more autonomous.

A major conclusion of the article is that social and political change can occur without being coopted by a civil society industry. The policy paths forward include 1) new forms of grant making and 2) rejuvenation of NGOs by activist staff members. Although the authors are realistic enough to observe that neither of these positive scenarios is assured, a third possible scenario might arise from the value that the activists in this study placed on NGO research.

Our thanks to the committee who read and re-read and assessed the many fine papers published by *Voluntas* in 2015. The committee includes Julie Fisher Melton, USA (Chair); Katalin Dobrai, Hungary; Jenny Harrow, UK; Jiri Navratil, Czech Republic; Aya Okada, Japan; Ali Simsek, Turkey; Armino Teodosio, Brazil; and Peter Weber, USA. Gonzalo del la Maza, Chile, participated in the early selection stages.



Julie Fisher Melton presenting award for 2015 to Marlies Glasius and Armine Ishkanian and the 2014 award to Urs Jäger.

¹Victor Perez Diaz, *The Return of Civil Society: The Emergence of Democratic Spain*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993

Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award

The ISTR Emerging Scholar Dissertation Award was presented to Allison Youatt Schnable, for her excellent and outstanding dissertation entitled “Do-It-Yourself Aid: The Emergence of American Grassroots Development Organizations.”

The study focuses on American-based international non-governmental organizations founded by amateurs with a personal tie to the developing country, and supported with

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volunteer labor and individual donations. The individuals who launch these organizations typically are middle-class college graduates, but have no training or professional experience in international development. Instead of being shaped by the norms of the professional aid field, these organizations are defined by the personal relations and skills of the people who found them. The organizations investigated are voluntary organizations shaped not just by the high organization modernity but also by an emphasis on the expressive role of nonprofit action. In sum, the author claims that personal relationships are critical to the establishment, maintenance and influence of grassroots international non-governmental organizations rather than the professionalization of these organizations.

The dissertation combines three research methods: quantitative analysis of IRS records, fieldwork and interviews in Africa and the United States, and topic modeling (algorithm-based text analysis) of an original database of all known websites for international relief, development, and human rights organizations registered with the IRS in 2011. This project provides new descriptive data on the locations, project sectors, and targeted recipients of grassroots international non-governmental organizations.

Following the presentation of the findings, the author shows that globalization offers a tenuous opening for nonprofit organizations to bypass the isomorphic pressures of professionalization, and to counter world society theory's over-emphasis on rational values in NGOs by showing that expressive objectives play a crucial role in motivating and structuring these groups. Finally, the author describes the potential contributions of these groups to development, but argues that they fail to overcome the pitfalls of larger development organizations-NGOs cannot "shrink" themselves out of the challenges of accountability and sustainability.

The dissertation combines and integrates sociological, anthropological and organizational aspects which demand high investment on behalf of the author who spent time in different countries in Africa in which the study has been executed. No doubt it's a demanding effort on behalf of the author, which requires high motivation and capabilities of adaptation and understanding of new and unknown cultures. The author coped successfully and shares her deep insights with



Hillel Schmid presenting award to Allison Schnable

the professional and academic community. The dissertation has a unique contribution to the study of nonprofit and non-governmental organizations in international perspective, thus enriching our knowledge and understanding the added value of these organizations to countries and societies.

In 2016 the Selection Committee received 40 submissions from 23 countries around the world.

This is a significant increase from 23 submissions from 11 countries in 2014. The dissertations express the growing interest in the study of third sector and civil society organizations.

Selection Committee members, Hillel Schmid, Chair (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel), Marc Jegers (Vrije University Brussels, Belgium), Ola Segnestam Larsson (Ersta Skondal University College, Sweden), Paula Chies Schommer (Santa Catarina State University, Brazil), and LI Yang, Beijing Normal University, China) were most impressed with the excellent dissertations submitted. Members of the committee reported that reviewing the dissertations was an intrinsic reward enriching their experience and knowledge.

Poster Award

The 2016 Award for Best Poster was awarded to Cath Anne Hill for the Poster, "Whose Value? Exploring Social Value and Impact Through the Voice of Charity Users and Employees." Cath Anne Hill of Lancaster University drew in the committee with a visual representation of a fairytale book. In it, she told the tale of her narrative research approach to developing a values-based social impact concept that draws on the voices of clients and employees. In our modern world, where everything is about markets and measures rather than values and what is important about being nonprofit, this almost sounds like a fairytale.

The committee, comprised of Paul Dekker (The Netherlands), Stefan Toepler (USA) and Jacqueline Butcher (Mexico), were very impressed by the high quality of the posters. There were a great number of posters that scored very well on all of the main criteria: scientific relevance, practical significance, visual attractiveness and a strong focus on the main issues, be it the results of finished research or the choices and questions for ongoing research. ■

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PhD Seminar Report

By Pelle Åberg and Johan Hvenmark, Seminar Co-Chairs

The third ISTR PhD Seminar took place at Ersta Sköndal University College in Stockholm from the 26th to the 28th of June 2016, i.e. on the days before ISTR's 12th International Conference was organized at the same venue. All in all, 51 PhD students from 26 different countries participated.

Ever since the first ISTR PhD seminar was organized in Siena in 2012 one of the aims has been to provide doctoral students from the wide variety of disciplines that are represented in studies of civil society and the third sector with an opportunity to get extensive feedback and intellectual and methodological advice on their PhD projects. Additional aims are to introduce the students 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 ISTR research community. To approach these aims, a faculty team of twelve experienced researchers from a range of different disciplines and countries was successfully recruited. The faculty team included Oonagh Breen (Ireland), Kinman Chan (Hong Kong), Paula Chies Schommer (Brazil), Carolyn Cordery (New Zealand), Anna Domaradzka (Poland), Angela Eikenberry (USA), Adalbert Evers (Germany), Lewis Faulk (USA), Matthias Freise (Germany), Johan Hvenmark (Sweden), Maria Radyati (Indonesia) and Pelle Åberg (Sweden).

The seminar started with a welcome event on Sunday, June 26th, which was followed by a joint dinner in a classic



Swedish restaurant. The main program started on Monday morning when the students came together in pre-defined working groups of eight or nine participants. In addition, each group was joined and supervised by two members of the faculty.

From Monday morning until the start of ISTR's international conference at lunch on Tuesday 28th, each working group worked on the different PhD projects. Each student got the chance to present his or her PhD project and discuss key questions and theoretical and methodological issues on a peer basis with the other group members and with the faculty. Besides these working groups, the PhD seminar contained three semi-plenary sessions on Monday where the students could choose depending on their own primary interests. One of the sessions was organized by Carolyn Cordery on the topic "Getting Published" where tips and tricks on how to get published in peer-reviewed journals were discussed. The second session focused on "How to plan a post-doc career abroad" and was organized by Matthias Freise. The final option in this smorgasbord was the session "Scientific career and family" organized by Anna Domaradzka. Both the first and the last of these three sessions were actually topics covered in the same manner during the second PhD seminar in Münster in 2014. However, the issues of getting published as well as how to combine family life with a career in academia is so topical to many PhD students that they are well worth returning to with new groups of PhD students. After the final working group sessions on Monday, a keynote speech was given by Prof. Peter Frumkin who,



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based on his own pitfalls and successes, in a joyful manner provided a handful of advice to aspiring scholars in the field of third sector and civil society research.

After another session in the working groups on Tuesday morning the seminar ended with a wrap up session where everyone discussed the experience of being part of the PhD seminar. Constructive comments were given and overall the experience appears to have been very positive for the participants. After this wrap up session, participants and faculty alike moved on to the ISTR international conference.

What we take away from this PhD seminar is the fan-

tastic value of this arena for PhD students, who in many cases are based at institutions and departments where the study of civil society and the third sector most often is not mainstream. The interest is even so vivid from those who have participated previously that an alumni network has already started to form. Hence, the most straightforward conclusion to draw is that the efforts of ISTR directed at PhD students should continue.

The next PhD Seminar will take place in the days preceding ISTR's 13th International Conference in Amsterdam in July 2018. ■

PhD Seminar Alumni Network Established

ISTR is pleased to announce the establishment of a PhD Seminar Alumni Network, to promote networking opportunities among our Seminars' participants.

A meeting was held in Stockholm with lots of positive energy and ideas for organizing the network.

This network will provide a forum for open dialogue, with the creation of an attendee database and online discussion sites. Suggestions included bolstering regional

representation and building bridges with the world of practice. The PhD Alumni network will also promote continued discussions on additional prospects and new possibilities, which will strengthen the network and provide valuable information and opportunities for the Alumni members.

For more information or to join the PhD Alumni network group, please contact Christiane Rudmann at:

RudmannChristiane@gmail.com ■

Round Table Discussion to Launch the Affinity Group on Gender Anthology

Christina Schwabenland and Chris Lange held a round table discussion in Stockholm as a pre-launch event to publicise the forthcoming anthology *Women's Emancipation and Civil Society Organizations: Maintaining or Challenging the Status Quo?* to be published by Policy Press in September. This anthology has been four years in the writing, and is an initiative of the ISTR Affinity Group on Gender (AGG). *Women's Emancipation* brings together current research from all over the world and including chapters on highly contemporary confers such as the increasing influence of religion, the use of social media as a form of organisation and activism and links between feminism and environmental activism. Taking a critical as well as a celebratory approach, several chapters also highlight significant challenges; CSOs are not always woman friendly employers nor are they immune from the dangers of co-optation by the state and elites. Several chap-



ter authors attended the discussion including Ruth Phillips, Eva Maria Hinterhuber, Ines Pousadela, Masako Tanaka, and Annie Dusseut, as well as Annette Zimmer, who contributed a preface and also gave the AGG the impetus to embark on this long, but very rewarding project. And we even had a cake to celebrate. The formal launch will be held in October at the ASFARI Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at the American University of Beirut. ■

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New Regional Network on Central and Eastern Europe & the Post-Soviet Space

About 20 participants gathered during *ISTR's 12th International Conference* in Stockholm to discuss interest in forming a new regional network covering Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union. Represented were ISTR members from the Baltics, Russia, Ukraine, and Poland as well as researchers based in the West with scholarly interests in the region.

Participants welcomed the possibility of such a network in terms of information exchange (conference suggestions, educational opportunities), student exchanges, and potential joint fundraising as well as creating opportunities for further scholarly networking and interactions.

Gulnara Minnigaleeva (HSE Moscow), Hector Pagan (University of Tartu), and Daiga Kamerade (University of Birmingham) volunteered to serve as the founding organiz-

ing committee of the network; Stefan Toepler (George Mason University/HSE) will serve as ISTR board liaison.

The executive committee will explore holding an inaugural regional meeting in conjunction with the *Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies* that will be held at the University of Tartu, Estonia, June 2-4, 2017. We will issue a call for proposals, once the overall theme for the conference is announced in early fall. We anticipate being able to propose up to three sessions or panels at the Tartu Conference.

ISTR members conducting research on any aspect of civil society development, NGO and third sector policy and management in the region are invited to join the network by sending a one-line, no subject e-mail message to: post_soviet_regional_network-request@lists.johnshopkins.edu

The one-line message should say: `Subscribe Post_Soviet_Regional_Network: (Your)Firstname (Your)Lastname` ■

Mentoring Pilot Program

Getting off to a great start in Stockholm was the ISTR pilot mentoring program with 59 pairs of mentees and mentors matched. They were encouraged to meet during the conference and we are delighted that so many took this opportunity to begin the conversation. We are pleased to share some comments from those joining the pilot.

I was immediately drawn to the mentorship program offered by ISTR because, well, who couldn't use a bit of guidance and support? I was looking to connect with a researcher who was advanced in her or his field who could impart some of their knowledge and experience. I am a first year PhD student at the University of Ottawa in Canada, so quite early in my academic research, and was eager to learn from senior researchers. I was delighted to be matched with Jackie Butcher, who already from our first email exchanges was encouraging and supportive. We met at the ISTR reception on the



Jacqueline Butcher (Mexico) and Jessica Cadesky (Canada) meet at the Stockholm City Hall reception

first evening of the conference, and I knew that I had lucked out! Between introducing me to what seemed like half the room, Jackie imparted some excellent advice and wisdom about how to approach my PhD, how to hone in on a topic, and how to navigate life as a social science researcher in general. It was great getting to know more about her and her research on volunteering in Mexico, and I couldn't wait to go home and watch her TEDx talk. We have kept in touch and I look forward to having Jackie in my network of professional support network.

Jessica Cadesky, Canada (mentee)

I met Musiwaro Ndakaripa (South Africa) at the Stockholm conference and agreed to mentor his dissertation. The subject is the role of civil society in Zimbabwe on the government's economic indigenization policies. My husband, Ed and I had dinner with Musiwaro and we are both very pleased to be part of this mentoring program

I am not an online editor, but we seem to be working things out. I can

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provide him with some global background, particularly on the sequence of development- from Latin America and Asia, to Eastern Europe and Russia, to Africa. Although civil society in Africa began to emerge earlier than the 1990s, it developed more slowly than in Asia and Latin America. I find that my two earlier books are more relevant to what he is doing than my more recent one on democratization NGOs.

Most of us in the developed world think of the indigenization policy in Zimbabwe as synonymous with land seizures. But he is not writing about that- he is writing about the role of what he calls “business civil society” in interacting with the government over promotion of black businesses, etc. I think his work is directly relevant to discussions within the field about whether “markets” should be included in civil society.

We have begun working together despite the challenges of long-distance editing. He is a good writer, so my role is mainly watching out for hidden insights -- sometimes observing that “less is more,” and suggesting additional readings.



Elisa Ricciuti (Italy) and Stanley Katz (USA)

I think this is an exciting new program for ISTR, which supports young scholars and will help insure the quality of new research on civil society and the third sector.

Julie Fisher Melton, USA (mentor)

This is a wonderful idea. One of the issues in a multidisciplinary field is that there are a small number of specialists in any given department and that severely limits the amount of knowledge that can be passed on to the next generation of scholars. By creating this network, you open the access that young scholars have to a world of expertise. I’ve learned a lot in my 30+ years in the field. I know a lot of the people involved and where to go for expertise. While I pass this

on to my own students, it would be a shame if that was as far as it went. Through this program I am able to pass on what I know to others. I had a very interesting conversation with my mentee. I learned a lot from it.

John McNutt, USA (mentor) ■

Member News

Andrea Walter (Germany) started a new position as a Project Manager at Bertelsmann Foundation. Previously she worked for more than four years on various research projects on civil society issues under the scientific leadership of Annette Zimmer at Muenster University. In her new position at the Bertelsmann’s program “Civil Society” she manages the project “Local Synergies” which seeks to test and establish new models for coproduction and collective impact by partnering with non-profit organisations and municipalities in order to find solutions for pressing societal challenges in cities and communities. The Bertelsmann Foundation is a major German non-partisan, private operating foundation which aims to encourage citizens to contribute to the common good.

Ruth Hansen has joined the College of Business and Economics at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater as a Lecturer. Ruth, a doctoral candidate at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, will help develop a program in Nonprofit Management at UW-W. Ruth participated in the 2014 ISTR PhD Seminar in Muenster, Germany. ■

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Call for contributions to *Voluntas* Special Issue: The Organizations of Civil Society

Special Issue Editors: Michael Meyer (*WU Vienna*), Ruth Simsa (*WU Vienna*), Sarah Soule (*Stanford University*), Filip Wijkström (*Stockholm School of Economics*)

Organizations are central actors in civil society, yet the popular view of civil society often focuses on individual behavior (e.g., civic or political engagement, volunteering, giving) or on macro-sociological phenomena (e.g., different nonprofit regimes, cross-sectoral cooperation). Nevertheless, organizations play a crucial role as actors in civil society. Organizations also serve as platforms and “transmission units” between individual actors and society. Thus civil society organizations (CSOs) are critically important to safe-guard, shape and develop an active and healthy civil society – but also to understand civil society’s role in society.

With this special issue of *Voluntas*, we wish to encourage further theoretical and empirical research on CSOs and their many roles or functions in society. Further, although management questions are addressed quite regularly, there is still little research analyzing structural and cultural characteristics of CSOs, and this research is weakly linked to organizational theory. Compared to the business and public sector, the variety of organizational forms and goals seems to be much broader in civil society, and we hope to be able to publish a diverse set of papers that adequately reflects this empirical reality.

We invite contributions primarily from two major perspectives. (1) From Organizational Theory / Organization Studies, we welcome contributions focused on the particularities of CSOs compared to other types of organizations. (2) From the perspective of civil society scholarship, we welcome contributions focused on the specific strengths / weaknesses of organizations as collective actors, compared to individuals, groups and movements, and / or how CSOs influence the wider civil society and its position in society.

We aim to publish empirical (qualitative and/or quan-

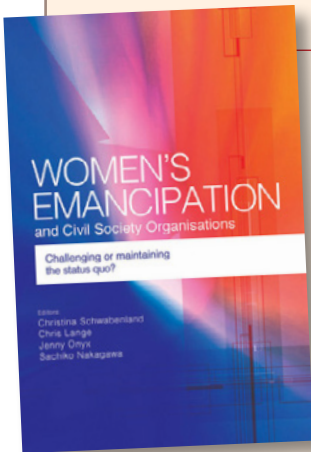
titative) papers from a broad variety of theoretical perspectives. Thus, submissions to this special issue should relate to distinct theoretical approaches and specific phenomena in civil society. The submitted research may be inspired by social movement theory, new institutionalism, resource dependence theory, organizational field theory, systems theory, complexity theory, convention theory, or various symbolic, cultural, and strategic approaches to organizations.

We hope to publish articles which when read will challenge existing knowledge so as to generate a new set of research questions with the aim to push contemporary theoretical borders in civil society research.

Submissions should further concentrate upon specific phenomena of organizing – e.g., the interplay between CSOs and their specific environments, the particularities of governance and management in these organizations, the borderland between CSOs and social movements, support groups, public administrations, or for-profit corporations, or the contributions of CSOs to individual civic engagement and political decision making. In any case, we hope that the particularities of CSOs should be focused and theoretically reflected in the contributions. Each submission should be explicit about its theoretical basis and its explanatory power for specific organizational phenomena in civil society.

Please submit an abstract of no more than 700 words (excluding references) providing the editors with a clear indication of the research question(s) to be addressed, the theoretical basis, the methods used and the contribution to the literature by November 30th, 2016. Abstracts should be sent to npo@wu.ac.at and will be reviewed and selected until January 31, 2017. Full papers will be expected until end of May 2017. ■

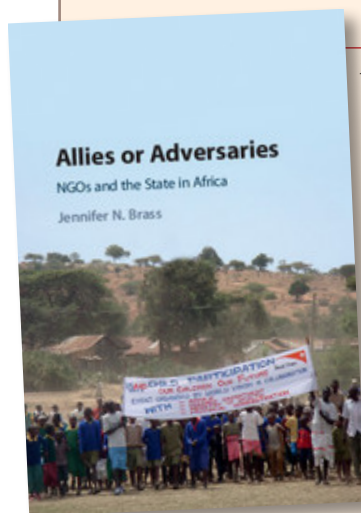
BOOK NOTES



Women's Emancipation and Civil Society Organisations: Challenging or Maintaining the Status Quo? Edited by Christina Schwabenland, Chris Lange, Jenny Onyx and Sachiko Nakagawa. Bristol, UK: Policy Press University of Bristol, 2016. 388 Pages. Cost: Hardback £68.00. To order: www.policypress.co.uk

Women are at the heart of civil society organisations. Through them they have achieved many successes, challenged oppressive practices at a local and global level and have developed outstanding entrepreneurial activities. Yet Civil Service Organisation (CSO) research tends to ignore considerations of gender and the rich history of activist feminist organisations is rarely examined.

This collection examines the nexus between the emancipation of women, and their role(s) in these organisations. Featuring contrasting studies from a wide range of contributors from different parts of the world, it covers emerging issues such as the role of social media in organising, the significance of religion in many cultural contexts, activism in Eastern Europe and the impact of environmental degradation on women's lives. Asking whether involvement in CSOs offers a potential source of emancipation for women or maintains the status quo, this anthology will also have an impact on policy and practice in relation to equal opportunities.

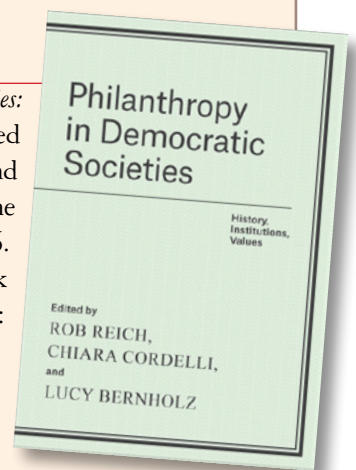


Allies or Adversaries: NGOs and the State in Africa. By Jennifer Brass. NY, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2016. 292 Pages. Cost: Hardback US \$ 99.99. To order: www.cambridge.org

Governments throughout the developing world have witnessed a proliferation of non-governmental, non-profit organizations (NGOs) providing services like education, healthcare and piped drinking water in their territory. In *Allies or Adversaries*, Jennifer N. Brass explains how these NGOs have changed the nature of service provision, governance,

and state development in the early twenty-first century. Analyzing original surveys alongside interviews with public officials, NGOs and citizens, Brass traces street-level government-NGO and state-society relations in rural, town and city settings of Kenya. She examines several case studies of NGOs within Africa in order to demonstrate how the boundary between purely state and non-state actors blurs, resulting in a very slow turn toward more accountable and democratic public service administration. This detailed analysis provides rich data about NGO-government and citizen-state interactions.

Philanthropy in Democratic Societies: History, Institutions, Values. Edited by Rob Reich, Chiara Cordelli, and Lucy Bernholz. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2016. 344 Pages. Cost: Paper and E-book US \$30; Cloth \$90. To order: <http://press.uchicago.edu>



Philanthropy is everywhere. In 2013, in the United States alone, some \$330 billion was recorded in giving, from large donations by the wealthy all the way down to informal giving circles. We tend to think of philanthropy as unequivocally good, but as the contributors to this book show, philanthropy is also an exercise of power. And like all forms of power, especially in a democratic society, it deserves scrutiny. Yet it rarely has been given serious attention. This book fills that gap, bringing together expert philosophers, sociologists, political scientists, historians, and legal scholars to ask fundamental and pressing questions about philanthropy's role in democratic societies.

The contributors balance empirical and normative approaches, exploring both the roles philanthropy has actually played in societies and the roles it should play. They ask a multitude of questions: When is philanthropy good or bad for democracy? How does, and should, philanthropic power interact with expectations of equal citizenship and democratic political voice? What makes the exercise of philanthropic power legitimate? What forms of private activity in the public interest should democracy promote, and what forms should it resist? Examining these and many other topics, the contributors offer a vital assessment of philanthropy at a time when its power to affect public outcomes has never been greater.

BOOK NOTES



The Third Sector in Public Services: Developments, Innovations and Challenges. Edited by James Rees and David Mullins. Bristol, UK: Policy Press at the University of Bristol, 2016. 256 Pages. Cost: Cloth £56; US \$110. To order: <https://policypress.co.uk/>

For over three decades in the UK, governments have sought to restrain or roll back the frontiers of the state, and to expand the scope for third sector involvement in the provision of welfare services.

This book is the first edited collection to provide an up to date and comprehensive overview of the third sector's role in public service delivery. Exploring areas such as social enterprise, capacity building, volunteering and social value, the authors provide a platform for academic and policy debates on the topic. Drawing on research carried out at the ESRC funded Third Sector Research Centre, the book charts the historical development of the state–third sector relationship, and reviews the major debates and controversies accompanying recent shifts in that relationship.

New research findings: TSRC book series

Major developments in third sector issues in the last decade or so provide the rationale for a series which will present new research findings that addresses key academic and policy debates in relation to the third sector.

That was also the rationale for the Third Sector Research Centre, from whose first five-year programme of work this volume represents the first book-length output. This series will draw on the work of that centre but it will also welcome proposals for volumes which address its key focus: the organisational base of the third sector and in particular on the roles, resources, responsibilities and relationships of third sector organisations.

Third sector in public service delivery

We begin with James Rees and David Mullins' edited collection on the role of the third sector in public service delivery. The authors address this from various perspectives: discussing the limitations of the evidence base, providing longer-term perspectives on shifts in policy, considering the different elements of the voluntary sector (including

social enterprises and spinoffs from the public sector) and their relationship to public service provision, analysing the role played by volunteers, and assessing the effects on organisations of changing incentive structures and pressures to demonstrate social returns.

The authors collectively reject unidirectional characterisations of current policy developments as neoliberal pure and simple, and instead demonstrate the tensions and dilemmas posed for the third sector by changing external conditions. They show how TSOs negotiate these pressures and are able, within what is undoubtedly a tough operating environment, to innovate and find some scope for manoeuvre.

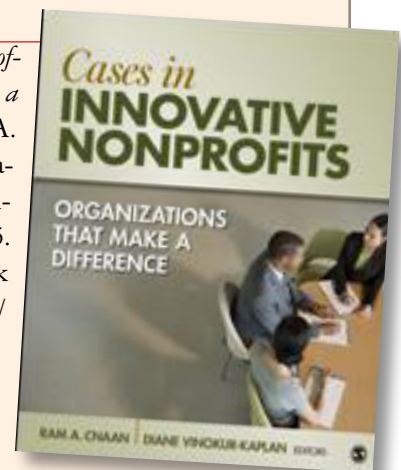
Despite the constraints and indeed the possibility of perma-austerity, the authors conclude optimistically that the ability of individuals and communities to organise to meet public needs should not be underestimated. The third sector will continue to be in demand for its potential contribution to the development and reform of public services. The contributions in this book set a benchmark for future studies of this important field.

Cases in Innovative Nonprofits: Organizations That Make a Difference. Edited by Ram A. Cnaan and Diane Vinokur-Kaplan. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publishers, 2015. 336 Pages. Cost: Paperback US \$53.00. To order: <https://us.sagepub.com>

Cases in Innovative Nonprofits provides readers with current comparative case studies of innovative nonprofit organizations that are meeting the needs of humanity in both the U.S. and abroad. This text provides inspiring examples of social entrepreneurs who have instituted new services to meet the needs of both new and long standing social problems. Each case features either an unidentified need and its successful response, or an existing need that was tackled in a unique and innovative manner.

The text is purposefully organized into four parts:

Part 1: Two conceptual chapters give the reader an understanding of what a nonprofit social innovation is and tools to analyze various social innovations in this volume and elsewhere.



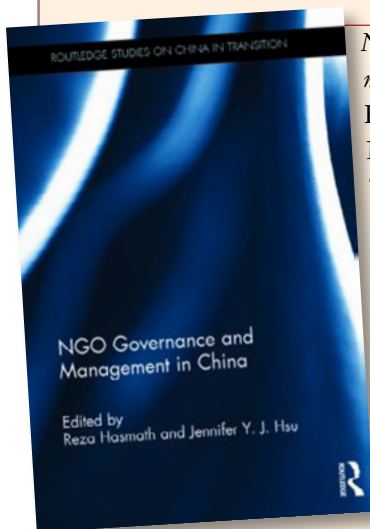
BOOK NOTES

Part 2: Ten cases reveal the innovative formation of new nonprofit organizations.

Part 3: Three cases emphasize innovation through collaboration.

Part 4: Five cases demonstrate innovations taking place within an existing nonprofit organization.

By using a simple, identical format for each case, this text facilitates student learning through comparative review, providing a deeper understanding about the complexity and steps required to achieve nonprofit social innovation.



NGO Governance and Management in China. Edited by Reza Hasmath and Jennifer Y.J. Hsu. New York, NY: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2016. 216 Pages. Cost: Hardback: £ 72.00; US \$155. www.routledge.com

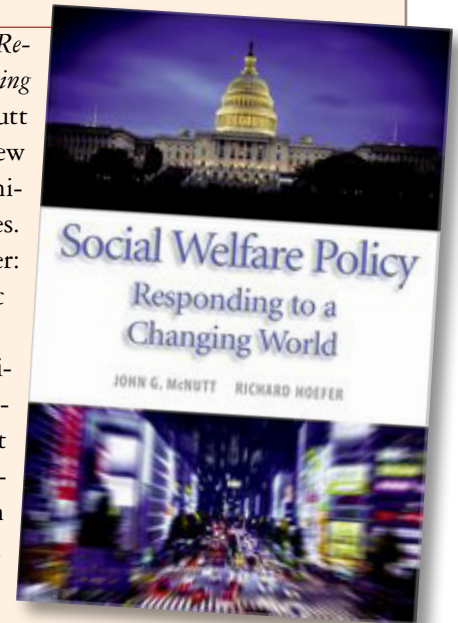
As China becomes increasingly integrated into the global system there will be continuing pressure to acknowledge and engage with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Suffice to say, without a clear understanding of the state's interaction with NGOs, and vice versa, any political, economic and social analysis of China will be incomplete.

This book provides an urgent insight into contemporary state-NGO relations. It brings together the most recent research covering three broad themes, namely the conceptualizations and subsequent functions of NGOs; state-NGO engagement; and NGOs as a mediator between state and society in contemporary China. The book provides a future glimpse into the challenges of state-NGO interactions in China's rapidly developing regions, which will aid NGOs strategic planning in both the short- and long-term. In addition, it allows a measure of predictability in our assessment of Chinese NGOs behaviour, notably when they eventually move their areas of operation from the domestic sphere to an international one.

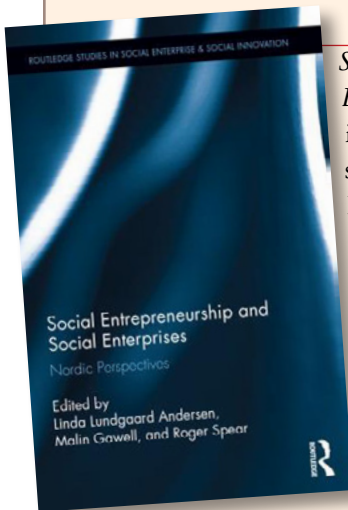
Social Welfare Policy: Responding to a Changing World. By John McNutt and Richard Hoefler. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 360 Pages. Cost: US \$69.95 To order: global.oup.com/academic

Social policy, public policy, and social welfare policy are some of our most powerful tools for shaping and interacting with the world. Our world, however, is constantly changing, so when we consider policies we must always make sure that we are acting based on the current realities rather than a distant past. There are new challenges that shape our society. Every day, people are confronted with unprecedented threats to their well-being--threats to economic welfare from an emerging global information economy, environmental threats that risk health and safety, and global political instability that has repercussions beyond national borders.

Social Welfare Policy: Responding to a Changing World is unlike other books used in social welfare policy courses. John McNutt and Richard Hoefler explicitly address the emerging information economy, the rise of globalization, and the developing environmental crisis, and provide a tightly integrated framework for understanding these forces and their impact on policy and practice. This framework is applied to the six traditional arenas of policy--child and family services, health and mental health, poverty and inequality, housing and community development, crime and violence, and aging--exploring how to find new solutions to problems both long enduring and brand new. There is an urgency to this text that is clearly communicated to readers--it is time for practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers to make decisions for the future based on the realities of the present.



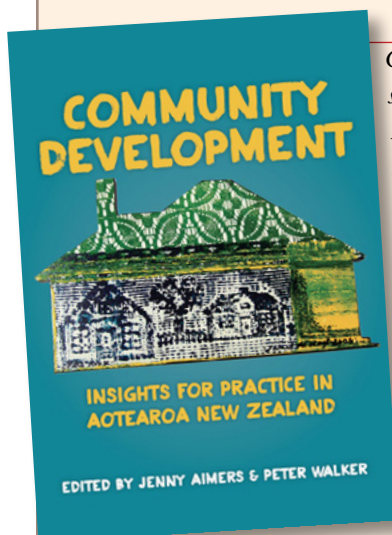
BOOK NOTES



Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprises: Nordic Perspectives. Edited by Linda Lundgaard Andersen, Malin Gawell, Roger Spear. New York, NY: Routledge, 2016. 284 Pages. Cost: £ 76.00; To order: www.routledge.com

Migrant women stepping into ethnic catering; homeless men employed to take care of bees producing honey for sale; young people on the edge getting microcredit funding to start social businesses; or former criminals joining forces to create social and economic structures for an honest lifestyle. These initiatives capture the transformative power of social enterprise and might indicate how social enterprises have the potential to make a difference for people and societies. The Nordic countries represent an interesting case. Social enterprises and co-operatives played a significant part in paving the way for the Nordic solidaristic welfare state.

As the welfare state grew, civil society organizations and co-operatives lost ground, to a certain extent. But in recent decades, the welfare state has been restructured and, simultaneously, the concepts social entrepreneurship and social enterprises have gained attention. The Nordic context, with extensive public welfare structures and a high degree of citizens' participation in public affairs, might affect the emergence of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises.



Community Development: Insights for Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. Edited by Jenny Aimers and Peter Walker. Auckland, New Zealand: Dunmore Publishing, 2013. 241 Pages. Cost: NZD \$49.99. To order: www.dunmore.co.nz

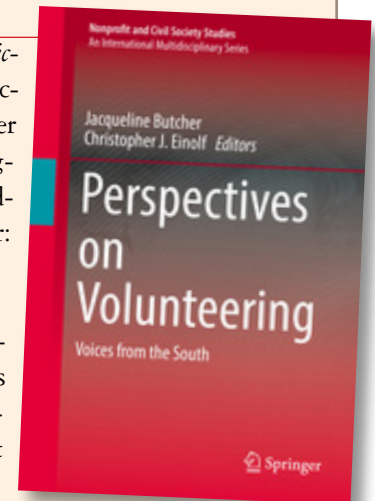
This book examines the depth and breadth of experience in community work practice in Aotearoa New Zealand with examples from practice from the

Otago and Southland/Murihiku region. While the examples are drawn from this area, their application is universal, encompassing the theory and practice ('praxis') of community development as both a process and a way of perceiving the world. Case studies presented within an editorial structure together provide a useful, insightful and easily read community work resource for practitioners and students.

Perspectives on Volunteering: Voices from the South. Edited by Jacqueline Butcher and Christopher Einolf. New York, NY: Springer, 2016. 280 Pages. Cost: Hardcover: \$ US 119.00. To order: www.springer.com

This volume overlooks the distinct expressions and awareness of volunteering in the lived reality of people from different regions of the world. By casting the net widely this book not only expands the geographic reach of experiences, models and case studies but also transcends the conventional focus on formal volunteering. It highlights institutional forms of volunteering specific to developing nations and also describes volunteering that is more loosely institutionalized, informal, and a part of solidarity and collective spirit. As a result this book provides a different look at the values, meaning, acts and expressions of volunteering.

The chapters in this book consist of essays and case studies that present recent academic research, thinking and practice on volunteering. Working from the premise that volunteering is universal this collection draws on experiences from Latin America, Africa including Egypt, and Asia. This book focuses on developing countries and countries in transition in order to provide a fresh set of experiences and perspectives on volunteering. While developing countries and countries in transition are in the spotlight for this volume, the developed country experience is not ignored. Rather the essays use it as a critical reference point for comparisons, allowing points of convergence, disconnect and intersection to emerge. ■



ON LINE PUBLICATIONS

A New Era for African Philanthropy

by Bhekinkosi Moyo

There has never been a greater time for African philanthropy and philanthropy in general than today. The momentum and interest around philanthropy have grown – at times surprisingly so, given that not so long ago philanthropy was accorded no role in formal and intergovernmental processes. Not many governments considered philanthropy in their policy processes; if they did, they would do so in disparaging or suspecting ways. African governments viewed philanthropy (particularly international foundations) as part of a western agenda to influence regime change.

<http://www.alliancemagazine.org/feature/a-new-era-for-african-philanthropy/>



The South African Institute of International Affairs is pleased to announce the release of the latest publication by Neissan Besharati and Carmel Rawhani titled *'South Africa and the D.R. Congo: Evaluating a South-South partnership for peace, governance and development'*



The paper can be downloaded [HERE](#)

The 'Rise of the South' and the role of 'emerging powers' in global development has animated much of the political and economic discourse of the past decade. There is, however, little empirical evidence on the contribution that emerging Southern partners make to sustainable development, due to the lack of common measurement systems for South–South cooperation (SSC). The following case study utilises the analytical framework developed by the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) to assess the range, extent and quality of South Africa's peace, governance and economic support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The study reveals that South Africa, in absolute financial terms, is a significant development partner in the DRC (having provided the DRC with at least \$1 billion in development assistance efforts since 2001), and even exceeds the traditional donors when its aid is measured in proportion to gross national income. The qualitative field research highlights that South Africa's approach to development co-operation to a large extent reflects the core values of SSC, although with a mixed bag of successes and failures in terms of the results of their co-operation activities. This pilot study of the South Africa–DRC development partnership is one of the first in which the NeST conceptual and methodological framework has been tested for the purpose of further refining tools and indicators for SSC analysis, so as to assist the future monitoring and evaluation endeavours of South Africa and other emerging development partners.

This paper was produced thanks to the support of Oxfam and the International Development Research Centre. ■

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Rockefeller Archive Center Research Stipend Program

The Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC) is a repository of historic materials and a research center dedicated to the study of philanthropy and the many domains touched by American foundations, individual donors, and the civil society organizations they support. It was established in 1974 initially to gather, preserve, and make accessible the records of the Rockefeller family and their far-reaching philanthropic endeavors, such as the Rockefeller University, Rockefeller Foundation, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The Archive Center has grown



and today holds the archives of major foundation, cultural organizations, research institutions, and many individuals associated with these organizations. The principal holdings now include the archives of the Ford Foundation, Commonwealth Fund, Social Science Research Council, Asian Cultural Council, and dozens more.

The Archive Center serves as a magnet for researchers in part due to the Center's funding of individuals through its competitive research stipend program, designed to foster, promote, and support research by serious scholars in the collections located at the Center. Each year, an independent committee reviews the pool of roughly 100 applicants, which includes professors, independent scholars and gradu-

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ate students working on their dissertations, and award between 40 to 50 stipends to scholars to help defray their travel and lodging costs when doing research in the Center's collections. The stipends range from \$1500 to \$4000, depending on the length of time researchers need for their research and the places from which they are traveling.

The deadline for applications is November 1st each year, and awards are announced the following February. Stipend recipients must commence their research at the Center after April 1 of their award year, and they must complete their research by March 31 of the following year. Stipend recipients are requested to submit a short report on their research at the Center. Edited versions of, or excerpts from these reports, may be used in the Center's publications and on its website. Recipients also are asked to provide the Center with a copy of any publication resulting from research conducted as a result of the grant. Reimbursement of expenses will be made after the Center receives original travel and accommodation receipts following the completion of the grant recipient's research visit.

Potential applicants are required to contact the Archive Center's staff by email no later than October 15th with a description of the research project for which they seek support. This helps the staff respond with a description of any relevant material in the collections located here, which in turn helps applicants complete the application form and estimate the duration of their proposed research trip.

Further information, including the application, guidelines, listings of current and past stipend recipients, and reports by research stipend recipients can be found at www.rockarch.org

Chair in Africa Philanthropy at The Wits Business School

This Academic Chair in African Philanthropy is a pioneering move to take forward the study of gifting in Africa. This initiative aims to apply a pan-African perspective on the practice and epistemology of gifting, acquiring knowledge and developing theories, models and tools appropriate to the continent's experience, contemporary context and needs. The chair will focus on four themes: Teaching, Research, Outreach and Measurement.

A Fact Sheet providing details about the Chair in African Philanthropy is now available at www.istr.org/WitsFacts

For more information, contact Prof. Alan Fowler, Visiting Professor for the Chair in African Philanthropy and

responsible for establishing its profile and programme at alan@alanfowler.org

Journal Links Ostrom Research to Study of Nonprofits and Voluntary Action

A special August 2016 issue of *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* celebrates the legacy of the late scholar Elinor 'Lin' Ostrom and applies her insights and theories to new research in the area of nonprofit organizations and voluntary action. Edited by Brenda Bushouse (University of Massachusetts), Brent Never (University of Missouri- Kansas City), and Robert Christensen (Brigham Young University), the issue serves to highlight the theories and methodologies developed by Ostrom, her husband Vincent, and collaborators at Indiana University.

The wide-range of articles illustrate the breadth and depth of Ostrom's explorations of voluntary action over fifty years. Honored in 2009 with the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, scholars and policy makers have become increasingly interested in understanding Ostrom's third-way of addressing some of the most vexing social and environmental problems. Perhaps best known for *Governing the Commons* (1990), Lin examined the power of voluntary action as opposed to government regulation or the private market.

The genesis of the special issue came from a realization that scholars of voluntary action and nonprofit studies have largely not drawn on the literature now known as the 'Bloomington School'; likewise, the economists, environmental scientists, political scientists, legal scholars using the Ostrom literature rarely reference the rich scholarship in third-sector studies. The resulting pieces attempt provide a bridge for both groups of scholars in an effort to strengthen the dialogue across the two literatures.

"We are so happy to highlight the amazing scholarship that our authors have put together; their work speaks to the multi-disciplinarity in our field," according to Never.

A diverse set of authors contributed to the special issue. The articles range from macro-level discussions of state-society relations to micro-level examinations of individual behaviors. Topics include social entrepreneurship, governance, the commons, and institutional analysis.

"Our hope for the special issue is that this is going to direct future research – that this is just a starting point," Bushouse said.

The editors also note that Ostrom Workshop research and scholarship on nonprofit organizations and voluntary

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action have something else in common: Both are highly interdisciplinary, bringing together expertise from social and natural sciences and the humanities.

“This is an effort to synthesize and integrate work from different disciplines that wouldn’t normally have a lot of interaction,” Christensen said. “I think Lin and Vincent would be proud.”

11th Workshop on the Challenges of Managing the Third Sector

The European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management will hold a workshop at Queen’s University, Belfast, UK, June 14-15, 2017. This research workshop seeks to examine current influences on the effective operation of nonprofit organisations (NPOs). They are interested in high-quality research papers which address the managerial challenges facing this sector, particularly in the results of managerial, economic and inter-disciplinary approaches.

The Call for Papers has a deadline of 3 March 2017. www.istr.org/EIASM

Canadian Social Enterprise Database

The anonymized database from 1,350 social enterprises across Canada surveyed in 2015-2016 is now available upon request. A wide range of demographic and operational data variables have been tabulated and are available for use by students and researchers. The complete national report and survey field guide are also available at <http://www.sess.ca>. Ideal for use in social enterprise courses or for comparative analyses. To request an application to access the database, e-mail Peter Hall <pvhall@sfu.ca> or Peter R Elson <pelson@mtroyal.ca>

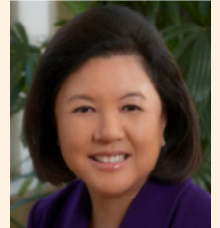
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The USC Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy Launches Fund Focused on Philanthropic Leadership

How are philanthropic leaders at the board and executive levels facing the opportunities and challenges of making an impact? In an effort to shed light on this critical question, The USC Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy has launched the Irene Hirano Inouye Philanthropic Leadership Fund, named for the President of the U.S.-Japan Council, in recognition of her success in building effective foundation boards, including as chair of both The Kresge and Ford Foundations. The Fund supports efforts to elevate and amplify how philanthropic leaders can help to scale impact and brings greater attention to issues of shared governance between boards and executives in foundations of all types. Cases and other applied research will be developed and shared with foundation boards to stimulate conversations, with an emphasis on moving leadership beyond reactionary and fragmented problem solving to a more proactive, forward-looking approach. The Center will further develop programs focused on foundation trustees and executives and the choices they confront as philanthropic leaders, including steps to create a culture of constructive and inclusive decision making in the boardroom.



The first Fund-supported effort currently underway is the development of a case study on Detroit’s Grand Bargain – the imaginative approach that helped resolve Detroit’s bankruptcy in less than eighteen months – and the catalytic role foundation leaders played in the agreement. For the case, The Center interviewed the presidents of twelve of the foundations involved, as well as the court appointed mediator, Judge Rosen, 6th District U.S. Circuit Court for Eastern Michigan, and Gene Gargaro, the long-time chair of the board of the Detroit Institute of the Arts.

As the fund continues to grow, The Center will develop other cases and related convenings focused on philanthropic leadership to engage foundation trustees and executives from across the spectrum of philanthropy in sharing experiences to encourage bold, visionary leadership.

Since its inception in 2000, The Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy has emphasized research and analysis as a means to deepen the understanding of complex issues in philanthropy, with a critical focus on strategies for greater impact in public problem solving. See more at <http://cPPP.usc.edu/>