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# ARNOVA

Presents the

## **2021 Outstanding Article in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly**

to

**Per Svensson, Tara Mahoney, and Marion Hambrick**

for

### ***What does innovation mean to nonprofit practitioners? International insights from development and peace-building nonprofits***

The 2020 Outstanding Article in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly is awarded to Per Svensson, Tara Mahoney, and Marion Hambrick for their article “What does innovation mean to nonprofit practitioners? International insights from development and peace-building nonprofits.” The article appeared in Volume 49 Issue 2.

The article addresses an important question for nonprofit studies: What does nonprofit innovation mean? The notion and importance of innovation in nonprofit organizations has been widely discussed in the literature. However, the voices of nonprofit practitioners who implement innovation have not been carefully heard. This article uses data from interviews and focus groups with 47 practitioners representing development and peace-building nonprofits across six continents to explore what innovation means to them. The authors delineate the discrepancies in the meaning of nonprofit innovation between theory and practice, but also identify the common themes. The article reminds us of the multi-faceted meanings of nonprofit innovation and the importance of context in understanding nonprofit innovation.

When considering the articles published in 2020 in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, the selection committee used four criteria, including a compelling research question, strong theoretical background, rigorous methodology, and significant contributions to theory and practice.

The selection committee comprised: Jiahuan Lu (chair), Fredrik Andersson, Erynn Beaton, Jason Coupet, and Diarmuid McDonnell.