

ALIAS NOTES

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ACTIVE LEARNING IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT DOUGLAS BECKER

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On behalf of ALIAS I would like to thank everyone for their preparations for this year's 2008 ISA Annual Convention. We've got an exciting program planned for San Francisco. Along with the panels and roundtables, I'd like to highlight two additions to the program that are presented below: the Active Poster Session (or what we've nicknamed the Pedagogy Playground) and the ISA Compendium Project. ALIAS has been active in the project and will be participating in roundtables on the publication.

We'd love to see everyone there and to receive feedback from the membership on those articles.

Finally I'd like to personally invite everyone to attend our Friday morning business meeting from 7:30-8:15, Continental 1-Hilton (please verify the location in the program you receive at the convention). We'll get updates on the website, on the panels, on the Encyclopedia, and on publications in general.

In addition, we will be holding ALIAS officer elections at the business meeting. If you are interested in being nominated, want to nominate someone else, or want to learn more about the positions, please contact me at dfbecker@usc.edu. The section is seeking nominations for Vice President and at-large positions. We are interested especially in recruiting a graduate student for an at-large position.

ALIAS SECTION OFFICERS

- **President:** Douglas Becker, University of Southern California
- Vice President/Program Chair:** David Reilly, Niagara University
- Secretary:** Mary Pettenger, Western Oregon University
- Immediate Past President:** Carolyn Shaw, Wichita State University
- WebMasters:** Leanne Powner, University of Michigan
- Christina Sookrum, University of Waterloo
- Member-at-large:** Darin Vantassell, Georgia Southern University
- Member-at-large:** Loren Cass, College of the Holy Cross

COME EXPERIENCE THE PEDAGOGY PLAYGROUND!

On the Cutting Edge in the Classroom: Innovative Teaching Tactics
SC23 Saturday 1:45 - 3:30 PM

ALIAS is pleased to announce its second annual Inter-active Session on Teaching. Fourteen different presenters will be demonstrating a wide variety of teaching materials and techniques that they use in class. Topics include role-playing exercises, the use of internet and other technologies, games, and experiential learning strategies. This is not your traditional poster session! Come join us on Saturday March 29 from 1:45-3:30 in Plaza A of the Hilton (please verify the location in the program you receive at the convention).

COMPENDIUM PROJECT UPDATE

Carolyn Shaw, ALIAS section editor

I'm pleased to report that the ALIAS section is making significant progress on the Compendium Project. We currently have 12 committed authors to write on ten of our eleven selected section topics. I hope to secure the final contract before the annual conference. The authors and topics for our section include:

Active Teaching and Learning in International Studies: An Overview by Kent Kille, Matthew Krain, Jeffery Lantis;

Designing and Using Simulations and Role Play Exercises by Douglas Becker;

Computer Simulations in the Classroom by Andrew Blum;

Teaching with Case Studies by Ralph Carter;

Model UN / EU by Gretchen Van Dyke;

Experiential Learning by Eric Cox;

Collaborative Learning by Steve Lamy;

Teaching with Technology by Steve Jackson;

Teaching with Media TBD

Civic Engagement by Lynn Kuzma;

Assessment of Active Learning by Vicki Golich

Six of these authors will be presenting drafts of their work at an ISA roundtable on Wednesday March 26 at 3:45. We would love to engage in an extended dialogue with section members regarding the state of our field. Please join us.

ALIAS NETWORKING GROUP

The International Studies Association (ISA) is contemplating adopting a Networking Group model (a la APSA) for 2009 in New York. The proposal, which is pending approval from the Governing Council, provides approx \$140/person funding for 3 sections to participate in the pilot project. ALIAS is one of the three sections that has been selected.

If you are interested in participating in an ALIAS Networking Group in 2009, or would like more information about the proposal, please contact Carolyn Shaw, carolyn.shaw@wichita.edu.

THE ALIAS WEB ARCHIVE

The ALIAS Web Archive is a place for section members to share lesson plans, working papers, class resources, links, and other items of professional interest. This secure file-sharing site is hosted on the University of Michigan's CTools course and project management platform. Users may log in anonymously or under their own names to post documents, browse resources, or participate in discussion threads.

The site boasts a large collection of professional links and a growing set of lesson plans, papers, instructional resources, syllabi, and class activities. Logging in is easy and secure. Simply go to the ALIAS section website <<http://www.isanet.org/alias>> and click on "The ALIAS Web Archive" on the left. Use the user name "alias.isa@gmail.com" (no quotes) and password "ISAsession" (no quotes, case sensitive) to log into the site as an ALIAS Guest. Or, to obtain a log-in under your own name, email the webmaster at <LPowner@umich.edu>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS
Simulation and Gaming:
An International Journal of Theory, Practice and Research

Symposium Theme:
Simulation in International Studies

Symposium Guest Editor:

Mark A. Boyer

University of Connecticut

The use of simulation has long been a central component of research agendas in the international studies field. Rarely, however, is current simulation work in the international studies field gathered in one peer reviewed venue for review, discussion and debate. As a result, this symposium in *Simulation and Gaming* seeks papers doing innovative work in the international studies field employing one of an array of simulation approaches. Work can range from analytical research through approaches to pedagogy and beyond. Examples of possible submissions include, but are not limited to:

experimental work on conflict analysis;
international mediation and negotiation analysis;
innovative approaches to classroom simulation and their assessment;
computer-simulated modeling of international processes.

The symposium submission schedule is as follows:

May 1st, 2008 – Submission of abstract and outline (whole paper, if already prepared).

June 1st, 2008 – Full submissions invited.

August 1st, 2008 – Full paper submissions due.

October 1st, 2008 – Notification of review outcome.

December 1st, 2008 – Final versions of papers due to symposium editor.

All queries and submissions should be sent to:

Mark A. Boyer mark.boyer@uconn.edu

Dept. of Political Science, U-1024

University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT 06269

PUBLICATIONS

Ruane, Abigail E. and Patrick James. (forthcoming). The International Relations of Middle-earth: Learning from the Lord of the Rings. *International Studies Perspectives*.

2008 ISA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PREVIEW

ALIAS PANELS

(note that the days/times are still tentative so check the final program at ISA)

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

WA50 Wednesday 8:30 - 10:15 AM

Teaching Ethics and International Relations: Building Bridges in the Classroom

WB23 Wednesday 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Teaching Constructivism Along with Realism and Liberalism

WC23 Wednesday 1:45 - 3:30 PM

Bridging Multiple Divides in the Global International Studies Classroom through Active Learning

Thursday, March 27, 2008

TB23 Thursday 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

What Do Students Want and Need to Know About the Military?

TC23 Thursday 1:45 - 3:30 PM

Active Learning Worldwide Roundtable

TD23 Thursday 3:45 - 5:30 PM

Teaching Tough Topics: Active Approaches to Complex Content

Friday, March 28, 2008

ALIAS Business Meeting 7:30-8:30

FA50 Friday 8:30 - 10:15 AM

Striking a Bargain: Simulating and Teaching Diplomacy

FB23 Friday 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Teaching Research Methods in and out of a Methods Course

FC23 Friday 1:45 - 3:30 PM

Learning to Educate: Curricular and Program Innovations

FD07 Friday 3:45 - 5:30 PM

Parenting and the Profession: Family-Friendly Policies, Lessons Learned, and Lobbying for Change

Saturday, March 29, 2008

SA50 Saturday 8:30 - 10:15 AM

Assessing Rules of International Law: Applying an Empirical Authority-Control Test to Putative Rules of Law

SB23 Saturday 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Who Are We? Bridging Subjectivities within Academic Careers in International Relations

SC23 Saturday 1:45 - 3:30 PM

On the Cutting Edge in the Classroom: Innovative Teaching Tactics

SD55 Saturday 3:45 - 5:30 PM

Learning by Doing: Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice to Foster Student Engagement

Contact Information

President: Douglas Becker,
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Vice President/Program

Chair: David Reilly,
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Secretary: Mary Pettenger
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Cass, lcass@holycross.edu

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ALIAS Website: [http://
sitemaker.umich.edu/](http://sitemaker.umich.edu/)