



ARNOVA

Presents the

2021 UMD Do Good Institute & ARNOVA Global Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership Award

to

Dr. Reza Hasmath

for

Volunteerism, Philanthropy and Civic Participation in China

Dr. Hasmath's proposed project will examine both state-led and citizen-led volunteerism and philanthropy to measure the impact that these activities have on Chinese individuals' conceptions of "good" citizenship. Further, the study traces the effect of China's ambitious, and potentially intrusive, new social credit system on civic participation and evolving conceptions of citizenship. The questions the research aims to address include:

1. Does volunteerism and philanthropy teach people to hold a more active understanding of citizenship in an authoritarian environment?
2. Do citizens who volunteer time and/or donate money expect to play a more active role in directly engaging with social problems in an authoritarian environment?

Among the several strong proposals submitted for this award, this one stood out for its potential comparative, international contributions and new empirical and theoretical insights, as well as sound design. The project is expected to generate new practical knowledge about voluntary and philanthropic behavior in China and enhance theoretical understanding on conceptions of civic engagement in an authoritarian environment. Understanding the evolving and changing behavior of everyday citizens when it comes to their voluntary behavior, charity giving patterns, and their adaptive reactions to the social credit system in China are also salient concerns for various international and domestic nonprofit organizations operating in China and in authoritarian contexts more generally. The lessons learned may also allow stakeholders--state and non-state actors--to refine policies and strategies for charity giving and recruiting volunteers.



Annual Conference
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The selection committee included Angela Eikenberry, Chair (University of Nebraska at Omaha), Ijeoma Nwagwu (Princeton University & Lagos Business School), Shariq Siddiqui (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, IUPUI), Johan von Essen (Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College), Ming Xie (West Texas A&M University), and Gizem Zencirci (Providence College).

Reza Hasmath (Ph.D., Cambridge) is a Trinidadian-Canadian academic, who is a Full Professor in Political Science at the University of Alberta. He has previously held faculty positions in management, sociology and political science at the Universities of Toronto, Melbourne and Oxford, and has worked for think-tanks, consultancies, development agencies, and NGOs in USA, Canada, UK, Australia and China. He was formally trained in philosophy, public policy, international studies and diplomacy, and social and political sciences, as well as in various East Asian and European languages. His research is supported by several multi-year grant schemes, notably from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. One major strand of his research looks at evolving state-society relationships in authoritarian contexts, with an emphasis on China, philanthropy, volunteerism and non-profit activities.