Introduction

The aim of ESS/ISA is to seek a better understanding of the reciprocal influence of natural and human systems within global, regional, and national contexts, and to promote scholarly interactions among social and natural scientists and policy-makers interested in these issues. Following the prominence of global, regional and national environmental issues and the active scholarly interest they have raised, 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. The section has highly dynamic and enthusiastic members.

1. Section Membership

Section Membership of the ESS has been steadily increasing, nearly tripling since 2005. The section has worked to expand its membership, working to recruit not only established, but also junior and international scholars. Here are the membership figures for the past 8 years:

2005 = 139  
2006 = 176  
2007 = 188  
2008 = 221  
2009 = 304  
2010 = 314  
2011 = 349  
2012 = 394

2. Finances

As of September 30, 2011, the ESS had a positive balance of $5,309.45. This figure includes the $3,000 in sponsorship that is being provided by Ashgate Publishing, MIT Press and the Transatlantic Academy for the 2012 ESS reception in San Diego.

In 2011 the ESS expenses included awards ($100) and the 2011 ESS reception ($1676.03).

3. Awards

The section administers 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 2011 was Daniel Bodansky for his book, *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law* (Harvard University Press, 2010).


The section issues a Graduate Student Paper Award for the best paper by a student at the annual ISA Convention. In 2011 the award was given to Jason Thistlethwaite for his paper “The ClimateWise Principles: An Emerging Climate Change Risk Regime,” which was presented at the 2010 ISA Convention.

4. Activities

The annual ISA Convention is the major event of the year for the ESS. For the 2011 Convention in Montreal, 21 panels, 1 roundtable, and 124 papers were submitted to ESS as a first choice. We sponsored or co-sponsored 52 panels and roundtables at the Convention.

For the 2012 conference in San Diego, 28 panels, 9 roundtables and 222 papers were submitted to ESS as a first or second choice. We are sponsoring or co-sponsoring 51 panels and roundtables in 2012.

In 2011, ESS also sponsored a pre-Convention workshop in Montreal titled “Global Environmental Politics on a New Earth: Deepening Community and Research for the Environmental Studies Section. This workshop, which was funded by ISA, was organized by Paul Wapner, Sikina Jinnah, and Simon Nicholson. The workshop brought together 60 members of the Environmental Studies Section of the ISA for a day of discussions and fellowship.

The ESS was also re-chartered in 2011. The report, completed by former ESS Chair Miranda Schreurs, was submitted in January 2011 and unanimously approved by the ISA Governing Council in March in Montreal.

The ESS Newsletter is highly valued by the section members. It is currently edited by Richard Matthew and Pamela Donohoo, 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. In 2011 there were three issues: Winter (February 2011); Spring (June 2011); and Fall (October 2011).

The ESS continues to maintain a web site (developed by Ron Mitchell and currently administered by Marcus Schaper). The website provides information about the ESS, the ESS charter, ESS Officers, Sprout Award Winners, the ESS Newsletter, Journals of interest to the section, and environmental studies graduate programs.
ESS also 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.

5. **Officers 2011-2012** (year term expires in parentheses)

Chair: Pamela Chasek (2013)
International Studies, Manhattan College
pamela.chasek@manhattan.edu

Vice Chair: DG Webster (2013)
Environmental Studies Program, Dartmouth College
D.G.Webster@Dartmouth.edu

**Executive Committee (6 member, rolling 2-year terms):**

Norichika Kanie (2012)
Graduate School of Decision Science and Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology
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Lorraine Elliott (2012)
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Lorraine.Elliott@anu.edu.au

Barbara Connolly (2012)
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David Downie (2013)
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Susan Park (2013)
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Nomination Committee (4 members, rolling 2-year terms):

Heike Schroeder (2012)
Oxford University Centre for the Environment
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Jeannie Sowers (2012)
Political Science, University of New Hampshire
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Mark Axelrod (2013)
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Simone Pulver (2013)
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Sprout Award Committee (5 members, rolling 2-year terms):

Paul G. Harris (2012)
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Jörg Balsiger (2012)
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Peter Newell (2013)
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Kate O’Neill (2013)
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Thomas Princen (2013)
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Representative to the Global Environmental Politics Editorial Board (3-year term):

Gabriela Kuetting (2012)
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