

Call for Applications: ISTR PhD Seminar

June 2021, Virtual

ISTR is pleased to announce the 6th International ISTR PhD Seminar will be held virtually in late May or early June 2021. Specific dates will be forthcoming.

Overview

The ISTR PhD Seminar is open to all enrolled doctoral students doing research in the field of third sector and civil society, across the different regions in the world, and at all stages of their doctoral studies.

The aim of the workshop is to provide doctoral students with the opportunity to engage with senior scholars and peers in extensive intellectual and methodological discussion on their doctoral research, to discuss the main theories and developments in the field, to reflect upon publication and career strategies, and to provide a unique opportunity to network within the international ISTR research community and civil society in general. While rigorous and serious, the PhD Seminar is also a supportive and affirming – and dare we say fun – experience for many who enjoy interacting with other students and faculty in the field and hearing the different perspectives they have to offer.



Key Activities in the PhD Seminar

The PhD seminar will include an opening plenary, a closing plenary, at least 1 professional development workshops, social engagements, and 4 meetings of the small groups (approx. 2 hours each).

Central to the PhD Seminar are the small group sessions in which 8 or fewer students discuss their doctoral research with and obtain feedback from peers and faculty in the group. Students do not prepare a paper for this activity. Rather, in these sessions, students provide brief 10-minute overviews of their research and then spend most of their allotted time soliciting feedback from others that will strengthen their PhD work. Participants will be grouped thematically, but the group composition will be heterogeneous in terms of concrete research topics, disciplinary background, research stage, method, and regional affiliation.

The PhD Seminar will offer opening and closing plenary sessions and at least one professional development session with presentations by leading scholars in the field. Additionally, the PhD Seminar will feature the 3-Minute Thesis Competition. Participation is voluntary, but strongly encouraged. In this competition, students will have 3 minutes to present their research using one PowerPoint slide to illustrate their presentation. It is not permitted to read from a prepared text. This light-hearted competition encourages students to practice sharing ideas in a clear and compelling manner, which is one important aspect of good research. Compelling presentations can be serious or humorous. The winner will be awarded a monetary prize.



Schedule

The ISTR PhD Seminar will run late May or early June 2021. The final date will be announced soon and this document will be revised. The total daily time commitment will be 2-3 hours. A detailed schedule will be provided in March/April. The following basic times blocks are known:

The plenaries will last 2 hours and will begin at 7:00 New York EDT, which is 13:00 Berlin, 19:00 Hong Kong and 22:00 Sydney.

Small group sessions: students can choose to participate in a group that will meet for approximately 2 hours each day for 4 days within one of the following time blocks:

- **Time block 1:** 8am-12pm Berlin/2pm-6pm Hong Kong/4pm-8pm Sydney [Check your time here](#)
- **Time block 2:** 4pm-8pm Berlin/9am-1pm Mexico City/7am-11am Seattle [Check your time here](#)

Application requirements

Participating in the PhD Seminar is a service provided for our student members with the expectation that they will become active participants in the field of third sector studies and members of our society. Applicants must therefore become paying members of ISTR for 2021 and must register to attend the ISTR Virtual International Conference in July 2021 in order to join in and participate in the PhD network. Past participants in ISTR International and Regional PhD Seminars are welcome to apply.

Eligibility and selection criteria

To be eligible for participation in the PhD Seminar, applicants should be:

- A doctoral student at all stages of research, except those in the very final stages. If you expect to defend your dissertation before October 2021, we strongly recommend that you do not apply as you will not likely benefit from the PhD Seminar. In this case, please consider signing up for ISTR's Mentoring Program.
- Conducting research in the field of third sector and civil society [all academic disciplines are invited].
- Able to participate in the entire PhD Seminar and Virtual Conference scheduled for July 12-15, 2021.
- Be prepared to present and discuss their doctoral work with peers and faculty, and to participate in an active and constructive way in group discussions.

Application process - Please apply by March 15, 2021 by filling out the application form online.

Here is the [link to the online application](#)

ISTR will consider all applications that meet the eligibility criteria on a need blind basis. In line with ISTR's mission to build a global community of scholars and subscribe to the values of diversity and pluralism, participants in the ISTR PhD Seminar will be representative in terms of gender and region, as well as disciplines and stages of the PhD process. The application form requires the submission of an abstract, a motivation statement and a document from your university confirming your status as a doctoral student and providing additional information. A complete description of the questions asked in the application are provided on the application page.

Selected applicants will be notified by April 15, 2021. For further inquiries, please contact Megan Haddock, ISTR Program Manager, mhaddock@istr.org

ISTR has hosted several PhD Seminars in the past. The student reflections in these links may be of interest:

1. [Virtual 2020 reflections](#)
2. [Amsterdam 2018: Albert Kagande](#)
3. [Amsterdam 2018: Franz Koranyi](#)
4. [Mieke Berghmans: 2014 & 2016](#)
5. [Munster 2014: Christiane Rudmann](#)