Charter of the Religion and International Relations (REL) Section of the International Studies Association

Article I: Name.

This organization shall be known as the Religion and International Relations (REL) Section of the International Studies Association (ISA).

Article II: Affiliation.

The REL is one of the sections of the International Studies Association and as such subscribes to its purposes and supports its activities.

Article III: Purposes.

The purposes of the REL are:

1. To promote the exchange of ideas among REL-interested scholars across both disciplinary and international boundaries;

2. To support a scholarly community and promote REL-related studies;

3. To facilitate networking and cooperation among scholars and students working on religion and International Relations.

4. To strengthen research and teaching in the field and attract talented new scholars to it.

Article IV: Relationships.

The Rel will encourage cooperative relations with other organizations within and outside the ISA which share its interests.

Article V: Membership.

1. Any ISA member sharing the purposes of this section may become a member of REL upon payment of whatever dues shall be established.

2. Members are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM), be eligible for nomination to elective office, nominate and vote for officers, participate in REL activities, and receive REL-sponsored publications.

Article VI: Officers.

1. Officers and Terms.

   - The officers of the REL section comprise the Executive Committee.
• All officers must be members of the REL section.
• The officers of the REL are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Program Chair, Communications Chair, Treasurer, Awards Chair and no more than four Members At Large.
• All officers are elected for terms of two years.
• Members of the Executive Committee will be elected each year (Chair, Vice-Chair, Program Chair in odd-numbered years, and Secretary, Communications Chair, Treasurer, Awards Chair and Members At Large in even-numbered years).
• [This bullet point is deleted after the Section’s second AGM] After the Section’s first full year, Members at the Section’s constitutive AGM shall elect a full Executive Committee. Chair, Vice Chair and Program Chair will be elected for a term of two years, while the Secretary, Communications Chair, Treasurer, Awards Chair and Members At Large will be elected for a term of three years.
• The terms of all officers begin at the conclusion of the ISA Annual Convention, and end at midnight of the last day of the ISA Annual Convention.

2. Responsibilities.

• The Chair shall call meetings and preside at them, coordinate section activities, oversee the Executive Committee, act as liaison with the ISA and with the REL membership, and shall be the official spokesperson of the REL.
• The Vice Chair assists the Chair in liaison activities and in preparing the annual report. The Vice Chair presents the report at the AGM.
• The Secretary serves as rapporteur for REL meetings and prepares the Section Newsletter.
• The Program Chair is responsible for organizing the REL-sponsored panels at the ISA annual convention.
• The Communications Chair assists the Chair and Vice Chair in communicating with section members, circulates the section newsletter, and maintains the section website.
• The Treasurer shall be responsible for raising funds and approving their expenditure in consultation with the Chair, keeping accurate financial records, and for drawing up an annual balance sheet to be presented at the AGM.
• The Awards Chair oversees the processes of soliciting nominations, books or papers for awards, coordinating the selection of judges, and overseeing the granting of awards at the AGM.
• The Members At Large are voting members of the Executive Committee who will support the work of the REL.
• The Executive Committee is responsible for setting section policy and for nominating officers.

3. Elections.

• Elections shall be carried out in a manner consistent with ISA standards, and organized by the Executive Committee.
• Officers may be nominated by REL members or by indicating their interest to the Executive Committee prior to the AGM.

4. Advisory Board.

REL shall have an Advisory Board consisting of scholars sharing the purposes of the section and wishing to actively contribute to its development. Members of the Advisory Board are appointed at the AGM after nomination by the Executive Committee. The Advisory Board shall consist of no more than fifteen scholars, and are appointed for three year terms.

5. Ad Hoc committees.

• Ad hoc committees may be formed at the discretion of the Executive Committee to handle section business, such as awards. All ad hoc committees include one member of the Executive Committee and at least two section members not on the Executive Committee.

Article VII: Charter Amendments.

1. Amendment to this Charter may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by a petition of at least ten members of the Section. Proposed amendments will be submitted to the Chair and the Secretary of the Section not less than six weeks prior to the annual meeting at which they are to be considered by the membership. Such proposed amendments will be discussed and acted upon at the annual business meeting.

2. If an amendment is approved by a majority of members in attendance at the AGM, it will be submitted to an email ballot of all current members. Amendments will be deemed adopted if supported by a two-thirds majority of those responding to the email ballot within one month of its distribution.

3. All amendments to the Charter approved by the Section’s membership in accordance with VII. 1 and 2 above will be submitted to ISA’s Executive Director and Governing Council.