

Activities of the Theories, Issues and Boundaries Section

Highlights of TIBS 2008 Annual Meeting

Plenary Session

Why the Absence of New Theory About Foundations' Role Today in Social Change

Featured Speakers:

- **James M. Ferris** Emery Evans Olson Chair in Nonprofit Entrepreneurship and Public Policy
University of Southern California
- **Stefan Toepler** Nonprofit Studies, Public and International Affairs
George Mason University

Discussion Leaders

Susan Ostrander, Tufts University

Kelly LeRoux, University of Kansas

Networking

Lunch Roundtables on Thursday

Informal Dinner on Thursday

Members Meeting on Saturday

Highlights of TIBS 2007 Annual Meeting

Plenary Session

Market Forces, Business Models, and Commercialization: Challenges in the Nonprofit Sector's Pursuit of Social Justice

Featured Speakers:

- **Angela Eikenberry**, of the School of Public Administration at the University of Nebraska Omaha
- **Janelle Kerlin**, of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University

The blurring of boundaries between sectors, and the powerful influences of market forces and business models on nonprofits, have long been topics of great interest and concern to many who work in and study the nonprofit sector. Critical issues will be addressed during this plenary session including the implication of this commercialization for the civic engagement role of nonprofits.

Discussion Leader: Susan Ostrander

Networking

Lunch Roundtables
Members Meeting
Informal Dinner

Highlights of TIBS 2006 Annual Meeting

Plenary Session

What Can We Learn About Third Sector/Voluntary Sector Theory By Focusing On Global and Global South NGO's and Grassroots Associations?

Featured Speakers

- **Adil Najam**, Associate Professor of International Negotiation and Diplomacy Fletcher School, Tufts University
- **Alnoor Ebrahim**, Visiting Associate Professor of Public Policy, Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Discussion leader

Susan Ostrander, Professor of Sociology, Tufts University

Discussion Sessions

(1) What Difference Does 'Faith-Based' Make? Theoretical Implications of Empirical Research. A discussion with authors of the following two articles from NVSQ

- Kevin Kearns, Chisung Park, and Linda Yankoski, "Comparing Faith-Based and Secular Community Service Corporations in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania," *NVSQ*, 34, 2 (2005): 206-231.
- F. Ellen Netting, Mary Katherine O'Connor, M. Lori Thomas, Gaynor Yancey, "Mixing and Phasing of Roles Among Volunteers, Staff, and Participants in Faith-Based Programs," *NVSQ*, 34, 2 (2005): 197-205.

Discussion leader

Michael Moody, Assistant Professor, School of Policy, Planning, and Development, University of Southern California

(2) A Theory of Rational Evaluation

A discussion of how philanthropic foundations allocate resources according to their commitments to specific social values

Discussion leader

John Whitman, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

Networking

Continental Breakfast
Business Meeting

Informal Dinner (prior evening)

Highlights of TIBS 2005 Annual Meeting

Plenary Session

Explanatory power of nonprofit theories and their research applicability and utility

Featured Speakers

- **Avner Ben-Ner**, Professor, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- **Susan Ostrander**, Professor of Sociology, Tufts University

Discussion leaders

Roger Lohmann, Professor, Division of Social Work, University of West Virginia

Jon VanTil, Professor of Urban Studies and Community Planning, Rutgers University

Discussion Sessions

The Nonprofit/For-Profit Continuum A discussion with the authors of an article from NVSQ.

- Nicole P. Marwell and Paul-Brian McInerney, "The Nonprofit/For-Profit Continuum: Theorizing the Dynamics of Mixed-Form Markets," *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, March 2005, 34, 1: 7-28

Discussion leaders

Brenda Bushouse, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts

Michael Moody, Assistant Professor, School of Policy, Planning, and Development, University of Southern California

Theories in Use by Nonprofit Researchers: What and Why?

Discussion leader

Margaret Harris, Professor and Chair, Centre for Voluntary Action Research, Aston University

Networking

Continental Breakfast

Business Meeting

Informal Dinner

Highlights of TIBS 2004 Annual Meeting

Plenary Session

What's In a Name?

Discussion of the conceptual divergence and convergence in thinking about nonprofit research and practice inherent in the “nonprofit organizations” and the “voluntary action” segments of the ARNOVA name.

Featured Speakers

- **Mark Hager**, Research Associate, Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute
- **Roger Lohmann**, Professor, Division of Social Work, University of West Virginia

Discussion leader

Felice Perlmutter, Professor Emeritus, Social Work, Temple University

Concurrent Discussion Sessions

Issues raised in the Plenary Session

- Naming and framing
- Terminology across national boundaries
- “General theory” of nonprofit organizations and voluntary action
- Impact of the diversity movement in the US on the concepts of “public good” and “common good”
- Structuralism and interactionism as conceptual framework for the dichotomy between nonprofit organizations and voluntary action

Discussion leaders

Laurie Paarlberg, Assistant Professor, Public Administration Program,
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, San Francisco State
University

Laurie Mook, Manager, Centre for Social Economy, University of Toronto

Emerging theories

- Potential need new theory. To what would it apply? Where would we look for it? Should it be mid-range, or a unifying theory
- Suggestions that new theories might better explain why nonprofits exist, how they behave, how they began, what impact they have, their ethics
- Role of impact measures in expressing fundamentally-held values
- Functionalist, symbolic interactional, and taxonomic theories
- Potential “genetic” theories that might unlock the “code” and “evolution” of nonprofit organizations

Discussion leader

Michael Moody, Assistant Professor, School of Policy, Planning, and Development, University of Southern California.

Hybridity among nonprofit organizations

- Characteristics of more than one sector
- Advantages and disadvantages of being a hybrid

- Boundaries between sectors
- Defining hybrids using “benefits” to describe what they do...Common benefits, Social benefits, Public benefits, Private benefits

Discussion leader

David Billis, Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics

Intersectoral--Intrasectoral issues

- Delivery of services in areas such as education, childcare, health, and social welfare, by nonprofits, for-profits, and the public sector.
- How intersectoral differences compare to intrasectoral differences
- Significance of sector
- Implications of sector for research to build new theory

Discussion leader

Brenda Bushouse, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science,
University of Massachusetts

Networking

Continental Breakfast

Business Meeting

Informal Dinner