

Philanthropie Aktuelle

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,



The Swiss research landscape in philanthropy is in motion. The universities of Zurich and Geneva as well as the IMD in Lausanne are establishing new professorships and centers focusing

on aspects of philanthropy. At the same time, a new public debate is surfacing asking to what extent philanthropy – and in this context especially foundations – can and should be allowed to influence social development. Both developments are closely related. Not least, because there is repeated evidence that the discussion about philanthropy is ridden with superficial knowledge, clichés and ideology-driven ideas.

For this reason, more research is needed in the field of philanthropy in order to draw up new paths of social engagement, account for international developments and generate data that will contribute to more transparency. Another important part of the research work is the critical analysis of concepts and methods of philanthropy. Doing good requires more than good intentions, but, at the same time, current tendencies of over-quantification entail the risk of losing sight of simple human actions. The CEPS is supporting an interdisciplinary and international exchange and in this context also fosters young researchers, to do justice to the diversity of the field philanthropy also on the research level.

Wishing you a pleasant read!

Georg von Schnurbein

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Young Academics in the Field of Philanthropy

The research field of philanthropy has seen some significant developments happening in recent years – not least because the «philanthropic phenomenon» has taken on entirely new dimensions during this time. Today, an increasing number of young researchers is contributing to this very broad field of research, as the example of CEPS serves to illustrate.

While the scientific discipline of philanthropy has not reached the point of becoming mainstream, one can say for certain that over the past few years, the field has undergone a development that is leading to it being more and more taken for granted.

Philanthropy is developing

Supporting this trend is the growing number of new centers having opened worldwide since the year 2000 that focus primarily on philanthropy - either by examining it on a scientific level or by offering training and education in this area (see table on page 2). An obvious reason for this lies in the new dimension that the phenomenon of philanthropy – even though it has existed since antiquity – has taken on in the past decades and especially in recent years. To name just a few examples in support of this trend: the number of non-profit organizations (NPO) worldwide has grown considerably. We are witnessing an increasing number of wealthy donors and an overall growth in voluntary engagement within society across many countries. Facilitating this development are, among other things, new technologies at the hands of citizens who can thereby launch new initiatives or participate in them. Additionally, our increasingly interconnected world makes it easier to transport initiatives that are perceived as positive from one corner of the globe to another.

Extensive area of research

The term philanthropy refers to any private voluntary action pursuing a charitable purpose. The research of philanthropy can be characterized by its highly interdisciplinary nature, extending across a broad range of topics. At international conferences, experts in law, economics, social studies, politics and history meet for an exchange of thoughts to deepen the understanding of discipline. The topics discussed range from the individual philanthropic engagement (voluntary work, donations) to institutionalised forms (foundations) all the way to the question of philanthropy's relevance in society and politics.

Chance for young academics

Along with the increased number of specialized research centers comes a growing number of young researchers who are working on questions in the field of philanthropy. They are benefiting from ever stronger networks, international doctoral colloquia and exchange programs. In their choice of topics, scientists are enjoying a lot of freedom thanks to the broad range covered by this research field. For example, the five PhD students at the CEPS are working on questions as diverse as investment decisions and financial competence of NPO, the role and position of corporate foundations, the possibilities of political influence through

2000 – 2006	2007 - 2009	2010 - 2013	2014 – 2017
Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy (University of Southern California, USA)	Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy (City University, London)	China Philanthropy Research Institute (Beijing Normal University)	Montreal Research Laboratory on Canadian Philanthropy (University of Quebec)
Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (Stanford University, USA)	Center for Philanthropy (University of Kent, UK)	Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (National University of Singapore)	Hartsook Centre for Sustainable Philanthropy (Plymouth University, UK)
Center for Social Investment (University of Heidelberg)	Center for Philanthropy Studies (University of Basel)	Institute for Philanthropy (LCC International University, Lithuania)	Marshall Institute for Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship (London School of Economics)
	Erasmus Centre for Strategic Philanthropy (Erasmus University, Rotterdam)	Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (Indiana University, USA)	Centre for the Study of Philanthropy and the Public Good (University of St. Andrews, Scotland)
			Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (Ashoka University, New Delhi)
			Chair in Family Philanthropy (IMD Business School, Lausanne)

New centers in the field of philanthropy since 2000, Source: Alliance Magazine, March 2017

NPO, the reasons and effects of cooperation and competition between NPO, and the chances and risks of co-operation between NPO, companies and the state.

Importance for practical application

Ensuring the highest quality of research is also in the interest of and of great importance to the practice of philanthropy. By supplying the latest know-

ledge, science not only contributes to the strengthening of many philanthropic initiatives worldwide, but also increases their efficiency and effectiveness – be it regarding the management of NPO, the transparency in handling donations, the way NPO operate with volunteers or regarding social entrepreneurship, to name only some examples. This variety opens up many opportunities for future research activity.

Questions like: What effects will philanthropy have on the political, societal and economic landscape and what impact will philanthropic activity have on beneficiaries and the society as a whole will no doubt keep future generations of researchers busy.

Nicholas Arnold

<https://ceps.unibas.ch/en/research/projects/>
<https://ceps.unibas.ch/en/about-the-ceps/team/>

Mission Dissertation I: The Value of Exchange of Ideas in the Scientific Community

Writing a doctoral thesis is a very exciting and informative experience, but also a tough piece of work – focus, flexibility and stamina are required. In this context, the exchange of ideas with other researchers offers a great deal of support: thoughts and critical inputs of peers inspire to rethink and advance one’s doctoral thesis.

This summer, I had the opportunity to spend almost a full month in the US to finetune my doctoral thesis by participating in the «Doctoral Fellowship Program» of the «Center for Social Impact Strategy», University of Pennsylvania. Together with other young researchers from Germany, France and the US, I had the chance to work on my research question in depth and was able to develop it further.

At the beginning – and subsequently at the start of every week – we had to present the current state of our thesis; thereafter, we were expected to revise it according to the feedbacks given by professors and the other PhD students. The goal was to be able to hand in a paper ready for publication at the end of the program.

The intense exchange with Peter Frumkin, Director of the Center and the program, as well as the discussions with the other PhD students and guest lecturers were extremely informative, challenging and moti-

vating. For example, in a presentation by Chao Guo, editor of «Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly», one of the most renowned journals in the non-profit field, we were able to learn first-hand how to best structure, write and publish a paper. Additionally, I gained many new and exciting insights through the in-depth study of the theses by other participants, who are working on completely different subjects and in diverse disciplines and research areas.

Over the course of four weeks, my paper took on a largely new shape and form. Originally, I had wanted to primarily examine how non-profit organizations and markets are best described in terms of the economic model of the two-sided market and discuss the respective implications. However, after the first round of presentations it already became clear that even though my basic approach was correct, it did not go far enough. I then extended the applied model so I could

include the diversity of non-profit organizations and the financial pressure they find themselves dealing with. A growing number of NPO are struggling to live on donations and subsidies alone and are trying to generate income through their own services, products and programs. In the USA, for example, 52% of the total income of non-profit organizations is generated through own efforts. The consequences for the non-profit market and the individual organization have not yet been sufficiently examined and this topic has become my central research question since the «Doctoral Fellowship Program» in Philadelphia.

I hope I will stay in contact with the other PhD students and scientists just as I would like my experiences during that month to remain in my memory for a long time.

Sophie Hersberger

All completed papers will be published on the website of the [Center for Social Impact Strategy](https://ceps.unibas.ch/en/research/projects/) from September onwards.

Mission Dissertation II: Challenges of a PhD and Support by the University of Basel

How does someone get to do a PhD? What are the challenges of such an endeavour? And how does the University of Basel support doctoral candidates in their development? A conversation between Theresa Gehringer, PhD student at CEPS, and Edward Constable, Vice Rector of Research at the University of Basel.

CEPS: Theresa, what made you decide to do a PhD and what were the reasons for doing it in the field of philanthropy?

T.G.: I made the decision while completing my master's thesis. For me, it was exciting to profoundly delve into a subject and I wanted to continue doing so and acquiring more in-depth knowledge. The area of philanthropy was something I intensely engaged in while writing my master's thesis. I find this field of research very inspiring and diverse, and there is still so much to discover.



Theresa Gehringer, doctoral candidate at CEPS, and Prof. Dr. Edward Constable, Vice Rector of Research at University of Basel, in discussion.

CEPS: What particular challenges exist during a PhD?

T.G.: The biggest challenge clearly lies in being able to self-manage. We are all used to university studies where a great deal is fixed. When doing a PhD, you need to organize yourself, choose your own reading to get to the bottom of a subject matter, and you need to build your own network. At the same time, it is important to always keep an eye out for future opportunities and your career – whether academic or non-academic. Furthermore, it is crucial to stay focused. I mentioned that I find the field of philanthropy exciting and that it is very broad – but this also means you need to concentrate on a certain facet.

E.C.: I agree with Theresa. During a PhD, students learn a lot about time management and about setting priorities. Additionally, when I did my PhD in natural sciences, I was very closely linked to the members of my research team. This was challenging, but also taught me a lot.

CEPS: How does the University of Basel support PhD students?

E.C.: In all sorts of ways. For example, we cover travel costs, offer a broad ran-

ge of support in career planning and, of course, we give advice on how to work scientifically on a high level. It is important to me to mention at this point that it is down to the PhD student to make use of these options – you cannot force someone to their luck.

T.G.: I can honestly say that I have already benefited from a number of offers. For example, I am participating in the Antelope Program that specifically addresses young female researchers with offers to help with their career planning. Additionally, I have taken part in training on project and data management as well as presentation skills. The University of Basel puts a lot of effort into a varied choice of programs that have been really helpful to me. Through discussions with colleagues I have noticed that other universities do not have this kind of range in programs. What's more, I can make use of what I have learned when working for the faculty and, if I leave the university one day, this knowledge will still be of great use to me.

CEPS: Is there still room for improvement?

T.G.: I find one topic very important. The university generally supports interdisciplinary studies, but in my case, at the beginning of my PhD, I was confronted with a number of strict conditions because I had not studied in precisely the same area as I am now doing my PhD in. In my opinion, more flexibility is needed in this respect.

E.C.: It is clear that a lot of important research findings stem from the interdisciplinary area, meaning that they originate from the peripheral areas of different disciplines. However, the faculties are responsible for regulations intended to ensure a high academic quality in their core research areas, which is of course very important. Yet, finding mechanisms to further strengthen interdisciplinary research is crucial and we are working on this intensively. Let me give you an example: In the field of archaeology, the natural sciences faculty is closely and very successfully cooperating with faculty of

humanities and social sciences – and, in my opinion, this will also happen in other areas.

CEPS: In hindsight, if you had to take the decision again, would you do a PhD?

T.G.: A definite «yes». It is an important step on the path to getting to know and self-manage oneself. Also, in view of taking on the responsibility for a team, which is something I would really like to do in the future, a PhD is of great help.

E.C.: Of course, I would do a PhD again, although I am unable to say with certainty in which discipline it would be. Maybe in chemistry again or – these days – more likely in nanoscience. A PhD offers the possibility to research completely freely and to enjoy those liberties to the full. It is worth it, even if the subsequent career is not an academic one.

CEPS: Many thanks!

More about the Antelope-Programm at the University of Basel:
<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Research/Graduate-Center.html>

CEPS INSIGHT

City Walk in Basel

In the context of the European Foundation Day CEPS, in collaboration with various local foundations, offers interesting insights into the multifaceted world of foundations in Basel.

<https://ceps.unibas.ch/en/>

CEPS Publications

New publications by the Center for Philanthropic Studies on the topics of financial management in NPO (details on p. 4) and Switzerland's foundations system as liberal outlier in Europa may be found using following link:

<https://ceps.unibas.ch/en/publications/>

New Student Assistant

The CEPS team is happy to announce that Dominik Meier has joined the center as new student assistant. We are glad to welcome Dominik in our team and thank him in advance for his valuable contributions towards research at CEPS.

<https://ceps.unibas.ch/en/about-the-ceps/team/>

On the Benefits of Conferences

Presenting ideas and findings, learning about the newest developments in the field, receiving input and inspiration from other researchers on one's own work, and of course networking – conferences have a lot to offer.

«What is it that you actually do there?», is a question I frequently hear when I tell friends and family that I am travelling to an academic conference.

Such conferences usually go on for up to three days and take place every one or two years. Guest speakers are invited to present topics suited to the main theme of the event. In addition, researchers who have been accepted are given the opportunity to present their own research projects. Often, this happens in smaller workshops, which enables a close contact and exchange with researchers who might be working on a similar topic as oneself. Discussions yield valuable feedback and help to successfully advance one's own project.

Prior to the actual conference there is often a special workshop for PhD students tailored to their needs. At this year's European Research Network On Philanthropy (ERNOP) conference, I was able to take part in such a workshop. I benefited in two ways in particular: By receiving feedback from several renowned professors, on the one hand. And from the exchange of ideas with other PhD students in the philanthropy field on the other hand.

The opportunity to exchange thoughts and network with peers is a crucial aspect of conferences. The informal chats in the hallway, during coffee breaks or at the conference dinner are just as inspirational for one's own research as the formal part of the event.

Sara Stühlinger

Did You Know?

51

This is the number of universities that are members of the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC). Right now, the NACC is working on the development of formal criteria of accreditation for institutions, who offer university education in the area of philanthropy and the non-profit sector. This is regarded as a further important step towards increasing professionalization of the field

Source:

<http://www.nonprofit-academic-centers-council.org/>

NPO-Finances

CEPS-research: For NPO, a financing mix may offer more stability, however it also inhibits growth.



NPO are increasingly having to ask themselves the question of how to best finance themselves. Changes in subsidy policies, new focal areas or the demographic change result in proven sources of financing no longer providing enough resources.

The financing mix of an NPO thus becomes more of a challenge and the question of how many different sources of income an NPO should consider is of particular relevance. The most frequent answer is that NPO should diversify the range of their sponsors in order to be prepared for any single loss of financing. While this «portfolio technique» offers stability, the downside is inhibited growth of the NPO. The latter is the finding of Georg von Schnurbein and Tizian Fritz in a study recently published in the scientific journal «Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly».

They observed that when NPO rely on just a few sources of financing, more financial growth is possible. The study also demonstrates what factors positively influence the sources of finance. The results of the study are part of the intensive course «[Finanzmanagement in NPO](#)» starting on October 30th 2017.

CALENDER

Executive Education (IN GERMAN)

Philanthropie am Morgen

Oct. 26th 2017, Basel
Collaboration between Management & Board

Intensiv-Lehrgang Finanzmanagement

Oct. 30th - Nov. 3rd 2017, Gunten

Intensiv-Lehrgang Stiftungsmanagement

March 5th - 9th 2018, Sigriswil

CAS Nonprofit Governance & Leadership

Module 1: Apr. 9th - 12th 2018, Sigriswil
Module 2: May 14th - 16th 2018, Basel
Module 3: June 4th - 7th 2018, Basel

CAS Kommunikation & Wirkungsmessung in NPO

Module 1: Aug. 20th - 23rd 2018, Oberhofen
Module 2: Sep. 10th - 12th 2018, Basel
Module 3: Oct. 22nd - 25th 2018, Basel

FURTHER DATES

Philanthropic City Walk

Foundations & Philanthropists in Basel
Oct. 1st 2017, Basel

Foundation Day I

Central Swiss Foundation Day 2017
Oct. 19th 2017, Nottwil

NPO Financial Forum

NPO Financial Conference
Oct. 26th 2017, KKL Lucerne

Foundation Day II

Swiss Foundation Day 2017
Nov. 8th 2017, Basel

ARNOVA

ARNOVA Conference 2017
Nov. 16th - 18th 2017, Grand Rapids, USA

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLISHER



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