

**This CFP is the subject of the ISTR special conference theme track which will take place on 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024 in Antwerp (see <https://www.istr.org/page/ISTR2024>). Submission deadline ISTR abstract: 30/10/2023**

Following the conference, the chairs invite the participating authors to revise their paper in light of the conference feedback, and submit their paper for a special issue in Nonprofit Policy Forum. Submission deadline Nonprofit Policy Forum: 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2024.

Should you have any questions regarding this call, feel free to reach out to Ben Suykens ([ben.suykens@ugent.be](mailto:ben.suykens@ugent.be))

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## **Call for papers: The impact of New Public Management on the Third Sector: Interdisciplinary, Comparative and Critical Case Studies.**

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By now, consensus has been reached that the emergence of the New Public Management paradigm fundamentally changed the meaning, place and functioning of nonprofit organizations in present day society (Maier, Meyer, & Steinbereithner, 2016). Coined by Salamon (1993) as the marketization of welfare, NPM essentially positioned competitive contracting and performance-based control at the heart of the public-nonprofit relationship (Bode, 2006). However, evidence is lacking on how factors at the welfare state level and sectoral level influence the extent to which and how new public management impacts the way nonprofit organizations operate. In this call for papers we welcome country specific case studies that provide an in-depth account on the impact of NPM-like policies on the governance of nonprofit organizations and their professionals. Our aim is to foster an interdisciplinary scholarly debate on how specific welfare state-, sectoral- and organizational level characteristics and practices adopted by nonprofit professionals are at play when discussing how NPM impacts the advocacy role of nonprofit organizations, their service delivery (quality), and the extent to which they are becoming business-like.

At first sight, universal trends are at play and nonprofit organizations are dealing with the same challenges regardless the specific welfare state context. For example, there is the implicit notion that nonprofit marketization is on the rise, and gradually becoming omnipresent in society. Although criticized by some (e.g., Brown, 2018; Child, 2010), this idea is often voiced in introductory sections of nonprofit studies. Some go as far to argue that nonprofit marketization induces convergence between different welfare state types (Henriksen, Smith, & Zimmer, 2011). Other studies, however, are critical about idea of a so-called universal welfare state. These studies often elaborate on country specific characteristics and show that different institutional contexts should be taken into account while investigating changes in how current welfare state trends are influencing the position of nonprofit organizations (for instance, compare: Brown, 2018; Suykens, Maier, Meyer, & Verschuere, 2022; Vaceková, Valentinov, & Nemeč, 2017; Yu & Chen, 2018). For example, in neo-corporatist welfare regimes, characterized by a strong relationship between state and (privileged) civil society actors, marketization and NPM are more slowly developed compared to the typical liberal welfare regimes such as the US or UK (Bode, 2011; Suykens, De Rynck, & Verschuere, 2020).

Additionally, at the organizational level and the level of professionals, the response of nonprofit organizations may vary from passive compliance to active resistance (Oliver, 1991; Raeymaecker &

Cools, 2022). Despite the fact that marketization and NPM-like policies are widely criticized as a force that pushes NPOs away from their social values and their critical role in relation with the government, other studies have proof that NPOs are perfectly capable to combine several social and market logics (Battilana & Dorado, 2010; Battilana, Sengul, Pache, & Model, 2015). These studies emphasize the capacity of NPOs to decouple, avoid or even openly defy governmental pressures (Raeymaeckers & Cools, 2022).

This call for papers welcomes country specific case studies as well as cross-country comparisons on how NPM-like policies impact the role, value and position of nonprofit organizations. We are interested in contributions that focus on how particular characteristics at the welfare state and/or organizational level are buffering or intermediating the impact of NPM on nonprofit organizations. As these topics are studied from different approaches such as social work, sociology, nonprofit studies, public administration and economy our aim is to foster discussions between different theoretical, conceptual and methodological perspectives.

Questions to be addressed may include, but are not limited to topics related to country specific tendencies of nonprofit organizations becoming business-like, shrinking spaces, advocacy activities and strategies, service delivery and strategies of resistance developed by organizations or social workers to resist NPM policies of the government. We are also interested on the perspective of policy makers and social work professionals on these matters.

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