Introduction
Founded in 1983, the Environmental Studies Section seeks a better understanding of feedbacks between human and natural systems within global, regional, and national contexts. We promote interactions within the scholarly community and engagement with practitioners and policy makers when appropriate. ESS encourages innovative research, theoretical diversity, interdisciplinary perspectives, and the application of a wide array of methodologies for analyzing international environmental issues and global environmental governance. The section has experienced steady growth since 1983, both in the number of members and in the number and variety of panels offered at annual meetings. We have a highly dedicated and enthusiastic membership and encourage participation by junior scholars.

Section Membership
ESS membership has been increasing on average in recent decades. As shown below, current membership is about three times greater than membership in 2005. The section has worked to expand its membership, striving to recruit not only established, but also junior and international scholars. The slight decline in membership for 2014 may reflect the fact that the deadline for annual reports was moved back by 2 months, so numbers are not entirely comparable. This assumption is verified by the renewed increase from the new baseline in 2015.
**Finances**

As of November 1, 2013, ESS had a positive balance of $11,815.21. This figure includes the $3,000 in sponsorship that is being provided by Ashgate Publishing, MIT Press, and Routledge for the 2015 ESS reception in New Orleans. Another $1,000 will be provided by the Earth System Governance Project in January of 2015.

In 2014 ESS expenses included awards ($300), mailing expenses for plaques ($59.95), and the 2014 ESS reception ($2,615.91). We also sponsored a junior scholars luncheon held at the annual meeting of the Earth Systems Governance Project ($300) as a means to reach out to international scholars and build membership. This amount is not reflected in the current budget but should be disbursed soon.

**Awards**

The section administers several awards. The ISA annual Harold and Margaret Sprout Award given for the best book or article published in the field of international environmental politics – one that makes a contribution to theory and interdisciplinarity, shows rigor and coherence in research and writing, and offers accessibility and practical relevance. Nominated works must be published during the two years prior to the year they are nominated.

The winner for 2014 was Joanna I. Lewis, Georgetown University, for her book, *Green Innovation in China: China’s Wind Power Industry and the Global Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy* (Columbia University Press)


The section also presents a Graduate Student Paper Award for the best paper by a student at the annual ISA Convention. In 2014 the award was given to Nina Van Uexküll, Uppsala University, for her paper “Drought and Intrastate Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa: 1989-2008—A Disaggregated Analysis” and to McKenzie F. Johnson, Duke University, for her paper “Imposing Institutions: Afghanistan's Environmental Law”, both of which were presented at the ISA 2013 meeting in Toronto.

In 2014, the section also presented its second annual Distinguished Scholar Award to Peter M Haas, Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. A round table was held in honor of Prof. Haas and he was given the award during the ESS reception. The Distinguished Scholar Award of the Environmental Studies Section of the International Studies Association recognizes outstanding scholars whose long history of excellent research and teaching has had substantial impact on fields associated with international relations and environmental issues.

Lastly, we also honored the long and distinguished service to the field by MIT Press editor, Clay Morgon, who shepherded the creation of the Global Environmental Politics Journal and multiple series and single works in the field of global environmental governance.
Activities
The annual ISA Convention is the major event of the year for ESS. For the 2014 Convention in Toronto, 42
panels, 7 roundtables, and 208 papers were submitted to ESS as a first or second choice. These numbers
are slightly higher than 2013 and reflect section growth. We were able to sponsor or co-sponsor 53
panels and roundtables at the 2014 meeting

For the upcoming 2015 conference in New Orleans, 497 individuals submitted paper, panel, or
roundtable proposals with ESS as their first choice. These numbers are not comparable to previous data
because a breakdown by submission type was not available. However, we are sponsoring or co-
sponsoring 56 panels and roundtables in 2015.

The ESS Newsletter is currently edited by Richard Matthew and Beth Carlin, University of California,
Irvine. The ESS Newsletter includes sections on: ESS Section News, New Publications (Books, Articles and
Chapters), Dissertation Abstracts, on the Web, Announcements, Career Resources, Student Resources.
One issue was published in the spring of 2014 and the editors are currently working on a winter issue.

ESS continues to maintain a website (developed by Ron Mitchell and currently administered by Rachel
Tiller). The website provides information about ESS, the ESS charter, ESS Officers, Sprout Award Winners,
the ESS Newsletter, Journals of interest to the section, and environmental studies graduate programs.
We are also working with ISA to set up the ESS page on the new ISA website.

ESS maintains an active discussion list (open to all) on teaching global environmental politics. The list
was created by ESS member Michael Maniates. This list provides a forum for discussing substantive and
pedagogical issues related to the teaching of global environmental politics (GEP) at the undergraduate
and graduate level. The list was initially organized to provide a place for college and university teachers
of GEP to compare notes and explore alternative curricular and pedagogical approaches. The list, gep-
ed@googlegroups.com, is certainly one of the largest list serves of its kind with several hundred
professors, graduate students, and experts participating.

Finally, ESS began accepting sponsorship applications from related organizations for luncheons or cafes
for junior scholars as a means of reaching out and expanding our membership base. The first of these
sponsored activities was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Earth System Governance
Project’s annual meeting, July 1-3, 2014, in Norwich England. ESS was represented by Heike Schroeder
(former Sprout committee chair) and several other ESS members who attended the meeting.

Officers 2013-2014 (year term expires in parentheses)

Chair: DG Webster (2015)
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Vice Chair: Susan Park (2015)
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Executive Committee (6 members, rolling 2-year terms):

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Joanna Lewis (2016)
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Nomination Committee (4 members, rolling 2-year terms):

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Graeme Auld (2016)
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Sprout Award Committee (5 members, rolling 2-year terms):

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