

ISA-Canada President's Report 2014/15

Overview

ISA-Canada has had another successful year. Our membership has yet again increased from 560 in 2013 (and 384 in December 2012) to 640 members at the time of this report. We have our one guaranteed panel at the ISA Convention in 2015: the panel of emerging scholars. Both the Annual Convention in Toronto in March 2014 and the Regional Conference at Brock University in June 2014 were well attended by our members. Our regional conference held in conjunction with the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) was a success. We maintain a good working relationship with the CPSA and look forward to another promising regional conference in the spring of 2015 at the University of Ottawa. Overall both the annual student paper prize competition and the biennial distinguished scholar award (and its associated panel) continue to be prominent mechanisms for recognition within the Canadian academic community. Finally, we continue to offer professional development activities as per requested by ISA HQ.

Sommaire

ISA-Canada a encore eu une année couronnée de succès. Nos inscriptions ont à nouveau augmenté considérablement, passant de 560 en 2013 (et de 384 en décembre 2012) à 640 (au moment d'écrire ce rapport). Nous avons notre panel garanti à la Convention de l'ISA en 2015 : le panel des chercheurs émergents. Autant la conférence annuelle de l'ISA tenue à Toronto en mars 2014 que la conférence régionale tenue conjointement avec l'Association canadienne de science politique (ACSP) à l'Université Brock en juin 2014 ont été un succès. Nous maintenons une bonne relation de travail avec l'ACSP et nous nous attendons à avoir une autre conférence régionale prometteuse au printemps 2015 à l'Université d'Ottawa. Il est à noter qu'autant la compétition annuelle pour le prix du meilleur texte étudiant que le prix biennal pour le chercheur distingué (et le panel qui lui est associé) continuent d'être des mécanismes importants de reconnaissance au sein de la communauté universitaire canadienne. Enfin, nous continuons d'offrir des activités de développement professionnels comme le prescrivent les quartiers-généraux de l'ISA.

ISA Annual Convention, Toronto 2014

ISA-Canada held its annual business meeting and reception in Toronto during the ISA's annual convention. The reception was sponsored by McMaster University's Department of Political Science and Faculty of Social Sciences, Queen's University's Department of Political Studies, the Canadian International Council, Canadian Foreign Policy Journal, the *Balsillie School of International Affairs*, York University's Center for International Security Studies, and the Faculté de science politique et de droit of the Université du Québec à Montréal.

2014 coincided with the biennial ISA-Canada Distinguished Scholar award. ISA-Canada's Distinguished Scholar for 2013/2014 is Kim Richard Nossal. A Distinguished Scholar panel and reception were indeed held in his honour in Toronto. The award honours exceptional scholarship accomplishments and contributions to the development of the study of International Relations in Canada. The nomination process for this award is placed under the responsibility of the Distinguished Scholar Award Committee. The Chair and three members of this committee were elected at the annual business meeting. The committee members were Heather Smith (chair) (UNBC), Stéphane Roussel (ENAP), Rebecca Tiessen (University of Ottawa), Benjamin Muller (King's University College), and Mark Salter (ISA-Canada Past-President) (University of Ottawa).

As the committee noted in their recommendation to the executive council: "Dr. Nossal is a prolific scholar, having produced numerous books and articles on diverse topics in the fields of Canadian foreign policy and Australian foreign policy. To the Canadian community he is

probably most well known for his text *The Politics of Canadian Foreign Policy*. This text has been read by generations of students in undergraduate Canadian foreign policy classes and is on the shelves of all Canadian foreign policy scholars. . . . Not only has Dr. Nossal's scholarly work has shaped the discussion of the field, his service to the community and his mentoring has had a profound impact on the Canadian foreign policy community.”

ISA Annual Convention, New Orleans 2015

Until a few years ago, ISA-Canada was given a quota of two guaranteed panels for the annual conventions. This was a unique situation amongst regional sections. However, the section faced pressure to remove the panels. Under an agreement Marc Doucet reached with ISA HQ, ISA-Canada retains one panel per year: either a distinguished scholar or an emerging scholars panel. However, since the ISA convention was to be held in Canada in 2014, Mark Salter made the case for our section to be allotted an extra panel, which focused on “Canada’s International Borders”. For the New Orleans convention, 2013/2014 ISA-Canada’s distinguished scholar Kim Richard Nossal was tasked to convene the panel of emerging scholars, for which he will act as chair and discussant. The panel is comprised of: Krystel Chapman (Royal Military College of Canada), Sebastien J. Mainville (The Ohio State University), Aisha S. Ahmad (University of Toronto), Jessica Trisko Darden (University of Western Ontario), and Gaëlle Rivard Piché (Carleton University).

ISA Regional Conferences

All ISA sections are obliged to run a regional conference. ISA-Canada holds our annual meeting in collaboration with the CPSA annual convention, co-sponsoring the IR sections. This has been a fruitful collaboration and we hope to continue it in the future.

Brock University, 2014

We sincerely appreciated the work of Hevina Dashwood (Brock University) and Colleen Bell (University of Saskatchewan) who put together a very stimulating and extremely successful section of 21 panels, a professional development workshop (with three sessions), one roundtable (on fieldwork and converging practices of security and development) and a workshop headed up by Hevina Dashwood titled: “Varieties of Global Governance Arrangements and their Impact on Resource-Rich Developing Countries” that consisted of three panels and a keynote by Timothy Shaw.

Whereas up until this year, professional development activities had been organized by an ad hoc committee un-officially chaired by Heather Smith from University of Northern British Columbia, with recent changes in ISA HQ rules, professional development activities became more important, and there was a need identified at the ISA-Canada business meeting in Toronto in 2014 to create an official committee and chair. At the regional Brock meeting, we thus held elections (following a call out to ISA-Canada members) to officialise the ad hoc committee (with current members recommitting or vacating, and adding new members). The committee, serving for a two-year mandate, is now chaired by Veronica Kitchen (University of Waterloo), and is composed of Heather Smith (Past Chair, University of Northern British Columbia), Mark Salter (Member-at-Large, University of Ottawa), Joanna Quinn (Member-at-Large, University of Western Ontario), Chris Hendershot (Graduate Student Member-at-Large, York University), Sule Bayrak Tomkinson (Graduate Student Member-at-Large, Université de Montréal), and Félix Grenier (Graduate Student Member-at-Large, University of Ottawa).

Additionally, to meet the explicit requirements set out by ISA-HQ, professional development has grown in importance and the funds from the ISA (for which we must apply each year) need to directly contribute to scholarly skills such as teaching, writing, and career management. Henceforth, our

professional development workshop was explicitly oriented towards new and early career scholars, and comprised three sessions: one focusing on the questions of strategic career planning and writing led by Mark Salter (University of Ottawa) which presented strategies to overcome the barriers to writing and discussed tactics to improve your writing productivity; one on “teaching my first class” with Marshall Beier (McMaster University) and Heather Smith (University of Northern British Columbia); and one session on “Questions around the Watercooler” centered on preparing for job interviews, writing CVs, applying for promotion, etc.

University of Ottawa, 2015

ISA-Canada would like to express its appreciation to Ellen Gutterman (Glendon College, York University) and David Grondin (University of Ottawa) for their efforts in pulling together what looks like an excellent regional conference for 2015. We foresee 36 panels and a workshop on *Practicing International Relations: Bridging the Gap Between Intellectuals and Practitioners* composed of 8 panels and one keynote panel (Janice Stein, Roland Paris, Vincent Pouliot, Ronen Palan, and Irvin Studin).

Professional Development Activities

ISA-Canada will also offer a series of three professional development workshops at the regional conference in 2015. The response to the professional development workshop at Brock University was again extremely positive so the professional development committee has proposed a panel of non-academic jobs, a job dossier workshop, and the “How to write a lot” workshop. ISA-Canada greatly appreciates the work of the professional development committee in organizing and securing the funding for these workshops.

Other Developments

ISA-Canada Student Prize

The 2014 ISA-Canada student prize was awarded to Adam Sandor (University of Ottawa) for his paper entitled “Border Security and Drug Trafficking in West Africa: Experts, Global Security Assemblages and AIRCOP”.

As the jury’s report stated: “[...] the paper authored by Sandor was most deserving because it brought together a solid contribution to debates in theory with an original case study. The paper was well developed and was driven by interesting and innovative field research. The research question was clearly defined and the methodology engaged in current debates about field methods particularly as they pertain to the use of the concept of ‘assemblages.’”

Two papers were also given an honourable mention: *Post-Conflict Violence: The Case of the Georgian-Abkhaz Border* by Anastasia Shesterinina (University of British Columbia) and *Truth is a stubborn beast – how will you handle it? Truth seeking and credibility assessment during refugee hearings in Canada* by Sule Bayrak Tomkinson (Université de Montréal).

The retiring Student Paper Prize Jury is composed of Marc Doucet, chair (Saint Mary’s), Heather Johnson (Queen’s Belfast), Jean-Philippe Thérien (Montreal) and Luke Ashworth (Memorial), and serving for its second year, with Jean-Philippe Thérien leaving his spot vacant for the year 2014-2015. ISA-Canada would like to express its appreciation for their work on the jury.

The jury for the 2015/2016 paper prize is Janni Aragon, chair (University of Victoria), Anthony Amicelle (Université de Montréal), Thomas Tieku (King’s University College) and Lyubov Zhyznomirska (Saint Mary’s University). The jury will be of service for a two-year mandate.

Financial Position

Account Balance:

ISA-Canada's current balance (as of October 10, 2014) is \$10,969 [but we are awaiting after the CPSA expenses of the Brock meetings to be charged and paid].

Revenue Sources:

It mainly consists in the annual ISA-Canada regional membership dues (in the range of \$2,500 per year), as we receive \$5 for every ISA member with a Canadian address. These dues arrive month by month, and are deposited in the ISA-C account under the auspices of ISA. We also receive a portion of ISA conference registration fees.

Sponsorship arrangements and amounts for ISA and ISA-Canada Regional conferences vary from conference to conference. For example, in autumn of 2014 ISA-Canada raised a total of \$3,450 from the following sponsors: *Études internationales*, the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa, the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa, the Balsillie School of International Affairs, *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, the Faculty of Social Sciences at King's University College and the Faculté de science politique et de droit at Université du Québec à Montréal.

Expenses:

- PCMA Insurance (\$), which all ISA regions must pay on an annual basis.
- 2014 Student paper prize (\$)
- Receptions held at ISA and ISA-Canada Regional conferences (Toronto and Brock University)

Upcoming expenses in 2015:

- Receptions to be held at ISA Annual Convention and ISA-Canada Regional conferences (New Orleans and University of Ottawa)
- 2015 Student paper prize (\$)

Respectfully submitted,

David Grondin
ISA-Canada President