

From: Renée Marlin-Bennett, *ISA Compendium Project* General Editor
To: ISA Executive Committee and Governing Council
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Thank you for this opportunity to present my report on the *ISA Compendium Project*. Since this has been a year of transition, I will be brief.

As those who have read previous annual reports on the Compendium are aware, for the past few years Wiley Blackwell has had difficulties with publishing International Studies Online. Indeed, the 2015 update (12 new or revised essays) did not appear until the Spring of 2016 due to technical problems with the website, even though we met our deadlines for providing content. Royalty revenue had been declining, which I believe to have been in large measure because of website and marketing problems. Revenue for 2016 was only \$9086, though of course Wiley no longer had an incentive to market the product once it decided to offer to sell it to ISA.

Happily and thanks to a decision of the Governing Council in 2016, ISA was able to purchase the entire project from Wiley and bring the project to a new publisher, one that was more committed to and experienced with the sort of web presence required by this publication. During this transition period, Wiley has continued to support International Studies Online on their website and to provide a project manager. In early January 2017, ISA signed a contract with Oxford University Press to jointly publish the successor to International Studies Online as an Oxford Research Encyclopedia. Oxford currently publishes 22 such works. (See oxfordre.com.) Despite lay connotations of the word “encyclopedia,” research encyclopedias are serious, peer reviewed works.

To maintain continuity so that authors and purchasers and subscribers will have access to previously published articles, the staff at Wiley has made the article files available to Oxford. Oxford anticipates publishing the entire content of ISO as of the 2015 update (actually appearing in 2016) as a readily accessible ebook by the end of January 2017. Going forward, the research encyclopedia (name to be determined, but likely to be the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies) will include new articles and updated versions of essays previously published by Wiley and, in subsequent years, updates of the Oxford Research Encyclopedia articles, as well.

Editorial organization

In 2015, the Compendium took one step toward an editorial structure that is similar to other ISA publications. Instead of the original “advisory board” structure that involved all prior living ISA presidents, we have now constituted an Editorial Board of 21 leading scholars, chaired by Robert Denmark, who previously served as general editor.¹ During 2016, section editors continued to manage their subfield-specific essays, soliciting authors for approved topics, suggesting new topics, identifying essays to be updated, soliciting referees, and making initial editorial decisions. Final editorial decisions were made by the general editor.

In 2016, the section editor model has become increasingly difficult to coordinate. While some section editors have continued to commission essays and fulfil their editorial tasks with enthusiasm, it seems that interest is flagging in several sections. The creation of new ISA sections has not led to the appointment of more section editors. Indeed, the members of new sections have been busy building

¹ The Wiley website has outdated information regarding the Editorial Board. The publisher seems to have uploaded an older version of the site since at one point the current information had been displayed.

their sections rather than taking on an editorial task. Moreover, some of the other sections have had difficulty finding volunteers to serve as section editors. In some cases, junior scholars have taken on this role, and while I very much appreciate the effort these section editors put into the task, junior scholars are at a disadvantage when they must reject manuscripts.

Despite the difficulty in recruiting section editors, there are still too many section editors to work with efficiently. The switch to the Oxford research encyclopedia platform provides a natural transition point. I believe it is time to create an editorial team of 5 or 6 associate editors to work with me, a change I am working toward now, after consulting with the editorial board and ISA leadership. The Oxford team is enthusiastic about this change. Pending approval of the Publications Committee, I expect to have the editorial team in place before the 2017 ISA Annual Conference.

Manuscripts Accepted Since the Previous Update (2015)

The deadline for the 2015 update was September 2015. Manuscripts accepted in the last quarter of 2016 were therefore assumed to be slotted in the 2016 update. Additional essays were accepted through 2016. Because of the transition, all these articles, a total of 22, are slated for publication as soon as the website comes online, which is planned for Fall 2017. (See table below.)

During this transition year, when we were at first advised to avoid commissioning new articles and to give authors plenty of time with revise and resubmits because of uncertainties about the form the successor publication would take, acceptance of 22 new articles is, I think, a respectable outcome. We will need in the coming years to increase the number of essays we are able to accept to be in compliance with the new contract. We intend to encourage submissions of literature reviews while continuing our practice of commissioning specific essays. We hope that Oxford's willingness to update the website monthly will help encourage potential authors to submit.

Manuscripts Accepted by Country for The International Studies Online Updates

Estimated Data Date: Jan 25, 2017 2:04:02 AM

Information based on all manuscripts with a decision date of Between Oct 1, 2015 and Dec 31, 2017.

Country	Accept	Reject	Total	Accept Ratio
Canada	1	0	1	100.00%
Germany	2	0	2	100.00%
Hong Kong	1	0	1	100.00%
Mexico	0	2	2	0.00%
New Zealand	1	0	1	100.00%
Turkey	1	0	1	100.00%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4	0	4	100.00%
United States	11	1	12	91.67%
	1	0	1	100.00%
Total	22	3	25	88.00%

I am unable to provide author gender breakdowns at this time.

Because of the current Compendium policies – papers are invited and then peer reviewed, and the anticipated outcome is that authors will revise and resubmit until the essay is good enough for

publication – an acceptance to rejection ratio is not meaningful. In general, authors receiving editorial instructions for revision that are too extensive simply do not resubmit. On occasion a decision of “reject” is reached.

Conclusion

The transformed successor to International Studies Online will be like the titles that are found here:

<http://oxfordre.com>

Our website will look a lot like these

<http://politics.oxfordre.com/>

<http://socialwork.oxfordre.com/>

with the caveat that we will continue to focus on literature reviews. In the future, we may be bringing in additional kinds of essays that are still in keeping with the intent of the initial Compendium project.

In short, I am very optimistic about our collaboration with Oxford is very promising.