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# ***THE NONPROFIT SECTOR: A RESEARCH HANDBOOK***

**Supplemental reading  
materials for webinar**

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# THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

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*A Research Handbook*

THIRD EDITION

**Edited by Walter W. Powell and Patricia Bromley**

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Stanford, California

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## **Chapter Abstracts**

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### **Immigrant Organizations: Civic (In)equality and Civic (In)visibility**

Irene Bloemraad, Shannon Gleeson, Cornell University; and Els de Graauw

This chapter makes the case for greater attention to immigrant communities in the study of nonprofit organizations. In doing so, we develop the concepts of civic (in)equality and (in)visibility to describe the observed disparity in the number, density, breadth, capacity, and visibility of nonprofit organizations in a community. The chapter first reviews the relevant scholarship on immigrant integration, interest groups and social movements, and nonprofit organizations to demonstrate that immigrant nonprofit organizations have been understudied and undertheorized. To advance third sector scholarship that includes immigrant organizations, we argue that researchers need to take better account of the consequences of migrants' citizenship and legal status, their prior political and civic socialization in their homeland, and their transnational engagements. We draw on the small body of existing research on migrant organizing to discuss how migration matters for immigrant civic engagement at the individual and organizational levels, including organizational creation, persistence, and impacts. We discuss how scholars can conceptualize, measure, and analyze immigrant nonprofit organizations, with specific attention to civic inequality, a concept that can also be applied to non-immigrant populations. We conclude by exploring why civic inequality is cause for concern, focusing on immigrants' access to social services, employment, and leadership opportunities as well as their civic voice.

### **Charitable Nonprofits and the Business of Health Care**

Jill Horwitz

Health care organizations play an outsized role in the nonprofit sector. Representing only slightly more than ten percent of all charities, they account for the largest part of the independent sector's revenues, expenses, and assets. Despite their dominance and lengthy pedigree as charities under the law, health care has presented a challenge to popular, legal, and aspirational understandings of nonprofits. This chapter examines both the roles that nonprofits play in the health sector and those that health care entities play in the nonprofit sector. Specifically, it (1) presents data regarding the number, types, and finances of U.S. health care charities; (2) investigates the history of nonprofit health care, challenging a widely held belief that health care charities historically provided care to the needy free of

charge but have lost their way from their donative roots; (3) surveys the recent, voluminous research on the role of ownership in health care provision; and (4) reviews recent and proposed regulation of health care nonprofits, observing that nonprofit health care organizations are treated differently both from other charities and from other health care organizations. The chapter concludes that health care charities ought to be treated as charities in good standing.

### **The Changing Face of Nonprofit Advocacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Democratizing Potentials and Risks in an Unequal**

#### **Context**

Edward Walker and Yotala Oszkay Febres-Cordero

This chapter takes stock of broad trends in nonprofit advocacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, focusing on the U.S. experience. It is oriented around the tension between nonprofit advocacy organizations as forces for democratization versus those features of contemporary advocacy nonprofits that either reinforce “de-democratizing” tendencies or reflect a broader context in which democracy may be receding. It unpacks these tensions according to six key dimensions: (1) features of advocacy nonprofit organizational structures that may support or challenge democratic outcomes; (2) pressures toward accountability by third-party monitors, which often deploy metrics that may disadvantage advocacy nonprofits, particularly those that engage in grassroots organizing; (3) questions of whether nonprofits challenge versus reinforce inequalities; (4) the rising use of nonprofits as political intermediaries for corporations or other interests – including concerns about the practice of “astroturfing” and the rise of “dark money” social welfare organizations; (5) practices of advocacy nonprofits that, separate from their structure, may limit democratizing potentials; and (6) the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in reshaping the practices of advocacy nonprofits. Based upon these factors, we draw tentative conclusions regarding the prospects for nonprofits as sources of democratic civic and political action in light of a challenging external socio-political environment.