

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ninth International Conference of the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR)

**Kadir Has University
Istanbul, Turkey**

July 7-10, 2010

FACING CRISES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES CONFRONTING THE THIRD SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: OCTOBER 19, 2009

Without question the role of civil society has expanded in many countries throughout the world over the past several decades. Whether in more open or more authoritarian environments, the third sector is playing an important role in providing social services, contributing to policy development, advocating for the rights of poor and oppressed people and for women's rights, contributing to livelihoods and reduction of poverty when the state and market cannot or will not do so, making international aid more effective, growing social capital, contributing to social enterprise and social entrepreneurship, and in many other ways.

Yet there are also significant and growing challenges to the role of civil society as well – challenges posed by the economic and financial crisis that has spread across the world since early 2008, particularly for the poor and for women; ongoing global and local environmental crises; major wars, international and internal, and the related refugee crises; public health issues; global climate change; and many others. These new challenges exist alongside attempts to limit third sector organizations to largely charitable work and service delivery; tightening of legal and political controls on third sector organizations; physical threats to NGO workers, intellectuals, and others; cuts in funding and donations; viewing the third sector as an adjunct and conduit for terrorism and the resulting limitations on transnational philanthropy; the broader concerns for accountability and democracy in the third sector; and many other issues.

At the same time, opportunities exist in the climate of change in citizen participation around the world, innovative ideas for philanthropy, for volunteering and for giving, and what we know and what we are still far from understanding: the role of foundations, and grant-making, the role of governments and the fine line of citizen/government participation, the role of the market and corporations and what social responsibility means for all sides.

After two decades of unprecedented growth in and recognition of the third sector and civil society, the 2010 ISTR International Conference will take stock of the challenges and opportunities facing the third sector and civil society.

ISTR's Ninth International Conference in Istanbul, Turkey offers an excellent opportunity for discussing these and related questions in an academic environment of theoretical and empirical rigor and creativity.

Paper and panel proposals are invited that take up the leading questions on any of the following subthemes, and on other aspects of the challenges and opportunities facing the third sector:

Leading questions

What challenges and opportunities are the third sector and civil society facing at the end of the first decade of the new millennium?

How robust are our existing understandings and explanations of the third sector and civil society?

What new understandings and explanations are emerging?

What do the 'old' and 'new' offer as ways forward to meet these challenges and opportunities?

Sub-themes

The impact of:

the current economic and financial crisis;

environmental crises;

poverty, health, education and other social crises; and

conflict, crises of hope and human displacement.

Challenges and opportunities for:

philanthropy, volunteering, corporate social responsibility and social capital;

the post-welfare state, liberalization, neo-liberal policies, and social contracting;

management, governance, evaluation, accountability and democracy;

government regulation, counter-terrorism, and related constraints;

social entrepreneurship and social enterprise;

social economy and solidarity-based economy; and

global civil society, South-North co-operation and development assistance.

General Information

For the purposes of the ISTR International Conference, the third sector is broadly defined, including, for example: NGOs, non-profit organizations, voluntary associations, social economy organizations, community organizations, self-help and mutual organizations, civil society organizations, philanthropy, and other manifestations of civil society globally and locally, e.g. networks and social forums, unions, religious organizations, co-operatives, and volunteering. Contributions are also welcome which discuss civic participation, community development and citizenship, social capital, and the application of research-based knowledge to policy and practice.

ISTR is keen to encourage academic contributions from all countries and disciplines, as well as contributions from practitioners carrying out research in and with the sector.

Comparative papers and panels covering more than one country will be particularly welcome. A limited number of partial subsidies to reduce the conference registration fee may be available for researchers from the developing world and for post-graduate students from any part of the world.

Sample abstracts can be found on the ISTR website.

Forms of Participation: Papers, Panels, and Posters

Contributions may take the form of a **paper, a panel, or a poster**. Please indicate your choice of presentation when submitting your abstract.

Abstract Submissions

Abstracts (proposals for a paper, panel, or poster) are invited in English, French or Spanish. The official conference language is English and all presentations will be in English. To be considered for review, an abstract must indicate significant academic theoretical and empirical rigor and creativity by meeting the following minimum standards (including supporting literature):

Working title

What is the research problem to be addressed and the aim of the research?

What is the research question?

What theories and concepts inform the research?

What is the research methodology and design?

What are the key theoretical and/or empirical findings?

The abstract should be approximately 800 words in length, but no less than 500 or more than 1,000 words.

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

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Special Note on Panel Submissions

A panel submission is a proposal for a coordinated set of papers (usually 3 or 4 in number) all dealing with 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 in the form indicated above.** 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. To submit your panel, go to the ISTR Istanbul Conference website – www.istr.org/conferences/istanbul/ – and follow the link for **Submit a Panel**. Panel coordinators must complete and include the Panel Presenter Information Sheet, which is available at the panel abstract submission site.

All panel proposals for the Conference must be submitted directly to ISTR in Microsoft Word form at ISTRistanbul@jhu.edu. The Panel Presenter Information Sheet must be submitted with the abstracts.

Submissions for Papers and Posters

All papers and poster proposals for the Conference must be submitted using ISTR's online submission service. To submit your paper or poster abstract using this service, go to the ISTR website – www.istr.org/conferences/istanbul/ – and follow the link for **Submit an Abstract**.

Special Note on Posters and Poster Abstracts

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

Review of Submissions

All submissions satisfying the basic requirements (paper, panel, or poster) will be subject to a blind review by at least two independent reviewers who will not have knowledge of the name of the author or of other reviewers. Only submissions of sufficient academic quality and which are relevant to the conference themes will be accepted for the Conference.

Required Author Registration by April 19, 2010

Authors will be advised by the end of January 2010 whether their abstract has been accepted. **Authors are required to confirm their participation in the conference by April 19, 2010**, and will have an opportunity to submit an extended abstract for inclusion in the conference abstract volume by that date. **AT LEAST ONE AUTHOR PER SUBMISSION MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE BY APRIL 19, 2010, TO HAVE THEIR PRESENTATION SCHEDULED IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM.**

The completed paper must be submitted to the session chair/discussant by June 15, 2010, to allow adequate time to read the paper. You will be notified with the name of your session chair/discussant and where to send your paper.

Post-Conference Publication and Working Paper Opportunities

Following the conference, authors are invited to revise their papers in the light of conference feedback with an eye to an appropriate submission to *Voluntas*, the peer-reviewed official journal of ISTR, or any other journals in the field. Publication decisions are in the sole discretion of such journals and ISTR does not participate in the editorial decisions on such submissions.

Selected papers will also be reviewed for publication in the *ISTR Conference Working Papers Series* to be published after the conference.

Questions?

Any questions on abstract submissions for papers, panels, and posters, and any other aspect of the ISTR Ninth International Conference should be directed to ISTR at

E-mail: istr@jhu.edu or ISTRistanbul@jhu.edu

Phone: 1-410-516-4678

Fax: 1-410-516-4870

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS IS OCTOBER 19, 2009

