

Grassroots Associations

David Horton Smith



Sage Publications, Inc.

International Educational and Professional Publisher

Thousand Oaks • London • New Delhi

Key Abbreviations in This Book	ix
Foreword	x
Preface	xiii

**PART I:
TOWARD A ROUND-EARTH PARADIGM FOR
THE VOLUNTARY NONPROFIT SECTOR**

Introduction	3
Nonprofit-Type Classifications	4
Chapter 1: Definitions and Metaphors	7
The Connotative Definition of Grassroots Associations	7
Some Broader Background on the Study of Associations	10
The Astrophysical Dark Matter Metaphor	12
The Mapmaking Metaphor and the Flat-Earth VNPS Paradigms	13
Toward a Theory of Voluntary Altruism: Key Definitions	15
Conclusion	28

Chapter 2: Revising Flat-Earth Maps:	
The Rest of the Voluntary Nonprofit Sector	33
Numbers of Associations and All Nonprofits	36
People and Roles	45
Time and Behavior	53
Money and Property	55
Conclusion	60

PART II:

THE DISTINCTIVE NATURE OF GRASSROOTS ASSOCIATIONS

Introduction	67
Chapter 3: Formational Characteristics	71
The Basic GA Founder Choices	71
Conclusion	88
Chapter 4: Internal Guidance Systems	91
Moderate Amounts of Ideology	92
Adequate Incentives and Satisfaction	95
Secondary Importance of GA Incentives and Roles	103
Conclusion	103
Chapter 5: Internal Structure	107
Internal Structure	107
Conclusion	123
Chapter 6: Internal Processes	127
Internal Processes	127
Conclusion	146
Chapter 7: Leaders and Environments	149
Leadership	149
GA Environments and Their Relationships to GAs	163
Conclusion	164
Chapter 8: Life Cycle Changes	167
Definitions	167

Increasing Complexity in Work Organizations, Including National Associations, With Age	169
Complexity and the Life Cycle of GAs	171
Causes of Complexity in GAs	173
Alternatives to Complexity in GAs	178
Other Factors Related to the Age of GAs	181
Conclusion	192
 Chapter 9: Impact and Effectiveness	 195
GA Impact	196
GA Effectiveness	206
General Effectiveness Studies	209
Conclusion	211

PART III: THEORETICAL PARADIGMS AND CONCLUSIONS

.Introduction	215
 Chapter 10: Flat-Earth Paradigms and a Round-Earth Paradigm Outline	 217
Metaphors and Paradigms for Understanding the VNPS	217
Overview of Flat-Earth VNPS Paradigms	219
Outline of a Round-Earth Paradigm of ,the VNPS	238
Rating My Own Success in Following the Round-Earth Paradigm	240
Conclusion	241
 Chapter 11: Some Conclusions and Forecasts:	
The Advent of <i>Homo Voluntas</i>	243
Long History of the VNPS	243
One Nonprofit Sector or Two?	244
Using a Balanced Round-Earth Paradigm of the VNPS	245
One Contrarian Conclusion: No Financial Crisis for the VNPS as a Whole	246
The Role of Volunteer Groups in Society	248
The New Social Scientific Discipline of Voluntary Action Studies: 50 to 100 Years Away in the Future	250
Policy Recommendations	250

Past and Future Trends in VG Prevalence	251
Determinants of VG Prevalence Growth Worldwide	252
Expansion of Voluntary Role Choices in the Future, Especially in Postindustrial Societies	254
The Voluntary Century and Volunteer Millennium: The Advent of <i>Homo Voluntas</i>	259
Appendix A: Description of the (Largely North American) Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action	263
Appendix B: Creating a Local Nonprofit Sampling Frame Including Grassroots Associations: An American Example	267
A Multimethod Comprehensive Sampling Frame Creation Strategy for Nonprofits	268
Cleaning the Data	273
Other Countries	274
Conclusion	275
Appendix C: Methodology of the Smith One-Suburb Study	279
References	283
Index	321
About the Author	342