

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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

**University of Muenster
Muenster, Germany**

July 22 - 25, 2014

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 25 OCTOBER 2013

This notice serves to invite interested parties to submit abstracts for contributions to be made at the 11th International Conference to be held at the University of Muenster, Germany, from 22 to 25 July, 2014.

ISTR and the Conference

Founded in 1992, the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) is universally recognized as the international academic association of researchers engaged in the study of civil society, the nonprofit sector, philanthropy, and related fields. The mission of the society is to promote research and education in these fields. Society members are drawn from many disciplines. Multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and increasingly trans-disciplinary research efforts abound.

Much work has been done over the past twenty years to establish a responsive scientific community and an active intellectual commons internationally and regionally. The original third sector research has expanded to include important research efforts on the social economy, social investment, and social entrepreneurship and enterprise. A vital link in all this has been the focus on civility and on understanding the role of different actors in creating and sustaining civil society. In these endeavors researchers and interested others have come together around shared concerns for addressing societal issues. A major event on the Society's agenda is the bi-annual international conference. Ten conferences have so far been held – in places as diverse as Pécs, Hungary; Mexico City; Geneva; Dublin; Cape Town; Toronto; Bangkok; Barcelona; Istanbul; and most recently Siena, each attracting an average of 600 senior and junior academics from all over the world as well as practitioners in the field and interested observers from other academic disciplines, politics, public administration and the corporate world.

For the purposes of the ISTR International Conference, the third sector is broadly defined, including, for example: NGOs, non-profit organizations, voluntary associations, social economy organizations, community organizations, self-help and mutual

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

ISTR's Eleventh International Conference in Muenster, Germany, offers a unique opportunity for learning and debate in an environment of rigor, reflexivity, authenticity and creativity. Muenster, home to one of Germany's most prestigious state universities, will provide an excellent venue to examine the role of third sector studies as an integrative science with short term and long term objectives geared towards understanding and addressing societal concerns using a range of methodologies, designs and methods.

The focus of the 2014 conference

CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE CITIZEN

In recent years, the future of society as such has become a pressing concern. While security issues seemingly dominate government action, more and more nation states are coming under pressure from their own citizens. Some political analysts have diagnosed a crisis of representative democracy and argued for a stronger role of civil society. Citizen action, citizen initiatives, and protest movements have gained in importance. Citizen participation has become a key issue for governments, with a plethora of different meanings attached to it. Furthermore, the question of what civil society can bring to the table in attempting to attack the global challenges of the 21st century, has become a point of particular attention. While some governments and the corporate sector would like to see civil society primarily in the role of service providers, citizens are increasingly aware of the political mandate of civil society.

Given this scenario, the conference will attempt to address and discuss the following issues:

- theoretical frameworks and boundaries of civil society
- collaborative governance and civil society
- civil society and citizen participation – addressing public issues
- philanthropy and giving
- volunteering
- the role of protest movements
- the role of civil society in the context of revolutionary developments
- legitimacy vs. legality of civil society action
- developments in government policy and the regulatory environment
- policy-making: the contribution of civil society
- civil society and democracy

Besides, the conference will include sessions dealing with ongoing subjects of particular interest for the sector, such as

- the relationship between civil society and the state
- social entrepreneurship and social enterprises: challenges to the third sector?
- civil society and social innovation
- management and governance of third sector organizations
- for-profit and non-profit: differences, commonalities, partnerships, hybrids
- civil society, faith and religion
- gender
- evaluation, legitimacy, accountability and impact
- emerging areas of theorizing and practice

General Information

Paper, poster, and panel proposals are invited in response to the overall conference themes as they relate to the many, diverse and interconnected theme areas that are characteristic of much third sector research.

ISTR is keen to encourage 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.

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 you submit your abstract.

Abstract Submissions

To be considered for review, an abstract must include:

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

The abstract should be approximately 600 words in length, but no less than 500 or more than 800 words.

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

Please note that while abstracts can be submitted in English, French or Spanish, the language of the conference in English and presentations are to be conducted in English.

Submissions for Panels, Papers and Posters

All panel, papers and poster proposals for the Conference must be submitted using ISTR's online submission service.

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

Special Note on Panel Submissions

A panel submission is a proposal for a coordinated set of papers (usually 3 or 4 in number) 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.** 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 abstract is submitted twice by the same author it will be rejected.

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 that are relevant to the conference themes will be accepted for the Conference.

Required Registration by March 31, 2014

Authors will be advised by the end of January 2014 whether their abstract has been accepted. **All authors (including all panelists) are required to confirm their participation in the conference by March 31, 2014.**

ALL AUTHORS MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE BY March 31, 2014, TO HAVE THEIR PRESENTATION SCHEDULED IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM.

The completed paper must be submitted to the online system by July 1, 2014, to allow adequate time for moderators to read the paper.

Post-Conference Publication and Working Paper Opportunities

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

Authors can submit their papers to be reviewed for selection for publication in the *ISTR Conference Working Papers Series* to be published after the conference on the ISTR website.

Questions?

Any questions on abstract submissions for papers, panels, and posters, and any other aspect of the ISTR 11th International Conference should be directed to ISTR at

E-mail: ISTR_Secretariat@jhu.edu

Telephone: 1-410-516-4678

Fax: 1-410-516-4870

The deadline for abstract submissions is October 25, 2013.