Inequality, inclusion and social innovation
10th Annual Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference
of the
International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR)

San Juan – Ponce, Puerto Rico, 2015

Call for papers
Deadline: 28 February 2015

Founded in 1992, the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) is an association of researchers and academic centers with associates located around throughout the world. ISTR promotes research and education on civil society and the non-profit sector internationally.

The Latin America and the Caribbean Network of ISTR was established in 1996 with the support of the F. K. Kellogg Foundation in the context of the 2nd Annual ISTR Conference in Mexico. Since 1998, regional conferences have been held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; San Jose, Costa Rica; Lima, Peru; Salvador, Brazil; Mexico City; Santiago, Chile; and Buenos Aires, Argentina (the latter two cities on two occasions).

The 10th Annual ISTR Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean will held in the cities of San Juan and Ponce in Puerto Rico on **5 - 7 August 2015**. The theme for the conference is **Inequality, Inclusion and Social Innovation**. The University of Puerto Rico, the Catholic University of Puerto Rico and Sacred Heart University are hosting the event.

Goals of the 10th Annual ISTR Regional Conference

1. Bring together a diverse, pluralistic and international group of researchers focused on Latin America and the Caribbean who are developing knowledge on regional civil society and the non-profit / third sector.

2. Disseminate advances in research on various aspects of civil society in the region.

3. Establish a fruitful dialogue with regard to advances in research and social, political, economic and cultural processes in the region, with a special emphasis on actions and linkages between civil society sectors in different countries.

4. Strengthen the community and academic ties among researchers and institutions focused on the study of civil society and the exchange and cooperation of these with organizations focused on action.

5. Attract more regional researchers interested and involved in issues related to civil society while promoting linkages.

6. Promote the dissemination of research results to contribute to actions by various civil society organizations and practitioners.

Why inequality, inclusion and social innovation?

The preceding nine ISTR Regional Conferences addressed issues including: participation and representation; growth and consolidation of civil society; sector cooperation; and civil society self-identity and its responsibility for the development process. In the 10th edition of this regional conference, the challenges of inequality continue at the forefront, and will be addressed in a renewed and updated fashion. Some of the works on poverty state that there is a "hard core" that is difficult to overcome despite the actions of numerous democratically-elected governments and civil society organizations. The failure of social inclusion of certain sectors of the population has lead to new questions and challenges. The old-style dictatorships have not been dominant in Latin America for some time, but the economic foundations for the future are uncertain and challenges persist in political, social and environmental arenas.

Latin America has opportunities for its citizens to be critical and, above all, active. The need for citizens to participate in the public agenda has become essentially a consensus for Latin American democracies. The Ibero-American Charter of Citizen Participation in Public Administration[1] states that citizen participation is "consubstantial with democracy." Thus, the governmental monopoly on public interest and public action has ended. Despite this, bureaucratic inertia, resistance to change, mistrust, a concentration of power and stale institutional designs persist.

Civil society seeks to help forge democracies with justice, wellbeing and dialogue for all. It is also an expression of an active citizenry that acts in terms of social, economic and political realities. Likewise, civil society is a sphere for social innovation and seeks to further human development and material and institutional capabilities.

Internationally, new ways of confronting inequality are being sought, especially for those affected by extreme poverty. Social innovation may be applied in various areas by political sectors as well as by civil society organizations. The study and assessment of experiences may be important inputs to stimulate and disseminate new research efforts.

Thematic areas

When submitting proposals, conference participants are asked to follow one of the thematic areas listed below for reasons of presentation organization. Traditionally, these areas are the main themes for debate. Nevertheless, the Academic Committee has the ability to reorganize the presentation of works in light of the results of the selection process.

---

[1] Adopted by the 9th Annual Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government, December 2009.

Without detriment to possible future changes, the thematic areas for papers, panel discussions and conferences are as follows:

1. Relationship among social inequality, citizen participation, inclusion efforts and sustainability promotion.
2. Social innovation for sustainable development with social inclusion.
3. Social enterprises, sustainability and new business forms.
4. Civil society / third sector institutionalization, training and fortification.
5. Democracy, the struggle against corruption, promoting accountability and civil society.
6. A changing democracy: linkages between the state, civil society and business for social inclusion and sustainability.

Conference organization and work methodology

The following activities are planned for the conference:

a) **Panel discussions** each made up of presentations of three papers that are assigned by the academic committee with regard to thematic area. Pre-existing panel discussions may also be proposed that shall also undergo the review process. Papers are extensive presentations that are presented orally by their authors.
b) **Posters**, which are graphical presentations that are displayed for the duration of the conference. Places and times within the program are designated for this form of participation.
c) **Keynote conferences** on thematic areas.
d) **Complementary activities** including public forums, book exhibits, film and documentary exhibits, photograph exhibits, etc. The inclusion of these activities must be proposed to the organizing committee.

Proposal presentation

1. All researchers interested in the Latin American and Caribbean region and civil society and the non-profit sector are invited to present work proposals in the following three formats:

a. **Papers** (by individual or multiple authors to be presented in conference sessions).
b. **Panel discussions** (on issues related to the conference's central themes) can include up to four papers. The proposal must be made by the person who will serve as the moderator and panel coordinator.
c. **Posters** (to be exhibited during the entire conference).

2. Proposals must be made in Spanish, Portuguese or English and must be in the same language in which the oral presentation will be made (if applicable). The deadline for proposal presentation is **28 February 2015**.

3. The proposal must include: the title of the work, the applicable thematic area, format specification (paper, panel or poster). *Do not include the name(s) of the author(s)*. For complete panels, the titles of all papers that comprise it must be included (maximum of four) with their corresponding abstracts.

4. The structure of the abstract must include:
    a. Work objectives
    b. Hypothesis or research question
    c. Methodology
    d. Principal results or contribution
    e. Preferences (background, bibliography, information sources, etc.)
    f. Maximum abstract length is **800 words**.

5. A separate file shall include the title of the abstract and full name and contact information of the author(s) (name, institution, address, telephone and e-mail). Proposals including the two attached files must be sent by e-mail to: *istr@lasociedadcivil.org.*

6. All proposals that meet the basic requirements outlined here will undergo a blind review by independent reviewers of various nationalities. Only those proposals that are selected during the review process shall be accepted for presentation at the conference. Following the conclusion of the conference, certain works will be selected, reviewed and published by various means by the organizing committee.

7. **Notification of acceptance or rejection will be communicated no later than 31 March 2015.**

8.   Final versions of accepted work must be sent to the conference organizers for inclusion on the web for access by participants. Papers have a maximum length of 8,000 words. The document must include the title of the work, the full name(s) of the author(s) and an abstract in Spanish and English. The text must be presented in Times New Roman font size 12 with a line spacing of 1.5.

Key dates

24 October 2014	Conference announcement
28 February 2015	Deadline to receive abstracts
31 March 2015	Notification of acceptance of works
30 April 2015	Nomination for partial grants with delivery of completed work (depending on resource availability)
31 May 2015	Notification of acceptance of requests for partial grants
15 July 2015	Deadline to receive completed papers for inclusion on the official conference website
5 -7 August 2015	**10th Annual ISTR Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean**

Applications for a limited number of small partial travel or study grants must be made within the stated time period. The completed work must be delivered and a form must be completed that will be made available.

<div style="border:1px solid">

Questions and comments may be directed to:
ISTR Latin America and the Caribbean:

istr@lasociedadcivil.org

</div>

International Academic Committee

Argentina:	Beatriz Balián, Catholic University of Argentina (UCA) Gabriel Berger, University of San Andrés (UDESA)
Brazil:	Paula Chies Schommer, Santa Catarina State University (UDESC) Armindo dos Santos de Sousa Teodósio, Catholic University of Minas Gerais (PUC-MG)
Chile:	Gonzalo Delamaza, De los Lagos University
Colombia:	Fabio Velásquez, Foro Nacional por Colombia (Colombia National Forum)
Ecuador:	Daniel Barragán, Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental (Ecuador Center for Environmental Rights - CEDA)
Mexico:	Alberto Hernández Baqueiro, Monterrey Institute for Technology and Higher Education (ITESM) Jacqueline Butcher, Centro de Investigación y Estudios sobre Sociedad Civil (Center for Civil Society Research and Study - CIESC - ITESM)
Puerto Rico:	José Frontera, Catholic University of Puerto Rico (PUCPR) José I. Vega, University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Alfredo Carrasquillo, Sacred Heart University (USC)
Uruguay:	Analía Bettoni, Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (Institute for Communication and Development - ICD) Anabel Cruz, Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (Institute for Communication and Development - ICD)

Organizing Committee

José Frontera, Catholic University of Puerto Rico (PUCPR)
José I. Vega, University of Puerto Rico (UPR)
Alfredo Carrasquillo, Sacred Heart University (USC), Puerto Rico
Analía Bettoni, ICD, Uruguay
Anabel Cruz, ICD, Uruguay