



ISTR Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

8-10 December 2021

Sabah, Malaysia

Hosted by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy

Active Civil Society: Post-crises rebuilding, mobilising and innovating

2020 has been marked by dramatic dislocations and disruptions including the Covid-19 pandemic and political changes across the region and globally. These crises have had variable effects on third sector organisations and civil society in particular, with reports of constrained resources, outmoded communication/collaboration technologies and passive responses. Yet, civil society survives and thrives as it actively develops community crises responses, forms networks of mutual aid, mobilises action and innovates to achieve new outcomes.

The Covid-19 pandemic has infiltrated all walks of life and the effects on civil society and the third sector have varied between nations and across different segments of society. These include the mobilisation of volunteers, but also the recognition that volunteering has changed, as have the ways of recruiting, managing and supporting them. Funding has been disrupted in all sectors, with philanthropy stretched to deal with urgent issues, government funding demanded by all but limited, low donations, often due to the disruption of fundraising events. More positively, extensive use of communication technologies have allowed for innovations, although it has also highlighted the digital divide. Post-crisis life therefore presents opportunities to rebuild, and innovate and we invite papers that reflect on these changes and the 'new normal' that can guide third sector organisations in the future.

Crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, are felt unequally across generations, socio-economic structures and in different regions. Civil society is instrumental in mitigating the worst effects of these impacts, to advocate for democratic solutions, mobilise and connect communities and highlight and work against discriminations. Again, post-crisis reflection enables learning about how best to rebuild, mobilise and innovate.

Research is important in learning, publicising and developing innovations, yet the crisis has disrupted the lives of researchers who are family members, teachers, and civil society members as well. Access to empirical data has been restricted in some instances and required innovations and perseverance. Papers that present innovations in method, theory and practice are welcomed, as noted below.

ISTR ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE STREAMS

Researchers are invited to submit papers under the following streams:

1. Civil Society's Active Response/s to Crises
2. Civil Society and Democratisation
3. Developing Southern Theory for Third Sector Studies
4. Digitization/technology, Open Government and Civil Society
5. Emerging Methodologies, Theory and Practice
6. Organization and Leadership
7. Philanthropy
8. Partnerships and Collaborations, including Corporate Social Responsibility
9. Regulation and change
10. Social Enterprise
11. Sustainable Development Goals: working towards their achievement
12. Third Sector Innovation in Welfare, Education and Health
13. Sustainability and environmental issues in civil society

GENERAL INFORMATION

Forms of Participation: Papers, Panels, Roundtable, and Posters

Abstract Submissions

To be considered for review, an abstract of not more than 500 words (not including references) must include:

- A statement of the empirical or theoretical concern.
- A short summary locating the concern within a wider literature.
- A concise account of the empirical or theoretical methodological approach.
- The main arguments of the paper and an indication of the supporting evidence.
- A statement of the main conclusions and their relevance to an international audience

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

Sample abstracts are available [for review here](#) and on our conference web page.

All abstracts should be prepared and written in English

Conference Papers and Panels will be organised in parallel sessions.

Submissions by practitioners, emerging scholars, and Masters and doctoral students engaged in research are very welcome.

If your submission is accepted and you wish to present your research at the conference, you must be a paying member of ISTR and must formally register for the conference.

Submissions for Panels, Papers, Posters & Roundtables

All panel, paper, poster, and roundtable proposals for the Conference must be submitted using ISTR's online submission service. You will be required to choose one of the conference themes which best fits your abstract.

To submit your paper or poster abstract using our online portal provided by Oxford Abstracts, please visit:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/2312/submitter>

You will need to create an account before you submit your abstract.

Special Note on Panel Submissions: A panel submission is a proposal for a coordinated set of papers (usually 3 or 4 in number) on a particular topic or issue. Please note that panel proposals require an abstract identifying and justifying the theme of the panel as well as a full abstract for each panel paper. Panel proposals that do not include full abstracts and author information for each paper will not be considered. The person submitting the panel proposal must be willing to act as the panel coordinator and ensure that all proposed paper presenters commit to attending the conference.

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

Special Note on Posters and Poster Submissions: A poster proposal is an alternative to presenting a full research paper. New researchers in particular are invited to share work-in-progress by means of a poster if they wish. This is an opportunity to display a poster about completed and/or ongoing research. Posters will be displayed online throughout the conference and a designated session will be scheduled in which participants can meet with authors to discuss their work. Full instructions on poster formats will be provided to those accepted for presentation.

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

Innovative roundtable formats are invited. To propose content using a new session format, please choose the roundtable format and then provide a description of the format and how the session will function. Then provide a description of the proposed content, including the topic(s), its relevance to the Third Sector, and the names of the organizers/presenters. Please describe how each presenter is expected to contribute.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Abstract submissions: **August 1, 2021**

Notification of acceptance/rejection to authors: **September 15, 2021**

Deadline for presenter conference registration: **October 15, 2021**

Deadline for final submission of papers: **November 26, 2021**

Conference starts: December 8-10, 2021

QUESTIONS

Any questions may be directed to Secretariat@istr.org

CONFERENCE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

- UK (Co-Chair) Carolyn Cordery, Aston University
- Hong Kong (Co-Chair): Kin man Chan, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Australia: Fengshi Wu, University of New South Wales & Ruth Philipps, University of Sydney
- Bangladesh: Salma Akhter, University of Dhaka
- China: Yongdong Shen, Zhejiang University
- India: Manjula Chengappa, St. Agnes College Mangalore
- Indonesia: Maria R. Nindita Radyati, Trisakti University
- Japan: Aya Okada, Kanazawa University & Sohgen Boku, Hosei University
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- Philippines: Maria Faina Diola, University of the Philippines
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