

**Call for Participation
ARNOVA's 39th Annual Conference**

**GOVERNMENTS AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR:
REDEFINING THE RELATIONSHIPS?**

**Alexandria, VA
November 18-20, 2010**

Scholars have documented how the relationships between governments and voluntary or nonprofit organizations have varied over time and in different national contexts. Governments and NGOs often pursue their work with little direct interaction. At other times they are collaborators with shared goals. Sometimes nonprofit agencies are contractors for or grantees of governments. And, of course, voluntary and nonprofit entities have often been adversaries of government, striving to change public policies. Recently there has been much talk of public-private partnerships involving government and nonprofits. At the same time, many nonprofits have become more and more dependent on public funding.

Now many governments around the globe are under severe financial stress, making the needs of many nonprofits for public funding increasingly problematic. Yet, as societal needs grow, the roles and services of nonprofit and voluntary entities may be of rising importance. Hence, we must wonder:

- What will the relationships between government and nonprofit or voluntary organizations be like in the landscape emerging after the recent global economic crisis? What should it be?
- Have those relationships already changed where governments have scaled back funding for nonprofits? If so, along what lines?
- Are NGOs and other voluntary entities taking on new or different roles to serve their communities or advance their causes in this new environment?
- What models show promise for implementation in other countries?

Exploring questions like these will be one focus for our Conference in Washington next November.

We hope to evoke a public conversation on these matters which are of such importance to our field and our communities. One track will be devoted to the Conference theme with the hope of creating shared exploration of the ideas, issues and questions surfaced there. That conversation may be the focus of a special segment of the program.



In addition, however, ARNOVA's Annual Research Conference will be a key opportunity to discuss the latest research on nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, voluntary action and civil society in all its diversity.

*The conference committee welcomes proposals addressing a wide range of topics, in addition to the theme. We invite proposals from all disciplinary (and interdisciplinary) perspectives. We are very interested in international as well as national and local perspectives. Proposals may focus on the entire sector, or on any type of nonprofit or field of activity. We look forward to entertaining a wide variety of proposals, and invite you to submit yours. **We particularly welcome younger scholars and members of under-represented groups to make their interests known to the conference organizers so we can include you in our community.***

▪ ▪ ▪ **Information on Track and the Submission of Proposals Follows** ▪ ▪ ▪

Proposal Submission Tracks for the 39th Annual ARNOVA Conference

Below are examples of the types of questions that could be considered for each track, but please do *not* read these suggestions as *exclusionary*. They are intended only to be illustrative.

- **Public Policy / “Conference Track” – Redefining Government & Voluntary Sector Relationships** – *We invite proposals on a wide variety of public policy issues. For the Conference Track, though, we specifically look for presentations on the topics of the changing roles of and relationships between governments, NGOs and the voluntary sector at all levels – local and state as well as national and international.*
- **Accountability, Effectiveness & Evaluation** – *How do nonprofits remain accountable amidst tremendous shifts in funding, expectations and need? How do we know our work is effective? How are evaluation practices and metrics shifting to capture large-scale community change?*
- **Boards & Governance** – *Will the various ‘governance models’ that envision certain roles for government, business and nonprofit organizations be significantly altered in the future?*
- **Community & Grassroots Organizations** – *Will social movements gain traction? Will faith communities increase their involvement in meeting human needs?*
- **Fundraising & Giving** – *How is individual giving changing in troubling times? Have donor trends shifted? Are people tightening their belts or giving even more generously?*
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship** – *Are nonprofits breaking new ground in their approaches to services? Are new (hybrid) organizational forms replacing traditional ones? Do we know if innovation is more effective?*
- **Management & Leadership** – *How are hard times changing the approaches to and work of management in voluntary organizations? Are styles of leadership changing? If so, why?*
- **Philanthropy & Foundations** – *Will foundations treat their assets differently or change their decision making practices? Are their roles changing in this new environment?*
- **Religious Organizations & Services** – *How has the continuing growth of and changes in religious communities changed the nonprofit landscape? How do the roles of these groups vary by faith tradition or external circumstance?*
- **Strategy & Programs** – *As resources get scarce and needs grow, are nonprofits finding new ways of working? What do these look like? What kinds of programs are thriving or failing in the “new normal” of this economy?*
- **Teaching & Education** – *What is being done to prepare the next generation of nonprofit leaders? Should programs and pedagogy be changing in these times? If so, in what ways?*
- **Theory & Methods** – *Are we seeing new theoretical insights evolve and paradigms shift in these challenging times? If grassroots civic engagement and networks are becoming more important, can our current organizational models understand these trends?*
- **Voluntarism & Volunteering** – *How is voluntarism changing in the current environment? What new or additional knowledge skills, and abilities will be needed by volunteers?*

Types of Presentations & Submissions:

Proposals can be for Papers, Panels (pre-arranged) of 3-4 papers, or Colloquia. Submissions by practitioners and doctoral students engaged in research are also welcome.

The on-line proposal submission system will open February 15, 2010, and close at midnight, March 21. To submit a proposal, you will be able to go to www.arnova.org, and click on the tab that says “Submit a Proposal.” More information about submitting proposals can also be found there – under “Guidelines and Instructions for Proposals” – by February 8. Questions can then be directed to the ARNOVA office at (317) 684-2120, or to conference@arnova.org.