PROCEEDINGS OF THE

European Research Network On Philanthropy (ERNOP)

9th International Conference

Philanthropy in the spotlight?

RESOURCES,
REPUTATION AND
ACHIEVEMENTS

Center for Philanthropy Studies University of Basel





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FOREWORD

In this publication you can find the conference proceedings of the 9th biennial conference of the European Research Network On Philanthropy (ERNOP), that was held on July 4 and 5, 2019. All conference participants have been provided the possibility to have their work as a full article included in the ERNOP Conference Proceedings. Next to the conference proceedings, Voluntas will publish a special issue related to the theme of the ERNOP Conference. Besides, there still a number of scholars who do not feel at liberty to share their work in an open source format as there are still a number of journals that will excluded material that have been included in another outlet, eventhough it is work in progress. ERNOP will encourage any developments that can stimulate the wider use of knowledge derived from (academic) research.

Thanks to the Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS) at the University of Basel in Switzerland, the 2019 conference gathered scholars from various disciplines sharing a motivation to discuss the achievements of philanthropy in the present day, and to generate new questions about how philanthropy might develop in the future. Participants were especially encouraged to send in proposals addressing questions related to the financial and other sources of philanthropy related to the reputation of philanthropic organizations and projects and/or achievements of philanthropy. In doing so, the conference intitiated a lively debate about the multifaceted character of philanthropy in the past, present and future.

In recent years, the public profile of philanthropy has increased. Across Europe (and beyond) philanthropic actors take the lead in addressing societal issues and the contribution of philanthropy is being (re)discovered by public actors. Nevertheless, at the same time, expectations about the resources and achievements of philanthropy may pale in the face of public welfare. The advancement of knowledge about the theory and practice of philanthropy has evidenced its achievements as much as it has unveiled its limitations. While philanthropy is not a new phenomenon, its heightened visibility has raised questions about the background and motives of philanthropic organizations and donors, the place of philanthropy within (European) welfare states, the relationship of philanthropy to other actors that aim to solve societal issues and/or put issues on the societal agenda, and the impact of philanthropy in society. New methods or models such as impact investing or political agenda setting push the boundaries of philanthropy further and fuel discussions of legitimacy. Digital transformation is influencing all actors involved in philanthropy and their relationships, from donors to volunteers. Philanthropy may not only tackle new digital threats, such as those to privacy or democracy, but also take advantage of the opportunities of becoming digital. An increase in visibility seems to call for more transparency and a better understanding of the achievements, limitations, opportunities and risks of philanthropy: we should look the philanthropic gift horse in the mouth.

We would particularly like to thank our keynote contributors; Rob Reich, professor of political sciences at Stanford University to address in his keynote the dark side of philanthropy as challenging justice and democracy; professor Pamala Wiepking on pointing the audience towards the bright side of philanthropy in her keynote, emphasising that most often philanthropy is not about the rich white men spending large amounts of money, but about small acts of giving by women, men and children all over the world. All these acts contribute to a more generous society. Finally, big thanks to Lynda Mannson, Director General of MAVA. After having discussed the dark and bright sides of philanthropy, she gave an example of what philanthropy can do in her keynote.

Also we would like to congratulate Bojana Radovanovic from the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade for receiving the ERNOP Best Conference Paper Award for her work on conceptualizing and measuring philanthropy in Serbia. With her paper she provides new insights in the rate of formal as well as informal philanthropy in Serbia. Radovanovic contributes to the scarce amount of research on philanthropy that is done outside of Western Europe, making her paper of great significance for the discipline. Thanks to Transnational Giving Europe for believing in the relevance of academic research on philanthropy, and to the Gebert Rüf Foundation and Max Geldner Foundation for making the event in Basel to a great succes.

By sharing the work of the presenters as broad as possible, ERNOP believes that it can contribute to a better understanding and improvement of philanthropy. We look forward to the years ahead and what we will be able to share from our next conference, taking place at Sutherland School of Law in Dublin, July 1-2, 2021.

Best regards,

Barry Hoolwerf

ERNOP Executive Director

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