



# ENGLISH SCHOOL SECTION

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

*This report was prepared by Yannis A. Stivachtis, Chair of the English School Section*

## FULL REPORT

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### MEMBERSHIP

2015 saw a slow growth in numbers for the section. In 2014 the English School section had 154 members. In 2015 this number increased to 177 and in 2016 to 184 members.

### FINANCES

2014 saw a minimal increase in the section's finances. In 2013, the amount of \$3,348.13 was carried forward while in 2014 this amount was \$3,379.13. In 2015 this amount was decreased to \$2,825.13 mainly due to the section's decision to establish two annual awards with a monetary attachment to them.

### 2015 ISA CONVENTION

At the ISA Annual Convention in New Orleans, the section had 18 sponsored and co-sponsored panels, one of which was a presidential theme panel. High spots were the Buzan/Lawson panel in which the two authors presented their 'Global Transformation' work on history and modernity in the making of the contemporary international order, and a contested norms panel in which Heather Roff provided a masterful discussion of central normative developments in the contemporary order. The section wishes to thank Cornelia Navari for serving as our Program Chair and for putting together an excellent set of panels.

### PUBLICATIONS

Two major publications involving many section members appeared in 2015. The first one appeared in the form of a special issue of the journal of *Global Discourse* edited by Yannis A. Stivachtis and which is entitled *Interrogating regional international societies, questioning the global international society*. The second publication is a revised and updated version of a volume edited by Robert W. Murray entitled *System, Society and the World: Exploring the English school of International Relations*. Individual section members were also very productive and published several books, such as the one authored by Matthew Weinert: *Making Human: World Order and the Global Governance of Human Dignity* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2015).

## AWARDS

During the 2015 ISA Annual Convention in New Orleans, the section offered two awards:

- *The English School Outstanding Research Paper Award* was given to Tonny Knudsen for his paper entitled “Danish Contributions in Syria and Mali: Active Internationalism in a Changing World?”
- *The English School Award for Outstanding Research Paper by a Younger Scholar* was given to Filippo Costa Buraneli, for his paper entitled “Do you know what I mean? Not exactly - English School, Global International Society and the Polysemy of Institutions.”

For the 2016 ISA Annual Convention in Atlanta,

- *The English School Outstanding Research Paper Award* will be given to Jorge Lasmar for his paper entitled “When War Becomes Socially Compliant: The Case of the Global War on Terror.”
- *The English School Award for Outstanding Research Paper by a Younger Scholar* will be given to Dimitrios Stroikos for his paper entitled “International Society in Orbit: Reconceptualizing Order on the High Frontier.”

## WORKING GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

In an effort to reach out to scholars throughout the world who are interested in the study of international society and facilitate their involvement in its research, publications and conference activities, the section established in 2015 the following Working Groups and sub-groups:

- *Working Group on the Institutions of International Society*
- *Working Group on Regional International Societies*
- *Working Group on Solidarity and Pluralism in International Society*
- *Working Group on the History of International Society*
  - *Historical International Societies Working Sub-group*
  - *The Evolution of International Society Working Sub-group*

The *Working Group on the Institutions of International Society* is currently working on an international organizations project entitled ‘International Organization in the Anarchical Society’. This project was initiated in 2014 and aims to develop a new paradigm for their understanding and study, based on their roles as reproductive agencies for the fundamental institutions of international society. To this end, five case studies were presented and critically discussed by Daniel Warner at New Orleans. The three theory papers relevant to the project were finalized and were presented at the EISA conference in Sicily in September, and a publishers’ proposal is being prepared for submission. Last, but not least, Tonny Brems Knudsen completed his contribution to the ISA Compendium on “Continuity and Change in Fundamental Institutions”, which should appear on the Compendium site in due course.

The *Working Group on Regional International Societies* put together a workshop that took place at Roskilde University on 12 June 2015. The workshop’s theme was: ‘The present state of regional international society research’. Based on this workshop, a new bibliography on regional international society was compiled.

In view of the 25 years since the publication of Adam Watson's *The Evolution of International Society*, the *Working Group on the History of International Society* is currently working on the study of historical international societies that have not been investigated in depth or at all by the English School.

## OTHER ITEMS

The new English School website has been register, build, and launched. The address is:

[www.englishschoolir.info](http://www.englishschoolir.info)

Most of the content has already been transferred from the Leeds ES portal to the new one. There are many gaps that still need to be filled but this is already a very important development. The section wishes to thank Hussein Banai for his invaluable contribution in bringing the new ES website in life.

Last, but not least, Barry Buzan submitted the updated ES bibliography. The section wishes to express their appreciation to Barry Buzan for this great contribution as many scholars consider this bibliography essential to their work.